

# 2019 FEDERAL ELECTION SURVEY



Executive Council  
of Australian Jewry Inc.

Where do the parties stand on issues  
affecting the Jewish community?



**AUSTRALIA** DECIDES



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## SECURITY

We have seen deadly terror attacks overseas in which Jewish communities were specifically targeted. Australian government agencies including the Australian Federal Police and ASIO have assessed that the Jewish community remains particularly vulnerable to an attack in Australia.

In light of this, the government currently provides direct assistance in meeting the security costs for Jewish schools. Recently this assistance was extended to a small number of other Jewish institutions including some synagogues, museums and community centres. However a significant number of non-school Jewish institutions which have applied for security funding assistance missed out.

**Q1. Does your party support increasing the level of security funding assistance from the Federal government to at-risk institutions? Please outline any specific commitments your party will make, if elected to form the next government, to provide funding assistance to the Jewish community for security purposes.**

The Morrison Government is committed to keeping every Australian safe. No one should have to fear for their safety.

Religious freedom is not just an inalienable right as free citizens, it is important to the very cohesion of our society. The Morrison Government is committed to protecting the freedom of Australians to worship and meet safely without fear.

The Morrison Government has announced that we will extend the Safer Communities Fund. Funding will be boosted in the upcoming round of grants for religious organisations, including Jewish institutions, to increase security at their premises. \$55 million will now be available in Round 4 and grants will be prioritised for religious schools, places of religious worship and religious assembly. This latest funding announcement brings the total amount available under the Safer Communities Fund to \$119.9 million from 2016-17 to 2020-21.

Grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$1.5 million will provide for safety enhancements such as CCTV cameras, lighting, fencing, bollards, alarms, security systems and public address systems. Funding is available over three years for security infrastructure and projects.

Labor has long recognised the need for the government to contribute to ensure the security of at-risk institutions from communities across Australia, including those of the Jewish community. If elected, Labor will commit \$55 million to improve security for religious, cultural and community facilities, including through grants to improve security at synagogues, Jewish cultural and community institutions and Jewish schools.

In particular, Labor has long recognised the need for the government to contribute to ensure the security of schools and preschools that are at risk of racial, religious or ethnically motivated violence.

The Former Labor Government created the Secure Schools Program, which committed \$35 million to assist at-risk government and non-government schools to install security infrastructure such as CCTV systems, fencing, lighting and anti-ramming devices.

In total this project funded 126 projects at 76 schools and preschools across the nation, many of them Jewish.

When the Liberals took power the program was renamed the Safer Schools program and was continued by the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government until it was abandoned – without warning, consultation, or explanation to affected schools – last year, with the result that no funds flowed to schools at risk from mid-2018.

After the New Zealand terrorist atrocity in March, the Morrison Government woke up to the threat they had been ignoring and sought to reverse its previous failure by announcing a program that ended the separate funding stream for schools and that was

The Greens stand firmly with the Jewish community in the face of rising numbers of anti-Semitic attacks in Australia and around the world. We want to ensure that every individual can attend their school, workplace, community centre or place of worship in safety. That requires more than just security at the door - it requires wider societal change and preventative action, including national programs to counter violent extremism and a fully funded anti-racism campaign. Our policies on tackling antisemitism, racism and the rise of the far right can be found [here](#).



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## SECURITY

Q1. Continued.

**Q2. In contrast to the UK, the US and Canada, there is no definition of 'hate crime', 'bias-motivated crime' or 'racially-motivated crime' that is officially recognised throughout Australia, and no official, centralised, nationwide recording of such crimes, or system to do so. Each state has a different legislative regime for proscribing hate crimes, and therefore a different methodology and classification process for recording these crimes. If elected to government, will your party take urgent steps to introduce and maintain a uniform national system for classifying and recording hate crimes, and to train law enforcement personnel to administer the system?**

Extremist groups threaten the peace and cohesion of our society. The Morrison Government will continue to work with State and Territory governments to monitor the prevalence of hate crime and extremism of all kinds. Australian security agencies monitor extremist groups of all types, including extreme right-wing groups.

Extremism takes many forms- religious, political, or secular. We need to combat the hatred of difference and enable social participation to counter violent extremism.

Since 2013-14, the Government has allocated over \$53 million to countering violent extremism (CVE) programs, including more than \$13 million for intervention programs. The Morrison Government's intervention programs are not based on any one ideology- they look at all drivers of radicalisation. These programs run across the country to refer, assess and support people at risk of violent extremism'.

