

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights
Question on Notice
5 February 2025

Professor S Bruce Dowton
Vice-Chancellor and President
Macquarie University

CHAIR: If you're able to provide the date of the meeting that that request was made and the date on which that space was provided by the university, that would be very helpful. Is that okay?

Prof. Dowton: Okay.

ANSWER:

At a meeting on 29 August 2024, the NSW President of the AUJS requested a safe space for Jewish students on Macquarie University campus. On 4 September 2024 the University confirmed it would identify a suitable location. [Noting this space is separate to another space on campus already provided to Jewish students for the preparation of kosher food].

On 21 October 2024, the University identified a site on campus suitable to be used as a safe space for Jewish students. Classes for Session 2 2024 ended on 3 November 2024. On 7 November 2024 the NSW President of the AUJS confirmed the site was acceptable and refurbishment was undertaken by the University.

Swipe access mechanisms were then installed onsite in January following the delivery of ordered security equipment. The site has been available to students since 28 January 2025 (Session 1 2025 commences on 24 February).