

# A CSG ANALYSIS OF REPORTED ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS IN AUSTRALIA 2019



Bondi Beach Promenade, Sydney

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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 CSG publication complements the ECAJ Antisemitism Report and provides additional analysis specifically of antisemitic incidents that have been reported to the CSGs 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

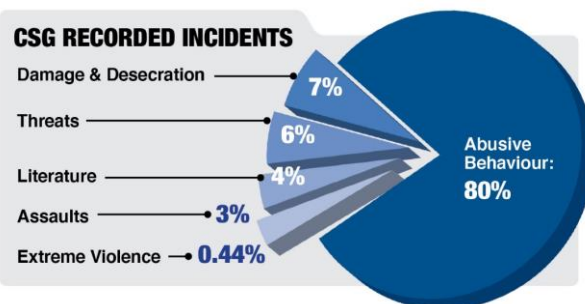
**This report will statistically review antisemitic incidents in the 2019 calendar year, reported to the Community Security Group (CSG) across Australia.**

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

CSG recorded 451 antisemitic incidents in Australia in 2019. This is 31% higher than the 343 antisemitic incidents reported to CSG in 2018. This included two acts of Extreme Violence, meaning an act of violence potentially causing loss of life or grievous bodily harm.

## KEY FINDINGS

» The single highest category of antisemitic incident reported was Abusive Behaviour at 362 incidents (80%), followed by 31 incidents of Damage & Desecration, 27 Threats, 17 incidents of Literature, 12 Assaults and 2 acts of Extreme Violence.



» New South Wales (NSW) experienced the highest reported antisemitic incidents at 286 (63%), followed by 127 incidents in Victoria (26%), 18 in Queensland, 16 in Western Australia, 4 in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), and no incidents reported in South Australia, Tasmania or the Northern Territory.

» The highest recorded target location of antisemitic incidents was in public places with 150 reported incidents (33%), followed by 100 incidents at Synagogues (22%), 92 at Jewish organisations, 40 at Jewish homes, businesses or property, 34 at private property and 26 at Jewish schools.

» Twenty seven threats were reported to CSG in 2019, including a threat to conduct a shooting at a Synagogue and livestream the incident, a knife being produced towards Jewish School students, and threats to burn down Synagogues. This marks a rise of 93% from the 14 incidents of this type recorded in 2018.

» CSG recorded 12 incidents in the category of Assault, an increase of 140% from the 5 incidents of this type recorded in 2018. Eight of the 12 assaults reported in Australia targeted identifiably Jewish individuals, and 3 assaults targeted Jewish persons walking to or from Synagogue. Assaults included physical violence, projectiles including eggs and bottles, and identifiably Jewish people chased on foot and in vehicle.

» CSG recorded 362 incidents in the category of Abusive Behaviour in 2019, an increase of 24% from the 290 instances of Abusive Behaviour recorded in 2018. This is 80% of 2019's total incidents tally and is the highest number of incidents in this category ever reported to CSG in a single calendar year, once again making Abusive Behaviour the highest single category of antisemitic incident type.

# 38

**THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF  
ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS  
EVERY MONTH IN 2019**

» Incidents of Damage & Desecration to Jewish property rose by 48% from 21 incidents in 2018 to 31 incidents in 2019. Five of these incidents involved damage done to Jewish homes, Jewish-owned businesses or property, 10 to Synagogues, 3 to Jewish schools, 2 to Jewish organisations and 1 to a cemetery.

» A large portion of incidents took place during a Jewish festival period or the Jewish Sabbath, constituting 225 incidents (49%). Notably, 21% of incidents took place during the Jewish High Holy Day festival period (29 September – 26 October 2019).

» Fifteen incidents involved schoolchild victims, 7 of which occurred at a non-Jewish school, 4 in a public area, 2 on public transport, 1 at a Jewish school and 1 other on a school excursion.

» Extreme right discourse was reported in 170 antisemitic incidents, constituting 40% of the total of antisemitic incidents reported to CSG. This signals a 140% increase compared to the 71 incidents containing extreme far-right discourse in 2018. This includes neo-Nazi discourse or symbology such as Sieg Heil gestures and swastika graffiti.

» Eight offenders in total were charged (1.8%), 7 in NSW, 1 in Victoria, all of whom were adult males.



