

IN-CAMERA PROCEEDINGS BEFORE

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 5 - JUSTICE AND
COMMUNITIES**

ANTISEMITISM IN NEW SOUTH WALES

CORRECTED

At Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney, on Friday 4 July 2025

The Committee met in camera at 15:30.

PRESENT

The Hon. Robert Borsak (Chair)

The Hon. Susan Carter

Dr Amanda Cohn (Deputy Chair)

The Hon. Greg Donnelly

The Hon. Scott Farlow

The Hon. Stephen Lawrence

The Hon. Jacqui Munro

The Hon. Cameron Murphy

Evidence in camera by **Ms JENNIFER HASTINGS**, **Detective Chief Inspector BRAD JOHNSTON** and **Deputy Commissioner DAVID HUDSON**

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: What I was hoping to do in terms of the questioning, Deputy Commissioner, was perhaps start with 2024 and go through in chronological order. Don't sample them out, if you can avoid it, to give us a truly representative sample and talk to us about the hate crime incidents. Then perhaps we can move on to those hate crime incidents.

BRAD JOHNSTON: Sure. Forgive me. It takes a bit of time to get the relevant information out. The first one I have on the list is a January 2024 report around an Islamic preacher in , who during a service spoke about Jews being bloodthirsty, treacherous, criminals, terrorists, monsters—

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: I recall seeing that in the media, actually.

BRAD JOHNSTON: The next one was a motor vehicle stopped outside a synagogue in Bondi, where it was alleged the driver stuck his middle finger up towards the security guards. Again, it was recorded as an incident. The next one related to registration plates that were on a motor vehicle. There was a complaint made about those, that they were recalled.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: What were they? Do you know? I think that was in the media too.

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes, it was.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: It was OCT7TH.

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes, that's right. The next one: off-duty police on a train in south-western Sydney. Hate crime stickers on a telegraph pole—d it was described as, being an Israeli flag with a red cross through it, with words at the top stating "boycott".

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: On that, would that be recorded in a database related to so-called hate crime incidences: an Israeli flag with a red stripe across it saying "boycott"? What's the line between legitimate political communication and so-called hate crime incidents? Is that a relevant matter in terms of the police database? Or do you not look at it that way?

BRAD JOHNSTON: It's relevant, for the purposes of my unit, for monitoring behaviour in particular areas, so we can see where things are escalating. If it stays at that point, it's one thing, but we can see where the behaviour is escalating or where it's continuing and where we can provide some assistance as an organisation.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: But isn't there a suggestion through putting it in a database that it's some sort of illegitimate communication at least?

JENNIFER HASTINGS: It goes back to if the community feels that it is an incident, then we will capture it. The purpose of the database isn't to make a decision. It's not a decision-making vehicle.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: It's wholly complaint driven, effectively.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: Yes. If you had a spate of stickering in a certain area, then we could feed that out to the PAC and give them that advice and they could be alert to that in their daily patrols.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: It's a very fine line, though, isn't it, between monitoring legitimate political speech becoming a sort of special branch and actually investigating hate crimes?

DAVID HUDSON: Welcome to our world, sir.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Thank you. Please continue.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: It's also that these are reported by Crime Stoppers. The narrative can be quite lengthy, I suppose, is what we—

BRAD JOHNSTON: Very difficult to get to the crux of—

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: The gist of it, yes. I said it was a hard question.

BRAD JOHNSTON: The next one I've got in here is "Protest activity mainly consisted of distribution of flyers. It was clear from the content of the flyers that the protesters were in support of Palestine and against the perceived Zionist militia-led genocide."

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: So that's one of the ones that might have been described by people as an attack?

DAVID HUDSON: I don't know. It's all very subjective.

BRAD JOHNSTON: The next one I've got is in Paddington—"male observed to be wearing a T-shirt with 'Hitler' written in bold font on the front and back".

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: That's probably a fine line in terms of offensive matter, I suppose.

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes.

DAVID HUDSON: It would be an interpretation of what is classified—I don't think falls into Nazi symbols.

BRAD JOHNSTON: No.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Okay—it's just the word.

DAVID HUDSON: I'm not sure. We'd get a legal advising on it.

BRAD JOHNSTON: Next one is a motor vehicle—a sticker on the bumper, again with the Jewish flag, with a red ring of fire around it.

