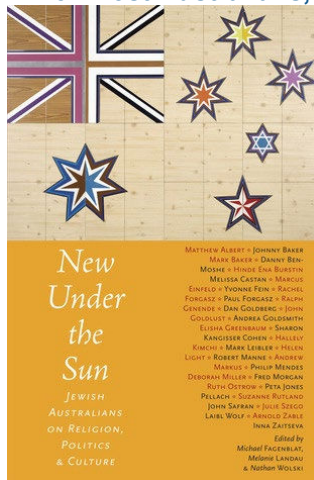


## Briefing for ahead of Shlichut to Australia

### 1. For most Australians, their Jewish identity rests on three pillars – Israel, Torah, Holocaust



### 3. The First Jews Were Convicts in 1788 – Esther Abrahams

#### 4. The Community Grew in the 20th Century

A small wave of refugees from the pogroms in Russia and Poland began to arrive in Australia in the 1890s, followed by a second, larger wave following World War I. In the 1930s, several thousand German and Austrian Jews fled to Australia to escape the rise of Nazism, and a further 2000 European refugees were deported from Britain on the infamous Dunera.

In the post-war years, Australia's Jewish community saw its largest influx—Holocaust survivors from Poland, Hungary, and other European countries, ballooning in size from 23,000 in 1938 to 60,000 in 1961. Australia has the highest *per capita* rate of Holocaust survivors outside of Israel.

The late '80s and '90s saw an influx of Jews from the former Soviet Union, and consistent immigration from South Africa.

#### 5. There Are Approximately 100,000 Jews in Australia Today

The current Jewish population of Australia is estimated to be between 90,000 and 120,000, comprising roughly 0.5% of the country's total population.

Early Jewish settlers lived in rural areas, but by the early 1900s concerns about assimilation drove them to concentrate in urban areas, primarily Melbourne and Sydney.

One well-known settlement was in remote Shepparton, where Reb Moshe Zalman Feiglin, a staunch chassid of the fifth and sixth Rebbes of Chabad, set up a self-sufficient Jewish agricultural community and an ad-hoc yeshivah. He arrived in Australia in 1912, and was later joined by his wife and children, as well as five additional [Chabad](#) families. Despite the remote location and lack of infrastructure, he and his family remained committed to living Torah-centric lives.

#### 6. The Rebbe Sent Chabad Emissaries in the 1950s

Following World War II, the sixth Rebbe sent several emissaries to bolster Judaism in Australia. Lacking language and resources, they more than compensated with love, joy and inspiration.

Their work was boosted when Rabbi Yitzchok Dovid and Rebbetzin Devorah Groner moved to Australia in 1958 at the Rebbe's behest. What was initially intended to be a three-year stint turned into a lifelong mission, as they threw themselves into building and cultivating the Australian Jewish community.

#### 7. The Majority of Jewish Kids Attend Jewish Schools

57% attend private Jewish day schools in Australia. In the US, the number is either 3% (Steinhardt) or 20% (Professor Steven Cohen)

Perth:

Carmel School: [www.carmel.wa.edu.au](http://www.carmel.wa.edu.au)

### Gold Coast:

King Solomon College: [www.education.net.au/education/king-solomon-college/4069](http://www.education.net.au/education/king-solomon-college/4069)  
Brisbane: Sinai College: [www.sinaicollege.qld.edu.au](http://www.sinaicollege.qld.edu.au)

### Melbourne:

The King David School (Progressive): [www.kds.vic.edu.au](http://www.kds.vic.edu.au)  
Yeshiva - Beth Rivka Colleges (Chabad): [www.ybr.vic.edu.au](http://www.ybr.vic.edu.au)  
Adass Israel School (Ultra Orthodox Hasidic)  
Yesodey Hatorah (Ultra-Orthodox Lithuanian)  
Sholem Aleichem College (Bundist): [www.sholem.vic.edu.au](http://www.sholem.vic.edu.au)  
Leibler Yavneh College (Dati): [www.yavneh.vic.edu.au](http://www.yavneh.vic.edu.au)  
Bialik College (Secular): [www.bialik.vic.edu.au](http://www.bialik.vic.edu.au)  
Mount Scopus Memorial College (Modern-Orthodox): [www.scopus.vic.edu.au](http://www.scopus.vic.edu.au)

### Sydney:

Kesser Torah: [www.kessertorah.nsw.edu.au](http://www.kessertorah.nsw.edu.au)  
Masada College: [www.masada.nsw.edu.au](http://www.masada.nsw.edu.au)  
Moriah College: [www.moriah.nsw.edu.au](http://www.moriah.nsw.edu.au)  
Mount Sinai College: [www.mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mountsinai.nsw.edu.au)  
Emanuel School: [www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](http://www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

## **8. Australian Jewish News sites:**

[www.plus61j.net.au](http://www.plus61j.net.au) (Centre-Left)  
<https://www.australianjewishnews.com/> (Centre-Right)  
<https://www.jwire.com.au/> (Right)  
<https://skifbund.bigcartel.com/product/past-editions-link> (Bundist/Left)

## **9. Main political issues of concern to Australian Jews after Israel and cost of living**

- A. Climate Change
- B. Indigenous Voice to Parliament based on the Uluru Declaration
- C. Gender Equality

## **10. Australian Political parties from left to right**



## **11. Main challenges facing the Australian Jewish Community**

Costs of Jewish Education and cost of living in Jewish neighbourhoods.

Intermarriage

Antisemitism and Antizionism

Shifting attitudes towards Israel under the current government that may be reflected in the politics of the ruling labour Party under Prime Minister Anthony Albanese

## **12. Main opportunities**

Up until now, Israel is generally a bi-partisan issue in Australian politics between Labor and Liberal Community is very close knit, living primarily in the two neighbourhoods of Caulfield and StKilda in Melbourne, and mostly on the East in Sydney

Strong connection to Holocaust and Israel. Schools are very Zionist.

Lots of Jewish cultural events from Yishai Ribbo to Naftali Bennet in February 2023 alone.

Community is quite wealthy and there are low rates of antisemitism as Australia is mostly a very tolerant country.

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