



SENATOR THE HON  
**SARAH HENDERSON**  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION  
SENATOR FOR VICTORIA

The Hon Jason Clare MP  
Minister for Education  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
*via email*

Dear Minister

**Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah**

I write to raise concerns about the conduct of Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah, a post-doctoral research fellow at Macquarie University, who was awarded an Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellowship grant for \$837,174 in September 2022.

Dr Abdel-Fattah's research project, *Arab/Muslim Australian Social Movements since the 1970s: a hidden history*, concerns the "previously untapped oral histories and rare archival collections of Arab/Muslim Australian activists working in anti-racism, anti-war and feminist social movements from the 1970s to date." The grant commenced on 1 January 2023 and is due to end on 31 December 2027.

On 8 October 2023, Dr Abdel-Fattah published an image on Facebook of a man parachuting, with the parachute in the colours of the Palestinian flag; reminiscent of the motorised paragliders used by Hamas terrorists to breach the border and murder hundreds of innocent Israeli civilians.

On 8 February 2024, Dr Abdel-Fattah was implicated in promoting the online doxing scandal against Jewish Australians. She has also made numerous concerning statements on social media. For instance, on 12 February 2023 she stated:

*"To be crystal clear – Israel can't be rehabilitated or saved. This isn't a rehab project for a state built on theft and ethnic cleansing, sustained on genocide. This is a liberation movement to end a brutal settler colonial apartheid regime that inflicts this misery and enjoys it."*

On 26 April 2024, Dr Abdel-Fattah co-hosted a "Kids excursion to Sydney University". As depicted in videos published on social media, she can be seen leading very young children to chant "intifada" and other anti-Israel and anti-Jewish slogans. This indoctrination of children not only fuels anti-Jewish hatred but puts the well-being of these children at risk.

Australian taxpayers should not be funding such activism and hate speech under the guise of so-called research. Accordingly, I ask that you intervene and immediately withdraw Dr Abdel-Fattah's ARC grant. I also request you investigate whether any grant funding should be recovered as a result of non-compliance with grant conditions.

More broadly, I place on record my serious concerns about your failure to act against the alarming rise in antisemitism at the University of Sydney and University of Melbourne which is causing profound harm to Jewish students and staff, and risks irreparably damaging the reputations of both universities.

Yours sincerely

**Sarah Henderson**  
29 April 2024