The Morrison Government has also announced a \$71 million package aimed at bringing Australians together in the 2019-20 Budget. As part of this package, the Government is investing \$1.8 million to expand digital initiatives to help young people counter online hate.

based on a reckless 'first come, first served' approach.

Labor understands that religious schools have particular security needs, and we believe it is critical that these needs are properly addressed.

If Labor is elected in May, a Shorten Labor Government will work with Jewish schools and community organisations to ensure their security needs are met. The distribution of funds will be determined based on risk assessment and security needs, rather than on the order applications are received, as the Morrison Government irresponsibly announced.

Labor will always listen to the advice of agencies, police and security experts on keeping Australians safe and protecting them from hate crimes. A centralised database of hate crimes would be a sensible measure, and Labor supports working together with the states and territories on common definitions and systems to achieve it.

This would require the cooperation of all the states and territories

Yes. The Greens will work with Federal, State and Territory governments and authorities to establish a national database on hate crimes. We know not all instances of hate crime are reported to the police, so this database could be complemented by a register managed by an organisation such as the Human Rights Commission in consultation with community leaders.



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## EDUCATION

**Q3. Is your party in favour of increasing, decreasing or maintaining at current levels Commonwealth education funding for private schools?**

The Morrison Government is providing record school funding to state schools, to Catholic schools and to independent schools. The Morrison Government believes that parents should be able to choose the school that best meets the needs of their child.

We are delivering on our commitment, by providing a record \$310 billion in recurrent funding to all schools over the coming decade. This is 62 per cent more funding per student, on average, and includes an extra \$37 billion in funding over the decade. In the 2019-20 Budget, the Morrison Government delivered a record \$21.4 billion for schools for the 2020 school year, an increase of \$8.5 billion since 2013.

We are backing our commitment to parental choice, by providing a \$1.2 billion Choice and Affordability Fund over the next ten years as schools transition to new funding arrangements. The Fund helps non-government schools and school systems to invest in their schools in ways that support parental choice, which can include keeping fees affordable, improving student wellbeing and support, lifting student performance, assisting schools in regional and remote areas and in drought affected areas, and providing assistance to help schools to transition to needs-based funding.

Labor is committed to matching the current funding agreed between the federal Government and non-government schools. Labor supports parental choice, including the choice of a faith-based education for their children.

Labor is committed to fair funding for all schools based on a proper assessment of need and the continuation of loadings that recognise the additional cost of delivery of education to certain students.

In addition to Labor's clear commitment to match the Government's current funding arrangements for non-government schools, schools will benefit from a range of other Labor initiatives:

- Labor will establish an Evidence Institute for Schools that will help improve schools and early childhood education centres by ensuring teachers and parents have high quality research at their fingertips.
- A Shorten Labor Government will invest an extra \$300 million to ensure students with disability get the support they need at school.
- A Shorten Labor Government will establish a new National Principals' Academy to give thousands of Australian principals advanced leadership training and support.
- Labor will work with universities, school systems and the teaching profession to improve the quality of teacher education.
- Provide up to \$1 billion in Clean Energy Finance Corporation funds to provide concessional loans for schools to purchase or upgrade solar panels and battery systems to reduce power costs and deliver electricity back to the grid.

The Greens believe that federal funding to the school education system should be on the basis of need and equity to ensure that all Australian children have the opportunity to fulfill their best educational outcomes.



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## EDUCATION (CONT.)

**Q4. In government, what steps would your party take to ensure that the values underpinning Australia's democracy are taught at school as a part of the National Education Curriculum, and that the teaching of these values is not confined to the non-core subject of Civics and Citizenship? Does your party agree that the teaching of these values, and Enlightenment values more generally, should be integrated into the curricula for English, History, the sciences and Geography together with the techniques of critical thinking?**

In the 2019 Budget, the Morrison Government provided \$2 million to increase public understanding of Australia's democracy and political system by supporting the next stage of development of the Australian Constitution Centre at the High Court of Australia in Canberra. The Centre provides a new way for young Australians to experience and learn about Australia's constitutional arrangements and our system of government, helping to address declining levels of participation in and knowledge of Australian democracy.

