



## Plenum Package –Thursday 26 September 2024

### Notice of plenum

<b>Date</b>	Thursday 26 September 2024
<b>Time</b>	7.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	In person only
Registration: <a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>	



## NSW JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES SEPTEMBER PLENUM

Jillian Segal AO - Australia's inaugural Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism, will share her observations after her first few weeks in her new role and what she hopes to achieve going forward.

-  7:30pm
-  Thursday, September 26
-  Venue advised prior to the event

**To register visit:**  
[www.nswjbd.org.au/plenum](http://www.nswjbd.org.au/plenum)

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## PLENUM AGENDA FOR THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

Agenda Item		
1	Acknowledgement of Country and Deputy Prayer	Phillip Joel
2	Presentation by Australia's inaugural Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism	Jillian Segal AO
3	Confirmation of June 2024 Plenum Minutes	David Ossip
4	Matters arising	David Ossip
5	Adoption of Resolution	David Ossip
6	President's Report	David Ossip
7	CEO Report	Michele Goldman (no written report)
8	Committee Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoah Remembrance</li> <li>• Public Affairs</li> <li>• Community Relations</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Social Justice</li> </ul>	Dane Stern Liam O'Callaghan (no written report) Julia Sussman Ben Ezzes Joshua Kirsh
9	ECAJ Report	Peter Wertheim AM
10	Questions and general business	

## AGENDA ITEM 3



### NSW JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES LIMITED Minutes of meeting June 2024 – Plenum

<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
<b>Time</b>	Meeting opened at 7.30pm and ended at 9pm
<b>Place</b>	Sydney Jewish Museum

Agenda Item	
<b>1</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Country and Deputies Prayer</b>
	<b>George Foster OAM</b> recited the Acknowledgement of Country and Deputies Prayer.
<b>2</b>	<b>In conversation: David Ossip and Michele Goldman</b>
	<b>President of the NSWJBD David Ossip and CEO of the NSWJBD Michele Goldman had a discussion with each other to introduce Michele to community in her new position.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Confirmation of March 2024 Plenum Minutes</b>
	The March 2024 Plenum minutes were adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. <b>Moved by: Ben Ezzes</b> <b>Seconded by: Melissa McCurdie</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No matters arising</li></ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>Presidents Report</b>
<b>Israel At War</b>	<b>President of the NSWJBD David Ossip made the following key remarks.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There have been some serious incidents of antisemitism within the universities. Macquarie University and UNSW have addressed a lot of the issues that Jewish students and staff were being confronted with at the beginning of the semester. Unfortunately, there are immense challenges with Sydney University, especially with the encampment which has been infiltrated by Hizb ut-Tahrir who are an Islamic organisation. Resolving this situation quickly and effectively is at the top of NSWJBD priorities list.</li><li>• Engagement with political leaders, the bureaucracy and other key external stakeholders continues.</li><li>• There is a group of survivors of October 7 who are currently in Australia along with Stephen Smith who is the former executive director of the Shoah Foundation. They are here as part of UIA’s Geshet program and have kindly offered their services this week to NSWJBD. They have visited media organisations including Ray Hadley who interviewed Remo a heroic Muslim Israeli police officer who took 30 trips to rescue over 200 individuals at the Nova Music Festival. There is also an Ethiopian Israeli who was a party goer at the Nova Festival who only survived by playing dead. The narratives of these survivors help defy what our opponents try to propagate about Israel and Israelis. The hope is that these interviews will show that Israel is diverse with 20% of its population being Israeli Arabs and it is not a colonial settler enterprise comprised of white Europeans who have found refuge in a land to which they have no connection.</li></ul>

