A CSG ANALYSIS OF REPORTED ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS IN AUSTRALIA IN 2022

Members of a neo-Nazi group making 'Sieg Heil' gestures outside a Holocaust Museum, 31 August 2022, South Australia.

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.
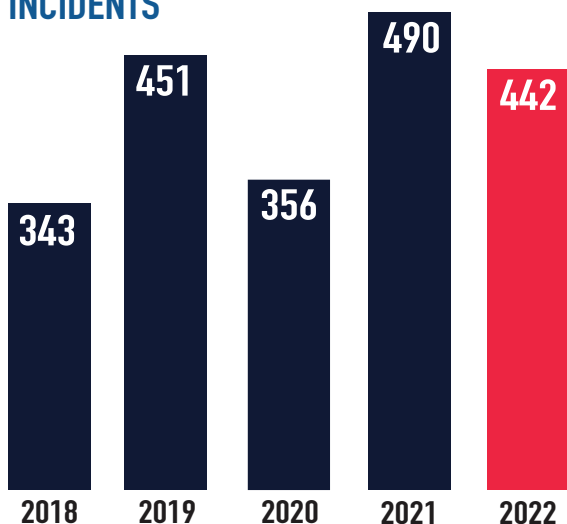
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report will statistically review antisemitic incidents in the 2022 calendar year, reported to the Community Security Group (CSG) across Australia.

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

CSG recorded 442 incidents in Australia in 2022. This is a 10% decrease compared to the 490 incidents recorded in 2021. However, this figure still represents a historically high number of antisemitic incidents and is substantially higher than antisemitic incident figures in 2020 and 2018.

REPORTING OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
343	451	356	490	442

This decrease is attributed to the absence of a major conflict overseas involving Israel. In 2021, CSG recorded a 38% increase in antisemitic incidents, with approximately 22% of all incidents linked to the May 2021 Israel-Gaza Conflict. This once again reinforces the impact of overseas conflicts involving Israel. In 2022, CSG recorded a historically significant number of antisemitic incidents in part due to a sustained rise in neo-Nazi activity targeting the Australian Jewish Community.

KEY FINDINGS:

■ The single highest category of antisemitic incident reported was abusive behaviour at 359 (81%), followed by 41 incidents of damage and desecration, 20 incidents of literature, 11 assaults, 10 threats and 1 incident of extreme violence.

■ There was an average of 37 antisemitic incidents per month in 2022. The highest number of antisemitic incidents were recorded in October at 50, closely followed by September at 48. In the absence of any overseas conflict involving Israel, CSG typically records the highest number of antisemitic incidents during the months of September and October which coincide with the Jewish High Holy Days, the peak festival period of the Jewish calendar. Due to the significant increase in Jewish communal activity during the High Holy Days, there is typically a corresponding rise in reports of antisemitism and opportunistic antisemitic incidents targeting identifiably Jewish individuals walking to and from Jewish sites.

■ New South Wales experienced the highest reported number of antisemitic incidents at 281 (64%), followed by 103 incidents in Victoria, 25 incidents in Western Australia, 14 incidents in Queensland, 10 incidents in South Australia, 5 incidents in Tasmania, 4 incidents in the Australian Capital Territory and no reported incidents in the Northern Territory.

■ The most common location of antisemitic incidents were public places at 194 incidents (44%), followed by 85 incidents at synagogues, 59 incidents at private property, 48 incidents at Jewish communal organisations, 35 incidents at Jewish schools and 21 incidents at Jewish private residence, business or property.

■ There was one act of extreme violence which involved an assault of a Jewish man by a female offender in Queensland, resulting in hospitalisation for flesh wounds.

■ There were 11 antisemitic assaults in 2022. These included an assault of two Jewish men outside a supermarket in a predominantly Jewish neighbourhood in Victoria, resulting in hospitalisation.

■ There were 10 threats in 2022. These included a threat in a supermarket to decapitate two Jewish individuals and a threat to attack a synagogue.

■ Extreme-right discourse was involved in 247 incidents, constituting 56% of all antisemitic incidents. This represents the highest nominal and proportionate number of antisemitic incidents involving extreme-right discourse recorded by CSG. Such a finding is consistent with the reporting of rising levels of far-right extremism in Australia, including specific activity by far-right extremist groups targeting the Jewish Community. Neo-Nazi groups across Australia targeted Jewish sites, including synagogues and Jewish residences, through propaganda campaigns. This included the placing of neo-Nazi stickers on or nearby synagogues and distributing neo-Nazi letters to residences in Jewish areas. Extreme-right discourse includes neo-Nazi language or symbology such as 'Sieg Heil' gestures (commonly referred to as the 'Nazi salute') and swastika graffiti.