Dr AMANDA COHN: Sorry, just to help the record be accurate, I assume by "Jewish flag" you mean the Israeli flag?

BRAD JOHNSTON: I'm sorry, my mistake. Yes, that is correct.

Dr AMANDA COHN: Unless they've made a Jewish flag that I'm not aware of.

BRAD JOHNSTON: No, I was reading directly and it's input from someone else. The next one was a report received via a hotline. It's difficult to even work that one out, sorry. I'm struggling to work that one out, actually. It was a report received via a hotline where there was some information provided around the conflict in Israel and Gaza, and some assertions made about the conduct of Israel in that conflict. But a report was made because of the hotline it's received through and the information is kept in there.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: It seems like there are things that are categorised as hate crime incidents that aren't even that, really. Is that fair to say in respect of that matter, at least?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Look, if I went through and read it in detail, I will find something in it, but it's a very lengthy narrative that I will need to pull it out of to try and give you a better flavour of the incidents. The next one relates to antisemitic symbols being displayed on a motor vehicle in south-western Sydney. I'll try and find what those symbols are. Again, an Israeli flag with a circle and a strike through it. Again, the next one relates to symbols being displayed of an antisemitic nature. The next one relates to a motor vehicle driving past a college in the eastern suburbs, where security reported they heard a male person yell out a phrase in Arabic from the motor vehicle, which caused them to feel uneasy around that.

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: Does it say what it is? It could be anything.

BRAD JOHNSTON: I think the phrase was "Allahu Akbar" that was yelled out from the vehicle. Again, a vehicle driving past a college in the eastern suburbs, yelling at security, calling them scumbags.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: What sort of college are we talking about there—like, a Jewish school?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes. The next one relates to a motor vehicle in the north region, up around Newcastle way. It had some lettering on the vehicle that said "Jew slime", which was one of those things that can be interpreted in a number of ways, whether it related to fishing or whether it related to antisemitic remarks.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: "Jew slime"?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes, that was the assertion. It was a sticker on a motor vehicle.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: That could have been a reference to fishing?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes, given some of the other stuff that was surrounding the vehicle.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Jewfish?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Jewfish—I don't know.

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: That's pretty creative.

BRAD JOHNSTON: The next one was a poster which included a reference to Israel as a terrorist state. The next one relates to a gentleman in a barber shop in the city. He was asked where he was from and he said Germany, and the barber in the adjacent chair next to him interjected and said that Hitler was also from Germany and that he was a good guy. The next one relates to a gentleman who went into a Commonwealth Bank branch in south-west Sydney. He asked the person that was attending to him whether they were Jewish, and he made some threats about—if she had been Jewish, there were some concerns around that, meaning state of health. As well, that was investigated. A report was—

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: His mental health, do you mean?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes. This one is in the inner city—

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Just on the last one, do we know if that was a Jewish person that reported it? Or does it not say?

BRAD JOHNSTON: I haven't got that immediately in front of me but, I think, from memory, it was reported by the bank to the police. The next one relates to a sticker that was on a pole in the inner city. The flag and the colours and the portions were similar to that of the Israeli national flag. At the bottom, instead of the Star of David, it says there was a clear swastika drawn in the centre of the flag. The next one related to a person dressing up in an Adolf Hitler costume in the inner west.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Was that in public?

BRAD JOHNSTON: I think it was at a party. Yes, it was at a party.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Was that a twenty-first, or do we know?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Again, without going into full detail, it was a private event. I don't know if it came about as a result of photographs being posted online or someone at the party reporting it, but that's not the first time I've seen those types of things reported. The next one relates to a marking on a vehicle. I think it said, "Netanyahu is a war criminal". "Stop the genocide" and "Free Palestine" were also written on the doors of the vehicle.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Just to make sure that we're getting a representative sample, do you think that you could now—I note, in terms of time, we've got until 4.45 p.m. Could you move now to hate crimes in 2024, and just maybe spend 10 minutes or so going through the first ones recorded in there?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Sure. I just need a bit of tech support and I'll get those up.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: In 2024?

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Yes. And, just for my information, you've got data going back to 2020, though?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes, we do. As you can appreciate, given the change in the environment, it's evolved: the data we collect and how we go about it, and adding further criteria and categories that we capture over time. That's hence why we're back-capturing some stuff at the moment.

