



The Honourable John Sackar AM KC  
c/o Independent Review Secretariat  
Department of Communities and Justice

[PRLIndependentReviewSecretariat@dcj.nsw.gov.au](mailto:PRLIndependentReviewSecretariat@dcj.nsw.gov.au)

6 August 2025

Dear Honourable John Sackar AM KC and Secretariat,

We write in relation to the **Review of criminal law protections against the incitement of hatred** following the introduction of the *Crimes Amendment (Inciting Racial Hatred) Act 2025* (Inciting Racial Hatred Act) (the Sackar Review).

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry (the ECAJ) is the peak, elected, representative body of the Australian Jewish community. It was established for that purpose in 1944 by Australian Jewish organisations and their elected leaders. The ECAJ's constituent organisations are the roof bodies of the Jewish community in each State and Territory.<sup>1</sup> Other Jewish organisations which operate nationally are Affiliates of the ECAJ.<sup>2</sup> Altogether, the ECAJ's constituent and affiliated organisations, and their respective constituent and affiliated organisations, number approximately 200 major Jewish organisations across Australia.

The ECAJ has long been advocating for stronger laws to hold perpetrators of hate speech accountable. In 2013, the ECAJ was instrumental in persuading then Prime Minister Julia Gillard, on behalf of the Australian Government, to sign the London Declaration on Combating Antisemitism, which, among other things, committed

<sup>1</sup> Namely, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, the Jewish Community Council of Victoria Inc, the Jewish Community Council of Western Australia Inc, the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies, the Jewish Community Council of South Australia, the Hobart Hebrew Congregation and the ACT Jewish Community Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Namely, Australasian Union of Jewish Students, Union for Progressive Judaism, Australian Federation of WIZO, Maccabi Australia Inc, National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, B'nai B'rith District 21 of Australia and New Zealand, Jewish National Fund of Australia Inc, Joint Distribution Committee Australia.

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**CONSTITUENTS**  
NSW Jewish Board of Deputies  
Jewish Community Council of Victoria  
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Jewish Community Council of SA  
Hobart Hebrew Congregation  
ACT Jewish Community

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Australasian Union of Jewish Students  
Australian Federation of WIZO  
Union for Progressive Judaism  
Federation of Jewish Aged Car Services  
Maccabi Australia  
National Council of Jewish Women  
B'nai B'rith of Australia/ NZ  
Jewish National Fund of Australia  
Joint Distribution Committee Australia

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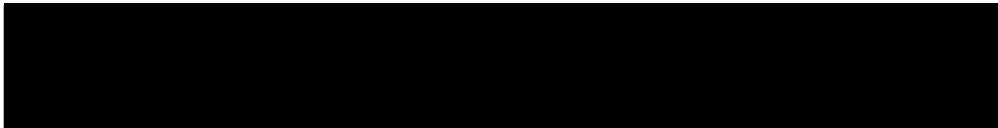
Australia to legislating against hate crimes and incitement to racial hatred.<sup>3</sup> While there have been changes at the Commonwealth and state levels over the years, experience has shown that iterations of laws seeking to proscribe hate speech have proven ineffective, insofar as there remains an environment of relative impunity with respect to the promotion, advocacy or glorification of racial and religious hatred and violence directed at Jewish people and other groups.

Although the ECAJ is a national organisation, changes to hate speech laws in any State or Territory may have significant implications for the rights and security of their respective Jewish communities and may shape the direction of reforms to equivalent Federal laws.

We have had the benefit of reading the submission of Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism (ASECA) and the recommendations contained therein, which we wholeheartedly endorse.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of our response further.

Yours sincerely



**Daniel Aghion KC**  
**President**

**Peter Wertheim AM**  
**Co-CEO**

**Simone Abel**  
**Head of Legal**

<sup>3</sup> 'Australian PM signs London Declaration', *The Executive Council of Australian Jewry*, 26 April 2013: <https://www.ecaj.org.au/australian-pm-signs-london-declaration/>