



ועד הרבנים דאוסטרלאסיה

RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA

15 December 2025

25 Kislev 5786

A Message from the Rabbinical Association of Australasia Following the Bondi Beach Massacre

Dear Members of our Jewish Community and to our fellow Australians:

The terror attack at the Chanukah gathering in Bondi has deeply shaken our Jewish communities across the nation. At least 11 people have been killed and there are many injured.

While full details are still unfolding, the very fact that a Jewish celebration of Chanukah was targeted is confronting and distressing beyond words.

This is a painful reality check.

We are living through a time of heightened vulnerability. The rise in antisemitism is no longer theoretical or distant. It is being felt in our streets, at our schools, at our institutions, and now at a public celebration of light and faith.

Tonight and in the days ahead, our hearts are with the loved ones of those brutally murdered, with the injured and with those who experienced this trauma first hand. We hold them close in our prayers and in our collective responsibility to care, support, and stand with them.

We are now in the midst of Chanukah.

A time that reminds us that Jewish resilience has always endured. We light candles not because darkness is absent, but because it is real. Each flame is an act of courage, faith, and defiance against those who seek to intimidate or silence Jewish life.

At the same time, faith does not absolve responsibility.

We call on government, police, and all relevant authorities to ensure the immediate and visible protection of Jewish institutions, schools, synagogues, and public gatherings. This moment demands clarity, decisiveness, and action. The Jewish community must not be left to carry this burden alone.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Rabbi Nochum Schapiro, *President*, Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton, *Vice President*, Rabbi Nir Gurevitch, *Secretary*,
Rabbi Mendy Ajzenszmidt, Rabbi Menachem Aron, Rabbi Netaniel Friedler, Rabbi Joshua Nagel,
Rabbi Yaakov Glasman, *Immediate Past President*

Please send all correspondence to: PO Box 7, St Ives NSW 2075 or email rabbi@chabadhouse.org.au

To our community, we offer the following guidance for the coming days:

- Remain vigilant and follow the security advice of local authorities and community security organisations.
- Proceed with communal and religious life thoughtfully and responsibly, not fearfully.
- Check in on one another, especially children, elderly members, and those who may be particularly shaken.
- Where possible, increase acts of kindness, presence, and communal care.

We also acknowledge that for many families, this Chanukah is already marked by grief. Families who have lost loved ones this past year, families carrying trauma, and families now facing fresh pain. Your pain is seen. You are not forgotten. The community stands with you.

Chanukah teaches us that light is fragile, but powerful.

That a small flame, protected and nurtured, can illuminate an entire space.

We will continue to light our candles.

We will continue to gather.

We will continue to live openly and proudly as Jews.

But we do so with a clear and united voice:

Jewish life must be protected. Jewish fear must be taken seriously. Jewish safety is non-negotiable.

We call on all our fellow Australians to stand together with the Jewish community by lighting a candle this Chanukah and posting it on social media with the hashtag #lightovercomesdarkness

Let us all increase in acts of kindness to each other because in the face of light and good, darkness and evil will always dissipate.

As Rabbi Schlanger of blessed memory said repeatedly in recent years, "The spiritual response to the darkness of Antisemitism is to increase in the light of Torah and Mitzvot and dedicating ourselves to its holy values of goodness and kindness"

His father in law, Rabbi Yehoram Ulman, Head of Chabad Bondi and organizer of the event that was attacked, said this evening that, "This is the difference between us and them whilst our enemies engage in acts of violence and hate, we will continue to spread holiness and love."

May Hashem bring healing to the injured, comfort to the bereaved, strength to our communities, and peace to our land.

With unity, resolve, and hope,

Rabbi Nochum Schapiro
President, Rabbinical Association of Australasia

P.S. Please continue to pray for those in need of a speedy recovery.