

## **To the ALEPH Melbourne Community,**

In times of political and social upheaval—whether in the Middle East or closer to home—the burden so often falls heaviest on those who already navigate life with the strength and courage to be true to themselves.

I want to acknowledge the pain and trauma many in the Jewish community are experiencing right now, not only due to the devastating events in Israel and Gaza, but also from the divisive rhetoric and behaviours that have emerged here in Australia.

To my friends at ALEPH Melbourne: I see you. I honour your resilience. And I thank you for the quiet, powerful leadership you bring—not just in advocating for LGBTQI+ inclusion in the Jewish community, but in modelling what it means to lead with love, dignity, and care.

Throughout my time as your representative, I have been proud to stand beside you. Your voices, your values, and your stories have helped shape my work in Parliament, and I remain committed to building a more inclusive, respectful, and humane politics that reflects your lived experience.

I am aware that as broader social boundaries become frayed and culture wars increasingly emerge, discrimination is being enabled. As Jewish LGBTQIA+ citizens I acknowledge your heightened vulnerability.

I want you to know that you are supported. You are valued. And you are deeply appreciated by me, and by so many across our diverse Goldstein community who reject hate, division, and extremism in all its forms.

Together, let's keep working for a country—and a world—that truly reflects the best of who we are: open, fair, and kind.

With enduring support and warmest regards,

**Zoe Daniel MP**

Independent Member for Goldstein