



ועד הרבנים דאוסטרלאסיה

RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA

9 January 2026

20 Tevet 5786

**Statement from the Rabbinical Association of Australasia
Following the Prime Minister's call for a Royal Commission**

The Rabbinical Association of Australasia welcomes the Prime Minister's decision to establish a Royal Commission. This is an important and necessary step in acknowledging the seriousness of the current climate and the need for thorough examination and accountability.

At the same time, we emphasise that a Royal Commission is, by its nature, a long-term process. The threats, intimidation, and incitement being experienced by Jewish communities are immediate. Action cannot—and should not—wait.

There are concrete steps that can be taken now.

First, security for synagogues, Jewish schools, and communal institutions must be strengthened. The ability of any Australian to practise their faith and gather safely is a fundamental right, and whatever resources are required to ensure this must be prioritised.

Second, we urge that violent and dangerous slogans such as “death to the IDF,” “globalise the intifada,” “from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” and other hate-filled slogans of a similar nature be outlawed through legislation. This should include the prohibition of marches and demonstrations that promote or incite violence, hatred, or intimidation.

Third, Australia must be clear and confident in asserting its values. Immigration settings should reflect an expectation that those who come to this country uphold democratic principles, reject extremism, and do not import hatred or violence arising from overseas conflicts.

Fourth, the IHRA definition of antisemitism should be applied consistently and meaningfully. Existing frameworks must be used to identify, call out, and address antisemitism wherever it appears, including in public discourse and organised demonstrations.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Rabbi Nochum Schapiro, *President*, Rabbi Nir Gurevitch, *Vice President*, Rabbi Menachem Aron, *Treasurer*,
Rabbi Hillel Nagel, *Secretary*, Rabbi Mendy Ajzenszmidt, Rabbi Netaniel Friedler, Rabbi Chaim Ingram, Rabbi Daniel Rabin.

Fifth, public debate about Israel must meet the same standards of fairness, accuracy, and proportionality applied to all nations. Robust discussion is a feature of a healthy democracy, but selective outrage, distortion of facts, or the application of double standards only deepens division and fuels hatred.

Finally, while the Royal Commission must examine failures, radicalisation, and the spread of hate, it should also acknowledge and uplift the counterbalance to evil. In the aftermath of the Bondi tragedy, Australians responded with extraordinary compassion, courage, and unity.

We encourage all Australians to take part in **One Mitzvah for Bondi**, an initiative that invites people to honour the victims by performing a simple act of goodness, kindness, or care. More information can be found at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/onemitzvah>

The Rabbinical Association of Australasia looks forward to engaging constructively with government and civil society. This moment demands not only inquiry, but leadership, resolve, and moral clarity to ensure the safety, dignity, and cohesion of Australian society.

**Rabbi Nochum Schapiro, President
and the Executive of the Rabbinical Association of Australasia**