DAVID HUDSON: I'm not too sure, sir. We have definitions of "hate crime" and "hate incident", which we go off.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Yes, that would be good if you could tell us that.

DAVID HUDSON: Hate crime is defined under our hate crime guidelines as a crime motivated by hate, prejudice or bias towards people because of their identity or perceived difference. It gives some examples: race, religion, physical disabilities or whatever. A hate incident is an incident that is not a crime but is motivated by hate, prejudice or bias towards people because of their identity or perceived difference. So the bias—

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: So do you think it's highly questionable whether a lot of those incidents actually fit within that definition?

DAVID HUDSON: I think the bias, rather than the prejudice or the hate—

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Surely there's a distinction, though, between bias and a strong political view.

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: "Free Palestine", for example—how would that fit that definition? A sticker that says "Free Palestine" or "Netanyahu is a war criminal".

JENNIFER HASTINGS: If I may, I think it comes back to, if we're asked what's the sense of social cohesion in the community, if people are feeling that they're targeted or if they feel a sense of unease about "Netanyahu is a war criminal", "Free Palestine" or that sort of language—so we're not recording it to determine that it is a hate incident. It's more, from the victim perspective, that—

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Except that's not in the definition.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: No, but it's also—we didn't do the database to fit the definitions, I suppose; it's more if there is a sense of a criminal act occurring, and then a hate incident from that victim perspective, I suppose.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: It's just a bit potentially concerning because the subjective view of the complainant is not in the definition. That definition—I accept that it's not legislation—would seem to be expecting police officers to form a view of fact as to whether in fact it's motivated by bias or hatred et cetera. But it seems to be being applied in practice as not that, but rather whether the complainant thinks it's that way. All of this wouldn't matter so much except the contents of that database have seeped into the public domain and, for example, are being weaponised politically to suggest that there's a certain degree of "hate" going on in the community, whereas what you've read to us—there are some in there that I think you could say that, maybe. I don't have immediate recall of them all. But a lot of them seem to not come within a bull's roar of that.

DAVID HUDSON: They're incidents, not crimes, that have been reported to us as incidents. We, under the crime reporting standard, are required to take reports of everything that is reported to us, so we do that. They are flagged as potential hate crimes or incidents on that database and reviewed by Brad and his team.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: It seems to not leave a lot of room for the definition to work, though, does it, if you're just recording absolutely everything that touches on the subject matter, in the view of the person complaining?

DAVID HUDSON: We record things, and some of these matters are not recorded as events but intelligence reports or information reports rather than—and they're still captured. They're flagged and reviewed. But it's always going to be a subjective assessment and largely—subjective by the police as well, don't get me wrong. But if I go back to how I started this evidence today, this database or spreadsheet, whatever you call it, is for our internal purposes so that we can monitor the temperature within the community, see what's happening in the community. There's no other way of capturing that data through the COPS system.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Except it seems to suggest that police think—or some police officer thinks, whoever has put it in there—that each of those incidents manifests hate, when in fact that's not the purpose for which the database is being kept. The purpose of the database seems to be what a particular complainant feels manifests hate, even if the police don't reach that view.

BRAD JOHNSTON: It's not whether or not it's equivocally hate related; it may have a hate element to it. It may not be entirely based in hate, but there is a hate element to it.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: In terms of the subjective view of the complainer, at least?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes. Those matters that we've read out that are hate incidents, most of them are not subject to an investigation. It's a report we take. We're not doing an investigation into that. That subjective view is taken, at its highest, on the information as it's coming in.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: The subjective view of the complainant, you mean?

BRAD JOHNSTON: The complainant and, to an extent, the officer taking that report as well. The complainant may not have reported them as being hate crime related, but the officer, listening to the circumstances in their totality, may form that subjective view that there is a hate element to it.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Perhaps if you could continue in terms of the hate crimes for 2024, starting with the first one.

BRAD JOHNSTON: To give you an overview, in terms of the time, if it's okay, I will go to the ones where I can readily extract the information from, so it's a bit quicker.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Sure.

BRAD JOHNSTON: The first one relates to a person that performs a Nazi salute. That was in the city. The next one is also a Nazi salute during protest activity in the city. The next one is a person entering a business in south-west Sydney, preaching about God and the Devil and making comments online about how "If you haven't killed Jews, then you aren't a Muslim." The next one relates to a Nazi symbol, again.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Is there any information there about the use to which the symbol was put?

