

Committee Secretary

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

PO Box 6100 Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senators Commission of Inquiry into Antisemitism at Australian Universities Bill 2024

Background I am a 6th generation Australian Jew. My daughters who are 7th generation Australian Jews will be heading to university in 2 and 4 years time.

I went to Newcastle University and transferred in my final year to UNSW and completed a double major in a B Comm nearly 35 years ago. I have lived my whole life in Sydney and until 8th Oct 2024, in Australia, have never experienced antisemitism.

So incredibly sadly, I have watched the fabric of our society being pulled apart, starting the day after the unbelievable tragic inhumane massacre that occurred in Israel on the 7th Oct.

Prior to any re-action taken by Israel, on the 8th Oct, we were told not to come to Opera House and at that time many were (not) chanting “gas the Jews” or “kill the Jews” openly, and burning flags and behaviours that are totally foreign to a humane and respectful society were allowed to bully and intimidate and to this day, no one has been taken to task over the offensive behaviours which still continue to be expressed today.

When these issues started boiling over on University campuses overseas, and when in front of congress the VC’s of Harvard UPenn and MIT, tried to say it was all “a matter of context” and well prior to the encampments forming at USyd, I started writing to the Australian Universities asking them to be pro-active and to not allow what was occurring in the US to happen here in Australia.

It was all to no avail.

The Universities are the cornerstone of our society and the next generation of leaders.

They have so materially betrayed our beautiful and wonderful multi-cultural Australia in the way they did not handle the massive surge of hate levelled against one tiny part (The world population of Jews today is less than .1%) of our country being the Jewish people, and against the Jewish state of Israel (the only democracy in the Middle East) and the only Jewish country in the world.

In particular, it is my assertion, that Mark Scott AO together with the University of Sydney Senate, and the Academic Board have profoundly been responsible for allowing the total unprecedented rise of antisemitism in Sydney to occur (and by default as they are the leading body in Australia of tertiary education – all other unis) due to their inherent lack of action to contain the violence, rage, and hate that was impacting daily campus life for months on end.

Please see below an extract of one of my more recent letters to Sydney University requesting for pro active action to stop the hate and still provide for respectful free speech.

Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 8:08 AM

Cc: 'Vice Chancellor'

Subject: RE: USyd proactive approach to the current bullying and intimidation on campus

Dear Professor Mark Scott AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, and ...

Chancellor **Belinda Hutchinson AC**,

The University of Sydney Senate,

The Senior Leadership team and the Academic Board

Sadly, at this point, Sydney University management, all the above to whom I am writing, all tasked with the safe governance of your wonderful university, continue to allow disruptions that are causing harm to many.

Do not follow the path of Columbia University who are now cancelling massive events impacting many thousands of people due to safety concerns over the pro-Palestinian demonstrators. [Columbia University Cancels Main Commencement Ceremony After Weeks of Protests - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/06/us/politics/columbia-university-cancels-main-commencement-ceremony-after-weeks-of-protests.html)

Please see Josh Frydenberg's article in the Australian (7 May) <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/antiisraeli-university-encampments-must-go-now-josh-frydenberg-says/news-story/5d436db7eec26b80b13d7e13fccbbe70> where he states it was [an outrageous breach of university guidelines and a failure of moral leadership](#) to tolerate anti-Semitic protests on university campuses. "There needs to be zero tolerance for the kind of incitement and hate we are seeing on many Australian campuses, including the encampments which should be cleared out," and further "A number of our university leaders are being derelict in their duty to maintain a safe place on campus. "They should know better; you can never appease the mob."

Please refer to Greg Sheridan's article in the Australian (7th May) <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/antisemitic-mobs-thrive-on-old-campus-hatreds/news-story/a87204cd29ff18db22161d5657f38266> where he states illustrates how ineffective your (all) universities have become.

I have been asking for you to take a pro active stance on the issue of the massive rise of Antisemitism for quite some time now, but you have not to date taken any pro active measures, but rather continue to react, and in so doing have allowed the hate on campus to significantly multiply.

Shutdown the encampments, and all hate and incitement activities on campus.

They absolutely have crossed the lines of free speech.

RESPECTFUL time and place protests – of course, should continue, but many of the Pro Palestinian protests are not respectful and the chanting of “Intifada” and “from the river to the sea” type quotes along with flags of terrorist organisations, should not be allowed on campus.

You MUST ACT NOW, put a STOP to the HATE.

Thank you in GENUINE ANTICIPATION

Sincerely

Derek Manoy

Antisemitism is now rife on University campuses and is not being stopped.

The universities are operating outside of their own charter and code of conduct.

There are numerous examples of intimidation.

I would to suggest that you watch the following clip that occurred at Sydney University very recently.
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C-Xg0rkyPfr/?igsh=MXN3YWRsYWg0MGY3ZQ==>

Freya Leech who is speaking in this clip is not Jewish. She is fighting on many different fronts that she believes in; eg on housing affordability, cost of living, and is a staunch supporter of facts, and good over evil. The jeering and chants thrown at her (not shown in this clip) show deplorable behaviour from a room full of hate – that – in my view has been strongly allowed to grow under the ways that the Universities have dug their heads in the sand over the terrible rise of antisemitism which MUST be stopped.

Please get involved, listen to Julian Leeser MP who has prepared evidence for you, and approve a Commission of Inquiry into Antisemitism at Australian Universities Bill 2024 (No. 2)

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Derek Manoy