



Australasian Union of Jewish Students

Question on Notice - December 2024

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights

Inquiry into Antisemitism at Australian universities

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## Senator Darmanin

Question: How do you feel about the introduction of the National Student Ombudsman, including your thoughts on how it can play a role in improving how universities handle antisemitism complaints?

Answer:

AUJS welcomes the introduction of the National Student Ombudsman (NSO) and its expanded remit to handle complaints about students being subjected to discrimination and racism on campus, including antisemitism. We see the NSO as filling a gap, providing an independent avenue for students who have lost trust in the university to handle their complaints adequately.

The NSO is an important tool for bringing accountability and oversight to universities that fail to uphold their duty of care for students. However, while the NSO's role is essential, it must not negate universities critically reviewing and improving their internal complaints processes. The deficiencies in these processes have significantly eroded the confidence of Jewish students and others seeking a fair resolution to their grievances. Addressing these shortcomings is essential for rebuilding trust and fostering inclusive campus environments for all students.

We look forward to the opportunity to engage with the NSO as they establish themselves and work with them to tackle key issues for Jewish students.