■ Anti-Israel discourse was involved in 58 antisemitic incidents, whilst 11 incidents involved Islamist discourse.

■ One-hundred and three (23%) antisemitic incidents occurred on the Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) or during a Jewish festival.

■ Twenty-one incidents involved Jewish schoolchildren as victims, whilst university students were the victims of 10 incidents.

■ Law enforcement across the country were notified of 219 incidents (50%). In New South Wales, 75 incidents were recorded by the NSW Police Engagement & Hate Crime Unit as 'Hate Crime Related'. Law enforcement notified CSG of 15 antisemitic incidents in 2022.

■ Offenders were charged in relation to 13 incidents. Whilst most antisemitic incidents do not constitute criminal offences, this figure is the highest number of charges laid by law enforcement across the country in relation to antisemitic incidents ever recorded by CSG.

Nine offences were laid by NSW Police, mainly in relation to assault, intimidation and offensive conduct. Further, three offences were laid by Victoria Police and one offence was laid by South Australia Police.

■ In addition to the 442 antisemitic incidents reported to CSG in 2022, there were 361 reports of suspicious activity made to CSG. CSG also processed 110 reports which were classified as neither antisemitic nor suspicious. In total, the CSG workforce around Australia processed 931 reports as part of CSG's role in the provision of security to the Australian Jewish Community.

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 each community's 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.

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. This includes the 'Sieg Heil' gesture, commonly referred to as the 'Nazi salute'.

EXAMPLE:

On Sunday 7 August 2022, two members of a neo-Nazi group placed antisemitic stickers on a synagogue in South Australia. During the incident, one of the members made a 'Sieg Heil' gesture. They later placed antisemitic stickers outside a separate Jewish organisation. Both offenders were arrested and charged by police.
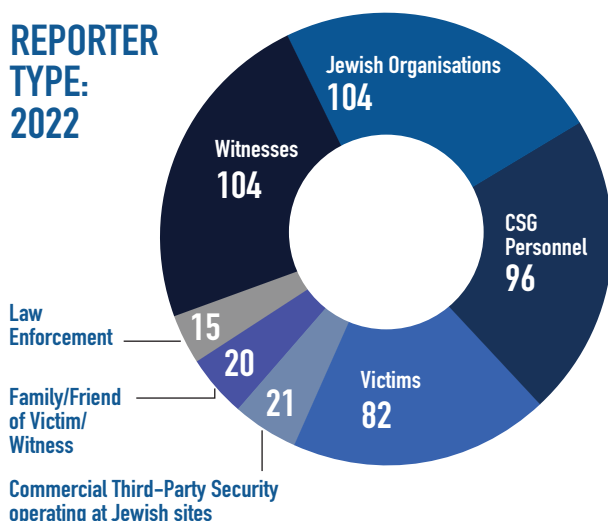
[1] CSG has based this publication on the model of the Community Security Trust's (CST) annual and biannual publication on antisemitic incidents; 'Antisemitic Incidents Report 2022', Community Security Trust, 2023.

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.

Incidents were most commonly reported by other Jewish organisations and witnesses, both at 104 incidents each, followed closely by 96 reports by CSG personnel, 82 reports by victims, 21 reports by commercial third-party security guards operating at Jewish sites, 20 reports by family or friends of a victim or witness and 15 reports by law enforcement.

REPORTER TYPE: 2022

Jewish Organisations
104

Witnesses
104

Law Enforcement
15

Family/Friend of Victim/ Witness
20

Commercial Third-Party Security operating at Jewish sites
21

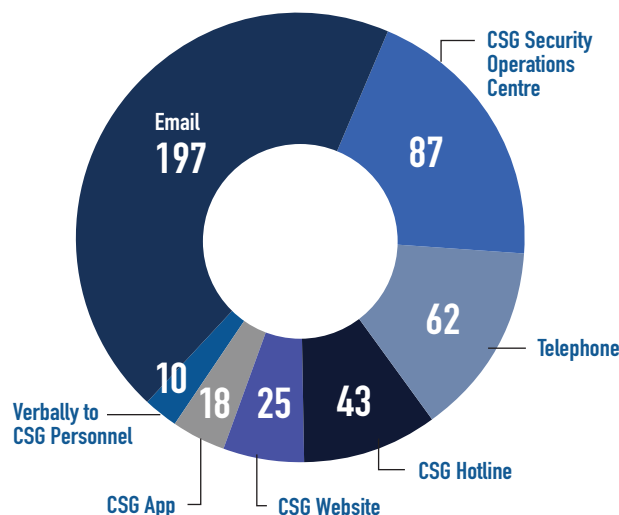Victims
82

CSG Personnel
96

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.

