2022 FEDERAL ELECTION PARTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Where do the Liberals, ALP and Greens stand as parties on issues affecting the Jewish community?
Freedom to hold and practice religious beliefs without discrimination is fundamental to who we are and who we must be as a tolerant, multicultural, and multi-faith liberal democracy. The Morrison Government is committed to protecting the freedom of Australians to worship and meet safely without fear.

The Morrison Government continues to stamp out crime and improve community safety right around Australia through our highly successful Safer Communities Fund (the Fund).

Since 2016, investments through the Fund have ensured local schools, councils, community groups, religious institutions, including Jewish institutions, and others have the funding they need for programs that reduce crime and violence, decrease anti-social behaviour, and make communities safer and more secure.

In 2019, the Morrison Government boosted Round 4 of the Fund to $55 million and prioritised religious schools, places of worship and religious assembly. Grants ranging from $50,000 to $1.5 million were made available to provide physical safety enhancements.

Round 6 of the Fund saw grants of up to $500,000 available to places of religious worship, schools and pre-schools, community organisations and local councils for crime prevention initiatives aimed at reducing crime, violence and anti-social behaviour driven by racial and/or religious intolerance. Successful grants included $94,054 for the Executive Council of Australian Jewry for a security upgrade at its head office as well as grants to Jewish schools, organisations and synagogues.

Q1. At present the Safer Communities Fund scheme provides grants to at-risk communities to help pay for the capital costs of upgrading the physical security of their places of worship, schools, museums and other community institutions. However, with the exception of guarding costs for schools, no funding is available to assist with the crippling, recurring operational costs of maintaining physical security, such as the costs of armed guards by non-school institutions and the costs incurred by those communities who fund their own professionally operated Security Groups. Would a government formed by your party consider extending funding to those other areas of recurring security costs of at-risk communities, including the capacity of the communities’ own professionally operated Security Groups, to strengthen protection throughout their communities?

An elected Albanese Labor Government will consider changes to the Safer Communities Fund to address Jewish community concerns. In particular, we will consider whether the Commonwealth’s Safer Communities Fund should now be further expanded to allow for grants to pay for security at facilities other than schools and pre-schools, and for security infrastructure and personnel at the community level.

The Australian Greens believe everyone has the right to live in safety and without fear of violence. We are committed to working with communities at risk to find better ways to support their security needs, including any funding that may be required to support safer communal spaces for all communities at risk.
Our Government's recent $50 million expansion to the Fund in the 2022-23 Budget has brought the total investment made through the Fund up to $315 million.

Q1. Continued

National system to record hate-motivated crime

The Morrison Government supports the development of productive relationships between state, territory and Commonwealth Governments to promote policy reforms that are of national significance. Achieving national consistency requires the ongoing cooperation and agreement of all states and territories.

The forum to achieve this coordination and consistency is the Meeting of Attorneys General. This forum comprises the Attorneys-General from the Australian Government, all states and territories, and the New Zealand Minister for Justice. Its purpose is to implement a national and trans-Tasman focus on maintaining and promoting best practice in law reform.

Recently, this forum looked at potential legislative alignment of sexual harassment laws, across jurisdictions. Other matters that have also been recently addressed include family violence, protecting older Australians from abuse and model defamation reform.

While hate-motivated crime is not currently proposed as part of the agenda for upcoming Meetings of Attorneys General, the Attorney General would welcome the opportunity to further explore this important issue in discussions with you.

Hatred towards any Australians on the base of their race, or religion, must be condemned in the strongest possible terms. An elected Albanese Labor Government would address the rise in right-wing extremism by ensuring our security and law enforcement agencies have the powers, priorities and resources to counter this threat.

Labor is committed to ending religious vilification and discrimination, reflected in our amendments to include anti-vilification provisions in the Religious Discrimination Bill. Sadly, these amendments were rejected by the Morrison Government.

For more than a year, Labor and a coalition of peak multicultural groups have been calling on the Morrison Government to commit to a comprehensive national anti-racism strategy, one aimed at empowering communities and changing attitudes. It's time for all Australians to stand together in hope and reject hate.

The Australian Greens will add hate speech to the Criminal Code and invest $10 million towards establishing a centralised, official national database for tracking hate crimes.
Commonwealth education funding for private schools

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

Our Government has delivered - for the first time - real, needs-based funding for Australian students under the 2018 Quality Schools Package. This record funding increases year-on-year and provides school sectors with funding per student based on need.

