

# **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY**

**Media Release: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009**

## **Goot to Attend Holocaust Era Assets Conference in Prague**

The President of the ECAJ, Robert M Goot AM SC, today announced that, at the invitation of the Australian Foreign Minister the Hon Stephen Smith MP, he will be part of the Australian Government delegation to the "Holocaust Era Assets" conference in Prague on June 26-30 2009, to be attended by representatives of 35 Governments and 22 non-government organisations.

The Conference will be hosted by the Government of the Czech Republic, in cooperation with a number of other organisations. The objectives of the conference are:

- To assess the progress made since the 1998 Washington Conference on Holocaust Era Assets in the areas of the recovery of looted art and objects of cultural, historical and religious value and in the areas of property restitution and financial compensation schemes.
- To review current practices regarding provenance research and restitution and, where needed, define new effective instruments to improve these efforts.
- To review the impact of the [Stockholm Declaration of 2000](#) on education, remembrance and research about the Holocaust.
- To strengthen the work of the [Task Force on International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research](#), a 26-nation body chaired by the Czech Republic in 2007-2008.
- To discuss new, innovative approaches in education, social programs and cultural initiatives related to the Holocaust and other National Socialist wrongs and to advance religious and ethnic tolerance in our societies and the world.

Mr Goot said that "the Australian Government's participation in the Conference, is of great significance given the moral and political responsibility to support Shoah remembrance and education in national, as well as international, frameworks and to fight against all forms of intolerance and hatred".

"We are hopeful that following the Conference the Australian Government will take steps to join [Task Force on International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research](#), and to pursue steps to include the Shoah as a compulsory component of the National History Curriculum in all Australian high schools", Mr Goot concluded.