In 2016, the National Assessment Program for Civics and Citizenship (NAP-CC) found that only 38 per cent of Year 10 students were performing at or above the proficiency standard in civics and citizenship education. The Morrison Government provided funding of \$640,000 to support the set-up of the Australian Constitution Centre in the 2016-17 financial year.

The Australian Curriculum has seven general capabilities and eight learning areas which cover a mix of knowledge, understanding, skills and capabilities that students need to equip them to live and work in an ever-changing world. The next review of the Australian Curriculum is expected to occur in 2020.

Labor is committed to an Australian Curriculum that puts education at the centre of building a democratic, equitable and just society. The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians was initiated by the former Labor Government and agreed with States and Territories in 2008. It sets out Labor's priority for a world-class curriculum that "develops successful learners, confident and creative individuals and informed citizens."

In 2009 the former Labor Government also worked with states and territories to establish the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority to support the implementation of the Melbourne Declaration.

Labor is committed to a national curriculum which develops strong foundational skills, the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to enable advanced learning; and capabilities that underpin flexible and analytical thinking.

A Shorten Labor Government will work with stakeholders to renew a commitment to national goals for education in a new Sydney Declaration.

The Australian Greens strongly believe that our democracy is the best tool we have to care for people, plan for the future and protect the environment. The more people that participate in our political system, the healthier we make our democracy. The Australian Greens believe the curriculum should be based on evidence and determined in consultation with appropriate educational experts, teachers, and their unions and other stakeholders.

## FOREIGN POLICY

### Recognising a Palestinian State

**Q5. Does your party support formally recognising a State of Palestine, other than as an outcome of a negotiated agreement between Israel and the Palestinians? If the answer is other than 'No', please specify the circumstances in which your party would recognise such a State.**

Australia has long held that aspirations for Palestinian statehood can only be realised through direct negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel. This is a position formally agreed in the Oslo Accords between the Palestinians and Israel, and is a long-standing position of the United Nations and many other countries.

The Morrison Government continues to encourage both Israel and the Palestinians to take the steps

Australia should, with agreement of the parties, do all it can to support a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, and also between Israel and those Arab nations with which Israel has yet to establish peaceful relations.

We accept that Australia's role will be most valuable within international institutional arrangements, such as the United Nations and other multi-country efforts supported by both parties.

Yes, the Australian Greens support the recognition of a Palestinian state.



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## FOREIGN POLICY

Q5. Continued

needed to reinvigorate the peace process and recommence negotiations on the final status issues, including the status of Jerusalem, the right of return of refugees, the status of Israeli settlements, the provision of security, and the future borders of a Palestinian state.

The Morrison Government remains strongly committed to a two-state solution, where Israel and a future Palestinian state exist side-by-side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders. The Morrison Government's position is consistent with international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

In December 2018, the Australian Labor Party National Conference resolved to support the recognition and right of Israel and Palestine to exist as two states within secure and recognised borders. The resolution made clear the desire of the Conference to recognise Palestine as a State while acknowledging this will ultimately be a matter for a future Labor Government.

A Shorten Labor Government would ensure that any decision taken contributes to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and to progress towards a two-state solution.

## JERUSALEM

**Q6. Australia now recognises that the capital of Israel is situated not in Tel Aviv but in the western parts of Jerusalem where Israel's parliament, Supreme Court and government precinct are all located. Does your party support the current position? Please outline your party's policies on this question, including any additional measures it would take if elected to government.**

On 15 December 2018, Prime Minister Morrison made it clear that it is the fundamental right of every country to determine its national capital. As a result of the Morrison Government's decision, Australia recognises West Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, being the seat of the Knesset and many of the institutions of government. The Morrison Government further looks forward to moving the Australian Embassy to West Jerusalem when practical, in support of, and after final status determination.

The Morrison Government has established a Trade and Defense Office in West Jerusalem which focuses on building trade, investment, defense industry, education and innovation partnerships with Israeli industry. This includes maximising opportunities for Australia's high-tech and defense exports industries. It also facilitates commercial meetings and visitor programs and takes appropriate opportunities to build awareness of Australian capabilities in Israel, consistent with its mandate.

For over 70 years, it has been bipartisan foreign policy that Australia, like other nations, does not recognise Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel, and that in accordance with this international approach, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade maintains an Australian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

This position was confirmed by former Prime Minister Turnbull in May 2018, and on separate occasions in June 2018 by:

- Prime Minister Morrison as then Treasurer.
- Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP.
- The Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Frances Adamson.

