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### Committee Secretary

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

19 December 2024

Dear Committee Secretary,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission into the Inquiry into Antisemitism on campuses. The Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA) is an elected roof body of the Australian Jewish community.

The ZFA made a comprehensive submission (*see attachment a*) to the Senate's Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee regarding the establishment of a commission of inquiry into antisemitism on Australian university campuses. Our key insights and recommendations remain pertinent to the scope of this current inquiry and forms the background of this submission. The first submission provides comprehensive examples of antisemitic behaviour and incidents on campuses across Australia, which we will not detail in this letter.

### Key recommendations

#### 1. Establish a Judicial Inquiry into antisemitism on campuses.

This remains the most comprehensive mechanism to address the root causes and systemic issues enabling this crisis. Jewish students and staff, Jewish organisations, and the government-appointed Antisemitism Envoy have all unanimously called for a judicial inquiry.

#### 2. Mandate immediate action by universities to improve safety and inclusivity for Jewish students and staff, including:

- **Mandatory racial vilification training** for all university students, staff, faculty, and senior leadership which includes a component addressing antisemitism, as has been adopted by New York University.
- **Adopting the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism** to ensure clear guidelines for what is and isn't antisemitism, as has been adopted by some universities in Australia, including Monash University and the University of Melbourne.
- **Prohibiting encampments and protest activities** within university buildings, as adopted by the University of Sydney and recommended to remain as university policy by the Hodgkinson External Review report.
- **Universities create an emergency power** where they can require students to identify themselves in order to participate in protests and restrict protest participation to enrolled students.

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### LEADING. ADVOCACY. CONNECTION.

President Jeremy Leibler | Chief Executive Officer Alon Ccassuto

Constituent Organisations State Zionist Councils of: ACT | New South Wales | Queensland | South Australia | Victoria | Western Australia

Affiliated Organisations: Ameinu | ARZA | Australian Forum of Russian Jewry | Australasian Union of Jewish Students | Australian Zionist Youth Council | Friends of Likud Jewish National Fund Australia | Maccabi Australia | Mercaz Masorti Australasia | Meretz Australia | Mizrahi Organisation | National Council of Jewish Women Australia Union for Progressive Judaism | United Israel Appeal Australia | Women's International Zionist Organisation

- **Requiring protest organisations to register with university bodies** and identify their leadership, so that universities can hold students accountable for their actions.
- **Defining antisemitic behaviours that likely contravene university policies** explicitly, such as:
  - Promoting the slogan “Zionists are not welcome”, as has been done by Monash University
  - Display of antisemitic imagery or slogans
  - Support for terrorist organisations like Hamas or Hezbollah, and/or the display of their symbols, as is being done by the Victorian Government
- 3. **Address coded antisemitism** by updating university policies to prevent “Zionist” being used as a substitute or codeword for “Jew” or “Israeli,” aligning with policy changes at New York University and Meta.

Please see *attachment b* for a table that outlines all our recommendations, the rationale for their implementation, and precedent at other universities where applicable.

### **Reporting timeframe concerns**

The Committee is proposing to issue its report at the end of March 2025. We do not think this timeline is appropriate, given the urgency of this crisis, and the fact that students will begin to return to campuses as early as February. Right now, university campuses are quiet, and students are on their summer breaks, but we should not be lulled into a false sense of security. Many campuses continue to be a tinderbox. The Committee should expedite its work, to report before the 2025 university semester begins.

### **Conclusion**

There has been an explosion of antisemitic incidents directed at students and staff since October 7 on campuses across Australia. No other minority would or should be expected to put up with the sheer scale of hatred we have witnessed at our universities. The ZFA remains resolute in its view, alongside other peak Jewish bodies, Jewish staff and students, and the government-appointed Antisemitism Envoy, that a judicial inquiry is the most appropriate mechanism to address antisemitism on our campuses.

We have also provided practical recommendations that universities should be required to adopt to help make universities safer and stop the scourge of Jew-hatred.

Sincerely,

**Alon Cassuto**  
CEO

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## **REPRESENTATION. ADVOCACY. CONNECTION.**

President Jeremy Leibler | Chief Executive Officer Ginette Searle

Constituent Organisations State Zionist Councils of: ACT | New South Wales | Queensland | South Australia | Victoria | Western Australia

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Union for Progressive Judaism | United Israel Appeal Australia | Women's International Zionist Organisation