BRAD JOHNSTON: This particular one, not really. It's a Nazi symbol and a picture of the penis inside a unit in the region. Again, it's difficult. It's a unit in the region. I can't pull any more information out of that, immediately.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: So inside premises, was it?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Inside the premises, yes.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: And a picture of a penis?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Inside a business premises.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: A business premises?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes. The next one relates to a youth at Friday prayers at a mosque in south-western Sydney, spreading hatred towards the Jewish faith and heard saying, "Muslim brothers in a fight with Jews. It's your duty to help a Muslim brother." The next one relates to graffiti at the market complex at Homebush, "Eff off, Jews." The next one relates to a phone call made to a business premises in Rose Bay, where they were asked if they could make six million bagels and if there was enough space in the oven. The interpretation from the person receiving the call was that the six million bagels was possibly a reference to the Holocaust. The next one relates to a male out west wearing a black T-shirt stating "Gas the Jews", which also had a photo of Hitler on it. The next one relates to a young person making threats towards a school shooting and making statements that they hate Jews and hate women. The next one relates to a male making comment about World War II and how he believes the fact that the gas chambers were used by the Nazis to kill Jews was a fabrication and never occurred. That was in New South Wales.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Does it say what crime that was considered to potentially be?

BRAD JOHNSTON: I don't have it in front of me in this database because it wasn't created for that.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Offensive language or something?

BRAD JOHNSTON: It would potentially fall in those areas. Without reading the full details recorded in the report, I wouldn't be able to answer that completely. The next one relates to a male making threats towards the Jewish community, which related to sending a photograph of himself with a jerry can near a Jewish cemetery. The next one relates to a group of Jewish people out in where four males in a vehicle pulled over and one male yelled out, "Heil Hitler" and "Eff off, you Jews; get out of here," while doing a Nazi salute. The next one relates to graffiti in the inner west, "Eff off Jews" and a Star of David with a line through it.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: In terms of time, I wonder if you might move to a sample of hate incidents in 2023. That was 2024 that you are just giving us, wasn't it?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: If you could move, maybe, to hate crime incidents in 2023.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: For the Jewish community?

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Yes, thank you—which I note should be 27 per cent of the matters.

BRAD JOHNSTON: I'll go to the ones where it's easier to get information out of. Just for completeness, the ones I'm skipping over are primarily reported by Crime Stoppers, and there is a huge narrative at the start of them.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: We are interested in ones that might have no content to them, if I can put it that way, as well. Hopefully that doesn't gloss over those.

BRAD JOHNSTON: I'm not; it's just to give you a representation of what is here today. They're the easiest ones for me to pull out. If I go to the ones where there is a narrative—

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Because it's useful for our purposes, for example, to know if all of the Crime Stoppers ones seem to be nothing. That's actually relevant for us to know as well.

BRAD JOHNSTON: They certainly vary. My experience would lead me to believe they're representative of the ones I am saying to you. Varying people will ring and report things they've seen on cars or graffiti that's been seen and things of that nature. This one relates to victims who are security guards of CSG where

a vehicle has driven past sticking up their finger. As they've driven past, they've hurled abuse towards the guards. The next one relates to a sticker being placed in the community in northern New South Wales. The sticker read, "Australia for the white man."

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: Why would that be tagged as something relating to the Jewish community?

BRAD JOHNSTON: I would be guessing, but I would think it was probably reported by a member of the Jewish community. There is a Jewish population there, so that may be the case. Again, I would have to go into that for some more detail but, if I was asked to provide that answer now, that would be my reference.

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: I just wanted to ask also, how many of these incidents and crimes are reported from CSG? Do you have that breakdown?

BRAD JOHNSTON: No, I don't think I have that breakdown in here.

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: Could you take that on notice?

JENNIFER HASTINGS: I don't know that we capture that.

BRAD JOHNSTON: We are certainly in touch with CSG and discuss matters, but the usual practice is that they will have members of their community report to the police also. It's not a matter of course that we take reports from CSG about matters that have occurred to members of the Jewish community, but we are—

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: It's just that it has come up a few times as you have gone through the data. That is why I am asking.

