

INQUIRY INTO ANTISEMITISM IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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I welcome this opportunity to contribute, as a Jewish person, to the inquiry. Like many other Jewish persons, who are currently finding it hard to have our voices heard in the public media and by our Governments, I do not support Israel's actions towards Palestinians. In fact, I am incredulous how Jews who support Israel and Zionism can tolerate, let alone support, Israel's genocidal actions towards Palestinians, after our own histories of experiences of genocide under the Nazi regime and persecution elsewhere.

It is important that any Australian government policies and definitions of antisemitism do not further politicise, or be formulated in ways that can be used to suppress advocacy for Palestinian rights. Policies that address antisemitism should protect free speech and avoid referencing racial discrimination and contributing to structural racism.

Education, rather than punitive measures will be more constructive of community building and a society in which there is cohesion, rather than divisiveness and conflicts such as those gathering more force in Australian society. In terms of Education and noting the specific Term of Reference (h) the role of the Sydney Jewish Museum in providing Holocaust education for students. I argue that the Jewish Museum in Berlin is an exemplar for any potential further developments for the role of the Sydney Jewish Museum. The Berlin Museum appears to successfully combine an emphasis on Holocaust education and its place in Jewish history, with also being 'a place for encounters and cooperation, where not only Jewish perspectives but also those of other religious and ethnic minorities have their place'.
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Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the important work of this committee.