

Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc.

הוועד הפועל של
יהודי אוסטרליה

The Representative Organisation of Australian Jewry

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Robert M. Goot A.M., S.C.

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Jillian Segal A.M.

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Peter Wertheim A.M.

HON. SECRETARY

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David Knoll (NSW)
Anton Block (VIC)
Keith Shilkin (WA)
Norman Schueler (SA)
David Paratz (QLD)
Daniel Albert (TAS)
Dr Anita Shroot (ACT)

CONSTITUENTS

New South Wales Jewish
Board of Deputies
Jewish Community Council
of Victoria Inc.
Jewish Community Council of
Western Australia Inc.
Queensland Jewish Board of
Deputies
Jewish Community Council
of South Australia
Hobart Hebrew Congregation
ACT Jewish Community Inc.

AFFILIATES

Australasian Union of
Jewish Students
Australian Federation of WIZO
Union of Progressive
Judaism – Australia
Federation of Australian
JewishCare
Maccabi Australia Inc.
National Council of Jewish
Women of Australia

OBSERVERS

B'nai B'rith of Australia/NZ
Council of Progressive Rabbis
Federation of Australian Jewish
Ex-Service Associations
Jewish National Fund
New Zealand Jewish Council
Zionist Federation of Australia



ECAJ Statement of Principles about Unions and the Jewish Community - April 2009

The Australian Jewish community, because of its long held commitment to social harmony and inclusion, calls on all employers to treat their workers with respect and decency in these hard economic times and, wherever possible, to keep providing real employment opportunities for them.

The current global economic crisis brings with it the potential for social divisions and a fracturing of civil society, including outbreaks of racism and xenophobia, especially if unemployment continues to rise and there is severe competition for available jobs.

The Australian Jewish community therefore urges all Australians to be vigilant against racist or xenophobic attacks on, or scapegoating of, any sector of our society,

Traditional Jewish religious texts strongly advocate the rights of workers, and firmly support their right to form and join unions. In the 21st century we continue to honour those traditions and to support the right to freedom of association in Australia. See further on labour rights in our tradition:

<http://www.jewishlaborcommittee.org/LaborRightsInTheJewishTradition.pdf>

Many members of the Jewish community are members of their respective trade unions and the Australian Jewish community respects the role and responsibility of Australian Trade Unions to voice concerns that workers be treated with respect and decency and to stand up for the job security of their members.

We believe that both unions and employers have important roles to play in this current global economic crisis – to ensure that Australia's fair go traditions are maintained for all peoples living in our great country and that organisations providing employment for Australians remain strong.

Strong and independent civil society organisations like Trade Unions and a vibrant private and corporate sector are essential elements of a democratic society that respects human rights and the rule of law.

The ECAJ adopts the above Statement of Principles and will promote them to leaders of all organisations representing employers and workers, through the general and Jewish media and on our communal websites.

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