<p><b>Yom Ha'Atzmaut</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Yom Ha'Atzmaut cocktail function a few weeks ago hosted almost 500 people. At least 60% of these attendees were from outside of community.</li> <li>• In attendance were the Premier, the Opposition Leader and the Israeli Ambassador who all spoke.</li> <li>• <b>David Ossip</b> thanked the NSWJBD staff, directors and sponsors involved in making it a huge success.</li> <li>• The event showed that we have a lot more allies and friends than previously thought and that there is great support at senior levels of political and civil society.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Review into s93z of the Crimes Act</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NSWJBD is currently engaging with former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of NSW, Tom Bathurst, in relation to section 93z of the Crimes Act.</li> <li>• NSWJBD lobbied the government at the end of last year and in the last parliamentary sitting in November the legislation was amended by removing the requirement for police to obtain the consent of the Director of Public Prosecution before prosecuting a matter.</li> <li>• Unfortunately, the legal advice that the police received was that the legislation was not stringent enough, so the Premier appointed The Honourable Tom Bathurst and the Law Reform Commission to conduct an expeditious review to find out how this could be made more workable and more enforceable against hate speech.</li> <li>• The NSWJBD made a lengthy submission to The Honourable Tom Bathurst at the beginning of May, for which <b>David Ossip</b> thanked <b>Natalie Rubinstein</b> and everyone involved in curating this submission.</li> <li>• The Honourable Tom Bathurst has now issued an options paper which contains options on how the legislation can be amended, about which the NSWJBD intends to make a further submission.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Jewish community engagement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSWJBD continues to engage with constituent organisations and assisting on how to deal with politically sensitive and intricate matters.</li> <li>• <b>David Ossip</b> recently spent a time in the Byron Shire where there are about 2000 community individuals within the Northern Rivers. Approximately 60% of these are Israeli ex-pats. October 7 fundamentally transformed and reshaped the community who now want to engage with each other more. They have formed a new association called the Northern Rivers Jewish Association which David hopes will become a constituent organisation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Political engagement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSWJBD is planning to restart the Jeremy Spinak program in the second half of 2024.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recruitment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSWJBD is currently looking for a new Head of Public Affairs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>President's Report: Questions / Comments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kati Haworth</b> mentioned a small group of Jewish people living in the Southern Highlands. <b>David Ossip</b> asked for an introduction to them.</li> <li>• <b>Kati Haworth</b> asked if NSWJBD managed to get anyone from ABC or SBS to meet the delegation from Israel to interview them. <b>David Ossip</b> replied that they are trying to do this.</li> <li>• <b>Kevin Garber</b> asked if NSWJBD had been in touch with Kim Williams. <b>David Ossip</b> replied that he is meeting with Kim Williams in the upcoming week and David is fully aware of the challenges that both Kim and David Anderson as Managing Director of the ABC face. At this meeting it will be made very clear that as a community, we cannot accept flagrant breaches of the ABC charter.</li> <li>• <b>Peter Binetter</b> enquired about the advice that was given to the police, whether it would have been equivalent or equivalently applied if the group were not Jews and if so, would these different groups push for change as well. <b>David Ossip</b> said that he couldn't answer that. David noted that there have been other incidents of vilification of other groups since the legislation came into effect and there has only been one successful prosecution in that time. At a state level, there is a definite political will to see the legislation used to its full effect. When it comes to the police, except for the October 9 incident at the SOH, the police have been extremely good to deal with, particularly at senior levels and there is a genuine understanding and concern about the community's welfare. <b>Peter</b> asked if there was a risk of prejudice embedded within the DPP which David answered that the former Chief of Justice Tom Bathurst will be delivering a report as to what he thinks the meaning of the section is and</li> </ul>

