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Photo: Giselle Haber/Australian Jewish News

The Australian Federal Government appoints the nation's first antisemitism envoy Jillian Segal AO.

Yesterday, in response to a concerning rise in antisemitism in Australia, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese appointed Jewish lawyer, business executive and community leader Jillian Segal as Australia's antisemitism envoy for a three-year term to "promote social cohesion".

Jillian is well known for her contributions to education and community development. She has been chairman of the General Sir John Monash Foundation since 2014, a community representative on the Council for the Order of Australia since 2022 and is the immediate past president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

When announcing Jillian's appointment, the prime minister said:

"What we need to do is to make sure that the conflict that is occurring in the Middle East — that has caused a great deal of grief for the Jewish community, for members of the Islamic and Palestinian communities — Australians overwhelmingly do not want conflict brought here."



“We hope there is not a need for ongoing work, but it has been a reminder over recent months that we cannot take respect and social cohesion for granted. We need to nourish it.”

Jillian believes antisemitism presents threats not just to Jewish Australians but to the entire population, stating “antisemitism erodes all that is good and healthy in a society.”

This appointment marks a positive first step in the development of federal-level policy to address issues of antisemitism in Australia.

As an institution dedicated to Holocaust education, preservation and remembrance, we support this initiative and will continue to play our part in fostering social cohesion in Victoria.