CSG notified law enforcement of 219 incidents, with offenders charged for 13 incidents.

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.

One-hundred and ninety-seven incidents (45%) were reported to CSG via email. In addition, 87 incidents were reported to the CSG Security Operations Centre, 62 incidents were reported via phone call, 43 incidents were reported via the CSG National Emergency, Advice and Assistance Hotline, 25 incidents were reported to the CSG website, 18 incidents were reported via CSG's smartphone application[2] and 10 incidents were verbally reported to CSG personnel at Jewish sites.

METHOD OF REPORTING

Email
197

CSG Security Operations Centre
87

Telephone
62

CSG Hotline
43

CSG Website
25

CSG App
18

Verbally to CSG Personnel
10

> **CSG staff have undergone specialist training to professionally triage, assess, respond to and record 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.**

[2] CSG Alert in New South Wales and Western Australia, JEAP in Victoria.

INCIDENT CATEGORIES

Antisemitic incidents are classified into six categories: extreme violence, assault, threat, damage and desecration, abusive behaviour and literature.[3]

The single highest category of antisemitic incident reported was abusive behaviour at 359 incidents (81%), followed by 41 incidents of damage and desecration, 20 incidents of literature, 11 assaults, 10 threats and 1 incident of extreme violence.

ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR

359

There were 11 antisemitic assaults in 2022. More than half of these assaults occurred on the Jewish Sabbath or during a Jewish festival period. Six occurred in Victoria, whilst 4 occurred in New South Wales and 1 occurred in Western Australia. Most assaults occurred in public places, with 82% targeting identifiably Jewish persons and 6 incidents involving victims walking to or from a synagogue or Jewish event. One offender was charged by law enforcement.

○ 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.

In 2022, there was one act of extreme violence reported to CSG. In both 2021 and 2020, there were no recorded acts of extreme violence in Australia.

EXAMPLES:

■ A female assaulted a Jewish male after identifying that he was wearing a necklace with the Jewish Star of David. The female punched and kicked the male repeatedly, before biting him and ripping his shirt. The victim was hospitalised as a result of his injuries, which included a severe flesh wound. After the assault, the female ripped the necklace off the victim and said, "Now, you are not Jewish. You don't have a Star of David on you". (Friday 6 May 2022, Queensland).

○ 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.
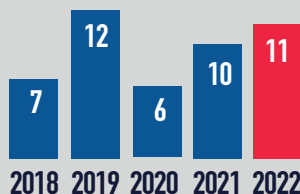
EXAMPLES:

■ A group of identifiably Jewish males were assaulted by a group of males in a nightclub. The offenders repeatedly pushed the Jewish males and forcibly removed their kippot (Jewish skullcaps), calling them "Zionist dogs" and shouting, "F-ck you, you Jew dogs … you f-cking rats". (February 2022, Victoria).

■ A male approached an identifiably Jewish individual and attempted to remove his kippah (Jewish skullcap). When another identifiably Jewish individual attempted to intervene, the male then assaulted the bystander by punching him, before retreating to a residence nearby, stating to the victims that he was retrieving a knife. (Sunday 15 May 2022, Victoria).

■ A female approached an identifiably Jewish individual and shouted, "You Jews don't belong in the area" and "You're destroying the heritage", before forcibly removing the Jewish individual's traditional hat and throwing it on the ground. (Friday 3 June 2022, New South Wales).

■ A male began verbally abusing two identifiably Jewish individuals after they overtook him on a footpath. The male made antisemitic comments, "You f-cking people think you can walk over everyone". After the two Jewish individuals tried to ignore him, the male slapped one of them, before punching him repeatedly. (Saturday 26 November 2022, Victoria).