BRAD JOHNSTON: That one where we were talking about security guards, that would have been reported to the police, and that report would have been taken by local police. The next one relates to a live stream making antisemitic comments, and it doesn't detail what the comments are. That was in the .

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: A live stream on Facebook or something?

BRAD JOHNSTON: A live stream on YouTube.

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: Does it say what was being live streamed?

BRAD JOHNSTON: It was a male person and there were concerns about them becoming radicalised, in reference to them making antisemitic comments, not detailing—

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Not what they were.

BRAD JOHNSTON: What I'm reading there is not saying exactly what those comments were.

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: Was it somebody in Australia or New South Wales, or we don't know?

BRAD JOHNSTON: I can't tell you from what I'm reading in front of me. The next one relates to concerns about pro-Hezbollah views held by proprietors of a shop in the —a pro-Hezbollah supporter in relation to two shops in the . It's difficult to determine from that information where the hate crime element is but, certainly, given the location in the —then again, I would need to analyse that further to provide you better context. The next one relates to a swastika being placed in the in a public location on an electricity box. The next one is offensive language in the towards a Jewish person. That was, again, yelled from a motor vehicle.

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: Do you know what it was?

BRAD JOHNSTON: "Eff off, you Jewish"—

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: Okay.

BRAD JOHNSTON: The next one is, again, from a motor vehicle towards a security guard at a Jewish education facility, "Eff off you Jew C".

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: In terms of time, it might be a good time to go to hate crimes in 2023.

BRAD JOHNSTON: The next one relates to a young person in the eastern suburbs—a malicious damage offence and displayed Nazi symbol.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: When you say "young person", do you mean a child?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Under 18. A person under the age of 18.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Does it say what the symbol was?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Not from what I'm seeing in front of me there. The next one relates to graffiti in a public male bathroom in southern Sydney where the graffiti was "gas the Jews", "1488" and "kill the Jews".

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: What's "1488"?

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Something about "Heil Hitler"—88 is "Heil Hitler", but I don't know what 14 is.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: The 14 Words.

BRAD JOHNSTON: It's a neo-Nazi thing.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: If you Google "14 Words", it's a—

BRAD JOHNSTON: The 14 relates to 14 Words and 88 is the numerical equivalent of HH—"Heil Hitler". So it's 14 Words and "Heil Hitler". It's fairly common in that neo-Nazi ideology. The next one relates, again, to a public display of the Nazi symbol, the swastika, in southern Sydney. Again, written on a premises in southern New South Wales was "I hate Jews" on the front window of the premises—business premises. There's a cemetery up in the region where there's, I'm pretty sure, swastikas on headstones up there in a dedicated Jewish section of the cemetery. The next one is graffiti—again, racial slurs, swastikas spray-painted on rocks and trees. I can't immediately tell you where that one is.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: So was this prior to the passage of the legislation around swastikas?

BRAD JOHNSTON: No, I don't think so. This was in 2024. No, there were investigations in relation to those.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Okay, but we're talking about incidents, are we, or by—

BRAD JOHNSTON: No, these are crimes. We've moved on to crimes.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Sorry, forgive me.

BRAD JOHNSTON: Again, at University of in the precinct, neo-Nazi stickers appearing. This one was in the : graffiti, antisemitic slogans—"kill the Jews", "Hitler", "KKK". Again in , posters placed around—I'm just trying to see what they had on them. "Neo-Nazi posters", they're described as. I can't tell you exactly what was on them. A motor vehicle driving through the being yelled from the vehicle, "Eff off, you Jewish...so-and-so" to a school student wearing a kippah. Another one, again in the abuse from a vehicle, "Jewish dog", "synagogue dog" being yelled from the vehicle. A voicemail being left on a phone attached to the synagogue, "Eff off, you Jew. I'll effing gas you. Hitler is coming back. Eff off, Jew."

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: There seems to be a preponderance, in this part at least, of Nazi-related stuff.

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes, this is just in the chronological order we're going through.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: So maybe it's timely now to go to hate incidents for 2022. I think that's the next one.

BRAD JOHNSTON: Sure. The first two relate to a vehicle driving slowly past a synagogue where the driver shouted "Free Palestine" towards the synagogue. The next one relates to a person, leaning out of a vehicle, shouted "Heil Hitler!" to an identifiable Jewish male and his son.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: So why wouldn't that be treated as offensive language?

BRAD JOHNSTON: "Heil Hitler"?

