

ועד הרבנים דאוסטרלאסיה

RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA

28 August 2025

4 Elul 5785

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Rabbinical Association of Australasia, I write to you with deep concern in light of the recent announcement attributing attacks in Australia to Iran's involvement. These troubling revelations highlight the serious security threats posed by state and non-state actors who support terrorism and instability around the world.

At the outset, allow me to commend you and your Government for the decisive measures you have already taken, most notably, the expulsion of the Iranian Ambassador and the proscription of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation. These actions demonstrate both moral clarity and courageous leadership, sending a powerful message that Australia stands firm against extremism and those who export violence.

In this context, I respectfully urge you to reconsider any steps toward the recognition of a Palestinian state. Significant elements within Palestinian leadership and infrastructure remain influenced and supported by Iran and other extremist regimes that openly reject peace and seek to destabilise the region and beyond.

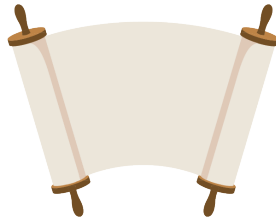
Recognition under the current circumstances would risk legitimising groups and structures still tied to terrorism and violence. It could also undermine Australia's broader commitment to security, stability, and the fight against extremism. Most gravely, it would send a dangerous international signal that terror, such as the atrocities of October 7th, is rewarded and pays

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dividends. Such a perception would embolden extremists abroad and could also increase the risk of Australia itself becoming a target of radical Islamist terror.

Furthermore, recognition would have very real consequences here at home. The Jewish community in Australia has already felt heightened hostility whenever negative statements are made against Israel. Recognition of a Palestinian state under present conditions would almost certainly intensify antisemitism and endanger the safety and wellbeing of Australian Jews.

Now is also an opportune moment to reconsider this policy, as close allies such as Canada and Germany have changed course and publicly expressed their reservations about recognition under current circumstances. Australia should stand with these democracies in opposing recognition that undermines peace and emboldens terrorism.

Australia has long been a principled voice for democracy, peace, and the rule of law. Recognition of Palestinian statehood while its leadership continues to promote and fund violence would not advance peace. Rather, it would embolden those who threaten it, while endangering Australians and undermining the safety of our Jewish community.

I respectfully urge you and your Government to weigh these grave concerns, to show leadership in these challenging times, and to stand firm against terrorism and those who support it.

I conclude this letter with the sentiments of Australian Jewry: as we approach the new year, Jews across the country will gather in synagogues to pray not only for themselves, their families, and their communities, but also for the wellbeing of our nation, for Australia's safety and security, and for the good health and prosperity of all Australians.

May you be blessed with wisdom, strength, and clarity of purpose as you continue to lead our country through these challenging times.

With respect,

Rabbi Nochum Schapiro

President, Rabbinical Association of Australasia

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