

Antisemitism: the Australian context



Ms Julie Nathan

Research Director, Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ)
and author of the annual ECAJ Report on Antisemitism in Australia

The following slides present data and excerpts from recent reporting on antisemitic incidents in Australia, as well as links to comments by Julie Nathan.

You are invited to read, listen and discuss.

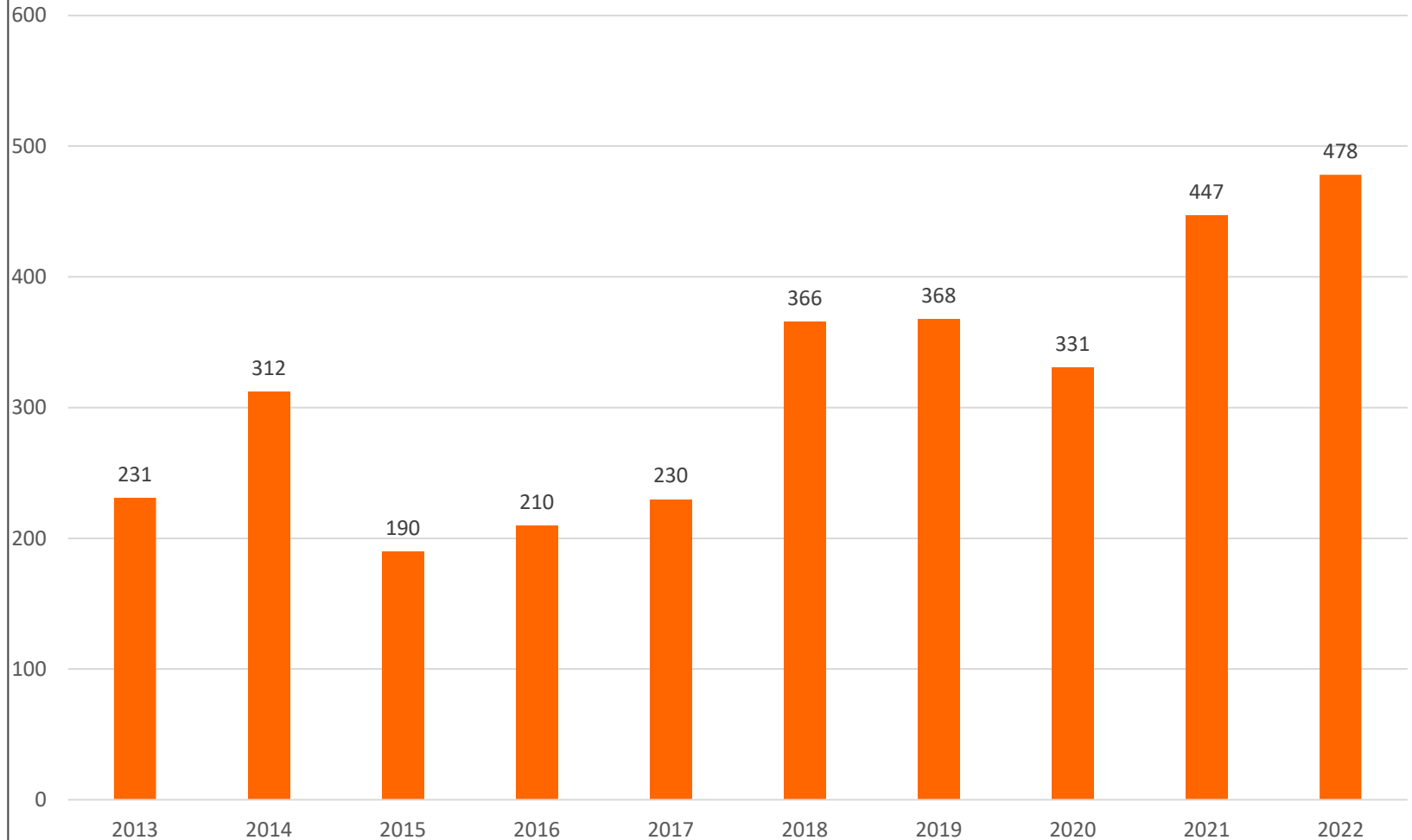


Context

School-based antisemitic incidents have a context.

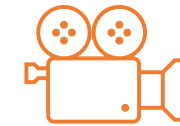
Antisemitic incidents in Australia are on the rise.