The Morrison Government is committed to parent choice in education which is why we are delivering record funding to Australian schools across all sectors, with $25.3 billion in funding in 2022, and $318.9 billion over the period 2018 to 2029. This includes non-government school annual average growth of 3.8 per cent per student.

The Morrison Government remains committed to needs-based school funding and will continue to support parental choice in education through the Choice and Affordability Fund (CAF). The CAF was introduced in 2020 and will provide an estimated $1.2 billion to the non-government school sector over 10 years to 2029.

The School Resourcing Standard (SRS) has also been increased annually by the Morrison Government to provide a minimum base and certainty for schools and parents while ensuring that funding reflects real changes in wages and inflation costs. A re-elected Morrison Government will review indexation arrangements in partnership with the non-government sector in 2023 to ensure they are fit-for-purpose and supporting schools, parents and students with real funding growth.

The Morrison Government is committed to fair and targeted per student funding and to reviewing the current Direct Measure of Income methodology to ensure it is fit for purpose and an accurate reflection of parent income.

Under a Labor Government, the funding arrangements that exist for non-government schools right now, will continue under Labor in full. Labor has also announced additional funding that will benefit non-government schools as part of Labor’s Plan to Help School Kids Bounce Back. This includes our $200 million Student Wellbeing Boost, which will provide schools with additional funding to get their students’ mental health and wellbeing back on track. Non-government schools will also be able to access extra funding in 2022 through Labor’s Schools Upgrade Fund to support building upgrades and improved ventilation, so students can learn in a COVID-safe environment. You can read more about Labor’s policies here.

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 fulfil their best educational outcomes.
Education

Q3. Continued

Contributions to non-government schools. A re-elected Morrison Government will bring this review forward to 2024, following the introduction of the next National School Reform Agreement, to ensure funding to the Catholic and independent school sectors is fair and representative of individual school communities.

Holocaust education

Q4. The Gandel Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness in Australia Survey recently found that almost a quarter of the Australian population aged 18 years or older have little to no knowledge of the Holocaust, with that number rising to 30% among millennials. What measures would your party take in government to improve the quality and quantity of school and public education about the Holocaust?

Prime Minister Scott Morrison spoke in his 2022 Holocaust Remembrance Day message of why Holocaust remembrance is so important. 'The virus of antisemitism still lives in our world. We know its symptoms. The de-platforming, the cancelling and silencing of Jewish people. The boycotting of Jewish businesses and Jewish artists hidden under the guise of geo-political lobbying. The threats to Jewish leaders, the attacks on Jewish places of worship. The blaming of Jewish people for every ill in the world. And the willingness of humanity to see differences in others as threats and not shared expressions of the kaleidoscope of our humanity.'

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, who lost family members in the Holocaust, has also spoken of why it is important to remember. 'As the years go by, memories fade, there are people who are seeking to diminish the loss of life during the Holocaust, there are countries that are challenging its very existence, there is the rise of the far right in countries around the world, including in some parts of Australia.'

The Morrison Government is deeply committed to ensuring the atrocities are never forgotten. Part of this involves:

- It was deeply concerning to see that the Gandel Survey found that around a quarter of Australians under 18 had little or no knowledge of the Holocaust. However, it was encouraging to see that the Survey found that an overwhelming majority of Australians believe we can learn important lessons from the Holocaust. Labor strongly agrees it is important to educate Australians about the Holocaust and the important lessons it holds for all. We can learn important lessons from the Holocaust and it's important to educate young people about it. We will continue periodic reviews of the national curriculum when they're due, working with state and territory education ministers, and we'll continue to consult with EJAC and the Gandel Foundation on initiatives to strengthen Holocaust education.

The Australian Greens believe anti-racism education and training should be widespread at all levels of society, and that this should include education about historical atrocities, injustices and mistreatment.
meeting Australia’s obligations, as a member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and to honour those who stood against it (Article 6, Stockholm Declaration). To honour and meet this commitment, our Government has provided $28 million to establish Holocaust memorials, museums and a Holocaust memorial week.

