A CSG ANALYSIS OF REPORTED ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS IN AUSTRALIA IN 2021

COMMUNITY SECURITY GROUP

Nazi flag, above synagogue, Brisbane, 30 October 2021

This publication is a specialist analysis by the Community Security Group. It is different in purpose and scope to that of the Annual Report on Antisemitism in Australia which is researched and published by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ), the elected national representative body of the Australian Jewish Community. The ECAJ Antisemitism Report is a comprehensive report of antisemitic incidents and public antisemitic discourse in Australia. This publication, authored by the Community Security Group, complements the ECAJ Antisemitism Report and provides additional analysis specifically of antisemitic incidents that have been reported to the various Community Security Groups and other relevant security bodies in Australia for use in the provision of security protection to the Australian Jewish Community. Because they serve different purposes, the ECAJ Antisemitism Report and this publication cover different time periods and apply different collection methods and different classifications of incidents.
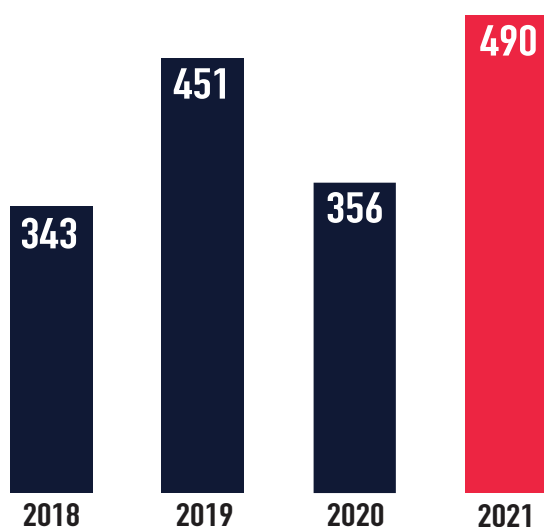
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report will statistically review antisemitic incidents in the 2021 calendar year, reported to the Community Security Group (CSG) across Australia.

This is the fourth published reported by CSG on antisemitic incident statistics, albeit CSG has been recording antisemitic incidents since its inception.

CSG recorded 490 antisemitic incidents in Australia in 2021. This is a 38% increase compared to the 356 incidents recorded in 2020. This is the highest number of antisemitic incidents ever recorded by CSG across Australia in a calendar year and is 9% higher than the previous highest record in 2019 (pre-COVID) of 451 antisemitic incidents.

REPORTING OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

2018	2019	2020	2021
343	451	356	490

This increase is attributed to a rise in antisemitism globally, particularly related to the Israel-Gaza conflict in May 2021 and the continued rise in extremism associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Note, this increase is in spite of COVID-19 restrictions across Australia throughout 2021, particularly 'lockdowns' in New South Wales and Victoria, during which a large number of Jewish sites were non-operational for significant periods of time.

KEY FINDINGS:

▪ The single highest category of antisemitic incident reported was abusive behaviour at 424 incidents (87%), followed by 29 incidents of damage and desecration, 20 threats, 10 assaults, 7 incidents of literature and no acts of extreme violence.

▪ There was an average of 41 antisemitic incidents per month in 2021. During the month of May, CSG recorded 106 antisemitic incidents. Note, the Israel-Gaza conflict occurred from 10 May until 21 May 2021. Conflicts overseas involving Israel often result in increased antisemitic incidents locally.

▪ New South Wales experienced the highest reported number of antisemitic incidents at 262 (53%), followed by 146 incidents in Victoria (30%), 30 incidents in Western Australia (6%), 28 incidents in Queensland (6%), 11 incidents in Tasmania (2%), 7 incidents in the Australian Capital Territory (1%) and 6 incidents in South Australia (1%).

▪ The highest recorded target location of antisemitic incidents were public places at 216 incidents (44%), followed by 89 incidents at synagogues, 74 incidents at Jewish organisations, 42 incidents at Jewish schools, 42 incidents at Jewish private residences, businesses or properties and 27 incidents at private properties.

▪ There were 10 antisemitic assaults in 2021. This included the assault of an identifiably Jewish individual resulting in hospitalisation and two assaults of congregants at or nearby a synagogue in Queensland respectively. This also included an incident in which two offenders chased two Jewish congregants with a knife at a synagogue in Western Australia. Three assaults involved schoolchildren.

▪ There were 20 threats in 2021, all of which did not materialise. This included a threat to conduct an arson attack at a Jewish school and behead Jews, as well as a threat to bomb a synagogue. This also included a series of threats on social media to conduct mass shooting(s) and/or detonate improvised explosive device(s) at a pro-Israel rally in Victoria.

A notable portion of incidents occurred during a Jewish festival period or the Jewish Sabbath, constituting 127 incidents (26%). This is proportionally lower than recorded historically, likely due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on Jewish communal activity during the Sabbath and major Jewish festival periods.

Fourteen incidents involved Jewish schoolchild victims, whilst university students were the victims of three incidents.

Extreme-right discourse was involved in 218 incidents, constituting 44% of all incidents. This represents a steady increase in incidents containing extreme-right discourse since 2018, consistent with the rise in far-right extremism globally. Since 2018, there has been a 77% increase in the number of incidents containing extreme-right discourse. Compared to 2020, there has been a 14% increase. Extreme-right discourse includes neo-Nazi language or symbology such as 'Sieg Heil' gestures and swastika graffiti. A large portion of incidents involving extreme-right discourse related to the activities of prominent far-right extremist group(s). In 2021, CSG recorded 90 incidents involving swastikas.

Anti-Israel discourse was involved in 100 incidents, compared to 61 incidents in 2020. This represents a 64% increase and is highly likely due to the Israel-Gaza conflict in May 2021.

Police across the country were notified of 222 incidents (45%). Separately, CSG was notified of an additional 19 incidents by police. In New South Wales, 84 incidents were recorded by the NSW Police Engagement and Hate Crime Unit as having 'Hate Crime Involvement'.

Offenders were charged in relation to 6 incidents, 4 of which occurred in New South Wales and 2 of which occurred in Queensland. Note, a large portion of antisemitic incidents do not constitute criminal offences.

In addition to the 490 antisemitic incidents reported to CSG in 2021, there were 350 reports of suspicious activity. CSG also processed 178 reports of activity which were neither antisemitic nor suspicious. In total, the CSG workforce around Australia processed 1018 reports as part of CSG's role in the provision of security to the Australian Jewish Community. This equates to an average of 2.8 incidents per day.

> It is highly likely that there remains significant under–reporting of antisemitic incidents to CSG and law enforcement in Australia, similar to other forms of hate crime. As a result, the number of antisemitic incidents is likely to be much higher than recorded in this report. As such, the figures presented should be indicative of trends as opposed to nominal values. CSG encourages the Australian Jewish Community to report these incidents in future through the CSG National Emergency, Advice and Assistance Hotline (1300 000 CSG) or the CSG Alert app and to local police."

ABOUT CSG

The Community Security Group (CSG) oversees the specialised and specific security needs of the Jewish Community in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia; these organisations work closely with their associated Jewish Community Council or Jewish Board of Deputies, under the auspices of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ). In each representative state, CSG works closely with government and law enforcement to ensure oversight of the Jewish Communities' security and emergency management programs and policies.

DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

CSG defines an antisemitic incident as any malicious act aimed at Jewish people, organisations or property, where there is evidence that the act has antisemitic motivation or content, or that the victim was targeted because they are or are believed to be Jewish.[1]

Antisemitic motivation, language or targeting must be demonstrated for the incident to be classified as antisemitic. This definition is not dictated by Commonwealth or state legislation, with both non-criminal and criminal incidents included in this report.

Large swastika painted on road, Melbourne, 3 September 2021.

The general activities of antisemitic organisations have not been included in this statistical assessment, as these activities are far-ranging, significantly unpublicised and, in some cases, so voluminous that the data would be substantially and improperly skewed. Antisemitic incidents may occur in a variety of forms, including physical force against people or property, verbal or written abuse and antisemitic posters, leaflets or stickers. A large amount of antisemitic activity also takes place online, particularly on social media platforms. CSG statistically records all formally reported antisemitic online activity but excludes proactively located antisemitic material unless it specifically targets a Jewish site or person in Australia. Antisemitic incidents online are recorded only when the victim and/or the offender is located in Australia.

Incidents that are strictly anti-Israel are not classified as antisemitic. However, incidents containing some anti-Israel component are classified as antisemitic where the incident has involved antisemitic discourse, evident antisemitic motivation and/or the targeting of a victim because they are, or are believed to be, Jewish or associated with the Jewish Community.

An incident involving neo-Nazi symbology, specifically including the swastika, is categorically considered antisemitic where there is an intended public audience or victim.
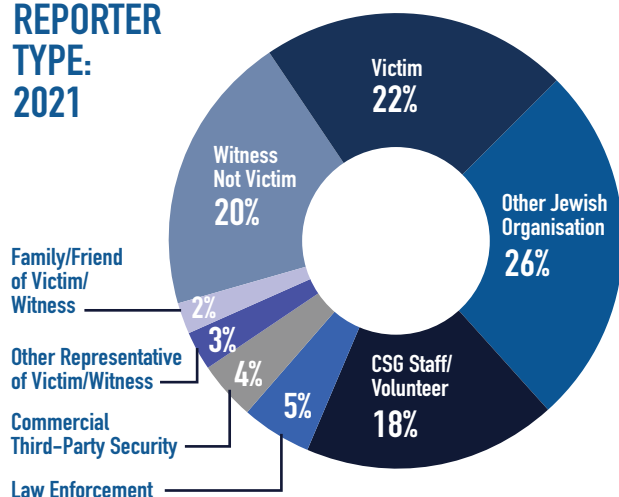
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[1] CSG has based this publication on the model of the Community Security Trust's (CST) annual and biannual publication on antisemitic incidents; 'Antisemitic Incidents Report 2020', Community Security Trust, 2021.

REPORTING

Antisemitic incidents are reported to CSG from an array of sources, including from victims and their family or friends, witnesses, the CSG workforce, third-party security guards operating at Jewish sites, other Jewish organisations and law enforcement agencies.

Incidents were most commonly reported by other Jewish organisations, with 128 incidents (26%) reported. Eighty-nine incidents (18%) were reported by CSG personnel, and 22 incidents (4%) were reported by commercial third-party security guards operating at Jewish sites.

REPORTER TYPE: 2021

Victim 22%

Witness Not Victim 20%

Family/Friend of Victim/Witness — 2%

Other Representative of Victim/Witness — 3%

Commercial Third–Party Security — 4%

Law Enforcement — 5%

CSG Staff/Volunteer 18%

Other Jewish Organisation 26%

One hundred and seven incidents (22%) were reported by the victim, 100 incidents (20%) were reported by a witness, 13 incidents (3%) were reported by a representative of a victim or witness and 12 incidents (2%) were reported by the family or friend of a victim or witness.

It is highly likely that there is significant under-reporting of antisemitic incidents to CSG and law enforcement in Australia, particularly by victims, likely making the actual number of antisemitic incidents substantially higher than recorded.

This is not confined to Australian or Jewish communities. A study published by Deakin University in Victoria on 30 June 2020 examined hate crime and hate incidents in Australia. Whilst there is no metric to analyse hate crime under-reporting in Australia, as opposed to in the United States, their research concluded that it persists in Australia, particularly for less-serious incidents, or incidents which are perceived as less serious by a victim.[2] A survey conducted by the American Jewish Committee in the United States revealed that 79% of victims of in-person antisemitic remarks in 2021 did not report the incident.[3]

CSG notified police of 222 incidents. Additionally, 19 incidents were reported by law enforcement to CSG.

CSG has a dedicated 24/7 emergency, advice and assistance hotline, in addition to a smartphone application and website, for the reporting of antisemitic incidents.

METHOD OF REPORTING

Telephone 53

CSG Alert 37

CSG Website 18

Verbally to CSG Personnel 9

CSG Hotline 69

CSG Control Room 80

Email 224

Two hundred and twenty-four incidents (46%) were reported to CSG via email. In addition, 80 incidents were reported to the CSG Control and Crisis Centre, 69 incidents were reported via the CSG National Emergency, Advice and Assistance Hotline, 53 incidents were reported by phone call, 37 incidents were reported via the CSG Alert app, 18 incidents were reported via the CSG website and 9 incidents were verbally reported to CSG personnel.
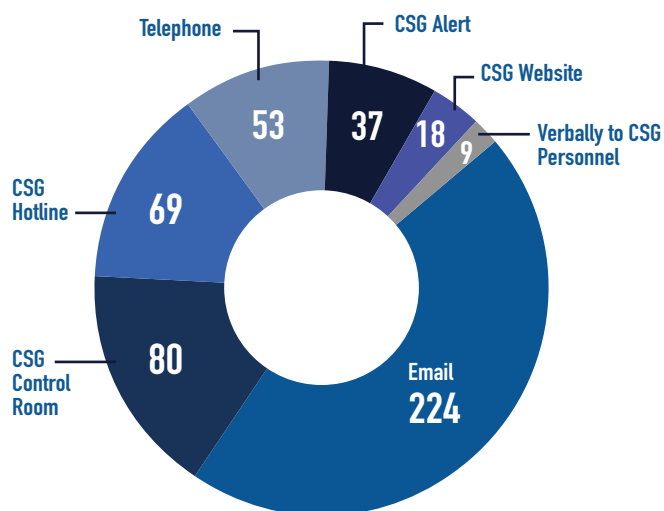
> **CSG encourages the Australian Jewish Community to report all incidents through the CSG Alert App or Hotline (1300 000 CSG) as preferred reporting methods"**

[2] https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d48cb4d61091100011eded9/t/5f5ab2bad55ac 978cdd858f9/1599779524716 Barriers+to+reporting+hate+crimes_final.pdf.
[3] https://www.ajc.org/AntisemitismReport2021/AmericanJews

INCIDENT CATEGORIES

Antisemitic incidents are classified into six categories: extreme violence, assault, threat, damage and desecration, abusive behaviour and antisemitic literature.[4]

The single highest category of antisemitic incident reported was abusive behaviour at 424 incidents (86%). Further, there were 29 incidents of damage and desecration, 20 threats, 10 assaults, 7 incidents of antisemitic literature and no acts of extreme violence.

**ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR
424**

◯ EXTREME VIOLENCE

Extreme violence is defined as any attack potentially causing loss of life or grievous bodily harm. It is considered the most severe category of antisemitic incident.
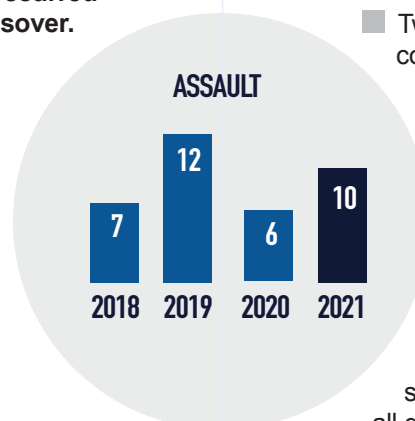
There were no recorded acts of extreme violence in Australia in 2021, similar to in 2020. There were two acts of extreme violence in 2019 and one in 2018.

◯ ASSAULT

Assault is any actual or attempted physical attack against a person that constitutes actual bodily harm or common assault. This includes violent use of force, chasing a target with a perceived intention to cause harm, and projectiles, even when the target is missed.

In 2021, CSG recorded 10 assaults. Seventy percent of assaults targeted identifiably Jewish individuals. Four (40%) occurred over the Jewish Sabbath, whilst two occurred during the Jewish festival of Passover. Three involved a victim walking to/from a synagogue or Jewish event. Three incidents targeted schoolchildren.

Five assaults occurred in public places, whilst the rest occurred outside of Jewish sites, including synagogues, Jewish schools and Jewish organisations. Antisemitic assaults in 2021 were geographically spread across Australia.

ASSAULT

2018	2019	2020	2021
7	12	6	10

EXAMPLES:

▪ A Jewish congregant was assaulted by a male near a synagogue. The offender shouted antisemitic abuse and made a 'Sieg Heil' gesture to several congregants leaving Friday night Sabbath services, before assaulting one of the congregants (Brisbane, 12 February 2021).

▪ The occupant of a passing vehicle threw a bottle at an identifiably Jewish individual walking during the Jewish Sabbath (Melbourne, 26 March 2021).

▪ Two offenders chased two Jewish congregants with a knife outside of a synagogue. The congregants were able to retreat to the synagogue until the arrival of police (Perth, 28 March 2021).

▪ Two Jewish minors were spat on and verbally abused by a female who said to them, 'I'm German and if I could, I would kill you guys. Your kind should be dead. Your kind should all get gassed. I'll kill you. F-cking pigs' (Melbourne, 26 June 2021).

▪ An identifiably Jewish individual was punched by a male whilst walking to synagogue with his son. Prior to the assault, the offender made a 'Sieg Heil' gesture and shouted 'Heil Hitler' (Brisbane, 28 August 2021).

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[4] 'Antisemitic Incidents Report 2020' CST, 2021, page 22. These are categories adopted by the CST in their classification of antisemitic incidents in the United Kingdom.

CSG

⭕ THREAT

A threat is classified as any directly communicated intent to inflict a violent or hostile action. A threat may be verbal, written or physical. A threat is distinct from general abuse in that there is a direct insinuation of future violent or hostile action towards people and/or property.

❝

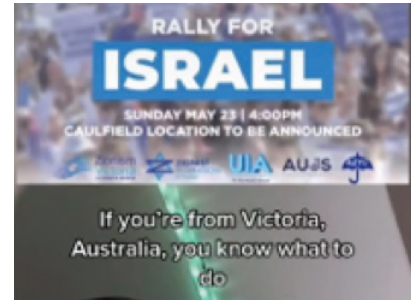| I'm pulling up with ak47s"	"Oh so should we get the IEDs?"

In 2021, CSG recorded 20 antisemitic threats, all of which did not materialise. The most serious threats included a post on an alternate forum to arson a Jewish school and behead Jews.

Six threats occurred on social media. Five threats contained extreme-right discourse, whilst three threats contained Islamist discourse. Once again, victims included schoolchildren, such as a threat to kill students from a Jewish school whilst they were on an excursion.

THREAT

2018	2019	2020	2021
14	27	23	20

EXAMPLES:

▪ A male outside of a Jewish preschool shouted, 'I will f-cking murder you' (Melbourne, 16 April 2021)
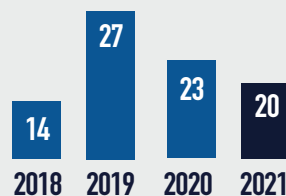
▪ A number of users on social media posted threats to conduct mass shooting(s) and/ or detonate improvised explosive devices at a pro-Israel rally. Some of these posts were directed towards Jewish individuals and/or organisations (Melbourne, 19 May 2021).

RALLY FOR ISRAEL
SUNDAY MAY 23 | 4:00PM
CAULFIELD LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED
If you're from Victoria, Australia, you know what to do

▪ A minor shouted 'F-ck the Jews', 'We will kill you' and 'Jews should die' towards students from a Jewish school on an excursion (Sydney, 26 May 2021).
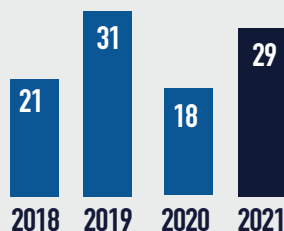
⭕ DAMAGE AND DESECRATION

Damage and desecration is defined as any adverse material act against Jewish-owned property or property perceived to be associated with Jews. The act must be directed against property, with no potential harm to people. This category includes antisemitic graffiti, vandalism, postering and hacking.

In 2021, CSG recorded 29 incidents of damage and desecration. This represents a 61% increase compared to 2020. Nine of these incidents occurred at synagogues (31%), 8 occurred at Jewish private residences, business or properties, 5 occurred at Jewish schools, 3 occurred at Jewish organisations, 3 occurred at private properties and 1 occurred in a public place.

Nine incidents of damage and desecration occurred in Victoria, whilst 8 incidents occurred in New South Wales. Four occurred in the Australian Capital Territory, 4 in Western Australia, 2 in South Australia and 2 in Tasmania. Twelve incidents involved extreme-right discourse, whilst 5 incidents involved anti-Israel discourse.

DAMAGE & DESECRATION

2018	2019	2020	2021
21	31	18	29

EXAMPLES:

◻ A swastika was marked on a vehicle owned by a Jewish family at their residence (Perth, 6 January 2021).

◻ Several Jewish residences were desecrated with swastikas and 'F-ck the Jews' (Sydney, 10 April 2021).

◻ A red substance seemingly resembling blood was poured over a star of David at the front of a synagogue (Launceston, 1 May 2021).

◻ Two minors vandalised a synagogue with a swastika. One of the minors was previously involved in antisemitic vandalism at the same synagogue (Sydney, 15 May 2021).

◻ Graffiti reading 'Free Palestine' was painted outside of a Jewish school (Melbourne, 18 June 2021).

◻ Graffiti reading 'Palestinians will rule' was painted repeatedly on the fence of a Jewish residence (Melbourne, 28 July 2021).

◻ A white supremacist sticker was placed on a headstone featuring a star of David in the Jewish section of a cemetery (Launceston, 19 November 2021).