Antisemitic Incidents in Australia: 2013 - 2022



ECAJ Annual Report on Antisemitism in Australia

[Read ECAJ Reports](#)



Criteria: Antisemitism*

What constitutes reportable antisemitism?

Two broad categories:

- **Incidents** - what is done to Jews
- **Discourse** - what is said about Jews

Language influences activity.

Discourse can lead to an incident.

* See ECAJ Annual Report on Antisemitism in Australia

Criteria: antisemitic incident

Six categories for recording antisemitic incidents*

1. Physical assault
2. Vandalism
3. Verbal abuse
4. Hate messages: email, post, telephone, text or app
5. Graffiti
6. Propaganda material: banners, flags, leaflets, posters, stickers

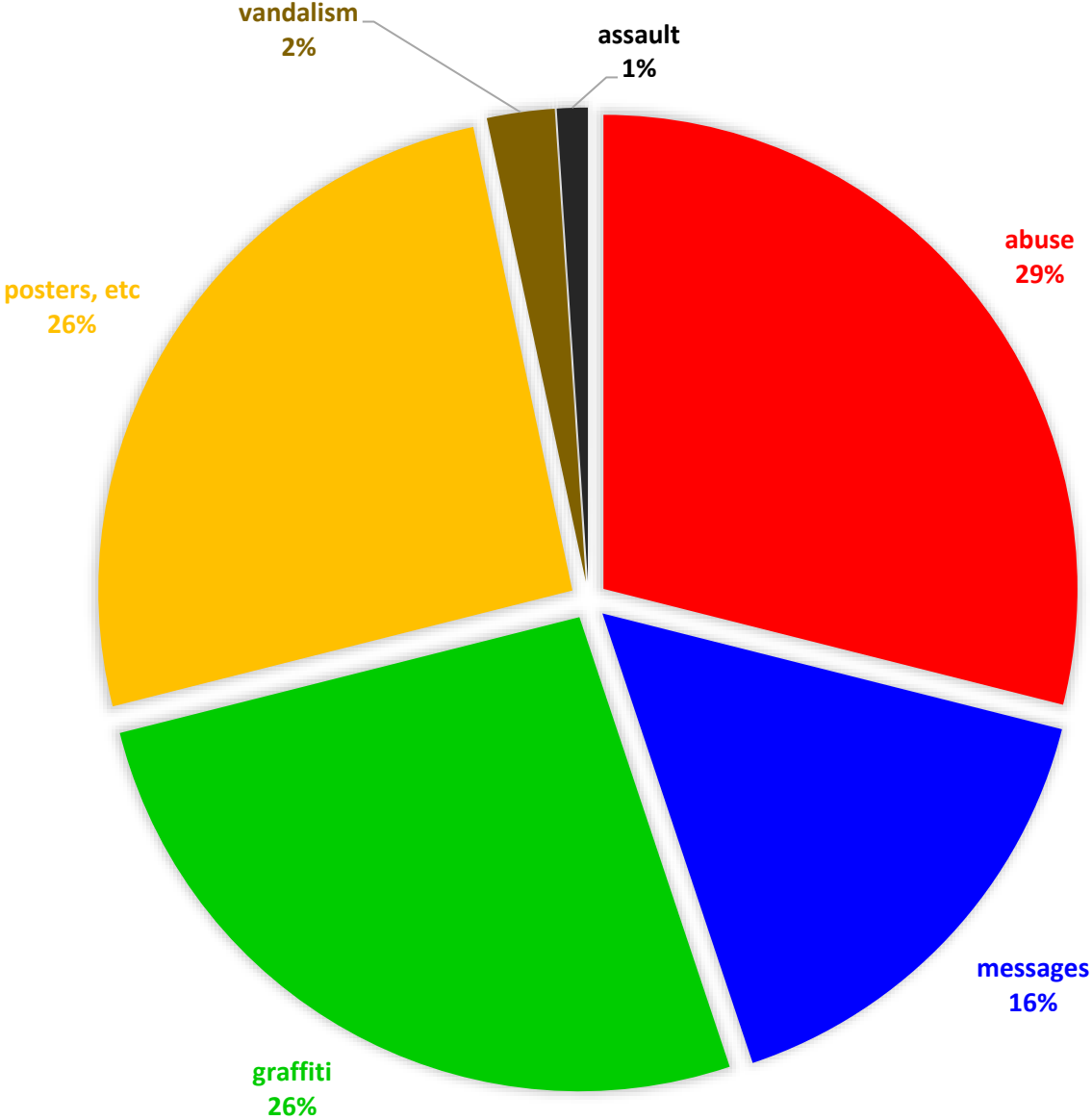
*Only incidents involving abuse, harassment, intimidation, threats, or violence are included in the ECAJ Report on Antisemitism.