**It is highly likely that there is significant under-reporting of antisemitic incidents to CSG and law enforcement in Australia. As a result, the number of antisemitic incidents is likely to be higher than recorded in this report. CSG encourages the Jewish Community to report these incidents in future through the CSG Alert app or the CSG National Emergency, Advice & Assistance Hotline (1300 000 274) and to local Police.**

» Police were notified of 285 incidents (63%). Separately, CSG were notified by various Australian law enforcement bodies of an additional 62 antisemitic incidents.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the 451 antisemitic incidents reported to CSG in 2019, a further 617 incidents of suspicious activity were reported, as well as 288 activity reports that qualified as neither antisemitic nor suspicious. In total, the CSG workforce reported, processed and assessed 1356 reports, as part of CSG's role in the provision of security protection to the Australian Jewish Community.

## 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 and 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 has defined 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.<sup>2</sup>**

**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.**

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 hosted online. 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 have been 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 symbolism, specifically including the swastika, is categorically considered antisemitic where there is an intended public audience or victim.**



<sup>1</sup> All incidents were reported in Victoria and Queensland, 137 incidents were reported in NSW, 6 were reported in Western Australia.

<sup>2</sup> 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 2019', Community Security Trust 2020.

## 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 guards operating at Jewish sites, other Jewish organisations and law enforcement.**

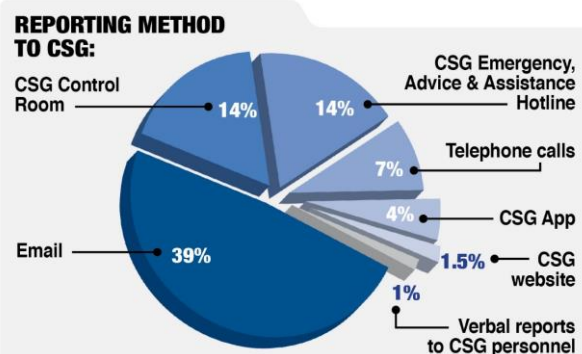
The highest reporter type to CSG in 2019 was the victim themselves, in 111 incidents (25%). Seven additional incidents were reported by the victims' family, friend or other representative.

The second highest reporter was the workforce of CSG, who reported 78 incidents, followed by 69 reports by other Jewish organisations and 16 reports by third party guards at Jewish sites.

An additional 62 incidents were reported by law enforcement to CSG. Separately, Police were notified of 292 incidents (40%) by CSG.<sup>3</sup>

## REPORTING METHOD TO CSG

In 2019, 177 incidents were reported to CSG via email (39%), 64 incidents were reported to the CSG Control Room (14%), 61 incidents were reported to the CSG Emergency, Advice & Assistance Hotline (14%), 31 incidents were reported via other phone calls to CSG (7%), 14 incidents were reported via the CSG Alert app (4%), 7 incidents were reported by the CSG website (1.5%) and a further 4 incidents were reported verbally to CSG security personnel (1%).



**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 which includes victim confidentiality and liaison with law enforcement.**

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

**CSG encourages the Australian Jewish Community to report all incidents through the CSG Alert app or the Hotline as a preferred reporting method.**

Under-reporting of antisemitic incidents is not confined to the Australian public, with a 2019 survey by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights finding that '80% of surveyed young Jewish Europeans who experienced an incident of antisemitic harassment, and 51% of those who experienced an incident of antisemitic violence in the year prior to the survey, did not report it to an authority.'<sup>4</sup>

## INCIDENT CATEGORIES

**Antisemitic incidents have been classified into six categories: Extreme Violence, Assault, Threat, Damage & Desecration, Abusive Behaviour and Antisemitic Literature.<sup>5</sup>**

### CSG RECORDED INCIDENTS: 2018-2019

	2018	2019
Abusive Behaviour:	290	362
Damage & Desecration:	21	31
Threats:	14	27
Literature:	10	17
Assaults:	7	12
Extreme Violence:	1	2

## EXTREME VIOLENCE

**Extreme Violence is considered the most severe category of antisemitic incident, and is defined as any attack potentially causing loss of life or grievous bodily harm.**

<sup>3</sup> All incidents were reported in Victoria and Queensland, 168 incidents were reported in NSW, 6 were reported in Western Australia.

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.jpr.org.uk/documents/FRA-JPR\\_-\\_Young\\_Jewish\\_Europeans\\_-\\_perceptions\\_and\\_experiences\\_of\\_antisemitism.pdf](https://www.jpr.org.uk/documents/FRA-JPR_-_Young_Jewish_Europeans_-_perceptions_and_experiences_of_antisemitism.pdf) (page 21)

<sup>5</sup> 'Antisemitic Incidents Report 2019' CST, 2019, p. 15; These are the categories adopted by the CST in their classification of antisemitic incidents in the United Kingdom.

