



20 August 2025

Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Parliament House  
Canberra NSW 2600

Dear Prime Minister

We write to express our deep dismay and concern at the recent ‘war of words’ between yourself and Israel’s Prime Minister Netanyahu.

On this occasion the truth compels us to state frankly that both parties have been at fault.

We feel your statement on July 30 accusing your Israeli counterpart of being “*in denial*” about the consequences of the war in Gaza was excessive and gratuitously insulting. It was unseemly for an Australian Prime Minister to depart from diplomatic norms concerning the leader of a country with which Australia has had friendly relations for many decades. You could simply have said that you vehemently disagreed with the Israeli Prime Minister, without descending into a personal attack.

Similarly, Prime Minister Netanyahu’s statements on August 19 characterising you as “*a weak politician who betrayed Israel and abandoned Australia’s Jews*” were inflammatory and provocative, and demonstrated a woeful lack of understanding of social and political conditions in Australia. These comments have played straight into the hands of opponents of Israel and antisemites, to the detriment of the Australian Jewish community.

To make matters worse we were appalled by the comments reportedly made by the Minister for Home Affairs earlier today in reference to Prime Minister Netanyahu: “*Strength is not measured by how many people you can blow up, or how many children you can leave hungry*”. This from a senior Minister whose responsibilities go directly to maintaining social cohesion in Australia, a priority to which you have repeatedly committed your government. In the present febrile state of public discourse, it was an incendiary and irresponsible comment.

PAGE 1

**PRESIDENT**  
Daniel Aghion KC  
**DEPUTY PRESIDENT**  
Robert M Goot AO, SC  
**IMM. PAST PRESIDENT**  
Jillian Segal AO  
**HON. TREASURER**  
Peter Wise AM  
**HON. SECRETARY**  
Anton Block AM

**CO-CEOs**  
Peter Wertheim AM  
Alex Rvychin  
**VICE PRESIDENTS**  
David Ossip (NSW)  
Philip Zajac (VIC)  
Geoff Midalia (WA)  
Jason Steinberg (QLD)  
Annetay Henderson-Sapir (SA)  
Jeff Schneider (TAS)  
Athol Morris (ACT)

**CONSTITUENTS**  
NSW Jewish Board of Deputies  
Jewish Community Council of Victoria  
Jewish Community Council of WA  
Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies  
Jewish Community Council of SA  
Hobart Hebrew Congregation  
ACT Jewish Community

**AFFILIATES**  
Australasian Union of Jewish Students  
Australian Federation of WIZO  
Union for Progressive Judaism  
Federation of Jewish Aged Car Services  
Maccabi Australia  
National Council of Jewish Women  
B'nai B'rith of Australia/ NZ  
Jewish National Fund of Australia  
Joint Distribution Committee Australia

**OBSERVERS**  
Council of Progressive Rabbis  
Federation of Australian Jewish  
Ex-Service Associations  
New Zealand Jewish Council  
Zionist Federation of Australia  
Council of Orthodox Synagogues  
of Australia



The sum total of human wisdom would not have been diminished in the slightest if none of these public comments had been made. The Australian Jewish community will not be left to deal with the fallout of a spat between two leaders who are playing to their respective domestic audiences.

This deterioration in the diplomatic relations between two countries we love is causing us nothing but pain and anguish, and we will not suffer in silence. We intend to make this letter public together with a letter in similar terms we are sending simultaneously to Prime Minister Netanyahu.

We are now calling on both you and Prime Minister Netanyahu and your spokespeople to address the policy differences between the two governments in the usual way through diplomacy rather than public posturing. If things need to be said publicly, they should be said using measured and seemly language befitting national leaders. Australia and Israel are mature democracies and their governments need to act accordingly.

Yours sincerely

**Daniel Aghion KC**  
**President**