

Local Escalation and Help (LEAH) group communiqué

30 August 2025

Purpose

The purpose of this communiqué is to support LEAH community leaders to disseminate meeting discussion points and Victorian Government updates through their networks.

LEAH meeting overview – 28 August 2025

- LEAH comprises representatives from the Jewish community, state government and local councils, providing a direct line of communication on antisemitism. The group is chaired by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- The LEAH meeting on 28 August 2025 was attended by community representatives including the Jewish Community Council of Victoria, Community Security Group Victoria, Zionism Victoria and Rabbinical Council of Victoria.
- LEAH discussed the impact on Jewish communities following the recent update delivered by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in relation to credible intelligence that the Iranian Government has directed at least two antisemitic attacks in Australia, including the attack on the Adass Israel Synagogue on 6 December 2024.
- The meeting included a focus on antisemitism in creative industries. David Slucki, Associate Professor and Director, Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash University presented findings from the Monash Initiative for Rapid Research into Antisemitism report on Antisemitism in the Cultural and Creative Industries.

Key updates

Update	Details
Iranian-directed antisemitic attacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following an extensive investigation and assessment by Australian Security Intelligence Office (ASIO), it has been determined that the Iranian Government directed at least two attacks on Jewish interests in Australia since late 2024.• As a result of these assessments, the Commonwealth Government has expelled the Iranian Ambassador to Australia and suspended operations at the Australian Embassy in Tehran.• During its investigation, ASIO uncovered links between the alleged crimes and Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).• ASIO continues to investigate possible Iranian involvement in other attacks in Australia, however, does not believe the regime is responsible for every act of antisemitism since late 2024.• The Commonwealth Government will legislate so it can list the IRGC as a terrorist organisation.

Stronger anti-vilification laws will soon come into force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New anti-vilification laws passed in April 2025. The laws will better protect Victorians from vilification. • Criminal provisions are due to commence on 20 September 2025, and the civil protections will take effect from 30 June 2026. • A short fact sheet on the new forthcoming criminal offences will be circulated to stakeholders and community and made available via updates on relevant Victorian Government websites. • See www.premier.vic.gov.au/protecting-more-victorians-hate
Adass Israel synagogue arson attack – 6 December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from 21 August 2025: The Victorian Joint Counter Terrorism Team (JCTT) has charged a second man over the alleged Adass Israel Synagogue arson attack. • The man has been charged with criminal damage by fire, conduct endangering life and theft of a motor vehicle. • The investigation remains a priority for Victoria Police.
Israeli restaurant (Miznon) protest violence – 4 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from 16 July 2025: Victoria Police has charged several offenders with a range of offences including assault, affray, riotous behaviour and criminal damage. • Investigations are ongoing by Victoria Police.
East Melbourne synagogue arson attack – 4 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from 6 July 2025: Victoria Police's Counter Terrorism Security Investigation Unit arrested and charged a 34-year-old New South Wales man, Angelo Loras, with arson, property damage, and reckless conduct endangering life. • Investigations are ongoing by Victoria Police.
Graffiti at South Yarra synagogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from 25 August 2025: Melbourne Crime Investigation Unit detectives have charged a man following a spate of graffiti attacks on a South Yarra synagogue throughout this year. • See https://www.police.vic.gov.au/man-charged-spate-graffiti-south-yarra-synagogue
Lovitt Technologies Australia arson and graffiti – 5 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from 13 August 2025: Investigations are ongoing by Victoria Police.