There were two recorded acts of Extreme Violence in Australia in 2019, compared to one such incident in 2018.

» A Jewish student, aged 12, was physically and verbally abused at a Victorian public school, where the Jewish boy was punched in the face, had skin gouged out of his shoulder, and was bruised on the whole left side of his back, requiring hospital treatment for his injuries. During the attack, the offender shouted that the Jewish boy was a 'cooked up Jewish cunt'.

» For reasons of confidentiality, CSG is not able to share any further details of the second incident of Extreme Violence.

## 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.**

Twelve assaults were reported to CSG in 2019, an increase of 140% from the 5 incidents of this type recorded in 2018.

These targeted identifiably Jewish individuals, and 3 assaults targeted Jewish persons walking to or from Synagogue on Sabbath. Assaults included physical violence, projectiles including eggs and bottles, and identifiably Jewish people chased on foot and in vehicle. The majority of assaults took place in Victoria with 7 incidents, and 3 in NSW. In 3 assaults the victims were minors.

### Examples

» A bottle of alcohol was thrown at an identifiably Jewish family walking home from Synagogue (Melbourne, 10 February 2019).

» A full Coca Cola can was thrown and abuse yelled at an identifiably Jewish man leaving a Synagogue. (Melbourne, 12 February 2019).

» A man punched security personnel in the face and stated 'This is what we did in the 70s' (Melbourne, 19 March 2019).

» A man approached CSG security personnel at a Synagogue during the Sabbath, yelled that he would 'Rip your heart out' and pushed security personnel in the chest (Sydney, 5 July 2019).

» Eggs were thrown at an identifiably Jewish man and woman walking on the street during the Sabbath (Melbourne, 2 November 2019).

» An identifiably Jewish male school student was hit on the head by a group of teenagers on a public bus who harassed the student and verbally abused him, referencing that he was Jewish and preventing him from moving from his seat (Sydney, 6 December 2019).

## 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, including hoax Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) where the item does not actually contain any dangerous or hazardous material.**

**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.**

Twenty seven threats were reported to CSG in 2019, marking a rise of 93% from the 14 incidents of this type recorded in 2018. The most serious threat was a threat made on an online platform to conduct a shooting at a Synagogue and livestream the incident.

Nine threats targeted identifiably Jewish individuals, and 5 were directed towards uniformed security personnel immediately outside identifiably Jewish sites.

Twelve threats took places at Synagogues, 5 in public places, 4 at Jewish organisations, 4 at Jewish schools, 3 in public places and 2 on Jewish private property.

### Examples

» A threat to conduct a shooting at a Synagogue and livestream the incident was made on an online social media platform (Sydney, 28 April 2019).

» A Rabbi was verbally abused by a passenger in a car, while both cars were stationary at a red light, with the passenger calling the Rabbi a 'fucking selfish cunt of a Jew! You should've died in Auschwitz... Want me to get out and show you what Hitler did?... dickhead' (Melbourne, 28 January 2019).

» A Jewish organisation received an email stating 'me and my friends already purchased 6 automatic rifles, we plan to kill hundreds of Jewish students on the eve of Purim festivals' (Sydney, 12 March 2019).

» A man made physical threats towards his Jewish neighbour and housemate (Melbourne, 4 April 2019).

» A staff member of a Synagogue received phone calls over a series of two days threatening to kill Jews (Perth, 20-21 May 2019).

» Two Synagogues received threatening phone calls stating 'I'm going to burn down all your Synagogues tomorrow' (Sydney, 15 January 2019).



» A group of identifiably Jewish school students were threatened with a knife by a man who stated 'be careful who you stare at' and 'I will remember your faces' (Sydney, 28 June 2019).

» A Synagogue staff member received an email stating 'someone asked me to kill you' (Sydney, 26 August 2019)

» A man drove past a Synagogue and stated 'I'll put a bullet in your fucking gob' (Melbourne, 20 September 2019).

» A man exited a car and approached CSG security personnel during the Sabbath at a Synagogue stating 'What the fuck are you looking at? You're volunteer security. What the fuck are you doing? I can bring thirty boys and bomb the shit out of the Synagogue' (Sydney, 30 November 2019).

