

## INQUIRY INTO ANTISEMITISM IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 4 April 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

4 April 2025

## **RE: SUBMISSION ON ANTISEMITISM**

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My name is . I am a practising lawyer and member of the Law Society of NSW (under my full legal name ).

In my personal and professional capacity, I have experienced antisemitism on various levels.

### **Doxing/Using Carriage Service to Menace and Harass**

Since October 7<sup>th</sup>, I have been involved in several WhatsApp groups, one of which is called Lawyers for Israel. Following a Sydney Morning Herald article on the group, I personally experienced severe doxing which forced me off social media entirely. I had “activists” call for collective complaints to the Law Society (which were summarily dismissed), people contact individuals I work with to try and dissuade them to work with me and certain online individuals find photos of my children from a synagogue publication (as we have a strict policy that my children have no photos on social media) with instructions “*This is her family, go and get them*”.

The background to the doxing is that on or around 8 December 2023 I, together with a number of individuals in the Jewish community, made complaints against Antoinette Lattouf, a journalist who was working with the ABC and was posting virulently anti-Israel posts online, including, but not limited to, posts suggesting that Israelis have been raping Palestinians for 75 years in a “justification” regarding the rapes of Israeli women on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

I was part of a WhatsApp Group called Lawyers for Israel, a group formed by a number of lawyers predominantly to monitor antisemitism in Australia which had erupted after the October 7, 2023 massacre. I posted a copy of my email on that chat as an example for others to use.

On 15 January 2024, I had a call from Michael Bachelard at the Sydney Morning Herald asking me if I was part of an “Israel Lobby group” acting for “foreign agents” trying to “influence the ABC”. He quizzed me about the WhatsApp group and asked me about the email I had sent to the ABC.

The following day, the Sydney Morning Herald published an article with the title “Lawyers for Israel Secret WhatsApp Messages” which published screenshots on their website. They referenced me as an Eastern suburbs property lawyer (which was not clear from any group).

Within an hour of the article being online I had approximately 20 anonymous phone calls from people calling me a “Zionist lawyer” who was “supporting genocide”. Some of the callers threatened to come and find me and kill me and my family. Some threatened to report me to the Law Society to have me struck off. Others accused me of working for a foreign entity and that I was not a “real Australian” Others said they would find out who I was doing business with and would ensure that my business went broke.

In addition to the phone calls, I received approximately 30 emails on my business email address. They were vitriolic - ranging with suggestions to fire me (not knowing that I am the principal of my firm), threats to contact people I work with to ensure they never worked with me again and promises to take action against me and ruin my business.

I was contacted by two (non-Jewish) Buyers Agents who I work with advising me they had been contacted by an individual both by email and phone, warning them not to do business with me. I was also contacted by two Real Estate Agents and two brokers that I work with who had been contacted by the same individual by email and phone. Another Real Estate Agent had their head office request I remove their name from my website following correspondence from the same person. The individual who contacted them, who identified himself as \_\_\_\_\_, also emailed me directly and sent me mail with a letter at my PO Box with a Palestinian flag from an individual called \_\_\_\_\_ and a letter telling me I, and Jews like me, were the real reason for worldwide antisemitism.

A friend of mine was monitoring Twitter/X and Instagram and sent me screenshots of what people were posting there. There was a coordinated group suggesting I should be “hunted down” and another group who provided details how to report me to the Law Society to have me struck off.

At the time my Facebook profile was public, and I received messages and posts on my page. One of the messages told me that I was not welcome in Australia, and they would “hang me from a bridge like the Palestinian flag”.

At about 11pm my friend who was monitoring social media found an old photo of my family and I with a post saying words to the effect “This is what they look like, go and find them”.

I attended at Rose Bay Police Station where I made a formal complaint to the NSW Police and provided all the emails and screenshots of the messages that I had received throughout the course of the day.

I was harassed by an individual who wrote several social media posts targeting me and who called me 10 times within an hour on some days. This was reported to the police as well.

The NSW police opened an investigation numbered but a week or so later I was asked to attend the Bondi Police Station where I was told that there was nothing they could do as no crime had been committed and there was no real offence.

On 8 February 2024 I received a letter from the Legal Services Commissioner stating they had assessed and summarily dismissed an application to have me struck off as a lawyer, because of the email I had written to the ABC. There were several follow up complaints from other individuals, some named and others anonymous, all part of a targeted campaign which had been launched online.

In January 2025 I met with the Australian Federal Police to provide a witness statement as part of a larger ongoing investigation into doxing, but this investigation seems to have stalled, despite a multitude of testimonies having been given by Australian Jews against online agitators. There have been no charges laid against any of these individuals.