The target of an incident must be (i) identifiably Jewish and (ii) attacked because the target is Jewish (as evidenced by, for example, words used by the attacker).

General online hatred is considered 'Discourse', not an 'Incident'.

Antisemitic incidents in Australia 2022

by Category: 1 Oct. 2021 - 30 Sep. 2022



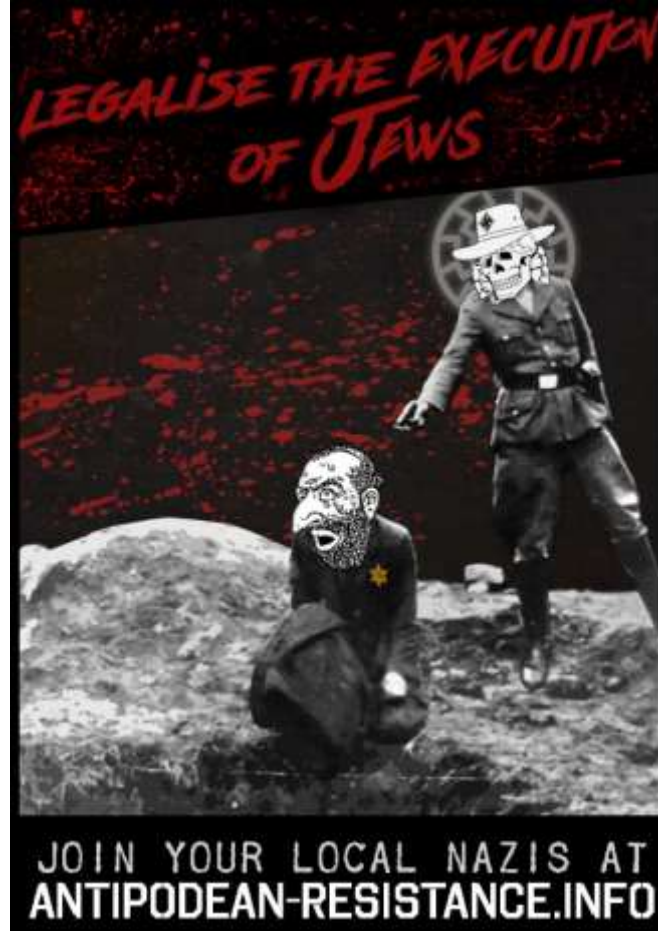


Incidents



Graffiti Posters Stickers

Graffiti: 2019, Melbourne



Poster: 2017-2018, across Australia



Poster: 2017-2018, across Australia

Graffiti: 2021, Sydney



Upper row: Sydney, 2019



Melbourne, 2018



Melbourne, 2021

Lower row: Melbourne, 2019

Melbourne, 2022

Victoria, 2021


Sticker: Adelaide 2022





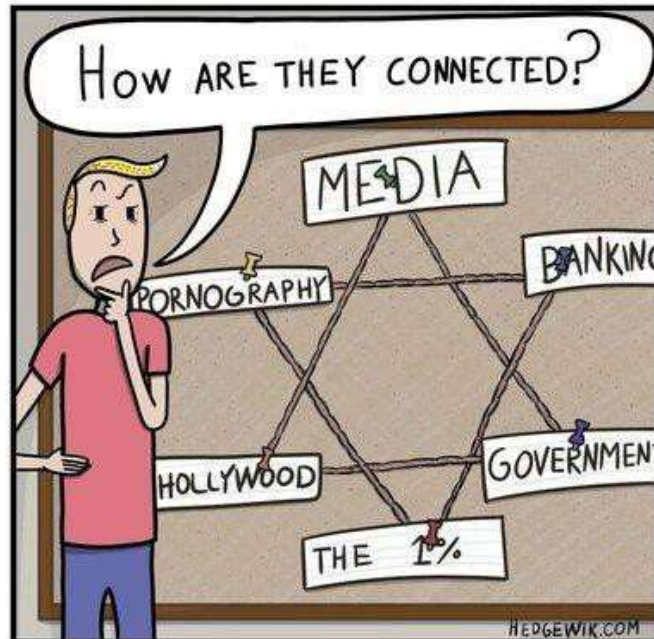
Antisemitic discourse

Antisemitic discourse refers to public discourse in the mainstream and other media, in print and online publications, social media, discussions at public forums, and any other public discourse where the content is antisemitic.