Building awareness of the Holocaust begins with what we teach our children. The Morrison Government has provided over $3 million for classroom resources to educate all Australian students about the Holocaust. This included grants to the Anti-Defamation Commission for the development of a Holocaust Education Digital Platform, and to Deakin University, on behalf of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Education Working Group, for development of school resources for Holocaust Memorial Week 2022 focusing on the theme “The Power of Place”. 
Education

**Education against specific forms of prejudice**

Q5. Hate-content on social media and peer-group pressure exercised via social media preys on the ignorance of the young and breeds extremism. In addition to teaching about the Holocaust, what measures would your party take in government to educate children to recognise and counteract specific forms of prejudice which are prevalent in Australia, including anti-Jewish, anti-Indigenous, anti-Muslim and anti-Asian prejudice, as part of the Australian curriculum?

The Morrison Government has led the world in standing up to the big social media companies to create a safer online environment for all Australians. The Prime Minister is strongly committed to this agenda and has made clear that the online world should not be a lawless space - the same rules and laws that apply in the real world should also apply in the digital world.

Our Government established the world’s first eSafety Commissioner to protect children from bullying and harmful content and has since strengthened Australian laws through the new Online Safety Act 2021. The Morrison Government remains committed to taking further action in this space, including through our proposed Social Media (Anti-Trolling) laws which would hold social media companies more accountable for defamatory comments from anonymous posters.

The Morrison Government believes improving school standards starts with what children are taught. The Australian Curriculum sets learning standards and expectations of what students will learn and when. State and territory governments and non-government schools are ultimately responsible for the implementation of curriculum.

Receiving an education that prepares students to live in our prosperous, multicultural and multi-faith society is important for all Australian children and young people.

There is no place in our successful multicultural society for the hatred and division promoted by extremism. A disturbing rise in Australian right-wing extremism is why Labor successfully pushed for an inquiry by the Parliamentary Joint Intelligence and Security Committee into this growing threat.

We want to work with communities to fight racism and anti-Semitism where it starts, through education and deradicalization interventions. Social cohesion is vital in responding to this threat. In Government, Labor will support multiculturalism and inclusion, and unite the country, not divide it. Labor members of the Parliamentary Committee on Intelligence and Security supported the listing of Hamas and Hizballah in their entirety.

To help tackle hate-content and peer-group pressure on social media, Labor has also committed to support the national rollout of the eSmart Digital Licence+ and eSmart Media Literacy Lab to help school students develop the digital and media literacy skills they need to stay safe and thrive in the online world. Labor’s investments will empower young people to think critically, create responsibly and be active citizens online. You can read more about this commitment [here](#).

The Australian Greens believe anti-racism education and training should be widespread at all levels of society. We believe the curriculum should be based on evidence and determined in consultation with appropriate educational experts, teachers, and their unions and other stakeholders.
Education

Education in democratic and Enlightenment values

Q6. 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 Australian 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?

The Prime Minister has often quoted the works of Rabbi Sacks. In his 2021 address to the United Israel Appeal Dinner in Randwick, NSW, the Prime Minister quoted from Rabbi Sacks’ final work, Morality, to recognise that, “If you lose your own morality, you are in danger of losing your freedom.” ([https://www.pm.gov.au/media/address-united-israel-appeal-dinner-randwick-nsw](https://www.pm.gov.au/media/address-united-israel-appeal-dinner-randwick-nsw))

Our Government believes that the civic values that you refer to are at the heart of Australia’s relationship with Israel. As the Prime Minister said in Parliament, ‘Ours is a 70-year long friendship between two peoples which share a commitment to democracy and the rule of law; have a multi-cultural character, committed to science and research, a free press, to prosperity for our people and to innovation to overcome the challenges of our often hostile natural environments.’

The strength of a nation stems from its people’s belief in it and love for it. Little could be more important in this regard than the curriculum our children learn in their formative school years.

The Morrison Government understands that parents, teachers and the broader community, including faith communities, are passionate about what children learn at school, which is why our Government has fought for a better curriculum for all Australian children.

In doing so, we have ensured that the Australian Curriculum includes a balanced view of history and one that is proud of our liberal, Western and democratic origins of government and our Judea-Christian heritage.

Labor believes it’s crucial that the Australian Curriculum develops a deep knowledge in students of their rights, freedoms and responsibilities and equips them with the ability to play an active role in our democracy. Part of this is supporting students to develop critical thinking skills – teaching our children how to think, not what to think. We will continue periodic reviews of the national curriculum as they are due.