	<p>whether change needs to be made. All the individuals who may have committed crimes may still be prosecuted if legislation is presented as fit for purpose and if legislation is proven to be sufficient as currently drafted, the DPP will very quickly fall into line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Toby Hammerman</b> asked about the enemies within the community, in particular the Jewish Council of Australia. <b>David Ossip</b> replied that when dealing with external stakeholders, it should be made very clear that this organisation accounts for less than 1% of the community and is not representative of it and that the community has never been more united.</li> <li>• <b>Roger Selby</b> asked about the Australian Human Rights Commission. <b>David Ossip</b> replied that NSWJBD and ECAJ had made representations. They appear to be an organisation that speaks up about the rights and liberties of every other minority group however draws the line when it related to the Jewish community. The Federal Government is considering appointing the Human Rights Commission to undertake a review into all aspects of race hatred on university campuses.</li> <li>• On behalf of Mandelbaum House, <b>Bettina Cass</b> thanked the NSWJBD for their representation to and support regarding the Vice Chancellor and senior administration at the University of Sydney. Mandelbaum House is at the epicenter of the events on campus which is troubling to the students. Mandelbaum supports AUJS and the Academic Alliance against antisemitism. <b>David Ossip</b> replied that NSWJBD is also here to support Mandelbaum House and they should feel free to reach out at any time as no Jewish students living on campus should feel uncomfortable and unsafe. As a community this cannot be tolerated.</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>CEO's Report</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report taken as read</li> </ul>
	<p><b>RESOLVED that the President's report &amp; CEO's report be adopted.</b>  <b>Moved: Richard Glass</b> <b>Seconded: Joshua Kirsh</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Committee Reports</b>
<b>Shoah Remembrance</b>	<p><b>Dane Stern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dane gave a brief update and outline of the Shoah Remembrance Committee</li> <li>• Report taken as read. No questions asked.</li> </ul>
<b>Social Justice</b>	<p><b>Joshua Kirsh</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joshua gave a brief update and outline on the Social Justice Committee</li> <li>• Report taken as read. No questions asked.</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<p><b>Ben Ezzes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ben gave a brief update and outline on the Education Committee</li> <li>• Report taken as read. No questions asked.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Relations</b>	<p><b>Julia Sussman</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julia gave a brief update and outline on the Community Relations Committee</li> <li>• Report taken as read. No questions asked.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Affairs</b>	<p><b>Liam O'Callaghan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report taken as read. No questions asked.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>RESOLVED that the Committee reports be adopted.</b>  <b>Moved: Jeremy Levy</b> <b>Seconded: Roger Selby</b></p>
<b>10</b>	<b>Question Time and General Business</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kati Haworth</b> asked about the ECAJ reports as they have been missing in the past several months. <b>David Ossip</b> will bring this to the attention of the ECAJ for future Plenums.</li> </ul>

<b>Plenum adjourned</b>	<b>9.00pm</b>
<b>NSWJBD Honorary Secretary</b>	<b>Melissa McCurdie</b>
<b>Minute taker</b>	<b>Casandra Tennant-Pascoe</b>

## **AGENDA ITEM 5 ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION**

The Directors of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies having resolved unanimously on 6 September 2024 that:

Lesli Hillel Berger, Immediate Past President of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, (NSW JBD), having complied with the Membership Criteria as set out in Schedule 1 Section 2 of the Constitution of the NSW JBD that:

*2. Membership criteria*

*To be eligible as an Honorary Life Deputy, a person must:*

- (a) have been a Director for a minimum of 5 years;*
- (b) not otherwise be disqualified from serving as a Director under any relevant law;*
- (c) be a Jewish permanent resident of New South Wales;*
- (d) agree in writing to be bound by this Constitution; and*
- (e) consent in writing to become an Honorary Life Deputy.*

be appointed an Honorary Life Member of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and in compliance with Schedule 1 S 3(a) of the said Constitution, the Board of Directors unanimously recommends to the Plenum that Lesli Hillel Berger be so appointed.

Accordingly, the Directors of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies recommend to the Plenum that Leslie Hillel Berger be so appointed an Honorary Life Deputy.

Proposed: David Ossip

Seconded: Liam O'Callaghan

## AGENDA ITEM 6 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Status update

Item	Comments
<b>1. Expansion of mandatory Holocaust education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NSW Government has announced a significant expansion of mandatory Holocaust education in NSW schools.</li> <li>• The revised curriculum more than doubles the content of mandatory Holocaust education in the curriculum and, for the first time, prescribes specific learning outcomes which include learning about the Holocaust through survivor testimony and the impact and legacies of the Holocaust.</li> <li>• Notably, the new syllabus even includes an examination of the varied implementation of Nazi policy in different parts of the world and makes specific reference to the survivors of the Farhud in 1941 as a source of testimony within the syllabus, ensuring that Sephardi/Mizrahi narratives are also included in the broader story of Jewish survival.</li> <li>• We are absolutely delighted that the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and the NSW Government adopted all of our recommendations.</li> <li>• I thank the JBD's Education Committee, the Sydney Jewish Museum and a range of Jewish academics who assisted us in making our representations to NESA.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Israel at War</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I will provide an update on the JBD's continued response to the war and its local ramifications, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional war.</li> <li>- Senate inquiry into a judicial inquiry into antisemitism on Australian campuses.</li> <li>- Councils.</li> <li>- Political, bureaucratic and media engagement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>3. Staff updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rheuben Frelander commences employment as the JBD's Head of Public Affairs on 23 September.</li> <li>• Recruitment for the Head of Community role is underway.</li> <li>• Two other roles have also been filled in the office - Lais Fulgencio Martins is our new Digital Media Coordinator and Emma Tick-Raker has joined as our Community Engagement Intern.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Review into s93z of the Crimes Act</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are still awaiting the findings of the NSW Law Reform Commission.</li> </ul>
<b>5. October 7 commemoration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A major communal commemorative event is being jointly hosted by the JBD and the Zionist Council of NSW on Monday October 7. I encourage all Deputies to attend.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The JBD is also partnering with Shir for a concert on Sunday October 6 at an iconic Sydney venue. Tickets are currently on sale.</li></ul>
<b>6. 2024 Israel missions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regrettably, both our Journalists and Young Leaders Missions have now been postponed as well due to the continued volatility</li></ul>