## DAMAGE & DESECRATION TO JEWISH PROPERTY

**Damage & 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.**

Thirty one incidents of Damage & Desecration were reported to CSG in 2019. This is a 48% increase from the 21 incidents of this type recorded in 2018. Incidents included 1 act of arson, 13 acts of graffiti, 13 acts of vandalism and 2 acts of postering and/or stickering. Vandalism included incidents of defecation and/or urination outside Synagogues, CCTV being ripped off from Synagogues, as well as rocks thrown through the windows of Jewish schools. Ten incidents targeted Synagogues, 3 targeted Jewish schools, 3 targeted Jewish homes and 1 targeted a Jewish business (a kosher bakery).

Forty-five per cent of all Damage & Desecration incidents involved extreme right discourse, including 9 swastikas spray-painted, carved burned or materially placed on Jewish property, and an additional 2 stickers advertising neo-Nazi organisation on Jewish property.

Most incidents took place in NSW with 21 incidents, 8 in Victoria, 1 in the ACT and 1 in Western Australia.

### Examples

» Stickers advertising a neo-Nazi organisation were placed on the gate of a Jewish organisation (Melbourne, 1 January 2019).



» A man lit an accelerant on a sign outside the Jewish House of Prayer at a cemetery (Sydney, 24 March 2019).



» A man drew swastikas on the walls of a Jewish-owned business (Sydney, 24 March 2019).

» The window of a Jewish bookstore was smashed (Melbourne, 24 March 2019).

» A swastika and the word 'Satan' was carved into the mailbox of a Jewish home (Sydney, 28 March 2019).





» A man exited a vehicle and proceeded to urinate on the front wall of a Synagogue (Sydney, 15 May 2019).

» Swastikas were etched onto the glass door of a Jewish-owned business (Sydney 28 March 2019).

» Antisemitic graffiti was spray-painted on the outside walls of a Synagogue (Brisbane, 10 September 2019).



» A swastika was drawn on the door of a Jewish-owned business (Sydney, 20 May 2019).

» Graffiti with the words 'Fuck Jews' and a swastika were drawn on the wall of a Synagogue (Sydney, 27 October 2019).



## 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 INCIDENTS



**Abusive Behaviour constituted the largest category of reported antisemitic incidents in 2019. Three hundred and sixty two reports of Abusive Behaviour were received, comprising 80% of all antisemitic incidents. This signalled a rise of 25% from the 290 instances of Abusive Behaviour recorded in 2018.**

**This is the highest tally of incidents classified as Abusive Behaviour that CSG has ever recorded in a calendar year, and is a significant driver behind the overall record annual figure of 451 antisemitic incidents.**

Verbal abuse constituted the largest type of abuse with 105 incidents reported, followed by 102 incidents of antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property, 51 incidents of abuse over social media, 42 antisemitic emails, 17 antisemitic gestures and 15 antisemitic telephone calls.

Other incidents included antisemitic stickering, poster, web enquiries and letters.

Twenty three per cent of Abusive Behaviour occurred on the Sabbath and/or a Jewish festival period. Seventy five incidents were directed towards Synagogues, 59 of which targeted Jewish persons and/or security personnel immediately outside a Synagogue. A further 136 incidents took place in a public place, 81 incidents took place at a Jewish organisation, 28 on private property, 24 at Jewish homes, businesses or property, and 16 at a Jewish school. Overall, 94 incidents were directed towards identifiably Jewish individuals, which is an increase of 14% from 2018.

One hundred and forty five incidents involved extreme right discourse, including neo-Nazi statements towards Jewish persons, which is an increase of 140% involving discourse of this type. Separately, 2 incidents involved persons yelling 'Allahu Akbar' or 'Allah is great' towards Jewish persons.

A large portion of incidents took place in NSW at 237 incidents, followed by 100 reported in Victoria, 16 in Queensland, 8 in Western Australia and 1 in the ACT.

#### Examples

» The leader of a neo-Nazi organisation performed a 'White Power' hand gesture outside a Jewish organisation and uploaded the photo to social media (Sydney, 3 January 2019).

» Bondi Beach promenade and an outer wall of Eastgate Shopping Centre in Bondi Junction were spray-painted with swastika graffiti (Sydney, 10 February 2019).



» A Jewish-owned business received a copy of Brenton Tarrant's manifesto in the mail (Sydney, 25 March 2019).

» A 5-year-old Jewish boy at a public school was verbally abused and harassed by five class classmates in the school's bathrooms including being called 'Jewish vermin', 'dirty Jew' and 'Jewish cockroach' (Melbourne, March to July 2019).

» A man in a passing vehicle yelled 'Fuck you! The Holocaust is bullshit! Bloody Jewish' towards a group of schoolchildren standing near the entrance of a Jewish museum (Sydney, 21 February 2019).