> CSG staff have undergone specialist training to professionally respond to, assess, record and triage antisemitic and other security incidents, and provide specific security and incident advice to victims and witnesses. CSG respects the wishes and needs of incident victims including victim confidentiality and liaison with law enforcement."
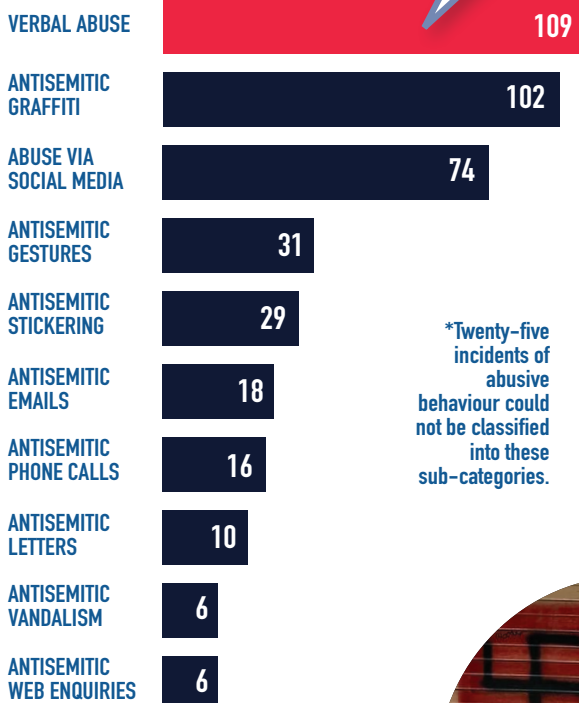
CSG

⬤ ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR

Abusive behaviour is insulting or offensive antisemitic activity. The behaviour may be directed towards a victim or be broadly offensive and may include verbal or written abuse and antisemitic gestures.

Abusive behaviour constituted the largest category of reported antisemitic incidents in 2021, similar to previous years.

Four hundred and twenty-four reports of abusive behaviour were reported to CSG, comprising 87% of all antisemitic incidents. Verbal abuse constituted the largest type of abuse with 109 incidents reported, followed by 102 incidents of graffiti, 74 incidents on social media, 31 gestures, 27 incidents of stickering, 18 emails, 16 telephone calls, 10 letters, 6 acts of vandalism and 6 web enquiries.

TYPES OF ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR

@#$!

VERBAL ABUSE	109
ANTISEMITIC GRAFFITI	102
ABUSE VIA SOCIAL MEDIA	74
ANTISEMITIC GESTURES	31
ANTISEMITIC STICKERING	29
ANTISEMITIC EMAILS	18
ANTISEMITIC PHONE CALLS	16
ANTISEMITIC LETTERS	10
ANTISEMITIC VANDALISM	6
ANTISEMITIC WEB ENQUIRIES	6

*Twenty–five incidents of abusive behaviour could not be classified into these sub–categories.

In 35% of incidents of antisemitic verbal abuse, the victims were identifiably Jewish. Twenty-two incidents of verbal abuse contained anti-Israel discourse.

One hundred and ninety-six incidents (46%) of abusive behaviour involved extreme-right discourse, whilst 92 incidents (22%) involved anti-Israel discourse. Sixty-seven incidents (16%) occurred on social media. Ninety-six incidents (23%) occurred on the Sabbath and 31 incidents (7%) occurred during a Jewish festival.

Forty-four incidents of abuse targeted identifiably Jewish individuals, whilst 47 targeted uniformed security personnel standing outside of Jewish sites. Eleven incidents involved Jewish individuals walking to/from a synagogue or Jewish event, whilst 10 incidents involved schoolchildren.

EXAMPLES:

◻ An alleged member of a proscribed terrorist group drove through the Jewish section of a cemetery and a Holocaust Memorial shouting,

'Hell fire for all of you' (Sydney, 27 February 2021).

◻ A large swastika was painted inside a skatepark near a beach (Sydney, 28 February 2021).

◻ A congregant who exited a synagogue was verbally abused by a male loitering outside who said, 'You Jewish scum. You'll get what's coming', before spitting in her direction (Melbourne, 18 March 2021).

◻ Several swastikas were painted around a park (Brisbane, 25 March 2021).

◻ Far-right graffiti, which included a swastika and 'white power', was found on a vacant building (Sydney, 29 March 2021).

■ The driver of a passing vehicle made a Sieg Heil gesture towards a group of identifiably Jewish individuals standing outside of a synagogue (Sydney, 3 April 2021).

■ Far-right graffiti reading 'Heil Hitler' and 'Kristalnacht [sic]' was painted on Parliament House in Tasmania (Hobart, 20 April 2021).

■ A series of antisemitic and anti-Israel messages were sent to a Jewish individual on social media (Sydney, 30 April 2021).

Apr 30, 2021, 9:16 PM

just read your zionist bullshit online... fuck off back to zionazi israel you fucking baby killing nazi's

fuck israel

fuck fascist jewry - hitler shouldve ended you for good.

you are the problem in the world. you are the cancer

you have infected every part of western society as a plague of robber baron sociopaths

you are worse than nazi's could ever be

fuck israel and fuck jews

the corrupt zionist fucking pigs who stole our country

treasonous piece of shit

go cook some arab babies on the bbq you sick fucking twisted piece of exceptional dog shit

i hope israel gets nuked off the fucking face of the earth

its an illegal apartheid state built on lies and racism and utter corruption

so go fuck yourself and die you piece of shit

and all you zionazi fucking colleagues

go corrupt someone esles nation you fucking treasonous traitor

report me all you like

ill expose your fucking entire corrupt society in the high courts and see your country exposed as the terrorist regime it is

tell mossad and its little small minded fascist thugs to eat a dick and die
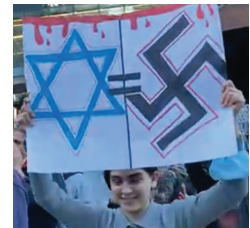
they deserve a nuclear bombv

■ Far-right graffiti, including swastikas and the phrase 'Blood and Soil', was located at a railyard (Brisbane, 10 May 2021).

■ During a rally held by an Islamist group, members of the crowd shouted, 'Oh Allah, give us the neck of the Jews' and 'Destroy the Jews' (Sydney, 11 May 2021).

■ An unknown individual called a synagogue and shouted 'F-ck you Jews. Heil Hitler' (Sydney, 13 May 2021).

■ An antisemitic poster was exhibited at a protest (Sydney, 15 May 2021).

■ A male on a bicycle approached two Jewish minors and shouted, 'F-cking Jewish wh-res', before following them as they attempted to flee the area (Melbourne, 11 June 2021).

■ Antisemitic graffiti, including a swastika and 'F-ck Jews', was located on a sign outside of a private residence (Sydney, 30 July 2021).

■ Far-right graffiti, including 'Heil Hitler', swastikas and '1488', was located on a door to a premises (Sydney, 9 October 2021).

■ Several identifiably Jewish persons were verbally abused inside of a shopping centre by a male who called them 'Jewish sluts' and 'Jewish dogs' (Sydney, 12 October 2021).

