

Strengthening Holocaust, Antisemitism, and Anti-Racism Education in Victoria

Statement of Purpose

According to multiple reports, including the JCCV and CSG, there has been a steady increase in antisemitic incidents across Victoria over the last 5 years, both in the streets and in schools. We saw a culmination of what antisemitic rhetoric and lack of education and action can lead to in the Bondi massacre a few weeks ago.

While the Holocaust is currently taught in Years 9–10, there is no mandatory framework linking historical education to contemporary antisemitism or broader anti-racism education.

This proposal aims to:

- Introduce age-appropriate education on the Holocaust, antisemitism, and anti-racism for Years 7–9.
- Build understanding and resilience against prejudice, discrimination, and hate in Victorian schools.

Key Provisions

A. Curriculum Requirements

1. **Years 7–9:** Schools must deliver mandatory units on:
 - The history of the Holocaust and its global impact.
 - Understanding antisemitism and other forms of prejudice, historically and today.
 - Anti-racism education, including developing empathy, critical thinking, and civic responsibility.
2. **Contemporary Relevance:** Lessons must include examples of modern antisemitism, racism, and online hate, emphasizing responsibility and social cohesion.

B. Teacher Professional Development

1. All teachers delivering these units must undertake approved training in:

- Holocaust history and contemporary antisemitism.
- Anti-racism pedagogy and bias awareness.
- Trauma-informed teaching methods suitable for sensitive content.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased student knowledge of Holocaust history and contemporary antisemitism.
- Reduced prejudice, bias, and discrimination in schools.
- Teachers equipped with the skills and confidence to teach sensitive and complex topics.