» Graffiti of swastikas, the phrases 'Jewish scum', 'Watch out Jews', 'Adolf Hitler', '1488', 'Skinhead' and Nazi 'SS' bolts were spray painted on private property (Sydney, 28 March 2019).



» A neo-Nazi group sticker was found on the car of a staff member at a Jewish organisation (Perth, 17 August 2019).



» A Jewish Community member found a note containing racist slurs and a swastika at the doorstep of their private residence (Perth, 22 August 2019).

» A man yelled 'You fucking Jewish cunts' towards security personnel standing immediately outside a Synagogue during the Sabbath (Sydney, 7 September 2019).

## LITERATURE

**Literature is defined as antisemitic literature 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 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 statistics. In addition, CSG excludes from statistical review proactively sought antisemitic literature that reflects the general activities of antisemitic organisations.

**Seventeen incidents of Literature were reported in 2019, reflecting an increase of 70% from the 10 incidents of antisemitic Literature in 2019.**

Two of these incidents involved stickers from known neo-Nazi organisations, Combat-18 and Antipodean Resistance. Yet the majority of these incidents, 11 in total, involved mass-disseminated antisemitic emails. The proliferation of emails as a tool for spreading viral antisemitism gives some indication of the global level of antisemitic sentiment, as many of these emails originate from outside of Australia.

One such incident was a co-ordinated campaign against Dr Kerryn Phelps during the Federal Election, that saw several conspiratorial emails slating Phelps for being openly Jewish and Lesbian. An additional 2 incidents of literature involved sending antisemitic letters while a further 2 included other online activity such as web inquiries and social media.

## ANALYSIS

### INCIDENT VICTIMS

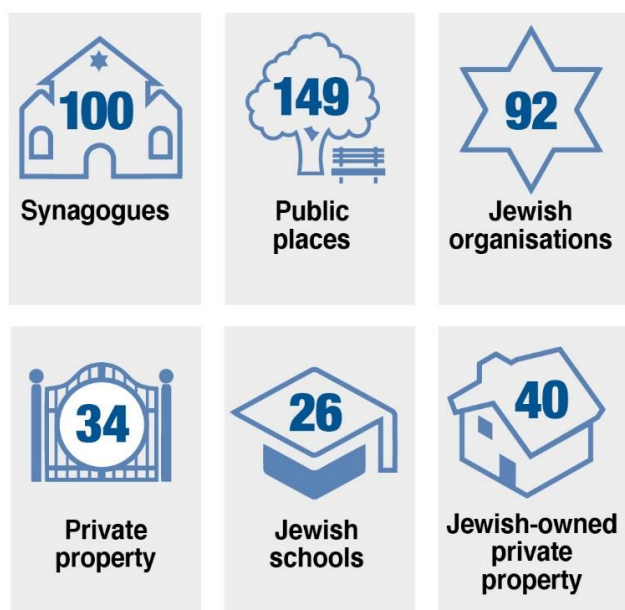
Antisemitic incidents in 2019 targeted a large cross section of the Jewish Community in Australia, including Jewish people, sites, events and property.

Ninety-four incidents were directed at identifiably Jewish individuals and 51 incidents were directed towards uniformed security personnel immediately outside Jewish sites or events. Twenty-six victims were reported as walking to or from a Synagogue, although it is likely the actual number is higher due to considerable under-reporting.

### SITES BEING TARGETED

One hundred and forty-nine antisemitic incidents occurred in a public place. One hundred incidents occurred at Synagogues, compared to 94 incidents in 2018, which is an increase of 6%. Ninety-two antisemitic incidents targeted Jewish organisations, which signals an increase of 70% from 54 incidents in 2018. Forty antisemitic incidents took place at Jewish homes, businesses or property, reflecting an increase of 150% from 16 incidents in 2018, and 34 on private property, which is a 31% decrease compared to 49 incidents in 2018. Twenty-six antisemitic incidents targeted Jewish schools in 2019 which is the same number as in 2018.

