



Thank you, Chair. Given events since I last appeared before this Committee, I would like to make a short opening statement.

My central message is this: antisemitism in Australia has reached a point where sustained, coordinated national action is no longer optional. It is essential for community safety, for social cohesion and for the integrity of our democracy.

The events at Bondi marked a profound turning point. They brought growing antisemitism into sharp national focus and made visible what Jewish Australians have been saying for many months: that fear, intimidation and exclusion are no longer abstract concerns. They are lived realities. As I noted at the time of the Bondi massacre, a pattern of activity of hateful words, demonstrations supporting terrorist organisations like Hamas, violence directed against Jewish institutions, property and businesses and unchecked hate online eventually led to an environment that the community had feared, a targeted massacre of Jewish Australians.

That moment crystallised public attention and, for many Australians resulted in a realisation that what the Jewish community had been warning about was real.

Australians from across the country reached out in solidarity. Community organisations mobilised. Faith leaders spoke up. Individuals offered support and practical assistance. I want to acknowledge that outpouring and thank everyone who engaged constructively with my office. Many Australians expressed to me feelings of guilt; guilt that they had not taken my warnings seriously enough.

Since Bondi, activity across government and civil society to work on my Plan has accelerated.

Listening to lived experience remains foundational.

Jewish Australians have spoken clearly about the impact of recent months on their sense of safety, belonging and visibility. Parents are concerned about schools. Students about campuses. Families about places of worship. Business owners about vandalism and threats. These are not isolated incidents. Together, they create a climate of fear.

Antisemitism presents in multiple forms: online abuse, intimidation, vandalism, threats and physical violence. Even where individual acts fall below criminal thresholds, collectively they erode trust and participation in public life.

That is why this work must be sustained.

Community members, faith leaders, educators and civil society organisations have stepped forward to engage with energy and purpose,

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My Plan remains a relevant and important blueprint for action with focuses on education, law and regulation, culture, institutional accountability, online environments and community safety.

In universities, we are advancing our work. An independent university assessment process is underway to assess whether key activities have been taken to improve the situation for Jewish students and academics. The objective is not punishment. It is improvement, consistency and student safety.

In relation to education, we are working with jurisdictions to strengthen understanding and critical thinking.

I continue to advocate for nationally consistent protections against serious hate conduct, recognition of hate motivation in sentencing and stronger tools to address extremist ideology and incitement.

Online, we are engaging with platforms alongside international counterparts to address the scale and speed of digital hate.

Importantly, the public response since Bondi has sent a clear signal: Australians do not accept hatred or intimidation as normal. People expect action, coordination and leadership.

The Royal Commission provides Australia with a unique opportunity to examine root causes, institutional failures and systemic responses. Naturally, in addition to continuing work on delivering my Plan, my office will engage with the Royal Commission to assist as much as we can. This year will be an important one in the fight against antisemitism

In closing, I again thank community members and the broader public for their engagement.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



**Jillian Segal AO**