○ LITERATURE

Literature is antisemitic material that is distributed in multiple quantities, with each piece identical in content. It is often applicable in incidents of mass-produced antisemitic posters and stickers that are widely distributed over a geographic area, or identical antisemitic emails or letters sent to multiple recipients. Such a distribution would count as one incident to reflect that it is one act by one offender or group. This also avoids inflating the overall statistics. In addition, CSG excludes from statistical review proactively sought antisemitic literature that reflects the general activities of antisemitic organisations.

Seven incidents of literature were reported in 2021. Four involved extreme-right discourse, whilst two involved anti-Israel discourse.

ANALYSIS

○ INCIDENT VICTIMS

Antisemitic incidents in 2021 targeted a large cross section of the Jewish Community in Australia, including Jewish people, sites, events and property.

Identifiably Jewish individuals were the victims of 54 incidents across the country, comprising 11% of all incidents. Victims of antisemitic incidents were walking to/from synagogues or Jewish events in 14 incidents – in all 14 incidents, they were also identifiably Jewish. Actual numbers for both of these figures are likely higher due to under-reporting. The targeting of identifiably Jewish individuals is an ongoing trend globally, particularly with regards to assault, verbal abuse and antisemitic gestures.

Uniformed security personnel outside of Jewish sites or events were the victims of 51 incidents, comprising 10% of all incidents.

In 93 of the incidents recorded with identifiable victim ages and genders, 58% of the victims were male, 27% of the victims were female and 15% were multiple victims including males and females. In 20 of these incidents, the victims were or included minors, three of which were antisemitic assaults.
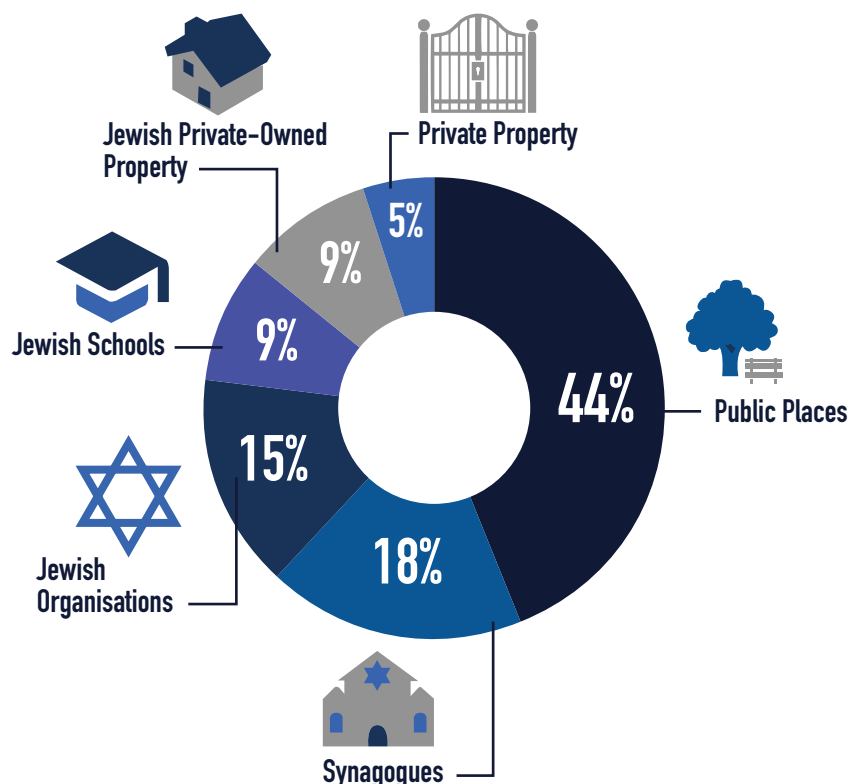
Schoolchildren were the victims in 14 incidents – seven of these occurred in a public area, four of these occurred at a non-Jewish school, two of these occurred at a school excursion or whilst off premises in a group and one incident occurred during out of school sport.

■ Two unknown school students said 'Gas the Jews. Death to Jews' to students from a Jewish school during a virtual inter-school conference (Melbourne, 24 August 2021).

Five incidents occurred on university campus, three of which involved anti-Israel discourse and two of which involved extreme-right discourse.

SITES TARGETED

The highest recorded target location of antisemitic incidents were public places at 216 incidents (44%), followed by 89 incidents at synagogues (18%), 74 incidents at Jewish organisations (15%), 42 incidents at Jewish schools (9%), 42 incidents at Jewish private residences, businesses or properties (9%) and 27 incidents at private properties (5%).

Jewish Private–Owned Property

Private Property

Jewish Schools

5%

9%

9%

Public Places

44%

15%

Jewish Organisations

18%

Synagogues

MONTHLY BREAKDOWN

An average of 41 antisemitic incidents occurred every month in 2021. A large spike in antisemitic incidents occurred during the month of May, with 106 incidents reported across the country, comprising approximately 22% of all antisemitic incidents in 2021. This represents a 159% month-on-month increase in antisemitic incidents. This also equates to approximately 3.5 incidents per day during May, above the yearly average of 1.3 incidents per day.

JAN	24
FEB	39
MAR	40
APR	36
MAY	106
JUN	41
JUL	29
AUG	35
SEP	41
OCT	37
NOV	39
DEC	21

There was an average of 41 antisemitic incidents per month in 2021. During the month of May, CSG recorded 106 antisemitic incidents.

Note, the Israel–Gaza conflict occurred from 10 May until 21 May 2021. Conflicts overseas involving Israel often result in increased antisemitic incidents locally.

This spike was highly likely due to the Israel-Gaza conflict which occurred from 10 May to 21 May 2021. In May, 49% of incidents contained anti-Israel discourse and 6% of incidents contained Islamist discourse. This compares to yearly averages of 21% and 3% respectively. In New South Wales, there were 74 incidents during the month of May, representing 28% of all incidents in New South Wales in 2021 and a 230% month-on-month increase across the state. Similar increases in antisemitic incidents and antisemitic hate crimes were recorded globally during the month of May. [5]
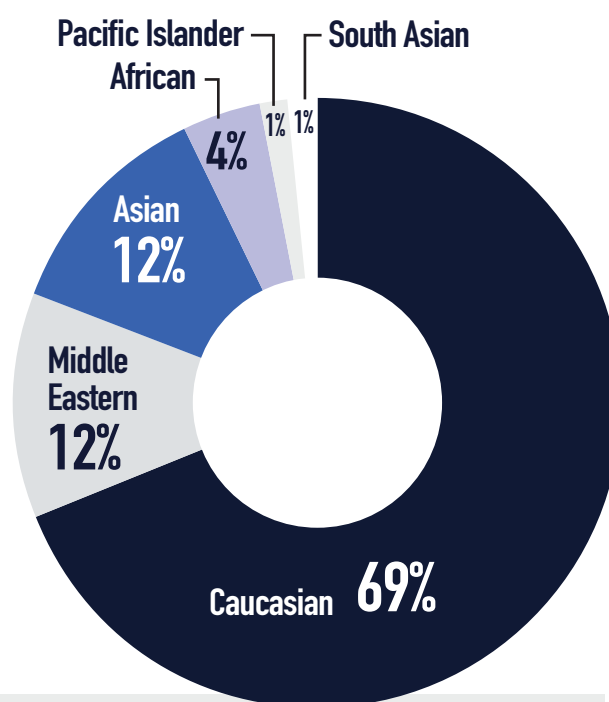
INCIDENT OFFENDERS

Where possible, CSG has recorded the age, gender and appearance of incident offenders. In 35% of incidents, the offender provided a unique identifier such as a name, social media profile or vehicle registration.

