

Melbourne Holocaust Museum Statement of Support for the Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism (ASECA) Plan to Combat Antisemitism

The Melbourne Holocaust Museum (MHM) welcomes the ASECA Plan to Combat Antisemitism released yesterday. This landmark document represents a decisive and timely step in confronting the alarming rise in antisemitism across Australia. The plan's focus on education and social cohesion directly aligns with our mission to use the lessons of the Holocaust to build a better society for all.

We support the call to embed Holocaust and antisemitism education into school curricula across all systems, government, Catholic, and independent - this is essential. The emphasis on curriculum development, practical training, and evaluation reflects the rigor and scope needed to combat the normalisation of antisemitism in schools and public life. We commend the proposed inclusion of tailored lesson plans and training for both educators and public servants, and we welcome the opportunity to contribute our expertise to this national effort.

Additionally, the plan's recommendations closely intersect with our own educational programs, including our robust school programming and new "Critical Thinking is Critical" initiative, which equips participants to confront hate, prejudice, and misinformation with empathy and historical understanding.

Importantly, we welcome the championing of the vibrancy and protection of Jewish life in Australia. The recommendation to encourage government support for Jewish festivals, educational programs, and Holocaust museums reflects a recognition that our institution is essential to both cultural preservation and community resilience. We are encouraged by the recognition that Holocaust museums, such as ours, are critical national assets in combating prejudice and fostering understanding.

The Melbourne Holocaust Museum stands ready to work alongside the ACESA office, government, and community partners to ensure the ACESA recommendations are implemented. Only through sustained, national commitment and cooperation can we combat antisemitism and secure a future that honours the past with truth, integrity, and action.

Hate is a disease. ... You don't have to like me. You don't have to like your neighbour. But do not hate ... Let's live in peace, let's work together like human beings.

- John Chaskiel, Holocaust Survivor