**David Ossip**  
**President**



**AGENDA ITEM 7  
CEO REPORT**

No written report – Michele will give a verbal update at the Plenum

**Michelle Goldman  
CEO**

## **AGENDA ITEM 8.1**

### **SHOAH REMEMBRANCE REPORT**

#### **Kristallnacht commemoration**

This year's Kristallnacht commemoration will be held on the evening of Sunday 10 November at Moriah College. The keynote speaker will be **Michael Gawenda**.

Gawenda is a former editor of The Age. His book, "My Life as a Jew", recently won the Award for Jewish Non-Fiction at the inaugural Australian Jewish Book Awards. We have received excellent feedback on his talks at the Sydney Jewish Writers Festival. He has been critical of media bias as well as the left's response to Israel and the Jewish community, both before and after October 7.

There will also be a segment honouring the late **Olga Horak**. Other segments are being finalised.

#### **Recent events**

Since the last plenum, we have partnered on two events:

- Commemoration of 80 years since the deportation of Jews from Rhodes, with Sydney Jewish Museum, Youth HEAR and Greek Consulate in Sydney. Vic Alhadeff gave the keynote address.
- Raoul Wallenberg commemoration in Woollahra, partnering with the Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors & Descendants and the Sydney Jewish Museum. George Farkas, whose father John assisted Wallenberg, gave the keynote address.

#### **The Mirror concert**

On Tuesday 3 December, we will be partnering with "The Mirror" concert. This will be at the Great Synagogue, alongside the Australian War Memorial. The war memorial's artist-in-residence has curated a program of music composed by Holocaust survivors, victims and escapees.

#### **Holocaust survivors' reunion**

To mark 80 years since liberation, planning is underway for large reunions of Holocaust survivors, in both Sydney and Melbourne, on 4 June 2025 (Holocaust Survivor Day). I am representing the Jewish Board of Deputies on the organising committee co-chaired by child survivor Eddy Boas and Association president Dr. George Foster. This event may require partnerships or external funding.

#### **Committee membership**

Congratulations to Deputies Margaret Foster, Ernie Friedlander OAM, Rosalie Hirsch, Danny Hochberg and Rachel Tanny for their election to the committee. Others will be co-opted.

**Dane Stern**  
**Chair**

**AGENDA ITEM 8.2  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

No written report.

**Liam O'Callaghan  
Chair**

## **AGENDA ITEM 8.3**

### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

#### **Staffing**

We are progressing with recruitment for the Head of Community role. We have identified strong candidates and hope to make a formal offer in the coming weeks.

#### **Abraham Conference**

This year's conference will feature 30 faith leaders and community representatives engaging in moderated Listening Circles. I will be attending to represent NSW JBD.

#### **Jeremy Spinak Young Leaders Program**

The Program Outline approved by the Directors earlier this year has been handed over to Michele. Given the current context and the increased engagement from young adults in community initiatives and leadership development opportunities, this program is a priority for NSWJBD. Once the Head of Community staff role has been appointed, we will be able to assess the feasibility of running a 2024 program or plan for an early 2025 program.

#### **Metropolitan Memorial Parks Community Engagement Committee**

Pnina Hagege has been appointed as a member of the MMP Community Engagement Committee to represent the NSW Jewish community. Thank you to Pnina for volunteering to represent our community in this important forum.