CSG received an approximate age of offender(s) in 152 of the 490 antisemitic incidents reported (31%), with offenders described as adults in 141 of the incidents and minors in 11 incidents. In 141 of the 490 incidents (29%), the gender of the offender was identified. The offender(s) was identified as a male in 118, whilst in 11 incidents the offender(s) was identified as a female; in 12 incidents, there were male offenders and female offenders.

In 50 incidents, there was more than one offender, or the offender was in a group.

A physical description of the offender was obtained in 103 incidents (21%), with offenders described as 'Caucasian' in 72 incidents, 'Middle Eastern' in 25 incidents, 'African' in 4 incidents, 'Pacific Islander' in 1 incident and South Asian in 1 incident.

TYPES OF OFFENDERS
2018–2021 Average

Pacific Islander — South Asian
African

South Asian 1%
Pacific Islander 1%
African 4%
Asian 12%
Middle Eastern 12%
Caucasian 69%

Note, figures slightly adjusted for rounding.

5 https://www.npr.org/2021/05/24/999790233/officials-say-hate-crimes-against-jews-are-growing-in-the-aftermath-of-gaza-viol;
https://www.npr.org/2021/10/26/1049288223/1-in-4-american-jews-say-they-experienced-antisemitism-in-the-last-year
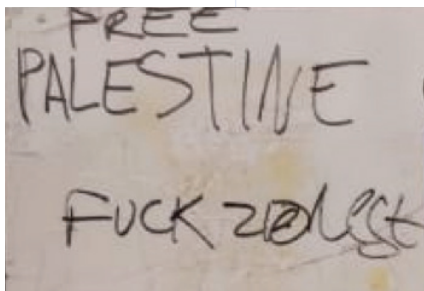
ISRAEL–GAZA CONFLICT:
10 May 2021 – 21 MAY 2021

◾ During the Israel-Gaza conflict, two large Palestinian flags and two burnt Israeli flags were placed at the entrance of a synagogue (Sydney, 12 May 2021).

◾ A member of a far-left political group verbally abused two identifiably Jewish males at a university campus. He shouted, 'Israel are terrorists. How can you support a cause like that? Jews are vile. You are pigs' (Sydney, 14 May 2021).

◾ A male walking past a synagogue shouted at security personnel, 'You're stealing all Palestinian land from us, for f-ck's sake' (Sydney, 14 May 2021).

◾ A driver of a vehicle stopped outside of a synagogue and asked security personnel whether they were scared to be at a synagogue. He stated that they 'should be scared because Israelis are bombing Gaza' (Sydney, 15 May 2021).

◾ The driver of a passing vehicle shouted 'Why are you killing Palestinians' towards two identifiably Jewish individuals (Perth, 18 May 2021).

◾ A number of users on social media posted threats to conduct mass shooting(s) and/or detonate improvised explosive devices at a pro-Israel rally. Some of these posts were directed towards Jewish individuals and/or organisations, some of whom were associated with the rally (Melbourne, 19 May 2021).

◾ During the Israel-Gaza conflict, a synagogue was desecrated with anti-Israel graffiti, including 'F-ck Zionist' and 'Free Palestine' (Adelaide, 20 May 2021).

All other monthly incident tallies were generally evenly distributed.

Of particular note, compared to 2020, antisemitic incidents did not decrease during periods of COVID-19 restrictions, notably the 'lockdowns' in New South Wales and Victoria. This may be due to a rise in antisemitic sentiment amongst extremist individuals and groups during the peak periods of the COVID-19 pandemic, reported publicly by media.[6]

Note, two incidents could not be categorised as they occurred multiple months.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Seventy-four incidents occurred on social media, which constitutes a 42% increase compared to 2020. This is likely due to online activity relating to the Israel-Gaza conflict in 2021 and the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost all antisemitic incidents involving social media either contained anti-Israel or extreme-right discourse, tallying to 35 incidents each. Six threats were made on social media.

These figures marginally reflect the volume and scope of antisemitism on social media. Whilst CSG does not hold the data to present this, recent reports have documented substantial rises in antisemitic and extremist rhetoric on social media, particularly relating to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the Israel-Gaza conflict in 2021.[7]

This has particularly occurred on specific platforms, such as TikTok and alternate, largely unmoderated forums. A large amount of antisemitic content is frequently posted indiscriminately and anonymously by diverse social media users worldwide. CSG only statistically records formally reported antisemitic online activity where the victim and/or the offender is located in Australia. Proactively located antisemitic material hosted online is excluded unless it specifically targets a Jewish site or person in Australia.
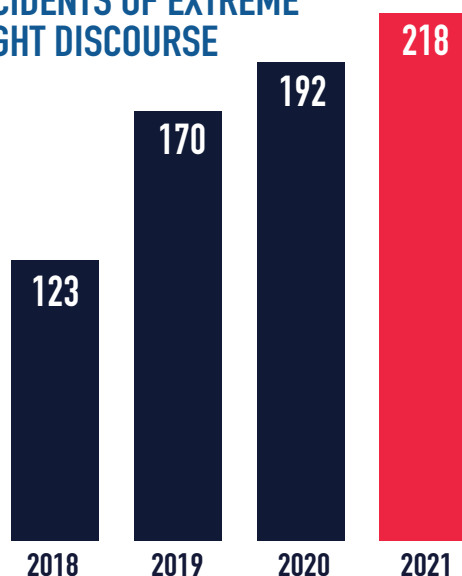
6 https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/revealed-the-fringe-groups-where-sydney-s-lockdown-protest-began-20210725-p58cqm.html https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/jewish-community-faces-wave-of-hatred-after-illegal-gatherings-20210914-p58ri5.html

7 https://www.adl.org/blog/antisemitism-on-tiktokhttps://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-694209

DISCOURSE

Two hundred and eighteen incidents (44%) in 2021 contained extreme-right discourse. This represents a 14% increase since 2020 and indicates a steady rise in antisemitic incidents containing extreme-right discourse. Since 2018, this represents a 77% increase. In 2021, CSG recorded 90 incidents involving swastikas. This conforms to the global and national rise in far-right extremism since 2018. As antisemitism is a key tenet of far-right extremist ideology, it is unsurprising that CSG and affiliate groups worldwide continue to report record numbers of antisemitic incidents containing extreme-right discourse.