ASSAULT

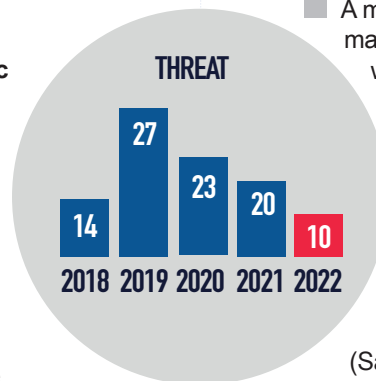| 2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
7	12	6	10	11

[3] '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.

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.

In 2022, CSG recorded 10 antisemitic threats, all of which did not materialise.

Threats occurred across a range of location types; however, they were predominantly in New South Wales. Three offenders were charged by law enforcement, all of which were laid by New South Wales Police for offences including stalk and intimidate, offensive conduct and common assault.[4]

THREAT

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
14	27	23	20	10

EXAMPLES:

A male approached two Jewish individuals in a supermarket and shouted, "Every Jew must be killed. If I see you around here again, I am going to cut your f-cking heads off, you c-nts". (Thursday 14 April 2022, New South Wales).

A male followed an identifiably Jewish male through a shopping centre, before whispering in his ear, "I'm going to chop you up" and "I'll put a bullet in you". (Wednesday 20 July 2022, New South Wales).
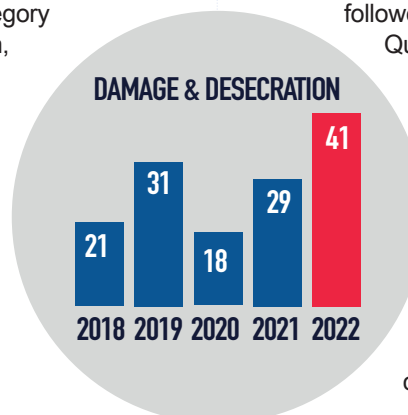
A male walking past a synagogue shouted towards security personnel, "You are getting the most vicious attack coming to you. Do you hear me Jewish security guards?". (Saturday 1 October 2022, New South Wales).

A male was overheard shouting "Heil Hitler" and "F-ck the Jews". When approached by a Jewish individual, the male replied with, "Come outside and I'll smash you up … Jews burning in the oven". (Tuesday 13 December 2022, Victoria).

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 2022, CSG recorded 41 incidents of damage and desecration. This represents a 41% increase compared to 2021 and is the highest number of incidents in this category ever recorded by CSG. The increase is indicative of a rise in the targeting of Jewish sites by hostile actors through acts of graffiti, vandalism, stickering and arson. In 2022, there were a series of stickering and other propaganda campaigns by neo-Nazi groups targeting Jewish sites.

DAMAGE & DESECRATION

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
21	31	18	29	41

Sixteen acts of damage and desecration targeted synagogues, 9 targeted Jewish organisations and 5 targeted Jewish private residences, businesses or properties. Eighteen incidents occurred in Victoria, followed by 14 in New South Wales, 4 in Queensland, 3 in South Australia, 1 in Western Australia and 1 in the Australian Capital Territory. Of note, 68% of acts of damage and desecration in 2022 involved extreme-right discourse, namely through graffiti or stickering. Four offenders were charged by law enforcement, with two charges laid by Victoria Police, one charge laid by New South Wales Police and 1 charge laid by South Australia Police.

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[4] Please note, antisemitic incident definitions differ to that used by law enforcement for criminal offences.

EXAMPLES:

A male approached a Jewish facility and set items on fire at the exterior perimeter wall. The fire was extinguished by police patrolling the area. The male was later involved in an incident where he drew antisemitic graffiti on a Jewish-owned building. (Wednesday 16 February 2022, New South Wales).

Antisemitic posters were affixed to an election campaign poster for a Jewish Federal MP. The posters included a gold Star of David used by the Nazis and, "Shoah your support", referring to the Holocaust.
(Monday 2 May 2022, Australian Capital Territory).

Graffiti, including a swastika, was drawn on a poster for a Jewish Federal MP. (Saturday 26 February 2022, Victoria).

Stickers linked to a neo-Nazi group, including the words, 'F-ck Jews', were affixed to a pole directly outside a synagogue.
(Wednesday 30 March 2022, Queensland).

