

From: **Michael Barnett** <michael@aleph.org.au>

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Subject: How much ABUSE and HATE are GLBT Jews in Australia going to have to endure?

To: Aleph Melbourne members <members@aleph.org.au>, Amnesty International Victoria LGBT group <viclgbt@amnesty.org.au>, Andie Noonan <andie.noonan@sstar.net.au>, Andrew Shaw <andrew.shaw@eevolution.com.au>, AusQueer <ausqueer@yahoogroups.com>, Australian GLBTIQ Multicultural Council <contact@agmc.org.au>, B'nai B'rith Antidefamation Commission <reception@antidef.org.au>, Barney Zwartz <bzwartz@theage.com.au>, Christian Taylor <christian.taylor@team.samesame.com.au>, Dalia Sable <dalia@jewishnews.net.au>, Dayenu <dayenu@yahoogroups.com>, Doug Pollard <Journobear@gmail.com>, "Dr. Paul Vout" <vout@vicbar.com.au>, Gary Burns <garry@bigpond.net.au>, Geoff Allshorn <gallshorn@hotmail.com>, Graeme Innes <graemeinnes@humanrights.gov.au>, Greg Adkins <greg_adkins@hotmail.com>, Harley Dennett <harley@dennett.id.au>, Ian Bersten <ianbersten@iinet.net.au>, Jamie Gardiner <jamie_gardiner@iosphere.net.au>, Jerusalem Open House <office@joh.org.il>, Marcia Pinskier <marcia@pinskier.com>, Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli <maria.pallotta-chiarolli@deakin.edu.au>, Michael Danby <michael.danby.mp@aph.gov.au>, Nan McGregor <nanettejohn@hotmail.com>, Naomi Levin <naomi@jewishnews.net.au>, OzQJews <ozqjews@yahoogroups.com>, Queer Melbourne News <qmelb@yahoogroups.com>, Rachel Cook <rachel.cook@eevolution.com.au>, Rod Swift <rod@squack.net>, Rodney Croome <rcroome@tassie.net.au>, Sally Goldner <laughagenda@gmail.com>, Scott Davis <scott.davis@police.vic.gov.au>, Sol Salbe <ssalbe@westnet.com.au>, The Sensible Jew <sensiblejew@gmail.com>, Transgender Victoria <enquiries@transgendervictoria.com>, VGLRL <info@vglrl.org.au>, Bob Stensholt <bob.stensholt@parliament.vic.gov.au>, John Searle <jsearle@vicbar.com.au>, Rob Hulls <rob.hulls@parliament.vic.gov.au>, Robert Goot <president@ecaj.org.au>, Vic Alhadeff <Vic.Alhadeff@nswjbd.com>, newsdesk@theage.com.au, newsdesk@smh.com.au, news.feedback@ninemsn.com.au, IGY <office@igy.co.il>, foreign@nytimes.com, feedback@jpost.com, dan@jpost.com, feedback@haaretz.co.il, english@haaretz.co.il

I have been making a noise for the last week or two about the escalating problem of homophobic hate and intolerance in sections of the Jewish community in Australia. I have written to all manner of people and had levels of response and reaction ranging from silence to total concern. The letters I have written and received in response are online at www.aleph.org.au. I know things are moving but as far as I am concerned this is just not fast enough.

Tonight I have read the blog "Michael Barnett, JCCV and AJN Watch" that was just posted on the AJN watch site (link below and attached). Read it and tell me we don't have a critically serious problem in the community. Tell me we don't have people inciting hatred and intolerance.

<http://ajnwatch.blogspot.com/2009/08/michael-barnett-jccv-and-ajn-watch.html>

I want fast action to address this sort of attitude. People need to start speaking up fast. This needs to get attention from the "leaders" in the community, politicians, law enforcement, main-stream media, human rights advocates and anyone else who might just give half a damn. We can't ignore this issue. It won't go away. Clearly I have hit a raw nerve with the blogger.

The Australian Jewish News is running a story this week. I would like to see something happen before the paper comes out on Thursday. At this rate something nasty is likely to happen. Who is going to be the next victim?

John Searle, President of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria, and Robert Goot, President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, I am asking you to release a statement showing that the peak bodies of Victorian and Australian Jewry are taking this seriously. This must be given maximum priority and this must happen immediately. John, you said you care. Now is the time to prove it.

I have been called a noisy Jewish homo by the AJN Watch blog. Yes, I am a noisy Jewish homo and I'm going to get noiser and noiser until I see something positive happen fast.

Michael Barnett.
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
(+61) 0417 595 541