INCIDENTS OF EXTREME RIGHT DISCOURSE

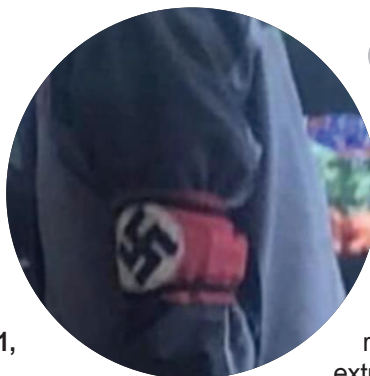| 2018	2019	2020	2021
123	170	192	218

EXAMPLES:

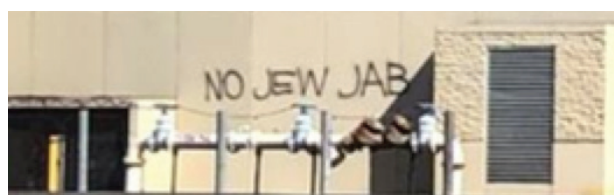▪ Male identified with a swastika armband (Melbourne, 7 February 2021).

▪ Posters with swastikas advocating white supremacy were located on street poles (Hobart, 25 May 2021).

In 2021, there were 14 incidents which contained Islamist discourse and 100 incidents which contained anti-Israel discourse.
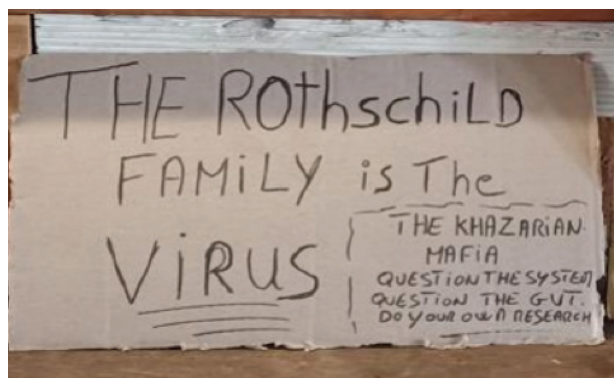
COVID-19

Akin to 2020, a significant number of incidents, particularly in New South Wales and Victoria, related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These ranged from threats to graffiti and verbal abuse. Most antisemitic incidents which related to COVID-19 contained extreme-right discourse. Antisemitism has been and continues to be prolific amongst fringe, extremist groups who have flourished through the pandemic, especially during 'lockdowns' and anti-government protests.[8]
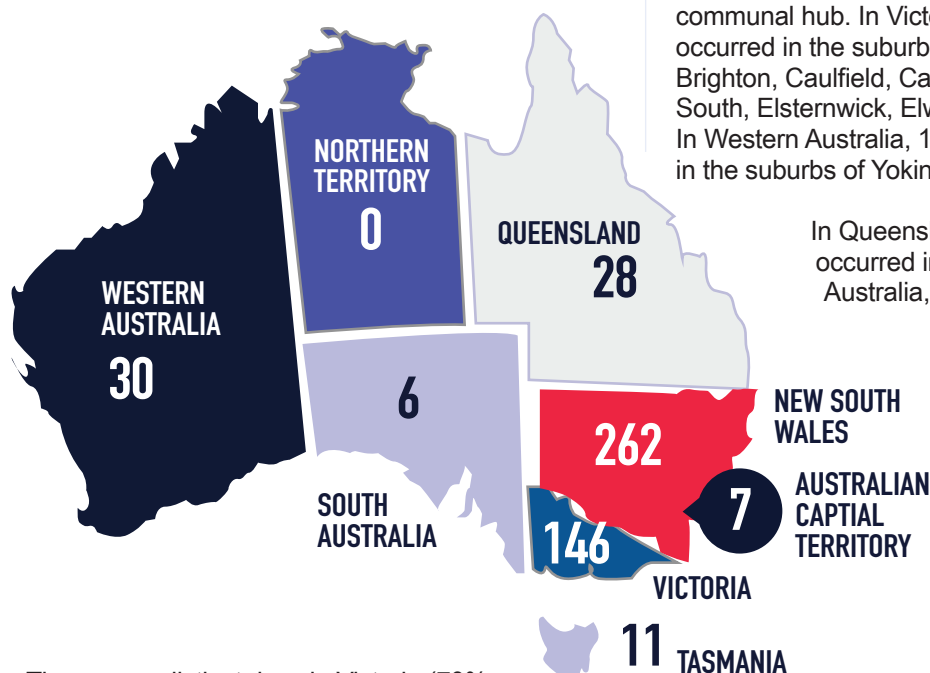
▪ An unknown individual called a synagogue and asked, 'Do you think it is appropriate for your Jews to have an engagement party in the middle of lockdown? The gas chambers are coming for you long nosed people' (Sydney, 20 October 2021).

8 https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/revealed-the-fringe-groups-where-sydney-s-lockdown-protest-began-20210725-p58cqm.html

CSG

GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

New South Wales experienced the highest number of reported antisemitic incidents at 262 (54%), followed by 146 incidents in Victoria (30%), 30 incidents in Western Australia (6%), 28 incidents in Queensland (6%), 11 incidents in Tasmania (2%), 7 incidents in the Australian Capital Territory (1%) and 6 incidents in South Australia (1%). No antisemitic incidents were reported in the Northern Territory.

Incidents were generally concentrated in the suburbs most heavily populated by the Jewish Community, located in metropolitan capital cities. In New South Wales, 37% of incidents occurred in the Eastern Suburbs area,[9] with 53 incidents occurring in the 'Bondi hub' (Bondi, North Bondi, Bondi Beach, Bondi Junction). Fifty one percent of these incidents targeted synagogues. Further, 27 incidents occurred on the North Shore,[10] another Jewish communal hub. In Victoria, 64 (44%) incidents occurred in the suburbs of Balaclava, Bentleigh, Brighton, Caulfield, Caulfield North, Caulfield South, Elsternwick, Elwood, Malvern and St Kilda. In Western Australia, 17 (57%) incidents occurred in the suburbs of Yokine and Dianella.

In Queensland, 18 (64%) incidents occurred in Brisbane. In South Australia, 3 (50%) incidents occurred in Adelaide CBD. In the Australian Capital Territory, 4 (57%) incidents occurred in the suburb of Giralang. In Tasmania, 5 (45%) incidents occurred in Launceston, whilst 3 occurred in Hobart (27%).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA 30

NORTHERN TERRITORY 0

QUEENSLAND 28

SOUTH AUSTRALIA 6

NEW SOUTH WALES 262

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY 7

VICTORIA 146

TASMANIA 11

There were distinct rises in Victoria (70% increase), Tasmania (450% increase), the Australian Capital Territory (133% increase) and South Australia (100% increase). Whilst improved reporting may be a contributing factor to these increases, particularly in states where incident numbers are generally low, it is likely that the rise in activity by extreme-right individuals and organisations in those particular states contributed to this increase.

Of the 490 incidents recorded in 2021, 83% of incidents occurred in New South Wales and Victoria. This closely mirrors the proportion of Australian Jewry residing in those two states, constituting 87%. Reported incidents per state may also be indicative of the size, dominion and reach of the CSG workforce and other representative organisations.

The concentration of the Australian Jewish population in particular suburbs in Australia has also meant that antisemitic incidents are generally confined to a select number of police jurisdictions. In New South Wales, one hundred and ninety-seven (75%) of incidents occurred in six Police Area Commands (PAC): Eastern Beaches PAC, Eastern Suburbs PAC, Kings Cross PAC, Ku-Rin-Gai PAC, North Shore PAC and Sydney City PAC. Of note, 104 incidents occurred in Eastern Suburbs PAC, constituting 40% of all antisemitic incidents reported across the state of New South Wales. In Western Australia, 20 incidents occurred in the Morley Police Station area, constituting 2/3 of all incidents across the state.