Graffiti of a swastika was drawn on a poster for a Jewish Federal MP.
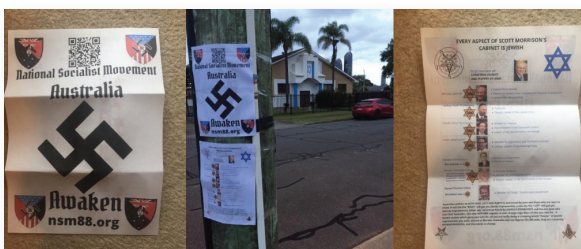(Monday 4 April 2022, Victoria).

Posters linked to a neo-Nazi group were affixed to a pole directly outside a synagogue.
(Saturday 30 April 2022, Queensland).

Two members of a neo-Nazi group placed more than fifty stickers on and nearby Jewish sites. This occurred immediately after the Victorian Government announced that they would pass legislation to ban the public display of the Nazi swastika.
(Thursday 12 May 2022, Victoria).

Multiple neo-Nazi stickers were placed immediately nearby a synagogue by a suspected member of a neo-Nazi group. (Thursday 19 May 2022, New South Wales).

A sticker reading "Ye (Kanye) West is right about Jews" was placed outside a synagogue. (Monday 7 November 2022, Queensland).

A Chanukiah (candelabra ornament for the festival of Chanukah) was forcibly removed from public display and pushed off a pier into water. The signs on the Chanukiah were also forcibly removed. (Wednesday 21 December 2022, Victoria).

CSG encourages the Australian Jewish Community to report all incidents through the CSG Alert App or Hotline (1300 000 CSG) as preferred reporting methods.

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 constitutes the largest category of reported antisemitic incidents in 2022, which is similar to previous years.

Three-hundred and fifty-nine reports of abusive behaviour were reported to CSG in 2022, comprising 81% of antisemitic incidents. These included 102 incidents of verbal abuse, 77 incidents of graffiti, 44 reports of stickers, 37 gestures, 26 incidents of abuse on social media, 23 phone calls, 21 emails, 13 acts of vandalism, 9 web enquiries, 6 letters and 1 incident of trespass.

@#%!

VERBAL ABUSE	102
ANTISEMITIC GRAFFITI	77
ANTISEMITIC STICKERING	44
ANTISEMITIC GESTURES	37
ABUSE VIA SOCIAL MEDIA	26
ANTISEMITIC PHONE CALLS	23
ANTISEMITIC EMAILS	21
ANTISEMITIC VANDALISM	13
ANTISEMITIC WEB ENQUIRIES	9
ANTISEMITIC LETTERS	6
TRESPASSING	1

Fifty-two incidents of abuse targeted identifiably Jewish individuals, with an additional 36 incidents targeting uniformed security personnel operating at Jewish sites across Australia.

EXAMPLES:

■ A Jewish father and his son were verbally abused by a male who shouted, "All Jews should go to the gas chamber" and "When I have a son, I will call him Adolf". (Saturday 29 January 2022, Queensland).

■ Two individuals who stated that they had affiliations with Lebanese militant group, Hizballah, publicly expressed that they had "always wanted to organise a riot at a synagogue". (Thursday 14 April 2022, New South Wales).

■ The occupants of a vehicle shouted "F-cking Jews" multiple times towards congregants leaving a synagogue, before directing multiple 'Sieg Heil' gestures towards the group. (Saturday 14 May 2022, New South Wales).

■ Multiple swastikas were chemically burnt into grass at a reserve using a weedkiller. (Friday 15 April 2022, Victoria).

■ Graffiti of a swastika was painted on a utility pole nearby a synagogue. (Monday 20 June 2022, Tasmania).

■ The occupants of a passing vehicle shouted "F-cking Jewish c-nts" towards an identifiably Jewish family walking down a public street. (Thursday 7 July 2022, Victoria).

■ Several antisemitic posters with neo-Nazi discourse were placed in public locations in Jewish areas, nearby several synagogues. (Friday 22 July 2022, Victoria).

■ During a major Jewish festival, a male driver drove to three separate Jewish sites shouting "Allahu Akbar" and made 'Sieg Heil' gestures. The male was charged by police and later convicted. (Monday 26 September 2022, New South Wales).
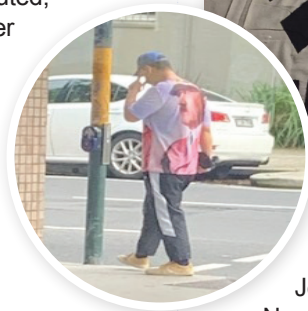
▪ A member of the public was overheard on the phone saying, "We should have killed all the Jews", "We will kill the Jews" and "Heil Hitler". The individual then made a 'Sieg Heil' gesture. (Wednesday 28 September 2022, Victoria).

