

To: Robert Goot (President, ECAJ)
Cc: Bob Stensholt (State MP for Burwood)
Rob Hulls (Attorney General)
Michael Danby (Federal MP for Melbourne Ports)
Scott Davis (Victoria Police Gay & Lesbian Advisory Unit)
John Searle (President, JCCV)

23 August 2009

Dear Mr Goot,

I bring to your attention a letter that I have written in regard to the matter of hate crimes in Victoria and specifically in relation to homophobic hate and intolerance within Victoria and by extension, the Australian Jewish community. Please refer to my letter below and also the attached documents.

I remind you of the ECAJ policy platform preamble and the ECAJ policy on [Social Cohesion](#) (attached). Primarily I draw to your attention point 24.1:

"The current policy platform of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry is outlined below. These are the beliefs and values of the Australian Jewish community, which we are confident, enhance general Australian values of democracy, the rule of law, the freedom, rights and responsibilities of the individual, understanding and respect, and a fair go for all."

24. Social Cohesion

The Council:

24.1 NOTES that it is the vision of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry to create and support a community where all Australians, including all Jewish Australians, feel valued, their differences are respected and their basic needs both physical and emotional are met, so that as citizens they are empowered in their participation and contribution

With this preamble and policy statement in mind I trust the ECAJ is wholly supportive of and prepared to act proactively toward any effort to redress the issue of homophobic intolerance and hatred within the Australian Jewish community.

Please discuss this with your fellow council members and let me know at your earliest convenience what actions the ECAJ plans to take to support this initiative. My email address is michael@aleph.org.au and mobile phone number is 0417 595 541.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Barnett.
Aleph Melbourne.