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[9] The Eastern Suburbs district refers to the area allocated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics: 'Sydney – Eastern Suburbs (SA4) (118)'.

[10] Defined as North Shore Police Area Command and Ku-Rin-Gai Police Area Command.
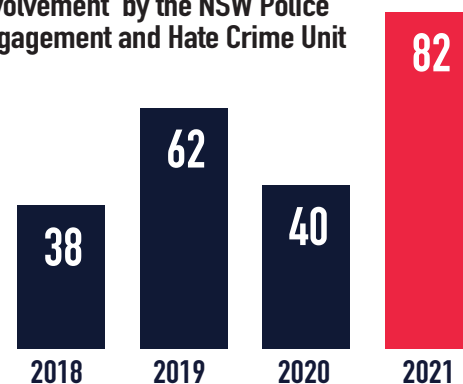
LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION

An offender was charged in 6 of the 490 (1.2%) antisemitic incidents recorded by CSG. One additional offender was arrested, but not charged. This figure is consistent with statistics recorded previously as a significant amount of antisemitic activity does not qualify as criminal offences and not all antisemitic incidents are reported to law enforcement. Four offenders were charged in New South Wales, whilst 2 offenders were charged in Queensland. The incidents ranged from assaults (2) to abusive behaviour (3) and damage and desecration (1). Three incidents occurred at a synagogue, 2 occurred in a public place and 1 occurred at a Jewish organisation.

In each representative state, CSG works closely with government and law enforcement agencies to ensure oversight of each Jewish community's security and emergency management programs and policies. Police were notified of 222 incidents (45%). Separately, CSG was notified by various Australian law enforcement bodies of an additional 19 incidents.

Hate crime statistics are actively recorded by law enforcement across Australia. In New South Wales, the NSW Police Engagement and Hate Crime Unit flagged a total of 84 antisemitic incidents as having 'Hate Crime Involvement'. Sixty-two percent of these incidents were sent by CSG to the NSW Police Engagement and Hate Crime Unit.[11]

Incidents flagged as 'Hate Crime Involvement' by the NSW Police Engagement and Hate Crime Unit

Year	Incidents
2018	38
2019	62
2020	40
2021	82

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTS

A critical function of CSG is to identify, respond to and assess incidents of suspicious activity. This forms a vital part of CSG's role in overseeing the specialised and specific security needs of the Jewish Community. Detecting and reporting potential hostile reconnaissance is critical in thwarting violent and/or planned terror activity.
Individuals or groups seeking to perpetrate harm will often visit their target prior to carrying out their intended action.

Antisemitic terror attacks continue to occur globally, perpetrated by terror actors across the ideological spectrum. Whilst there were no publicly reported terror attacks perpetrated against Jewish targets in 2021, there were a number of terror attacks thwarted by law enforcement and CSG affiliate groups worldwide, including in Singapore and France respectively.

Detecting and reporting potential hostile reconnaissance is critical in thwarting violent and/or planned terror activity.

In 2021, there were 350 reports of suspicious activity to CSG. These included 119 reports of suspicious correspondence, 71 reports of suspicious interactions, 70 reports of suspicious photo, video or note-taking by unknown persons, 38 reports of suspicious unknown persons observing Jewish persons or sites, 29 reports of unknown persons denied entry to Jewish sites based on suspicion and 23 reports of suspicious objects. In addition, CSG processed and assessed 178 incidents which were classified as neither antisemitic nor suspicious.

The CSG workforce has undergone specialist training in identifying suspicious indicators, enacting emergency procedures and response, collecting and assessing threat intelligence and providing law enforcement with specific detail and evidence to assist in their identification and investigation, including closed-circuit television (CCTV). CSG encourages community awareness and resilience, and provides training to staff at Jewish sites to recognise and report suspicious activity to police and CSG.

[11] NSW Police have not validated the data contained in this publication nor CSG's interpretation of the data.

CONCLUSION

In spite of COVID-19 restrictions which reduced Jewish communal activity across Australia, particularly amidst 'lockdowns' in New South Wales and Victoria, CSG recorded 490 antisemitic incidents across the country in 2021. This represents a 38% increase in antisemitic incidents compared to 2020 and is the highest ever number of antisemitic incidents recorded by CSG. This perpetuates a sustained pattern of historically high levels of antisemitic incidents.

Whilst the exact reason for the increase cannot be precisely confirmed, the increase is likely indicative of a general rise in antisemitism. Recent reports published by the World Zionist Organisation and the Jewish Agency revealed that antisemitic incidents recorded in 2021 were the highest in a decade.[12] This is mirrored by the French Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive, who recorded a 75% increase in antisemitic incidents in 2021.[13] According to a report released by the American Jewish Committee, 1 in 4 Jews in the United States were the victims of antisemitism in 2021.[14] Similar to CSG, the Community Security Trust's Antisemitic Incidents Report for 2021 revealed a 34% increase in antisemitic incidents.[15]

The increase recorded in 2021 in Australia is likely linked to the Israel-Gaza conflict in May 2021, in which CSG recorded a disproportionate increase in antisemitic incidents. This same trend appeared overseas. In the United States, the Anti-Defamation League recorded a 50% increase in antisemitic hate crimes during the first week of the conflict,[16] whilst in the United Kingdom, the Community Security Trust recorded a 365% increase in antisemitic incidents during the conflict.[17]

The increase recorded by CSG in 2021 conforms more broadly to rising levels of antisemitism globally linked to the emergence of far-right political and extremist movements. This amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic, as antisemitic rhetoric and conspiracy theories dominated the online environment and anti-government protest activity.

It is also assessed that greater reporting to CSG through communal engagement and other such initiatives have contributed to the increase. In 2021, CSG received some of the highest number of reports in a calendar year.

Whilst reporting of antisemitic incidents is likely improving, it is still likely that significant under-reporting exists, akin to other forms of hate crime and abuse. This is particularly the case where victims are minors; where the incident is considered of 'lesser' impact by the victim; and for incidents that take place on social media. As such, the statistics in this report should be regarded as indicative of general trends, rather than absolute measures of the number of incidents that actually take place.

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[12] https://www.sbs.com.au/news/last-year-was-the-most-anti-semitic-in-a-decade-new-report-says/abc51e7b-5c87-4f10-88f0-cd70766968f1

[13] https://antisemitism.org.il/2022/01/26/france-spcj-release-antisemitism-figures-in-2021/

[14] https://www.npr.org/2021/10/26/1049288223/1-in-4-american-jews-say-they-experienced-antisemitism-in-the-last-year

[15] https://cst.org.uk/data/file/f/f/Incidents%20Report%202021.1644318940.pdf

[16] https://www.npr.org/2021/10/26/1049288223/1-in-4-american-jews-say-they-experienced-antisemitism-in-the-last-year

[17] https://cst.org.uk/data/file/4/a/The_Month_of_Hate.1626263072.pdf

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Please direct all **Australian Capital Territory, South Australian, Tasmanian and Northern Territory** inquiries to the CSG national hotline.

National 24 HR emergency response, incident reporting, advice and assistance
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