But, in a shameful act five days before the Wentworth by-election, Scott Morrison put his own domestic political interest before the national interest. He decided to junk longstanding bipartisan foreign policy in a cynical attempt to win votes.

Jerusalem is a final status issue that should be resolved between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The Greens do not support the Morrison Government's decision to recognise West Jerusalem.



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## JERUSALEM

Q6. Continued

It was a desperate political tactic made against the longstanding advice of agencies, without Cabinet consideration, and without properly consulting Australia's partners and allies.

Astonishingly, it was a decision made without consulting either the Israelis or the Palestinians themselves, whose agreement must be the foundation of any lasting peace.

The result of the chaos and confusion has been clear. Mr Morrison caused offence to some of our nearest neighbours, harmed Australia's international reputation, and our nation's interests.

The final decision by the Liberals, to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital, while continuing to locate Australia's embassy in Tel Aviv, was a humiliating rebuff to Mr Morrison. It confirms Mr Morrison's proposal to shift the embassy to Jerusalem was nothing more than a cynical ploy to try to pretend he had shifted position for votes in Wentworth.

Unlike Scott Morrison and his Government, Labor in Government will take a responsible approach to our foreign policy. We will seek and consider the advice of our agencies. Foreign policy, and Australia's national interest, are far too important to be played with in this fashion.

Labor has been a strong supporter of the State of Israel since before the modern state was founded. That support will never change. We want to see the Israeli people live in peace, behind secure and recognised borders and Labor remains steadfast in our support for Israel in advancing the cause of peace.



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## JERUSALEM

Q6. Continued

We support the widely held view of the international community that the future of Jerusalem needs to be decided by the parties to the Middle East conflict as part of a negotiated peace settlement. That is why Labor does not support unilateral recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and in Government would reverse this decision.

We will continue to ensure that any decision we take contributes to peaceful resolution of the conflict and to progress towards a two-state solution.

## BOYCOTTS, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS (BDS)

Q7. In the words of its framers, BDS seeks to achieve the complete and total isolation of the State of Israel and rejects the concepts of Jewish peoplehood and self-determination. What is your party's position on BDS?

As Prime Minister Morrison stated in the House of Representatives on 19 February 2019, the "Liberal and National Parties will never walk back or shrink from the recognition that Australia now afford Israel and the commitments and support for the State of Israel, whether in the General Assembly of the United Nations or elsewhere".

The Coalition has consistently denounced the anti-Semitic boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign and those who support it.

Labor has always opposed the BDS movement and our opposition to it has been affirmed in National Conference resolutions. Labor believes that a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will only come from open dialogue and discussion between the parties, not from a policy of exclusion.

Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions is not Australian Greens policy.

## UNITED NATIONS

Q8. If elected to government, would your party maintain Australia's current voting patterns in UN agencies concerning Israel or would it propose to alter these positions? If the latter, what changes would it make?

The Morrison Government will stand by Israel in the face of biased and unfair targeting in the UN General Assembly. Under the Morrison Government, Australia will continue its vocal opposition of inherently anti-Semitic or anti-Israel bias and one-sided resolutions in United Nations.

The anti-Israel bias and one-sided resolutions introduced each year in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), under Item 7 of the Council do not achieve lasting peace and stability for Israelis and Palestinians, including the resolution of final status issues. In her speech to the HRC in Geneva on 25 February 2019, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs,

When last in Government, Labor based its decisions on United Nations General Assembly resolutions concerning the Israeli-Palestinian dispute on the following two principles:

- Considering each resolution on its merits, and on a case by case basis.
- Considering each resolution firmly within the context of our very strong adherence to our support for a two-state solution and our support of the peace process.

If the resolutions are consistent with this approach, then we support them. This remains our position.

The Australian Greens would judge each UN resolution on its merits, in line with the Greens' commitments to social justice, peace and non-violence.



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### UNITED NATIONS (CONT.)

Q8. Continued

Senator the Hon Marise Payne, outlined Australia's principled opposition to the existence of Item 7. Under the Coalition, Australia has voted against all resolutions under Item 7 since we joined the HRC as a member state in January 2018.

The Morrison Government will continue to press for balance in UN Resolutions. At the direction of Prime Minister Morrison last year Australia supported a UN General Assembly resolution to condemn the egregious and ongoing violent acts of the terrorist organisation Hamas. Hamas should have no friends at the UN. The Morrison Government views the failure of the resolution to pass with the requisite majority as evidence of the one-sided nature of the UN's anti-Israel condemnations.