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Yes. I mean, in the circumstances, I would have thought it's highly offensive.

BRAD JOHNSTON: I don't conduct the investigations into them. It would be difficult. Without knowing all the circumstances, it would be difficult to comment on that.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: I've just seen people charged for saying the f-word to police, and then we see, apparently, that's put in the non-criminal category. It seems extraordinary on the face of it.

BRAD JOHNSTON: Well, I think, these days, saying the f-word to police is not—you're not going to get charged for it now. There's been precedents where the court, I think, have held now that it doesn't amount to offensive conduct and this is—

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: I saw cases well after that case. I know the case you're talking about, but—

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes. Again, male standing near skate park, making racist comments, shouting "Heil Hitler!", "Sieg Heil!". Again, in the a vehicle driving past, a male yelling out, "Effing Jews!" three times. The next one relates to a school student making what are described as antisemitic comments, but not detailed what they are, and threats, too, while at the school. The next one in the at the synagogue, male yelling out of the window of the car, "Eff you Jews". The next one, again in the , describes a male approached a rabbi and said, "I'm going to chop you up and put a bullet in you."

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Is there any information about the context of that one?

BRAD JOHNSTON: I think, reading forward, I can't expand on it much further—any further than that, really.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Just curious whether there's a connection between him being a rabbi and the threats, or whether he just happened to be a rabbi. That's all.

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes, and I can't tell that from there. It was in the . The next one again relates to a motor vehicle driving past a Jewish college in the , yelling out, "Effing Jew poofter."

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Just to be clear, we're now looking at incidents, aren't we, not crimes?

JENNIFER HASTINGS: Yes.

BRAD JOHNSTON: I think so.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: I'll just check, but I think that's what I did.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Some of them sound a bit like crimes, that's all.

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: Yes—a threat to kill someone and put a bullet in them.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: On that question, do you capture the incidences of crime separately or do you capture the crimes as incidents as well as those crimes?

BRAD JOHNSTON: If they're recorded as a crime—no, they're not captured separately. We don't capture the same thing twice. These are matters where we draw the information from the Computerised Operational Policing System, used to populate this document that is used for our purposes. It doesn't really have a wider purpose than that.

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: On that, what other categories do you put them into? You've tagged these percentages as things that affect the Jewish community. What other groups do you categorise them by?

JENNIFER HASTINGS: If I may, we don't limit what we categorise as. There's certainly the LGBT community and Muslim. The way we collect the information, we've improved on how we class it. I'll go to another one.

BRAD JOHNSTON: If we go to the 2025 one, that will give you the current reflection of the categories.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: It would be quite crude in the incident you raised earlier. I think it was "Jew poofter". Would that be categorised as both an antisemitic incident as well as an incident against the LGBTIQ community?

JENNIFER HASTINGS: It would just be categorised in the Jewish community category.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Okay. Just exclusively.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: Yes. I don't know that there would be any reason for it except it was "You Jewish poofter". So the order of it—we probably picked up the Jewish element before we picked up the homophobic one.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: And you're avoiding counting it twice that way, I suppose?

JENNIFER HASTINGS: Yes. The victim category: politician, female/male, immigrants, homeless person, Iranian, Bangladeshi, Russian community, Ukrainian community. This is in 2025. We've probably, if anything, got more discerning, whereas previously it was almost the narrative that was entered as the victim type. So we identify Indian Hindu, Indian Muslim, Indian Sikh, Indian community in general, Indian male and Indian female. Amongst the LGBT we'll say LGBT community, lesbian, gay male, transgender, non-binary. We try and capture the essence of the victim. Each quarter we'll look at the top five or top 10 victim categories to look at the trends and that sort of thing. But really, if you asked about a certain type of group, we could say whether they're a category or not. At the moment I don't think there's any American, French or English people, but there is Caucasian.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: We've got about 12 minutes, so it might be timely to go to crimes for 2022, if that works? I'm after October 7. Someone painted a Swastika on my fence. I reported it and I want to know whether it's in there.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: Hang on, hate incidents in 2022 or hate crime?

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Hate incidents.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: Okay. No, I got it wrong.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: I think I said crimes, actually. Sorry. Then we'll just do it in the same order that way.

