

I just do wish to take the opportunity to make an opening statement in relation to the anti-Semitic terrorist attack at Bondi Beach on 14 December, 2025. We suffered the deadliest terrorist attack on our soil in Australian history against the iconic backdrop of Bondi Beach, where members of Australia's Jewish community had gathered to celebrate the first night of Chanukah. Two men with high-powered guns stole the lives of 15 innocent people and wounded so many more. It was a violent attack. It was a calculated attack and it was targeted against Australian Jewish community, a monstrous act of hate fuelled anti-Semitism. Our hearts break for the families and loved ones of those who were killed, and we stand with them as they carry a profound grief. As the Prime Minister said in the immediate aftermath of the attack, Australia will never submit to division, violence or hatred. There is no place for anti-Semitism or hate of any kind in Australia and the government will continue to prioritise national unity, to continue to work to bring Australians together in the face of those who would seek to divide us during this time. Our message to the Australian Jewish community has been and continues to be that the Australian government stands with you. We see you and we value you. Australia is a nation that has been enriched by people of every faith, of every background over generations. We are united in our shared love of what we have built here together, and we remain dedicated to safeguarding Australia's multicultural success for future generations. Because every Australian has the right to feel valued and accepted and to practice their faith without fear of being subjected to violence or hate. Since the devastating attack on 14th December, the government has taken a range of actions to address both the motivation and the method of the anti-Semitic terrorist attack. In consultation with National Cabinet, the Commonwealth has taken steps to strengthen Australia's gun laws by legislative legislating a framework for the national gun buyback scheme, as well as restricting importation of firearms to Australian citizens and removing open-ended imports. Import permits. Commonwealth. Importantly, Commonwealth background checks for gun licences will be mandatory, including assessment by ASIO. The government has also established a Commonwealth royal commission on anti-Semitism and Social Cohesion, led by former High Court Justice the honourable Virginia Bell AC. The royal commission will investigate and make recommendations regarding the circumstances leading up to and including the attack, as well as the response of government and security agencies. The royal commission will also examine anti-Semitism in Australia and make recommendations towards combating hatred and strengthening social cohesion. The Commonwealth's recent legislative reforms also represent strong action designed to stamp out hate, anti-Semitism and violence. It is true that the final legislative package did not include everything the government wanted. However, new offences for hate preachers, increased penalties for hate crimes and expanded powers for the Minister for Home Affairs to list organisations as prohibited hate groups and to cancel visas of those who seek to spread hatred in Australia are all important new protections. The government has also announced that David Gonski AC will lead a 12-month task force along the special, alongside the special envoy to combat anti-Semitism to ensure the Australian education system properly prevents tackles and responds to anti-Semitism. This measure represents part of the government's broader response to the Special Envoys plan to combat anti-Semitism and our commitment to the ongoing program of work to be led by the envoy, supported and implemented by government. These measures build on the government's record of taking action to tackle the scourge of anti-Semitism and stamp out hate and violence in Australia. That this includes the establishment of our first special envoy to combat anti-Semitism, Miss Jillian Segal, the establishment of Operation Avalite, legislating against hate speech and enacting a landmark ban on Nazi symbols, criminalising doxing and imposing counter-terrorism sanctions and financing restrictions on the white supremacist network telegram appointing the Australia's first National Student Ombudsman and the creation of a national hate crimes and incidents database. Increased funding for improved safety and security at Jewish sites across the country, including schools and synagogues, as well as increased funding for Jewish security organisations and a record \$100 million investment for countering violent extremism. Chair committee members. As the Prime Minister has said repeatedly, Australians do not want to see violence and conflict brought to our shores. We as a people are united by respect for each other's humanity and for each other's right to live in peace. In the wake of the horrific anti-Semitic terrorist attack at Bondi Beach in December, the celebration of our diversity, the rejection of hate will continue to inform the actions of the Australian government as we continue to do everything in our power to keep Australians safe. Thank you Chair.