### IRAN AND TERRORISM

Q9. America's annual terrorism report (last published in July 2017) describes Iran as "the foremost state sponsor of terrorism".

Does your party agree with that assessment?

The Morrison Government will work to tighten the net on Iran's missile proliferation networks and Iran's support for activities that are destabilising the region, including in Syria. The Morrison Government will keep the option of additional autonomous sanctions under active review.

As announced by Prime Minister Morrison on 15 December 2018, the Government will maintain Australia's support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), subject to Iran's continued compliance. This reflects an assessment that our position of support serves our national interests in nuclear non-proliferation and reinforcing a rules-based international system.

A Labor Government will continue to steadfastly oppose Iran's human rights abuses, its inciteful language towards the United States of America and Israel, its support of the brutal Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, its sponsorship of terrorism, and any activities it conducts that undermine global peace and security.

The Australian Greens do not have faith in the Trump Administration's process of ranking which state is "the foremost" state sponsor of terrorism.



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## ANTISEMITISM

### Q10. Does your party accept the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)-endorsed definition of antisemitism?

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (of which Australia is a Liaison Country) has adopted a working definition of antisemitism which recognises that antisemitism has the capacity to mutate and take on new forms in order to exploit or prosecute the contemporary conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. The working definition recognises that:

“Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include:

- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.

The Morrison Government is continuing to work to upgrade Australia’s membership of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) from Liaison Country to full Member Country. The application process is long and detailed, requiring careful scrutiny of an applicant nation’s credentials on anti-Semitism and Holocaust remembrance, and the completion of projects that demonstrate commitment.

Australia’s application will be tabled in June 2019 at the annual plenary session of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. The Morrison Government takes the opportunity to acknowledge the support and advice of our Sponsor Member Country, the United Kingdom. Once Australia becomes a Member Country, we will be guided by all the provisions and responsibilities of membership.

Labor believes that no faith, religion, or set of beliefs should ever be used as an instrument for division or exclusion, and that condemning anyone, discriminating against anyone, or vilifying anyone is violation of the values we all share.

Labor will continue to combat racism and expressions of intolerance and discrimination with strength and, where necessary, the full force of the law.

Labor stands against anti-Semitism and all other forms of racism. Consistent with this stance, former prime minister Julia Gillard was the first Australian politician to sign the London Declaration on Combating Anti-Semitism (the London Declaration), reinforcing Labor’s long history of taking action to combat not only anti-Semitism, but as the London Declaration states, “discrimination against any minority” in our country.

We also note that in 2013 all Liberal and National Members of Parliament, including Mr Morrison, followed Labor Prime Minister Gillard’s lead and individually signed the London Declaration. However, soon after signing that important document, the newly elected Liberal Government pursued policies that would have undermined both the terms and spirit of the London Declaration, in particular, by twice trying to repeal Australia’s racial hate speech protections enshrined in section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act.

The Australian Greens have not formally endorsed the IHRA definition of antisemitism. The Greens stand firmly with Australia’s Jewish community and against antisemitism in all its forms. Our policies on tackling antisemitism, racism and the rise of the far right can be found [here](#).



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### ANTISEMITISM (CONT.)

- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel."

In trying to justify this policy, former Attorney-General George Brandis infamously declared to the Senate that changing federal laws remove our long-standing protections against racial hate speech was a Liberal Government priority because "people have a right to be bigots, you know."

Labor was appalled by the actions of the Liberals in attacking section 18C, and we stood with thousands of individuals, legal experts and organisations, as well as community groups from across our nation, to successfully defend section 18C from these reckless, ideological attacks by the Liberals.

Labor remains deeply concerned that the Liberal Party, which purports to be a party of the centre right rather than the hard right, would work to give a green light to racist hate speech in support of an imagined "right to be bigots."

Labor also notes that following the re-election of Pauline Hanson at the 2016 federal election, all Labor Senators and Members of Parliament signed a Parliamentarian's Code of Race and Cultural Ethics. This was in part a response to Senator Hanson's racist statements and actions, whether directed against Indigenous Australians, Muslims, Asians or other groups of Australians. Members of One Nation have also engaged in anti-Semitic slurs.

