

## **Jewish Museum of Australia Statement on Special Envoy Plan – 14 July 2025**

The Jewish Museum of Australia welcomes the wide-reaching plan to combat antisemitism as laid out by Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism, Jillian Segal.

The release of this report represents an important step in Australia's recognition of the seriousness of antisemitism as a societal issue, while offering constructive steps on how this it might be addressed and reversed.

At the heart of the Jewish Museum of Australia's mission are the illumination of Jewish life and the promotion of social inclusion through education, programming, conversation and exploration. Museums are uniquely placed as trusted educational and cultural institutions to play an integral role in the implementation of relevant elements of the plan alongside all tiers of government and civic society, including:

- Developing understanding of Jewish history, culture, contributions and diversity of identity;
- Input into best practice education and professional learning about antisemitism and Jewish life, such as our 'Be the Light' program designed to combat extremism;
- Building social cohesion through our programs for corporate, community leaders and teacher professional development;
- Serving as one of *the* key places for celebrating the vibrancy and rich heritage of Jewish life for all to enjoy.

We recognise the seriousness of the current levels and manifestations of antisemitism today and, as our Museum attests, over time. We also know that the real task beyond countering antisemitism is to build cohesion and a society that celebrates the richness and contributions of *all* its groups.

In addition to learning about the nature of antisemitism and its manifestations, a critical means of countering it is for people of all ages to interact with and learn about Jewish people, culture and history. Our Museum communicates Jewish stories in their diversity and complexity, with colour, openness and joy.

Our deepest hope is that this moment and this plan will represent a turning point. We look forward to contributing to these collective efforts across government and community, and welcoming visitors to engage and learn about all things Jewish.

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