Discourse

Examples of images posted online



Examples of antisemitic discourse on mainstream sites

2021-22

- #Jews are verminous demonic Christ Killers.
- Boy what a shame Germany didn't build more ovens back in the day
- A good shower would sort em out
- Where's Adolf when you need him?
- The Synagogue of Satan is real. The #Jew is the enemy of mankind.
- Evil personified by Jewish zionists infidel invaders in the Middle East
- Zionism The cancer of the world



Antisemitic incidents in Australia*

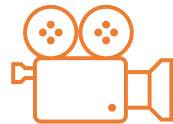
*recorded by the ECAJ and its affiliated organisations

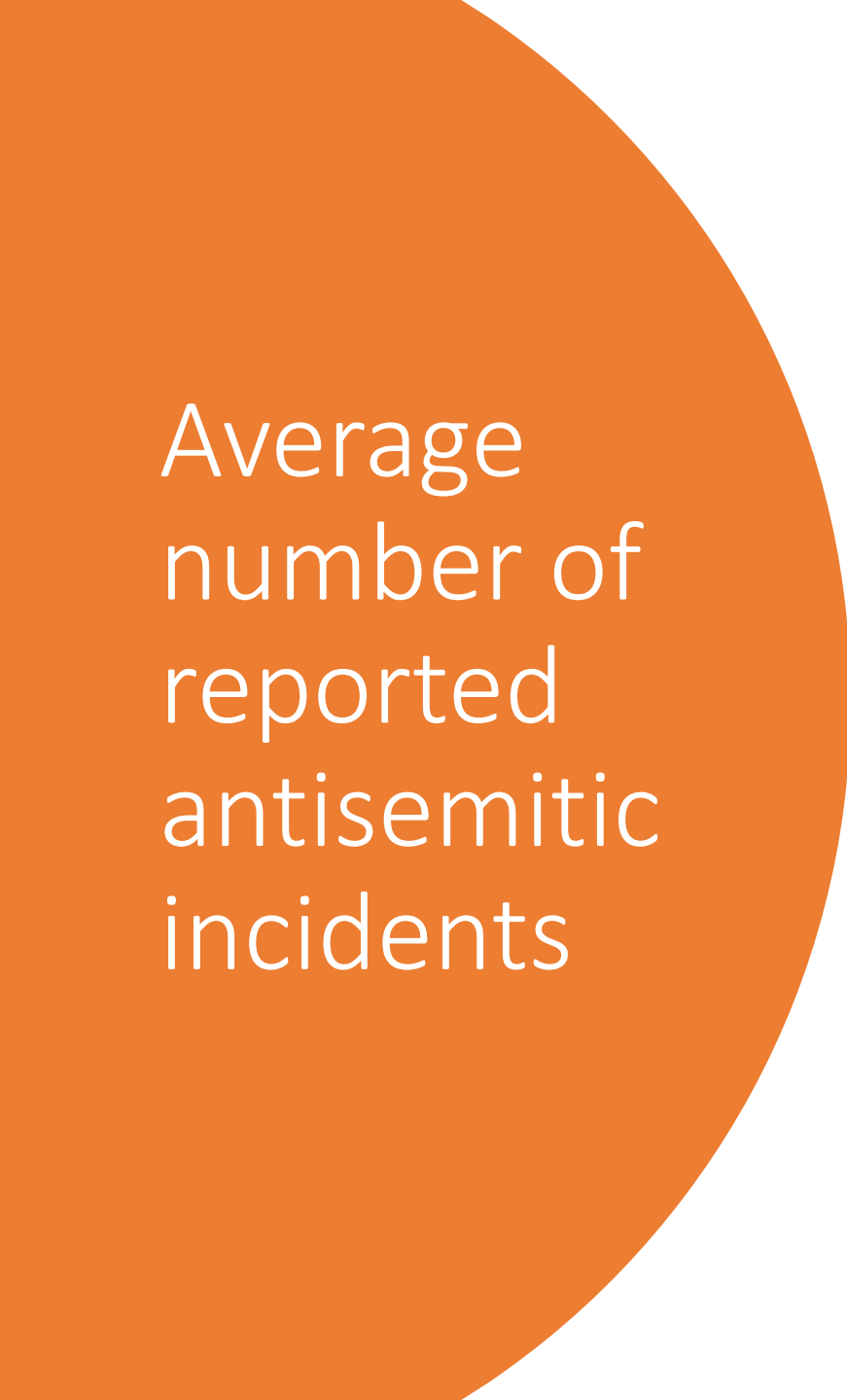
478 antisemitic incidents

1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022

41.9% increase in Australia over two years:

- 35% increase in year ending 30 Sept 2021
- a further 6.9% increase in year ending 30 Sept 2022





Average
number of
reported
antisemitic
incidents

Average number of antisemitic incidents
reported annually from 2013 to 2021:

298

Total number of reported incidents in 2022:

478



Tip of the iceberg

A study by Monash University in 2017 showed that “almost one in ten adult Jews (9%) indicated that they had witnessed or experienced verbal insults and harassment or worse over the previous 12 months. This would suggest that the actual number of antisemitic incidents in any one year could be up to 30 times the number reported.”

Julie Nathan, ECAJ Research Director

ECAJ Annual Report on Antisemitism in Australia, 2022, p.32

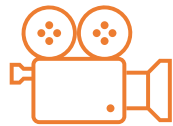


Sources of antisemitism

Right wing antisemitism tends to be overt (e.g., Nazi swastikas, Nazi salutes)

Left wing antisemitism tends to be coded (e.g., using older anti-Jewish ideas cloaked in anti-Zionist or anti-Israel rhetoric)

Other sources include religiously motivated antisemitism from extremists





Education about prejudice

“We need education not only about World War II and the Holocaust but also about contemporary antisemitism and the multiple forms that it takes, as well as anti-indigenous, anti-African, anti-Asian, anti-Muslim, anti-Hindu and anti-LGBTIQ+ animosity.

These are commonly-held prejudices in Australia and we can only begin to address them when students learn about the specifics of each of them and why they are false and harmful to all of us.”