### SITES BEING TARGETED



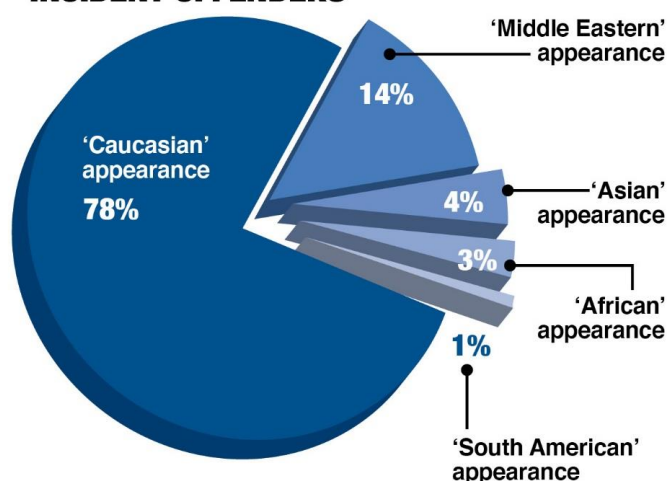
### INCIDENT OFFENDERS

Where possible, CSG has recorded the age, gender and appearance of incident offenders. Notably, in 29% of incidents the offender provided either their name, self-presented a unique identifier such as a social media profile name, or were already known.

CSG received an approximate age of the offender/s in 163 of the 451 incidents (36%) with offenders described as adults in 157 incidents and minors in 6 incidents. All minors were reported as male where gender was recorded.

A physical description of the offender was obtained in 101 incidents, with offenders described as 'Caucasian' appearance in 79 incidents (78%). Offenders were described as 'Middle Eastern' appearance in 14 incidents (14%), 'Asian' in 4 incidents (4%), 'African' in 3 incidents (3%), and 'South American' in 1 incident (1%).

#### INCIDENT OFFENDERS



These proportions have fluctuated very little from 2018, and are broadly typical of a period without a significant trigger event from the Middle East.

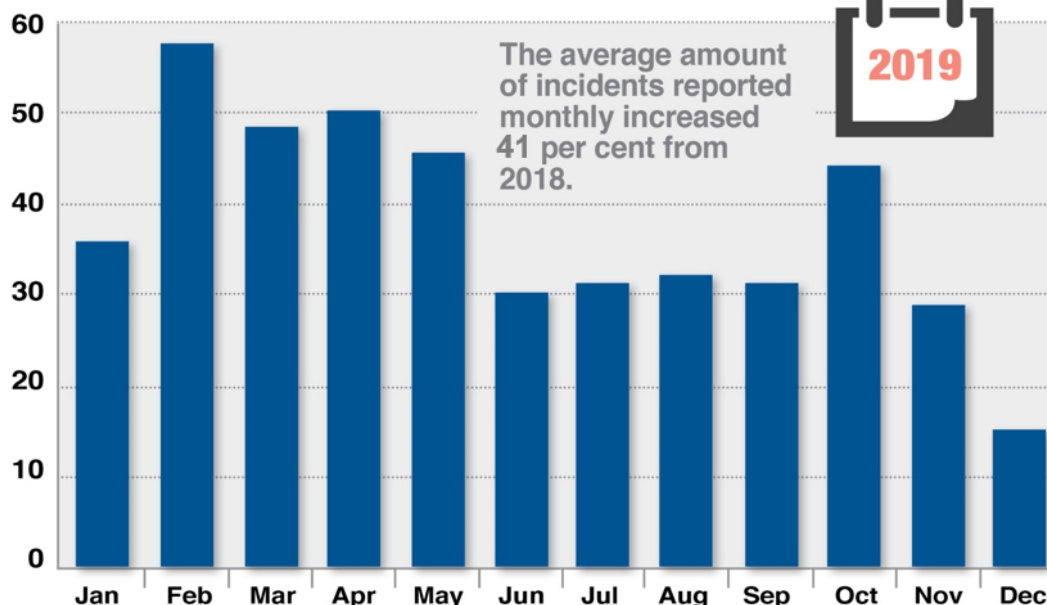
In 21 incidents there was either more than one offender or the offender was accompanied by other people.

### MONTHLY BREAKDOWN

An average of 38 antisemitic incidents took place every month in 2019. A large spike occurred in the first quarter of the year, with an average of 48 antisemitic incidents occurring between January and April. The highest monthly totals in 2019 came in February and April, with 58 and 50 antisemitic incidents respectively.



## MONTHLY INCIDENTS



Of note, these months bookmark the Christchurch massacre and Poway Synagogue shooting, two significant events which indicate a continuous chain of far-right motivated violence. While many of the incidents reported to CSG are not ideologically motivated, it is important to note the wider global environment and impact these events have on CSG's annual antisemitic incident totals. In this context, perpetrators may feel motivated or emboldened to act due to their perception of the target group and a growing sense of triumphalism following 'successful' attacks.

