

Executive Council of Australian Jewry

The Representative
Organisation of
Australian Jewry



306 Hawthorn Road
South Caulfield Vic 3162
Australia
Tel (03) 9272 5579
Fax (03) 9272 5540
E-mail: info@ecaj.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE
30 August 2006

Australian Jewish and Anglican Leaders Discuss International, Domestic Concerns



The Anglican Jewish Australian Dialogue (AJAD), consisting of delegates from the National Synod of the Anglican Church and of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ), met in Melbourne this week to discuss the ways religious communities in Australia can work together for the common good of society and for an exchange of views and perceptions on the Middle East and the most constructive stances Australians can take to build a culture of peace in that troubled region.

The Anglican Jewish Australian Dialogue (AJAD), consisting of delegates from the National Synod of the Anglican Church and of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) met in Melbourne this week to discuss the ways religious communities in Australia can work together for the common good of society and for an exchange of views and perceptions on the Middle East and the most constructive stances Australians can take to build a culture of peace in that troubled region.

The discussions were chaired by Canon Ray Cleary, head of the Anglican delegation and Grahame Leonard, President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

Rabbi John Levi opened the discussion on the challenges, opportunities and obstacles of interfaith collaborative efforts, with Archdeacon Phillip Newman delivering the presentation on behalf of the Anglican group.

"The discussion was marked by a vigorous attempt to identify the best ways we can work together to benefit Australia, as well as how we can encourage and empower all Australians to contribute to developing a more caring, compassionate and just society", Canon Cleary said.

An overview and assessment of the diverse ways Middle East issues are viewed and approached by Christian observers was delivered by Dr Gregory Jenks, with Jeremy Jones presenting a summation of some of the common misconceptions which obscure a good understanding of a very complex problem and concluding with suggestions of the ideals towards which Jews and Anglicans could individually and collectively work towards.

"No participant would have left the discussion on the Middle East without having both learnt from the speakers and having been motivated to continue to pursue knowledge and wisdom so as to be able to identify and foster goodwill in Australia and the Middle East and to seek means of making constructive contributions to help Jews, Christians, Muslims and others live in societies where they are valued as human beings", Mr Leonard noted.

The Anglican delegates were Canon Ray Cleary, Reverend Ray Barraclough, Archdeacon Philip Newman and Reverend Dr Gregory Jenks. The ECAJ delegates were ECAJ president Grahame Leonard, ECAJ Deputy President Rabbi John Levi, ECAJ Immediate Past President Jeremy Jones and Rabbi Shamir Caplan.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled to take place in Sydney early in 2007.

Further information:

Canon Ray Cleary: 0419-371-613

Grahame Leonard: 0411-462-242