In February 2025 following the charging of an individual under the Use of a Carriage service to harass and menace in relation to an individual who emailed Ms Lattouf, I asked the Australian Federal Police to reopen the investigation against 4 specific individuals that had targeted me by contacting business colleagues and by using their online platforms to encourage their followers to target me. I was advised that they were “too busy” and would attend to this when they could. At the date of this submission, I have still not heard back from the Australian Federal Police regarding this.

## **Schools**

Two of my children attend a private non-denominational high school in the Eastern suburbs. My children have had antisemitic messages in bathrooms, have removed their Jewish jewellery for fear of repercussions, have had teachers make comments regarding “genocide by Jews” and have had fellow students ostracize them and call them out on social media platforms such as Tik Tok and Instagram for supporting Israel.

I have had the school intervene on two occasions and they have handled this well but there is an underlying current of antisemitism amongst some of the students and some of the teaching staff.

In my oldest child's year, a girl was "kicked out" of her friendship circle for her "support of Israel" and the girls were told that they should not socialise with her. Again, this was reported to the school and dealt with whilst at school premises but cannot be monitored effectively outside of the school grounds.

My daughter's non-Jewish friend who volunteers with her each Monday at a Jewish centre has told her that each time he orders an Uber to be picked up, once he tells the driver where he is being picked up from, the Muslim driver cancels the booking. His view is that this is because of the venue but obviously this cannot be verified.

## **University**

My oldest son attends the University of Sydney. From his first day in February 2024, he was hounded by anti-Israel activists with petitions against Israel. When he declined, he was followed to lectures with the petitions and individuals calling him a "*Genocidal Jew*". A new acquaintance stopped sitting with him when they discovered he was Jewish. He faced an onslaught of hateful messages on notice boards, in the graffiti tunnel and had multiple lectures disrupted by student activists calling for the sanctioning of Israel.

My son tried to engage constructively with individuals, one of whom threatened to "*beat him up*" if he did not back away (who was then pulled away by other anti-Israel protestors). In March 2024, my son discussed the issues with a *Pro Palestinian* supporter at one of their stands. My son said he was willing to concede that any extreme religious settlers in the West Bank were an impediment to peace and should be dealt with and asked the individual if they were prepared to concede that Hamas were a terrorist organisation and what occurred on October 7<sup>th</sup> was an act of terror. The individual was not prepared to concede this and said that there will be peace when there is no longer a Jewish state.

Soon after the encampment began last year, there was an Anti-Hate speech rally organised by Jewish communal members, which my son asked me to attend with him. The Jewish group had planned to rally near the quadrangle, but a *counter rally* was organised, so they were forced to another side of the campus. As we were walking to the rally from our car with our "Stop the Hate Mate" t-shirts passersby called out "Fuck you Jews". Whilst we were at the rally several intimidating masked individuals came to stand over the rally and filmed the event. There were also photographs taken without consent from students and my photo was subsequently posted on a Pro Palestinian Instagram page with negative commentary. Many of the masked individuals did not appear to be students and were certainly not interested in engaging in a meaningful manner. I felt intimidated by their presence and my son said that there were often people walking around the campus like this.

Following the rally, my son showed me the encampment at the quadrangle. There were over 1000 people on the grass spewing anti-Israel hatred. My son was denied access to the grass by the security guards who said it was not safe. My son explained he wanted to talk to someone because without a dialogue we cannot have peace. He also said that many of the people on the quadrangle were not students and he should not be denied access to the area given that he is a fee-paying student and they were allowed to take over.

An individual walked down from the quadrangle and offered to debate anyone which my son agreed to on the proviso that the discussion was calm, respectful and constructive, which the individual shook hands on. Immediately after that the individual aggressively shouted at my son and said that Israel colluded with the Nazis to kill the Jews in the Holocaust, together with other propaganda. My son calmly (in front of several witnesses and the security guard) told him that it was not possible because the State of Israel was only established in 1948. At this point, he launched himself at my son and was pulled back by security guards who pinned him down. We left the university immediately as we were fearful of actual violence erupting.

As we drove home from the university, my son was sent a video of, what we later found out was Hizb Ut Tahir parading at campus.

My son tried to engage with Mark Scott via emails but with limited success. The response was always generic and there is no real acknowledgement of his circumstance or action taken by the Vice Chancellor. As this was a serious matter and I did not feel that my son, in his first year of university, should have to deal with this alone, I sent emails about my concerns at campus. Emails were sent to the Vice Chancellor on 24 April 2024, 2 May 2024, 4 May 2024, 7 May 2024, 9 May 2024, 17 May 2024, 24 May 2024, 25 May 2024, 27 May 2024, 30 May 2024, 5 June 2024, 16 June 2024 and 23 June 2024. I received a generic response from Professor Scott on 25 June 2024. I then asked for a proper response to my previous emails on 25 June 2024 and followed up on 9 August 2024, 23 August 2024 and 2 September 2024 but never received any further communication from Mr Scott.

