

Executive Council of Australian Jewry

הוועד הפועל של
יהודי אוסטרליה

The Representative Organisation of Australian Jewry

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ROSH HASHANAH 5767 MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY

*“There is a time for everything
And a season for every activity under Heaven”*

The turbulent events of 5766 exemplify the wisdom of this verse from Kohelet (Ecclesiastes). This was a year that witnessed the tensions of the Gaza disengagement and the unforeseen dire consequences. During the year that has passed Prime Minister Sharon suffered his catastrophic illness, a new Israeli government and a new political party was quickly confronted by war on two fronts. There was increased anti-Semitism and the genocidal threats voiced by the leadership of Iran.

Yet the Jewish people have not been broken nor torn apart by the stresses of the past year. Israel's political system and economy have survived and defeated a continuous barrage of terror. Israel's varying military fortunes have resulted in the bonding of Jews as historically has been the consequence of anti-Semitism.

In Australia, our community is united and continues to be pro-active and focussed in relation to its challenges. We continue to prosper as an integral part of this wonderful Australian nation. We appreciate the warmth and understanding shown to the Jewish community by both Federal and State governments. There are distinct signs that more countries and individuals are following Australia's example in recognising the dangers posted by fundamentalist, extremist followers of Islam and their apologists, and an understanding that on the front line of freedom, as do Jews everywhere.

Australian Jewry looks forward to the coming year with anticipation and hope. We pray for peace, good health, joy and prosperity. Shona Tova!

Grahame J. Leonard
President