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.
The Australian Curriculum should equip students, across the learning areas, to understand and value how Australia has become the vibrant country it is today.

The Australian Curriculum was endorsed by the Commonwealth and state and territory education Ministers in April 2022. The Australian Curriculum is a stronger evidence-based document, which is now shorter and sharper and sets students up for a world class education.

If re-elected, the Morrison Government will remain focused on ensuring that what is taught in schools lifts the standards of students, and puts Australia on a path to being among the top education nations in the world.
Foreign Policy

Recognising a Palestinian State

Q7. 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:
(a) which Palestinian entity it would recognise (eg the Palestinian Authority? The Hamas administration in Gaza?)
(b) what processes a government led by your party would go through before making a decision about the matter?

The Morrison Government does not recognise a ‘State of Palestine’. Palestinian statehood can only be realised through direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. This is a position formally agreed in the Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestinians, and is a long-standing position of the United Nations and many other countries.

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 continues to encourage both Israel and the Palestinians to take the steps 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 borders of a future Palestinian State. The negotiated resolution of final status issues remains the key to peace.

There must be a renunciation of terrorism and terrorist acts, and an end to the cycle of violence. The Morrison Government’s position is consistent with international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Labor has long supported and continues to support, an enduring and just two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict based on the right of Israel to live in peace within secure borders internationally recognised and agreed by the parties, and reflecting the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people to also live in peace and security within their own state. Labor will continue to call on both sides of the conflict to refrain from any actions that hamper peaceful outcomes for both the Israeli and Palestinian people.

The 2021 Australian Labor Party Special Platform Conference replicated the decision taken at the 2018 National Conference to support the recognition and right of Israel and Palestine to exist as two states within secure and recognised borders. Labor’s national platform makes 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.

Yes, the Australian Greens support the recognition of a Palestinian state, alongside the state of Israel, and support the right of both to live in peace and security in their own state.
**Foreign Policy**

### Jerusalem

Q8. Australia now recognises that the capital of Israel is situated in West 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 the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, including any additional measures it would take if elected to government.

Prime Minister Morrison made clear on 15 December 2018 that it is the fundamental right of every country to determine its national capital, and that will remain the position of a re-elected Morrison Government. As a result of the Morrison Government’s decision, Australia recognises West Jerusalem as 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.

Out of respect for the clearly communicated preference of the Israeli Government for countries not to establish consulates or honorary consular offices in West Jerusalem, the Australian Government established a Trade and Defence Office in West Jerusalem. It focuses on building trade, investment, defence industry, education and innovation partnerships with Israeli industry. This includes maximising opportunities for Australia’s high-tech and defence 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.

In the spirit of a two-state solution, we acknowledge the aspirations of the Palestinian people for a future state with its capital in East Jerusalem, after final status issues are resolved through direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, including the status of Jerusalem, the right of return of refugees, the status of Israeli settlements, the provision of security, and the borders of a future Palestinian state.

Labor believes the status of Jerusalem should be resolved as part of any peace negotiations and two-state solution - this is the position of successive Australian governments. We note that in recent years, Israel and some of its neighbours have taken positive steps to normalise their relations which labor has strongly supported as further building blocks towards regional peace and stability.

Unlike Mr Morrison, Labor will not seek to play domestic politics with Australia’s foreign relations - our approach to the region will always be guided by our national interests and values.

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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<td><strong>Q8. Continued</strong></td>
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**Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel (BDS)**

Q9. 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?

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<tr>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td>The Morrison Government does not support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign that actively targets Israel and Israelis, or Jews and Jewish institutions, especially when coercion or public pressure campaigns are weaponised to create the appearance of broad public support. The Morrison Government's view is that boycotting businesses or activities because of religion, citizenship, or other minority status is fundamentally unacceptable, and contrary to Australia's code of multi-cultural acceptance. The Morrison Government does not wish to see any party to the peace process isolated. The Morrison Government does not condone actions that diminish the prospect for peace or contribute to the current stalemate in the peace process. One-sided actions do nothing to bring both sides closer to achieving lasting peace and stability for all Israelis and all Palestinians. The international community, including Australians, must move beyond ritual denunciations of Israel. Australia’s national interests are well served by our productive and increasingly diverse relationship with Israel. Australia has always been one of Israel’s greatest friends and the Morrison Government intends for that to remain the case.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>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. This underpins the Labor Party’s opposition to the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign. Viewing any conflict from only one perspective will not advance the cause of peace. It will take leaders recognising their respective roles in the cycle of escalation and conflict, and returning to meaningful dialogue and negotiation, for a just and enduring peace to be achieved.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greens</td>
<td>Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions is not Australian Greens policy.</td>
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Foreign Policy

Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel (BDS)

Q10. As a part of the Sydney Festival in January this year, Festival organisers sought and received a sponsorship by the Israeli Embassy of a performance by the Sydney Dance Company of a dance composition by renowned Israeli choreographer. BDS activists pressured artists, theatres and the general public to boycott the Festival after the Festival organisers refused the activists' demands to cancel the sponsorship. What is your view of the Sydney Festival boycott?

Australia is a free country, and businesses, customers, festivals, artists, and any others may choose to support or not support enterprises as they see fit. Australians also have the right to peaceful and lawful protest. The defence of these freedoms does not extend to organised campaigns of coercion and public pressure targeted against one nationality, religion, or minority group as a form of passive-aggression, or an expression of coercive collective punishment, for a perceived relationship with a foreign national government.

The funding model of the Sydney Festival is a matter for the festival organisers, and the decision of performers and artists to participate or not is a matter for the individuals concerned. Concerted programs of economic attack against private individuals or companies because of perceived grievances with a foreign national government are misguided, misdirected, and manifestly unfair.

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. This underpins the Labor Party's opposition to the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign.

Viewing any conflict from only one perspective will not advance the cause of peace. It will take leaders recognising their respective roles in the cycle of escalation and conflict, and returning to meaningful dialogue and negotiation, for a just and enduring peace to be achieved.

Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions is not Australian Greens policy.
Under a re-elected Morrison Government, Australia will continue to strongly support Israel's right to exist within secure and internationally recognised borders, and the right to self-defence as guaranteed in the United Nations Charter. The Morrison Government will stand by Israel in the face of biased and unfair targeting in the United Nations General Assembly and other United Nations bodies including the United Nations Human Rights Council. This was our Government's consistent approach when Australia held a seat in the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2020 and 2021. In the past, Australia abstained on United Nations resolutions where anti-Israel sentiment was cloaked in one-sided language about human rights. Under the Morrison Government, Australia changed its voting pattern to proactively oppose anti-Israel bias and one-sided resolutions in the United Nations.

The Morrison Government remains disappointed that a specific resolution condemning Hamas for its terrorist attacks failed to pass in the United Nations, and that a bloc of nations has used the United Nation's procedures to mount a campaign directed against Israel. The Morrison Government has listed both Hamas and Hezbollah as terrorist organisations under the Criminal Code, as well as Atomwaffen and other neo-Nazi groups.

The anti-Israel bias and one-sided resolutions introduced each year in the United Nations Human Rights Council under permanent Item 7 of the Council's agenda do not, in the Morrison Government's view, contribute to lasting peace and stability for Israel or the Palestinians, nor do they assist the negotiated resolution of final status issues. In her speech to the HRC in Geneva on 25 February 2019, Australia's Foreign Minister, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, United Nations

Q11. Australia has a proud record of supporting Israel at the United Nations. 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?

Labor is a strong supporter of the State of Israel – that will never change. UN bodies that are perceived to be biased or unbalanced are diminished in their credibility. Human rights abuses and authoritarianism are rising around the world – that’s why it is important that all countries and actors are held to account for violations of human rights. That’s why Labor questioned why Australia was the only country along with the Trump administration to vote against a UNHRC investigation into human rights violations in the Palestinian Territories – including violations committed by Hamas and other terrorist groups. In all of our engagement with the UN, we will be guided by our national interest, taking into account the facts on the ground and our strong support for a just and enduring peace.

The Australian Greens believe that universal human rights are fundamental and must be respected and protected in all countries and for all people. The Australian Greens would judge each UN resolution on its merits, in line with the Greens’ commitments to social justice, peace and non-violence.
Foreign Policy

Q11. Continued

Iran

Q12. According to the US State Department’s Country Reports on Terrorism published on 16 December 2021, “Iran continued to support acts of terrorism regionally and globally during 2020. Regionally, Iran supported proxies and partner groups in Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, including Hizballah and Hamas. Senior AQ leaders continued to reside in Iran and facilitate terrorist operations from there. Globally, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force remained the primary Iranian actors involved in supporting terrorist recruitment, financing, and plots across Europe, Africa, and Asia, and both Americas…Iran also provides up to $100 million annually in combined support to Palestinian terrorist groups, including Hamas, Palestine Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.” Does your party agree with that assessment?