Although the temperature is better in 2025, there are new groups such as “Student Intifada” that were on campus at Orientation week and an incident at the Conservatorium during Orientation week which was antisemitic (which the students have now received a warning for). My son now avoids the university except when it is mandatory.

Calls to have this investigated properly were turned down at federal parliament and the Bruce Hodgkinson inquiry whitewashed the students’ experiences with simply a commitment to do better.

My son has commented several times that he feels if even one of the incidents that has happened had happened to a member of the LGBTQI+ community, indigenous student or any other minority it would have been dealt with immediately, rather than allowing repeat offences.

In addition to University of Sydney, in my role as a solicitor I have been contacted by multiple individuals whose children have experienced antisemitism at university, some of which have been reported and others not for fear of retribution. These include:

***UTS:***

1. Being asked what “background” the child was because their surname was Goldstein and then, when saying they were German, being pressed by a tutor if they were Jewish and then the tutor announcing to the group “We have a Jew in the class”;
2. Being invited to write a task in a music course comparing similarities the Colonisation of Palestine with the Colonisation of Australia
3. Students being told that if they participated in rallies for Palestine that they would be given class credits
4. Students being told by other students that they would not work with them on collaborations because they were “Pro Israel”
5. A student being told that as a Jew he had no right to cultural safety (by a UNSW Associate Professor Peter Slezak who, by his own admission, was quoting the words of Randa Abdel-Fattah, a professor for Macquarie University)

***UNSW***

1. University lecturer contract was not renewed when he complained to the police after the university failed to take proper action against 3 students performing Nazi salutes (ultimately this was renewed because he took action and was reinstated)
2. Multiple online talks about Israeli genocide (I attended some of these myself) which platforming pro Hamas speakers
3. Student votes against Israel and seeking BDS motions

***Macquarie University***

1. Randa Abdel-Fattah has publicly said numerous times that Zionists are not welcome in cultural spaces and should be made to feel unsafe when over 90% of Australian Jews identify as Zionists
2. A 4<sup>th</sup> year law student met with the student welfare officer in February 2025 and said they did not feel safe so they removed their Kippah (Jewish skullcap) and Jewish star of David. The wellbeing officer said it was good that this could be done. The student then said that if there was a more religious Jew who was being

harassed, they would want to stand up for them and the officer said that they were a fourth-year student and they could choose to be brave or smart

### **Greens Political Party**

The Greens anti-Israel and antisemitic rhetoric has ramped up since October 2023.

Jenny Leong, state member for Newtown, was caught on camera making antisemitic statements and there were no real repercussions. Had these comments been made about any other minority, that MP would have rightly been stood down. However, Ms Leong simply visited the Jewish Holocaust Museum, paid a fine and then continued her antisemitic vitriol in a more guarded way.

Phillipa Veitch, the Mayor of Randwick Council, posted anti-Israel rhetoric on social media and attended protests against “Zionists” at the University of New South Wales. Again, nothing was done to combat this aside from apologies and platitudes.

Ludovico Fabiano and Dominic WyKanak brought a motion to Waverly Council (my local council) in late October 2024 to condemn Israel for the “genocide in Palestine” stirring up hatred and division in one of the largest Jewish council areas in Australia. I attended to support a motion brought by one of the other council members regarding this and was subjected to antisemitism by \_\_\_\_\_ and those supporting the motion in the gallery.

Mehreen Faruqi was photographed with students holding up posters with a Jewish star of David being thrown in the bin. She has continuously called for action against Israel. When there was beheading of Pakistanis by terrorists in February 2025 I emailed Ms Faruqi with condolences and asked her when she would be making a public statement, which to date is still not forthcoming. However, she continues anti-Israel rhetoric which stirs up anti-Jewish hatred locally.

### **Graffiti and targeting of Jewish property/sites**

As Jewish Australians we have been exposed to Graffiti in our streets ranging from “Fuck Israel” to “Hitler was right” and various antisemitic tropes. There have been red triangles, the triangle used by Hamas as a target, throughout the Eastern suburbs.

I live in Dover Heights near the former home of Alex Rychkin that was targeted with red paint. The neighbour is a friend of mine who woke to smoke in their children’s bedrooms from the firebombing of cars on the same night. Despite being part of a “criminal enterprise” these are targeted antisemitic sites.

