



24 FEBRUARY 2026

KEY JEWISH ORGANISATIONS TOGETHER APPOINT ARNOLD BLOCH LEIBLER TO REPRESENT THEM AT ROYAL COMMISSION

- Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ)
- NSW Jewish Board of Deputies (JBOD)
- Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV)
- Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA)
- National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (NCJWA)
- The Dor Foundation (Dor)
- Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC)

Together we represent Australia's mainstream Jewish communal organisations at both national and state level and have appointed Arnold Bloch Leibler (ABL), working with counsel, to represent us before the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion.

This Royal Commission was established in the aftermath of a terrorist attack on the Australian Jewish community in Bondi, Sydney, in which 15 innocent people were killed. That event laid bare the human cost of hatred and the consequences of ever-rising antisemitism.

Since October 7, 2023, Jewish Australians have been subjected to more visible, more vocal and ever more brazen antisemitic attacks.

We have endured firebombing, harassment, doxxing, attacks on synagogues, threats against community institutions and a sharp escalation in antisemitic incidents and hate speech. Just this weekend, we witnessed a vehicle ramming attack on a synagogue in Brisbane. These events are not distant or historical – they are unfolding in real time and have created a climate in which many Jewish Australians feel less secure than ever before.

Antisemitism is not an abstract issue. It affects Jewish families, schools, places of worship and community life. It shapes whether people feel safe wearing a Star of David, parents feel comfortable sending their children to Jewish schools, or members of the community can meet with confidence.

Jewish Australians seek the same freedom and security that every Australian expects. We do not seek, but need, armed guards outside our schools and synagogues. We do not want to hide who we are just to be part of Australian society.

The aspiration is simple: to live freely and openly as Jews in Australia.

History offers a sobering warning. Societies that have tolerated antisemitism have rarely escaped lasting damage to their civic fabric. When prejudice against Jews goes unchallenged, it has been an early warning sign of broader social fracture and democratic decline. Antisemitism must be understood as an attack on the pluralism that defines modern Australia.

Arnold Bloch Leibler has been retained to assist its clients to engage comprehensively, constructively and responsibly with the Royal Commission. This includes providing such supporting evidence as the Commission requires including accounts of antisemitism in Australia and the lived experience of those directly affected.

ABL will undertake this work on a pro bono basis and will not charge any fees, reflecting its longstanding commitment to combatting antisemitism and racism, and to preserving the dignity and human rights of all Australians.

The work of the Royal Commission is important not only for Jewish Australians but for the strength, safety, cohesion and unity of our nation as a whole.

ENDS

Background

Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) – The national peak representative body of the Australian Jewish community, bringing together state roof bodies and major national organisations to provide an authoritative and unified communal voice.

NSW Jewish Board of Deputies (JBOD) – The democratically constituted representative body of the Jewish community in New South Wales, advocating for communal interests and acting as a recognised spokesperson to government and civic institutions.

Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) – The elected peak roof body of Victoria’s Jewish community, representing affiliated organisations and serving as the principal liaison with government and the broader public.

Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA) – The elected, national representative body of Australia’s Jewish community representing over 200 organisations across Australia, including state Zionist councils active in six states

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (NCJWA) — Founded in 1923, it is the oldest Jewish community organisation in Australia. NCJWA is the peak representative body for Jewish Australian women, and focuses on human rights, social justice and the advancement of all women.

The Dor Foundation (Dor) – A national not-for-profit established to combat antisemitism and hate and strengthen social cohesion in Australia.

Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC) – A national public affairs organisation representing the interests of the Australian Jewish community, engaging government, media and civil society on issues affecting Jewish Australians and Australia–Israel relations.

ABL Lead Partners

Leon Zwier

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John Sheahan KC

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