BRAD JOHNSTON: The first one relates to graffiti of the swastika on a unit complex in . The next one, again, is graffiti of a swastika written on a wall in black pen in . The next one, again, in the a poster with a far-right extremist group, , on it—something.

JENNIFER HASTINGS:

BRAD JOHNSTON: , yes. Antisemitic graffiti—

Dr AMANDA COHN: Can I jump in to request that, if there are any future discussions about redacted versions of this or parts of this being made public, we redact the names of the organisations? They really love publicity.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: I think that's a great idea. They love it. They'll clip it.

BRAD JOHNSTON: Apologies, I'll try to avoid it if it's in here anymore. The next one relates to—it's in the inner city—stickering. A white supremacist group again—in the . Graffiti on a childcare centre in the swastika. Nazi symbols—that seems to be—

JENNIFER HASTINGS: We might have started midway, because there are only 33.

BRAD JOHNSTON: Is there? If there is only 33, that'd be the easier-to-read ones out of it.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: Would you like me to enlarge it?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes, if you can. I can't read that, sorry. I didn't bring my glasses. Report of a male holding anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim views and potentially having weapons. Graffiti where a UAP poster had been spray-painted with the swastika symbol, "United Morons Party"—I don't know what that is.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: I think UAP is United Australia Party.

BRAD JOHNSTON: This one is UMP. So—

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Sorry, I thought you said UAP.

BRAD JOHNSTON: No, UMP. And then it's got "United Morons Party". Graffiti, swastika—again, swastika on a female toilet lid. Again, this information where we started—it's a more abbreviated form, so it hasn't got the suburb and things like that. It has evolved over time. Motor vehicle with a sticker on it—"Boycott Israel Apartheid. Free Palestine."

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: So that's listed as a crime?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Even I'm confused now. Are we doing hate crimes or hate incidents?

JENNIFER HASTINGS: I'd have to check.

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: We're on crimes, I think.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: It might have been flagged incorrectly as well. Without checking—

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes, and as we go further back in the database, the information is not quite as solid as it was in the earlier ones. Again, graffiti, but scratched into rocks—swastikas, "Heil Hitler", "KKK", another swastika.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: Maybe in the last five minutes we could just go to incidents for 2022, if that works.

DAVID HUDSON: Did we do incidents for 2022 earlier?

JENNIFER HASTINGS: Yes, so do you want to go to 2021?

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: Yes, 2021, if we can.

JENNIFER HASTINGS: Starting with hate incidents?

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: Yes.

BRAD JOHNSTON: The first one relates to a 10-foot sign erected in a backyard, visible to the public from the laneway, which states in German, "Work will set you free." It's a replica of a sign that was at the entrance to Auschwitz. The next one relates to a vehicle, a person yelling from a vehicle aggressive and indecipherable comments towards security. The word "Jew" through the open window was heard. The next one relates to a male driving past a synagogue in the He shouted, "Effing Jews." A victim located a pamphlet on the doorstep with articles and memes referring to mass shootings and Jews being the Illuminati and conspiracy theorists. A male driving past a synagogue making offensive gestures; it's not further described. A vehicle drove past a person of the Jewish faith and called him a Jewish C. A Facebook post listing Zionists as terrorists and not welcome in Australia.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: "Zionist", was it?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Yes, Zionist are terrorists not welcome in Australia.

The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY: We're about to run out of time. Would you be able to take on notice—you said earlier that one of the categories was Muslim, so I presume that includes Islamophobia. Are you able to give us a breakdown in each of those years how many of those also are hate crimes versus incidents?

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: And percentages, if you could, for each year? So could we have the raw numbers and the percentage that is Muslim?

BRAD JOHNSTON: Okay. Do you want me to go through more of these?

The CHAIR: No, we've come to the end now.

The Hon. STEPHEN LAWRENCE: That's time, unfortunately, but it's been extremely helpful. Thanks so much. I suspect there'll probably be a motion at some point to make that public so I don't know, Chair, if you want to give the police some opportunity to comment on that now or maybe they could take that on notice.

The CHAIR: Maybe they wouldn't care to comment on it.

DAVID HUDSON: I'd probably need to seek advice. It's an internal police process.

The CHAIR: You don't have to make up your mind now. It would come as a request. Thank you very much for coming today. I note there was a couple of questions and requests on notice, for which the Committee will be in contact with you in due course.

(Evidence in camera concluded.)