Australia has a 2022 National Counter-Terrorism Strategy to account for the evolving nature of terrorism and terrorist support, including that connected to Iran, and a 2022 Counter-Terrorism international engagement program. The Strategy is designed to advance our capabilities for the next five years, especially related to the connections of terrorism between the Middle East region and the India-Pacific. Led by the Ambassador for Counter Terrorism, Australia will continue to work with likeminded nations to counter terrorism in all its forms, including terrorist financing, terrorism support networks, and on-line radicalisation. The Morrison Government has listed Hizballah, Hamas, and other terrorist or violent extremist groups under the Criminal Code. The Morrison Government is also working with likeminded nations and bodies, particularly the US, UK, and NATO, to directly address global terrorism networks and supporters.

The Morrison Government will continue to fully fund our participation in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIL, the Financial Action Task Force, the Aqaba Process, our regional counter-terrorism programs, the joint program to deal with terrorism connected to Afghanistan, our counter-terrorism activities connected to Iraq, and our activities with other regional nations in the Middle East and in the India-Pacific.

Labor members of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security called for the listing of Hamas and Hizballah in their entirety as terrorist organisations. We remain concerned about Iran's destabilising activities across the Middle East.

The Australian Greens have worked to consistently call out human rights violations wherever they occur, including by the Iranian government. In line with our policy on Israel/Palestine, the Australian Greens reject violence and its promotion, particularly against civilians, whether perpetrated by a state, an organisation or individuals.
Abraham Accords

Q13. What is your party’s view of the Abraham Accords and the normalisation of relations between Israel and States which were previously hostile to it, namely the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco? What if anything does your party believe Australia should do to encourage other Arab League states to normalise relations with Israel?

The Morrison Government has strongly endorsed the normalisation agreements from the outset, and continues to encourage other nations to normalise relations with Israel. Our Government congratulated the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco for taking the steps necessary to contribute to peace and stability in the Middle East through concrete and highly visible peace arrangements.

The Morrison Government also recognises the high-value economic and people-to-people outcomes that these arrangements have generated, especially through increased commercial opportunities and significantly increased air passenger and air cargo movements. Not only do the normalisation agreements benefit regional stability and security, they bring prosperity and economic growth.

The Morrison Government will continue to encourage other nations to normalise relations with Israel.

Labor has welcomed progress on Israel’s normalisation of relations with its neighbours under the Abraham Accords, and we will be supportive of regional initiatives that strengthen peace, security and constructive dialogue.

In line with our policy, the Australian Greens advocate for a two state solution, including the right of each state to independently manage its own affairs, including foreign relations and economic development, without the dominance of one state over the other.
Foreign Policy

People-to-people peace-building

Q14. As an alternative to the UN Relief and Works Agency, should Australian aid for Palestinians be re-directed to programs which build economic, technological, health-care and other capacity in Palestinian society through direct cross-border partnerships between Israelis and Palestinians, such as the programs that have been established by the US under the Middle East Partnership for Peace Act and by the EU through the EU Peacebuilding Initiative (EUPl)?

The Morrison Government has overseen rigorous systems put in place to ensure all aid activities in the Palestinian Territories are comprehensively monitored and proactively managed to ensure humanitarian and development assistance funds are not misdirected, or used in ways that have unintended and unacceptable consequences. Under the Morrison Government, funding has been suspended, re-directed or stopped for non-government organisations and international organisations that have used Australian Government funding in ways that risk undermining peace processes or that do not assist the provision of services and support for Palestinians in the manner intended by the Australian Government.

The Morrison Government has shifted funding into health, COVID response, and humanitarian programs. This will be continued under a re-elected Morrison Government. The Morrison Government will continue the program of close oversight, audit, and other compliance measures it introduced to reduce risk in assistance funding delivery.

Labor is committed to providing effective and transparent aid to the Palestinians, which we believe can help build the institutions for statehood and address urgent development needs. It is critically important, however, that aid and program delivery goes directly to benefit those who are most in need.

