



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

PROMINENT JEWISH BODY OPPOSES VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S DIVISIVE LEGISLATION

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The Australian Jewish Association (AJA) has strongly condemned the Victorian Government's proposed legislation, claiming the Bill is a divisive attempt to use the Jewish community for political gain.

The government announced last week that it has introduced legislation, the *Associations Incorporation Reform Amendment Bill 2026*, with the stated intention of shutting down the Red Union. The government has also included an unrelated provision to the Bill, which it claims will stop hate groups from incorporating.

There are grave community concerns that the omnibus Bill has been rushed into parliament by the Government without any genuine consultation with the Jewish community.

President of the Australian Jewish Association, Robert Gregory, said the Bill was a cynical political tactic designed to conflate two unrelated issues.

"The stated aim of this Bill is to shut down independent unions which aren't affiliated with the Labor Party, so it came as a surprise to us that the Government was invoking antisemitism to try and pass it."

"The hate groups component of this Bill seems to lump nurses and teachers in with terrorists and Neo-Nazis. This sort of rhetoric is deeply divisive within our community."

"Many Jewish frontline workers are represented by the Red Union, following an exodus from several Labor Party-aligned unions due to activism. It's reprehensible that the Government would use them as a wedge to shut down their political competition."

[In a recent media release](#), the Government claimed the Bill would tackle antisemitism, but there are currently no assurances the legislation will follow a proper committee process which would allow the Jewish community time to prepare detailed submissions.

"It's really important that our community is consulted on changes which directly affect us. Typically, there is a one to two month window for submissions, and the opportunity to contribute to public hearings. The pace this legislation has progressed at isn't conducive with good-faith engagement, and concerns us deeply."

"The AJA is calling for the Government to withdraw the Bill so it can go through a proper committee process and be evaluated by the Jewish community. If they refuse to take this practical action, then we urge all members of parliament to vote this bill down."

Edward Schuller is the National Secretary of the TPAA and a Spokesman for Red Union, who claims the Bill has sparked concern in the community and across the political aisle.

"There's growing opposition to this Bill, which will be debated in the Victorian Parliament early next week. Several key institutions, representative groups and political parties have pledged to campaign against it."

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