The 58 antisemitic incidents reported to CSG in February represents an all-time high since CSG began recording incidents, with a 16% increase from last year's record (September 2018 saw 50 reported incidents). The average number of incidents reported per month increased 41% in 2019. Since January 2019, monthly totals of more than 30 incidents have been reported in all but one month, whereas CSG only recorded monthly totals exceeding 30 incidents on five occasions in 2018. Overall, the monthly number of incidents is generally evenly distributed. The lowest monthly incident total was 15 in December, with no explanation attributable to this decline.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Incidents of online antisemitism, particularly on social media, have maintained a steady bearing on the overall antisemitic incident total in 2019. CSG logged 55 antisemitic social media incidents in 2019, constituting 12% of the annual total, which is a 38% increase compared to antisemitic social media incidents in 2018.

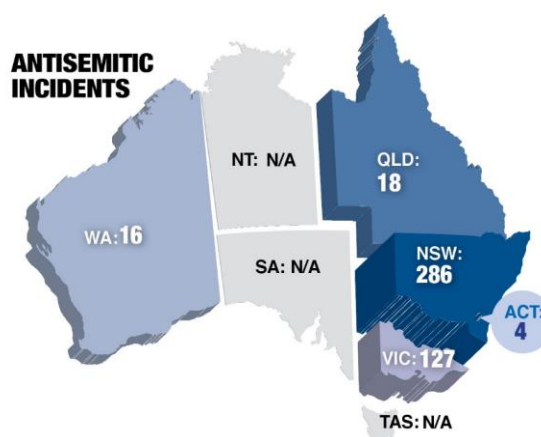
Nearly two thirds of these incidents were directed against Jewish organisations with 37 reported incidents. Fifty-five of these incidents were Abusive Behaviour, 3 were threats and 1 included mass disseminated literature.

However, these figures only marginally reflect the volume and scope of antisemitism on social media. 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.

## GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

NSW experienced the highest reported number of antisemitic incidents at 286 (63%), followed by 127 incidents in Victoria (28%), 18 in Queensland, 16 in Western Australia, 4 in the ACT, and no reported incidents in South Australia, Tasmania or the Northern Territory.



Ninety-one per cent of the 451 antisemitic incidents reported in 2019 took place in NSW and Victoria, mirroring the proportion of the Australian Jewish Community residing in those two states (87%). Reported incidents per state may also be indicative of the size, dominion and reach of the CSG workforce and other representative organisations. Incidents were concentrated in the suburbs most heavily populated by the Jewish Community. In NSW, 135 incidents occurred in the 'Eastern Suburbs'<sup>6</sup> amounting to 30% of all NSW incidents, including 53 in the Bondi hub (Bondi, North Bondi, Bondi Beach and Bondi Junction). An additional 21 incidents occurred in Sydney's northern suburbs where another Jewish Community hub resides.<sup>7</sup>

In Victoria, 69 incidents occurred in the combined suburbs of Balaclava, Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, Brighton, Caulfield, Caulfield North, Caulfield South, Elsternwick, Elwood, Malvern, St Kilda and St Kilda East. In Western Australia, incidents were confined to the six suburbs of Geraldton, Mount Lawley, Dianella, Yokine, Noranda, Menora and Balcatta.

In NSW, Darlinghurst was the most targeted suburb totalling 47 incidents (16%). Thirty-three of these incidents targeted the Sydney Jewish Museum and organisations located in the adjoining Jewish War Memorial Building, which is considered Sydney's Jewish communal organisational hub. Notably, 85% of incidents directed at this site involved targeted antisemitic correspondence, including emails, web enquiries and telephone calls. This is distinct from other areas in Sydney, where verbal abuse was the most common form of antisemitic incident reported.

The concentration of the Australian Jewish population in particular suburbs in Australia has also meant that the antisemitic incidents are generally confined to a select number of Police Area Commands (PACs) and Districts. In NSW, 82% of incidents occurred in 6 PACs, with 98 incidents reported in Eastern Suburbs PAC, 63 in Kings Cross PAC, 37 in Eastern Beaches PAC, 15 in Sydney City PAC, 11 in Ku-Ring-Gai PAC and 10 in North Shore PAC. In Western Australia, the majority of incidents occurred in the Morley Police Station area, with 3 incidents being reported in Bayswater Police Station area and one being reported Geraldton Police Station area.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION

An offender was charged in 8 of the 451 incidents (1.8%). Seven of these incidents occurred in NSW, and 1 incident occurred in Victoria.

