



MINISTER FOR DEFENCE  
THE HON DR BRENDAN NELSON MP

Mr Grahame Leonard  
President  
Executive Council of Australian Jewry  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
306 Hawthorn Road  
CAULFIELD SOUTH VIC 3162

11 SEP 2006

Dear Mr Leonard

Thank you for your letter of 22 May 2006 concerning the proposed appointment of Rabbi Ralph Genende to the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services (RACS).

The RACS performs an important function of liaison between civilian religious groups and the Australian Defence Force. It provides support to our chaplaincy service in recruiting, in-Service support and the resettlement of chaplains. In addition, the RACS advises higher Defence leadership on wider community faith and cultural issues. I am appreciative that the Executive Council of Australian Jewry has nominated one of its key leaders to this position.

I am pleased to announce that I have approved Rabbi Genende's appointment to the position. He will be working with leaders representing all the major Christian churches in Australia. Rabbi Apple was highly valued in providing a distinctive contribution to the group with his particular gifts and background. I am sure that Rabbi Genende will continue with this tradition.

I wish the Executive Council of Australian Jewry every success in its work in the community of faith and the wider Australian community.

Yours sincerely

BRENDAN NELSON