



Executive Council  
of Australian Jewry Inc.

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**31 July 2015**

### **STABBING ATTACK IN JERUSALEM**

We are appalled and shocked by the knife attack at the Pride March in Jerusalem where six people were stabbed. We understand that two of them are in a critical condition. The Jewish community in Australia condemns the attack in the strongest possible terms, and we are pleased to see statements from Jewish community and religious leaders across the world expressing outrage at the attack.

A purportedly religious Jewish extremist has been arrested in connection with the attack. That person was released from prison three weeks ago, after serving a ten year sentence for a similar attack. We have confidence that the Israeli Justice system will deal with him appropriately.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims and their families. We wish all the injured a speedy recovery.

Israel is known for its welcoming acceptance of Jews of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, and for providing asylum to Palestinian gays who are in mortal danger from their own community. Israel is a beacon to other nations, not just in the Middle East, but throughout the world in its inclusion of the LGBTI community and its embracing of diversity.

This incident hits at the heart of the freedoms and social inclusion that we promote and welcome in the Jewish community in Australia and in Israel. We must all condemn this attack and increase our focus on promoting inclusion, tolerance and acceptance of every member of our community.

**Robert Goot AM SC  
President**

**Peter Wertheim AM  
Executive Director**

**Contact:**

**Peter Wertheim AM  
Executive Director**

**ph: 02 8353 8500 | m: 0408 160 904  
e: pwertheim@ecaj.org.au | www.ecaj.org.au**

