

# Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc.

The Representative  
Organisation of  
Australian Jewry



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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
13 August 2007

## **ECAJ commends Government tax changes aiding communal security**

Grahame Leonard, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, has commended the Government's stated intention to amend the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* enabling the costs of communal security to receive Commonwealth Government support via the tax system.

Mr Leonard said:

“The Prime Minister has decided that a new communal security body, the Council for Jewish Community Security which will be administered by the ECAJ, is to be listed as a deductible gift recipient under the Income Tax Assessment Act. This will mean that gifts of \$2 or more donated to the Council for Jewish Community Security to assist with the cost of provision of security and protection of members and institutions of the Australian Jewish community will be tax deductible.

It is a sad fact of contemporary life that all citizens must be continually vigilant in their protective measures against hatred and extremism. This has unfortunately become particularly so in the case of the Australian Jewish community, forcing it to undertake costly and comprehensive security measures as a matter of routine.

That Jewish school-children, worshippers at synagogues, elderly residents of Jewish nursing homes and indeed Jewish citizens attending community events, have no choice but to pass by guards is not only truly tragic, but imposes a crippling cost on the community. Obviously we would prefer the situation were otherwise.

While terrorism and hatred affect all Australians, the Government's measure acknowledges the Jewish community's unique circumstances and special needs. It simultaneously recognises the long-term efforts of the ECAJ and of Mr Mark Leibler AC to whom special thanks are due. Allowing the ECAJ to establish as a deductible gift recipient will encourage donations and greatly assist in defraying the burden on our community. For this – as for the many other supportive actions taken by Australian governments – the Australian Jewish community is extremely grateful.”

Further information: Grahame J. Leonard  
Mobile: 0411 462 242

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הוועד הכולל של  
יהודי אוסטרליה

## The Representative Organisation of Australian Jewry

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The Hon John Howard MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

13 August 2007

Dear Mr Howard

I write on behalf of the Australian Jewish community to express our deep and sincere thanks for your Government's announcement of the granting of GDR status to The Council for Jewish Community Security to be administered by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

As your Government correctly continues to emphasise, it is a sad fact of contemporary life that communities must be continually vigilant in their protective measures against hatred and extremism. This has unfortunately become particularly so in the case of the Australian Jewish community, forcing it to undertake costly and comprehensive security measures as a matter of routine.

That Jewish school-children, worshippers at synagogues, elderly residents of Jewish nursing homes and indeed Jewish citizens attending community events, have no choice but to pass by guards is not only truly tragic, but imposes a crippling cost on the community. Obviously we would prefer the situation were otherwise.

Your Government's latest measure allowing the ECAJ to establish as a deductible gift recipient will encourage donations and greatly assist in defraying the burden on our community. For this – as for the many other supportive actions taken by your government – we are extremely grateful.

Yours sincerely

Grahame J. Leonard  
President