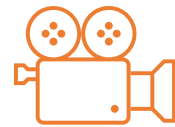
Julie Nathan, ECAJ Research Director

Further reading:

Julie Nathan, [“Study of Hate Incidents in Australia”](#) ECAJ, 2023.

Antisemitism: what can we do about it?

Wherever you are and whatever your interests and expertise (e.g., law, social media, education, religion, family life, environmental concerns), choose where you are most suited, and work from there. Seek allies, and do what you can, whenever you can.



Antisemitism: what can we do about it?

Review the curricula and policies of your school or organisation.

Talk to family, friends and colleagues to raise awareness about antisemitism.

Join a political party to promote anti-racism policies.

Engage in interfaith dialogue.

Monitor social media; campaign for accountability from platform providers.

Hold mainstream media to standards of honesty, accuracy and balanced reporting.

Campaign for law reform to outlaw vilification and advocacy of violence.

Work to ensure that schools and universities are places of robust learning and critical thinking, not of discrimination.

Where you witness antisemitism, call it out. Don't be a bystander. Remember: The standard you let pass is the standard you accept.

Countering antisemitism: We each have a part to play

We are not alone. We are not incapable.

There are many excellent role models in countering antisemitism.

There is plenty of scope to contribute to interreligious and intercultural inclusion, to call out harmful behaviour and to defend the dignity of any person who is bullied for their identity.

Do what you can, where you can. Do or say *something*. Don't be a bystander.

Be an up-stander.



Further reading

Julie Nathan, [“Anti-Jewish incidents in Australia continue to rise in 2022”](#)
in *The Times of Israel*, 30 May 2023.

Acknowledgements

- Interview by Catholic Religious Australia with Julie Nathan, Research Director at the Executive Council of Australian Jewry
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- Editors, Teresa Pirola and Sylvia MacRitchie-Hook, Catholic Religious Australia



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Enquiries: Catholic Religious Australia
ph: +61 2 9557 2695
email: secretariat@catholicreligious.org.au
www.catholicreligious.org.au



Executive Council of Australian Jewry