Commission of Inquiry into Antisemitism at Australian Universities Bill 2024 (No. 2) Submission 18

TO Committee Secretary

I am 77yo and write to promote the need for the government to set up a Judicial Enquiry with Royal Commission powers is an urgent necessity.

I am a little past university age but I remember very clearly as a secondary student in the late 1950's and early 1960's facing horrible anti-semitism in the form of being hit on the head from behind and being taunted from a distance great enough that I could never run the guys down. I only relate this because it was first hand real experience, not hearsay. Whilst being hit on the head was unpleasant, what was much worse was the verbal taunting from fellow students. It highlighted my religion and the fact that I was supposedly "different". At this time these boys would likely have had no knowledge of what they were doing or why but simply repeating some influence from home.

At university one would expect more understanding of the facts and, as importantly, some tolerance to hear another view. I presently have a daughter, mature age at Sydney University and a grandson at UTS. I understand that UTS makes sure that anti-semitic signs are removed almost as soon as they are put up and any sign of harassing students is immediately stamped on. Sydney University however is a different story: It seems that the Vice Chancellor is almost in support of the "demonstrators" and allows almost any bigoted contents to be displayed, allows students to intimidate other students and to occupy buildings and public areas at their will. It is simply not fair that my 50yo daughter should be scared of intimidation every time she enters campus.

I ask you to bring the above information to the committee's attention as it considers the powers that a Commission of Inquiry might be invested with.

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