All 8 offenders were adult males. One offender engaged in Extreme Violence, 6 engaged in Abusive Behaviour and 1 engaged in Trespass. Note, a large number of antisemitic incidents reported in Australia would likely not qualify as criminal offences.

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. Police were notified in 285 incidents (63%). Separately, CSG were notified by various Australian law enforcement bodies of an additional 62 antisemitic incidents.

Bias-motivated crime statistics are actively recorded by law enforcement in Australia. NSW Police recorded a total of 62 antisemitic incidents as bias-motivated in 2019, of which 35 were reported by CSG NSW to Police.<sup>8</sup>

## 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.**

The Jewish Community continues to be a chosen target of terror actors worldwide. On Friday 9 October 2019, a gunman with far-right ideology attempted to infiltrate a Synagogue in Halle, Germany during Yom Kippur morning services. The gunman, equipped with homemade tactical gear, firearms, explosives, and various other weapons, failed to gain entry to the Synagogue. Of note, the perpetrator had conducted pre-operational surveillance of the site beforehand, stating in his manifesto that the Synagogue was not a soft target and security measures were 'quite high'.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> The Eastern Suburbs district adopted was the area allocated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for 'Sydney – Eastern Suburbs (SA4) (118)'.

<sup>7</sup> Suburbs include St Ives, Lindfield, Chatswood, Cremorne, East Killara, Ryde, Gordon, Macquarie Park and Mosman.

<sup>8</sup> NSW Police have not validated the data contained in this publication, nor CSG's interpretation of the data.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.njhomelandsecurity.gov/analysis/attack-at-synagogue-in-halle-germany>

Unable to gain access to the 75 congregants inside, the gunman opened fire on the street, killing two people and wounding two others.

Antisemitic terrorism continues with at least 62 antisemitic terror attacks publicly reported as planned and/or perpetrated against Jewish targets worldwide in the last 5 years (2015 - 2019) in cities including Paris, Copenhagen, Barcelona, Berlin, Moscow, New York City, Kiev, Los Angeles, Milan, Istanbul, Miami, Rio De Janeiro and London.

Six hundred and sixteen incidents of suspicious activity were reported to CSG in 2019, which signals an increase of 15% compared to 537 incidents of this type in 2018. Of the 616 incidents of suspicious activity, there were 116 reports of persons observing Jewish sites or people, which is a decrease of 18% compared to 142 incidents of this type last year. In 2019 there were 148 reports of suspicious correspondence, which signals an increase of 21% of these type of reports. CSG received 99 reports of photo, video or note taking in 2019, which marks a decrease of 11%. In 2019 there were 93 denials of entry based on suspicion, which is a 5% increase compared to incidents of this type in 2018. One hundred and thirty-seven suspicious interactions with unknown persons were reported to CSG in 2019, which signalled a 110% increase in incidents of this type compared to the 65 incidents of this type in 2018. In 2019, 23 suspicious objects were reported to CSG which is a 187% increase in incidents of this type compared to 8 reports of suspicious objects in 2018. In addition, a further 287 activity reports that qualified as neither antisemitic nor suspicious were processed by CSG. Activity reports in 2019 increased by 117% compared to 132 reports of this type in 2018.

#### INCIDENTS OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



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-televisions (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.**

## CONCLUSION

The 451 antisemitic incidents recorded by CSG in 2019 perpetuate a sustained pattern of an historically high level of antisemitic incidents. This 31% increase from 2018 may be attributable to a number of factors including the rise of far-right activity spurred on by the Christchurch attack in March 2019 and the Poway Synagogue shooting in April. It may also reflect better awareness in the Jewish Community of the CSG's work, a greater level of communal engagement, and therefore an improvement in the rates of reporting antisemitic incidents to CSG.

The 49 and 50 antisemitic incidents which occurred in March and April 2019 respectively may be attributable to the trigger events of Christchurch and Poway. The highest monthly total for 2019 in February may have occurred due to holocaust-denier and conspiracy theorist David Icke being banned from entering Australia.

Despite improvement in reporting, it is to be expected that antisemitic hate crime and hate incidents, like other forms of hate crime, are significantly under-reported. This is particularly the case where the victims are minors; where the incident is considered of 'lesser' impact by the victim; and for incidents that take place on social media. Consequently, the statistics contained in this report should be taken as being indicative of general trends, rather than absolute measures of the number of incidents that actually take place.



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**1300 000 CSG (1300 000 274)**



**CSG ALERT APP**