We believe strongly that for aid to be effective, it must be transparent. That is why we have committed to ensuring any funding commitments will have appropriate oversight to ensure it is being used as intended, to directly support development programs for the Palestinian people.

The Australian Greens support the work of the UN Relief and Works Agency, in providing direct assistance to Palestinians, and acknowledge that the United States recently restored US$150 million of support for the organisation. The Australian Greens will increase funding to UNRWA to $40 million per year through the aid budget.
Antisemitism

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), of which Australia is a full member, has adopted a Working Definition of antisemitism which has been embraced by the Australian government and endorsed by the Opposition. It has also been endorsed by the UN Special Rapporteur for freedom of religion or belief Ahmed Shaheed and adopted for domestic use by 35 nations, as well as by States, local Councils, government Ministries and other institutions around the world. The countries adopting the IHRA definition also appoint a national coordinator for the fight against antisemitism. The European Parliament has also voted in favour of a resolution calling for member states to adopt the definition.

The IHRA Working Definition 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.
Antisemitism

- 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.
- 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.”

Adoption of IHRA Working Definition of antisemitism by universities and civil society organisations

Q15. In government, what would your party do, if anything, to encourage the adoption of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism by universities and civil society organisations, as a tool for gauging what constitutes, or does not constitute, antisemitic behaviour when applying their own rules of conduct, and as an educational tool?

The Morrison Government has embraced the definition of antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Australia is a proud multicultural society. The 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. Whilst all Australians have a right to express their views, including people with controversial views, they must remain within the framework of Australian law.

In federal law, section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 makes it unlawful to do an act otherwise than in private that is reasonably likely to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate people because of their race, colour or national or ethnic origins. This provision appropriately balances Australia’s international obligations within our domestic context, and balances the right to free speech with the right to be free from racial vilification.

Labor has adopted the IHRA definition and encourages other organisations to consider doing so.

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We value the important discourse in the community on documenting and defining antisemitism, which reflects our own commitment to combating antisemitism and all forms of racism. Policy makers, academics and the lived experience of the Jewish community all make important contributions to ensuring that we remain vigilant against the rise of antisemitism and extremism seen around the world.

We are deeply committed to using every resource to fight every form of discrimination and racism including antisemitism, and will push the major parties to implement a national anti-racism strategy.
Religious Discrimination legislation

Religious freedom and protection against discrimination

Q16. The Religious Discrimination Bill 2021 was passed by 90 votes to 6 in the House of Representatives after a marathon session on 9 and 10 February 2022, but did not proceed to the Senate for a range of reasons. The key concerns of the Jewish community include preserving our freedom to:

- preference enrolment of Jewish children, or enrol only Jewish children, in the Jewish day schools;
- cater specifically for the needs of the Jewish community in Jewish aged care facilities, the Wolper Hospital, Jewish community accommodation facilities, Jewish charities and Jewish voluntary associations and clubs;
- restrict membership of Jewish voluntary associations and clubs, or membership of their governing boards, to people of the Jewish faith;
- express our religious beliefs freely (without malice, and without vilifying, harassing or intimidating others, or inciting the commission of a serious criminal offence, and also recognising the right of individuals to lawful expression of their belief, culture and sexuality).

Does your party consider any of these concerns invalid or illegitimate? If so, please specify which, and provide your reasons.

The Morrison Government believes that the right to hold and to practice faith must be respected and protected, not just in our homes and workplaces, but in our schools and in our communities.

There are currently a number of pieces of legislation that protect against discrimination at a state and Federal level - the Commonwealth has a Sex Discrimination Act, a Racial Discrimination Act, a Disability Discrimination Act and an Age Discrimination Act. There is however, no stand-alone legislation to protect people of religion or faith against discrimination, or legislation to protect those who choose not to have a faith or religion.

The Morrison Government believes that freedom to practice our religious beliefs without discrimination is fundamental to who we are and who we must be as a tolerant, multicultural, and multi-faith liberal democracy.
guaranteeing Australians are safe from discrimination on the basis of their faith remains a priority for the Morrison Government.

That the Australian Government develop a Charter of Rights, to protect religious belief amongst other protected attributes.

That any new Religious Discrimination bill adopt a similar approach to other anti-discrimination legislation, operating as a shield not a sword.