#### **Events attended since last report**

- Assyria Day event
- Council of Christians and Jews June committee meeting and event
- Baho Exhibition Opening Night (Rwandan Genocide Commemoration)
- Commemoration of the Assyrian Martyrs and Genocide

#### **Upcoming events**

- Abraham Conference
- Stand Up Breaking Bread Community Dinner

**Julia Sussman**  
**Chair**

## AGENDA ITEM 8.4 EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>Education Manager</b> Suzanne Green	<b>Chair</b> Benjamin Ezzes	<b>Deputy Chair</b> Nathan Compton
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**Members:** Rosalie Hirsch, Eitan Harris, Jemma Lopis, Yonatan Barukh, Nathan Compton, Shoshana Gottlieb, Zohar Abraham

<b>Jewish Educators Network</b>	<p>The committee continues to engage educators in the community to build connections and establish a thriving professional network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <u>Goals</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Committee is pursuing a <b>Youth Advisory Committee</b>. Any deputies who have input or experience are welcome to provide it to the Chair.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <u>Jewish Educators of Tomorrow (JET)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The working group continues to be an effective group of stakeholders.</li> <li>○ On August 15<sup>th</sup> there was a JET Launch where future teachers were paired with mentors and other donors/Michelle had dinner. Great success. Legal documentation is being finalised at the moment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <u>Supporting Jewish Educator Network</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presented on work of JBD and JCA at ZFA Educators Conference.</li> <li>○ Consulted with Rs Elton and Mordechai on session promoting religious understanding between different schools.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <u>IJS Website</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Errors were found in online JBD material. Committee review ongoing. Emma Tick-Raker is likewise examining the website.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>School Incident Policy and Recording (incl. antisemitism)</b>	<p>The committee looks to improve the consistency of recording, reporting and handling of NSW school-based incidents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Online Best Practice Guide.</b> Produced and updated. Detailed ARCO training took place and this body of volunteers is now active. So far, two consultations.</li> <li>2) <b>We are continuing dialogue with the Department on antisemitism PL.</b> Meeting next week.</li> <li>3) <b>Suzanne continues to lead the Board’s Respect, Understanding, Acceptance (RUA) Schools Harmony Program for 2024.</b> Suzanne has now sent the expression of interest to partner schools. We have had one back.</li> </ol>
<b>Curriculum Review and Educational Landscape</b>	<p>The committee proactively monitors the current NSW curriculum review and broader education sector landscape, including submission dates, policy and media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <u>The new syllabi</u> are available via NESA <a href="#">website</a>. We consulted with the Dept on prescriptions for the new English syllabus, with only one text requiring further look.</li> <li>❖ <u>CJES:</u> Audit successful.</li> </ul>

<b>Yallah Subcommittee</b>	<p>The advocacy for greater inclusion of Sephardi/Mizrahi voices in educational and communal settings is a key area of activity for the Committee. Key initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <u>Yallah</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Emma has been an excellent listener and proactive meetings with stakeholders have been positive.</li><li>○ Nov 30 Committee initial meeting was productive. Date secure, options considered. Janine was an excellent chair.</li></ul></li><li>❖ <u>Article</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Consulted positively with SJM re: article on Sephardi/Mizrahi othering</li></ul></li></ul>
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**Benjamin Ezzes  
Chair**

## AGENDA ITEM 8.5

Chair: Joshua Kirsh

Members: Liam O'Callaghan, Pnina Hagege, Sandra Hochberg, Sarita Gold, Lynda Ben-Menashe, Rachel Palmer

<b>LGBTQI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preparing proposals for mentorship program and potential Pride mission</li></ul>
<b>First Nations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partnering with Rona Tranby Trust and Sydney Jewish Museum to launch Hand in Hand portal in December</li><li>• Reconciliation Action Plan</li></ul>
<b>Women</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working with NCJWA on programming</li></ul>
<b>Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working with Jewish Climate Network in NSW to develop strategy and work in this area</li><li>• War on Waste campaign in development</li></ul>
<b>Resourcing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working with board consultants on projects and strategy</li><li>• Received EOIs to join the committee and discussing with potential members</li></ul>

**Joshua Kirsh**  
**Chair**