



ועד הרבנים דאוסטרלאסיה

RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA

6 December 2024

**STATEMENT ON THE ARSON ATTACK AT ADASS YISROEL SYNAGOGUE
AND ESCALATING ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS**

The Rabbinical Association of Australasia is deeply appalled by the arson attack on the Adass Yisroel Synagogue in Melbourne, especially in light of events this week in Sydney where protestors forced a lockdown after a public meeting in a synagogue, and the firebombing of Jewish vehicles in Woollahra last week. While the full details are yet to emerge, this was clearly an anti-Semitic attack. Sadly, it is not unexpected, given the hostile environment that has been allowed to grow by weak responses by both state and federal governments. Their inaction is a failure of leadership.

We call on the government not only to condemn this attack but also to take decisive action to combat antisemitism wherever it appears.

To our Jewish community, we urge you to strengthen our unity and commitment to one another and to Israel. Let us engage in acts of Mitzvot, which have always served as our spiritual protector in times of adversity. As we approach the holiday of Chanukah, a time when Hashem performed miracles and delivered the many into the hands of the few, and the wicked into the hands of the righteous, we pray that He will continue to protect the Jewish people in our times.

Rabbi Nochum Schapiro

President, Rabbinical Association of Australasia

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