

JCCV COMMITTED TO FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION 1 SEPTEMBER 2009



JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
OF VICTORIA INC
מועצת הקהילה היהודית בוויקטוריה
"דישטר קהילה-ראט פון וויקטאריע"

The Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) is pleased to see the Attorney General's recent announcement that the Sentencing Act will be amended to ensure harsher sentences are given to offenders who have been motivated to commit a crime by the victim's race, religion or sexual orientation.

JCCV president John Searle said that "since assuming the presidency the JCCV has been active regarding antisemitism, Hate Crimes and crimes against, or vilification of minority groups. I have been involved in discussions with representatives from many other organisations in Victoria including other Jewish and Victorian community groups, representatives of the Indian, Baha'i, Buddhist, Muslim, Gay and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) communities. We have one common objective: to bring an end to the mistreatment of minority groups".

Searle observed that whilst many people think of vilification in terms of religious or ethnic groups, there is no place for vilification or hatred based on a person's sexual orientation. Searle also noted, "My Executive has been particularly diligent in attempting to ensure representatives of all groups within the Jewish community are included in community /JCCV events. It is vital that all members of our community are made to feel welcome and that no sections are excluded".

He was concerned to hear that vilification of the GLBT community still exists and stated that "It is a difficult area as religious laws take a particular view of some behaviour. However it is nevertheless entirely unacceptable to display animosity or hatred or to vilify people because of their sexual orientation; I want our community to be able to accept and maintain cordial dialogue with all its members". "As Chairman of the Anti Defamation Commission I opposed vilification in all its forms and I will continue to do so" Searle added.

Searle concluded by saying, "My Executive, professional staff and I remain committed to ensuring channels of communication with members of our GLBT community remain open. We will continue to voice our concern with and disapproval of vilification of members of these groups, and other minority groups and will continue to ensure that members of the GLBT groups within our community are invited to and feel welcome at our events".

Please address any queries to John Searle at 03 9272 5566

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