I have myself removed stickers from street posts, parking station posts and bus stop benches which state “Zionists are terrorists” and “Zionists are babykillers”. These are at the very bus stops that my children use to travel to and from school



## **Discrimination**

As part of my role as a lawyer, I have been a contact to assist people linking up with specialists for discrimination that they have faced. Some of these have been pursued but others have chosen not to take matters further. These include:

- Children targeted at Westfield Bondi Junction having Christmas presents thrown at them with swastikas
- Individuals spat on at Bondi Beach
- A lady denied medical appointments with her Muslim chiropractor who said they were not accepting new appointments even though she had been a patient for 10 years and had discussed the Israel-Hamas conflict early in the war. The practice subsequently accepted an appointment for a new patient the following day when she asked her friend to call. It was confirmed by a mutual contact that the chiropractor said she did not want to service the lady because she was Jewish
- An individual was told by her psychologist of 6 years that she could no longer see her because of her “stance on Israel”
- Employees were advised that they should not wear Jewish Stars of David to work because it was “confrontational” for customers
- People been excluded from online internet groups because of pro-Israel views
- People have been shut down from expressing fears about antisemitism on support groups online
- People have taken off/hidden their jewellery which identifies them as Jewish (Star of David necklaces or other jewellery) when they go for job interviews for fear of not being considered for roles

## **Media**

The ABC has continually platformed anti-Israel views. Even when interviewing “Jewish voices” they have selected fringe Jewish individuals such as Sarah Schwartz from the Jewish Council of Australia or Anthony Lowenstein who is a known anti-Zionist Jew. I have written to the ABC almost monthly, together with a number of Jewish community members, to call out the bias but the ABC has continued to do so. In doing so they have pitted the “good Jews and the bad Jews” which has increased antisemitism.

The ABC have never adequately covered the issue of antisemitism, and it was left to Josh Frydenberg to create a documentary which was run on Sky Media. This then drew comments from antisemites calling Sky Media “Sly Media” and “owned by the Jews”.

Cathy Wilcox from the Sydney Morning Herald has consistently drawn “anti-Zionist” cartoons and despite several complaints to both the newspaper and ACMA there has been no action taken and the cartoons continue to be platformed.

The free to air media continues to repeat anti-Israel propaganda without verifying the information or source (eg The Age on 25 March posted an article about a journalist in Gaza that was killed, failing to mention that the journalist was also a sniper for Hamas and part of their armed forces).

### **Human Rights Commission**

I participated in the Australian Human Rights Commission Seen and Heard Project on 17 March 2025 which was set up to hear from Jewish, Muslim, Arab and Palestinian Australians about the impact on their lives of October 7 and its aftermath.

One of the facilitators from the Human Rights commission advised a participant, when she expressed her feelings in a morning tea break “We hear this from the other side all the time”. Even at an event designed to speak openly there was no simple acknowledgement of the feelings of our community with equating this.

Furthermore, the commission itself excluded “Israeli” Australians as a separate group but included Palestinians. This is further gaslighting of our community and a slap in the face.

All participants walked away from the event and said that whilst it was cathartic to express their feelings, they had no confidence that anything would happen.

### **Recommendations for Change**

1. Mandatory Holocaust education from primary school upwards but in the context of one event of antisemitism because it is often held out as the only and include the broader history of antisemitism over the ages (Project Shema is something that has been developed overseas and is a great initiative )
2. Education in the workplace (the same Project Shema can be implemented and has been used successfully overseas in corporate settings). This would include government and university faculties where there seems to be an entrenched antisemitism under the guise of anti-Israel sentiment
3. Education regarding antisemitic tropes and how they have changed overtime
4. Opportunities for primary and early high school students to engage with Judaism and Jewish values. There is an excellent program called Kinder World which teaches the concepts of charity and Tikkun Olam (making the world a better place) as, given the few numbers of Jews in Australia, often people have not met a Jew and this would go a long way to dispelling the myths/tropes about Jews

5. Review of the Teachers Federation which has been corrupted by anti-Israel/antisemitic sentiment and forced Jewish teachers who do not concur with the view out of the space
6. Adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism to include anti-Zionism as a form of racism. This should not include any legitimate criticism of the Israeli government but should include any call for the end of Israel and/or holding individual Israeli citizens responsible for acts by their government
7. Stronger hate speech laws particularly targeting groups/leaders eg the Imams who incite violence or encourage/celebrate the killing of Jews or any other religious group or minority
8. Media campaigns to raise the awareness regarding the levels of antisemitism
9. Stop equating antisemitism with Islamophobia – this is not done with any other minorities (you don't hear people compare anti indigenous sentiment with anti-Chinese sentiment). This simply pits two groups against one another rather than deal with them individually and perpetuates the problem. All government ministers dealing with these issues should be instructed to discuss them separately without conflating the two issues
10. Public correction by NSW government of the false narrative that Israel is committing genocide. The ICJ has not made any such decision and the only ruling to date is that South Africa had standing to bring a case on behalf of the Palestinians. This is akin to finding someone guilty of murder before they have been tried in court

I understand that you will have several submissions and appreciate you taking the time to investigate and consider this matter properly

Kind Regards,