In November 2016 and then again in March this year, in the wake of Senator Anning's appalling anti-Semitic comments and attendance at a Neo-Nazi rally, Bill Shorten wrote to the Prime Minister inviting him to also put the Code of Race and Cultural Ethics to his party room. Regrettably, neither Mr Turnbull nor Mr Morrison responded to Labor's invitation to demonstrate a bipartisan position against racism in this way.



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## ANTISEMITISM

Q10. Continued

Labor believes that the Liberals should accept that Australians do not want more racism and more bigotry in our community. Labor is committed to ensuring our race hate protections are never watered down.

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

**The same-sex marriage survey last year has led to claims that religious freedom is not adequately protected in Australia, and that religious institutions and organisations should have enhanced rights to discriminate in favour of members of their own faith, or to promote their own beliefs.**

**Q11. What is your party's position on this issue?**

The Morrison Government is committed to ensuring that freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom from discrimination, including on the basis of race or religion, are all protected and promoted. While all Australians have a right to express their views, including people with controversial views, they must remain within the framework of Australian law.

As part of our response to the Ruddock Review, the Coalition has delivered on our commitment to refer the issue of religious exemptions to Commonwealth, state and territory discrimination laws to the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) for inquiry and report. The ALRC inquiry is designed to ensure that legislative exemptions to discrimination based on a person's identity are limited or removed, while also protecting the right of religious institutions to conduct their affairs in a way consistent with their religious ethos.

Labor respects the right of all Australians to practice their religion freely, including the right to practice no religion at all. Ours is a multicultural country of many faiths, which together create the rich fabric of Australian society.

At the same time, Labor is committed to reducing discrimination in Australian society where it can be done in a responsible way that respects freedom of belief and conscience.

We do not believe that freedom of religion and freedom from discrimination are mutually exclusive.

Labor has made clear that we are open to a discussion around whether religious freedom requires greater protection in this country. We supported the establishment of the Ruddock Review into Religious Freedom and consistently called for the Government to make that review public.

After conducting extensive consultation across our nation, the Ruddock Review concluded that, "While the Panel did not accept the argument, put by some, that religious freedom is in imminent peril, it did accept that the protection of difference with respect to belief or faith in a democratic, pluralist country such as Australia requires constant vigilance."

Labor agrees with this finding and will ensure this vigilance is maintained. As part of this commitment, Labor will continue to support the important work of the Australian Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of all Australians

The Greens believe that all Australians have the right to live peacefully and comfortably, without fear of persecution for their ethnicity, cultural background or religion. As such, the Greens believe that all in Australia should have the right to practice and express their religious identity, and that we as Australians should celebrate our cultural diversity and the value it adds to our country.

Therefore, the Greens support the positive right to religious belief, however we also believe that actions must be limited when those actions interfere with the right of Australians to live free from discrimination, even when those actions are based on religious doctrines, tenets and beliefs. Where the rights of freedom of religious belief conflicts with the right to live free from discrimination, these tensions should be resolved by a charter of rights.



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**Q12. Is your party in favour of maintaining existing laws permitting shechita, the slaughter of animals in Australia in accordance with Jewish religious law, or does it propose to make changes to these laws? If the latter, what changes are proposed?**

**13. Is your party in favour of maintaining existing laws permitting brit milah, the circumcision of infant males in accordance with Jewish religious law, or does it propose to make changes to these laws? If the latter, what changes are proposed?**

Under the Australian Constitution, the welfare of farm animals is a state and territory government responsibility. This includes the regulation of domestic abattoirs and slaughter practices. It is up to state and territory governments to regulate, enforce or otherwise ensure animal welfare in their state or territory.

The Morrison Government has no plans to change existing arrangements with respect to brit milah.

The Liberals announced their intention to introduce legislation to further protect religious freedom in February. They broke this promise.

Labor believes that by working together, Australians can enhance religious protections while at the same time protecting vulnerable Australians from the risk of discrimination.

Labor does not propose to make any changes to existing laws relating to shechita, the slaughter of animals in Australia in accordance with Jewish religious law, or to existing laws permitting brit milah, the circumcision of infant males in accordance with Jewish religious law.

Response above includes Q11, Q12, & Q13.

The Greens support means of slaughter that cause the least suffering to animals and as such, we support stunning of animals before slaughter

The Australian Greens do not have specific policy on circumcision and we have no plans to propose such changes to the law.



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