▪ Four teenagers walked past identifiably Jewish individuals outside a synagogue and shouted, "Heil Hitler, dirty Jews." (Friday 21 October 2022, Western Australia).

▪ A male was observed walking in public with a t-shirt picturing Adolf Hitler. (Tuesday 25 October 2022, New South Wales).

▪ Two individuals shouted, "Hitler didn't finish his job" and "Kanye was right about the Jews", in addition to other antisemitic comments, towards identifiably Jewish individuals walking to synagogue. (Saturday 5 November 2022, Victoria).
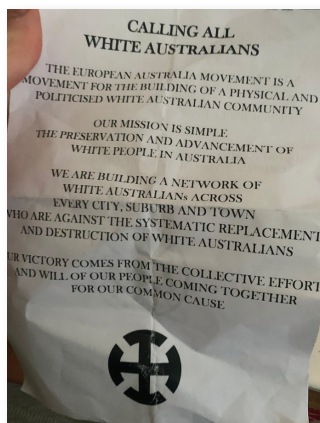

YOU WANT TO BAN THIS: BUT NOT THIS

OH, BECAUSE IT OFFENDS (((THEM)))

...WS - HITLER WAS RIGHT

▪ Tenants at a residence in a Jewish suburb chanted "Allahu Akbar. If you are Jewish, you better be scared". (Sunday 13 November 2022, New South Wales).

▪ Members of a neo-Nazi group displayed a banner and made 'Sieg Heil' gestures at an overpass of a highway. (Sunday 27 November 2022, Queensland).

○ 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.

Twenty incidents of literature were reported to CSG in 2022. This represents a 186% increase compared to 2021.

CALLING ALL WHITE AUSTRALIANS

THE EUROPEAN AUSTRALIA MOVEMENT IS A MOVEMENT FOR THE BUILDING OF A PHYSICAL AND POLITICISED WHITE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

OUR MISSION IS SIMPLE THE PRESERVATION AND ADVANCEMENT OF WHITE PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA

WE ARE BUILDING A NETWORK OF WHITE AUSTRALIANS ACROSS EVERY CITY, SUBURB AND TOWN WHO ARE AGAINST THE SYSTEMATIC REPLACEMENT AND DESTRUCTION OF WHITE AUSTRALIANS

...UR VICTORY COMES FROM THE COLLECTIVE EFFORT AND WILL OF OUR PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMON CAUSE

KANYE IS RIGHT ABOUT THE JEWS

This substantial increase is directly due to a series of propaganda campaigns by neo-Nazi groups, some of which specifically targeted Jewish areas and sites. These included the affixing of antisemitic stickers in public locations, oftentimes nearby synagogues, and the placing of antisemitic letters in letterboxes of Jewish residences. Ninety percent of incidents of literature involved extreme-right discourse, with 75% of incidents occurring in New South Wales.

▪ Letters linked to a neo-Nazi group were distributed to Jewish residences throughout a Jewish area. (Sunday 2 October 2022, New South Wales).

▪ Stickers saying "Kanye is right about the Jews" were distributed by a neo-Nazi group. (Friday 25 November 2022, Queensland).

ANALYSIS

◯ INCIDENT VICTIMS

Antisemitic incidents in 2022 targeted a large cross-section of the Jewish Community in Australia, including Jewish persons, sites, events and properties.

Identifiably Jewish individuals were the victims of 64 incidents across the country, comprising 14% of all incidents. Of note, whilst there was an overall decrease in antisemitic incidents, this figure represents a nominal 18% increase in incidents targeting identifiably Jewish individuals compared to the 54 incidents of such nature in 2021. In 23 incidents, victims of antisemitic incidents were walking to or from synagogues or Jewish events, again comprising a nominal 64% increase compared to the 14 incidents of this kind in 2021.

Uniformed security personnel outside Jewish sites were the victims of 38 incidents, comprising 9% of all incidents.

In 120 of the incidents reported with identifiable victim ages and genders, 23 incidents involved victims who were minors, four of which were assaults. Fifty-eight percent of victims were male and 11% were female, with the remaining 31% undisclosed or indeterminate.

SCHOOLCHILDREN

Schoolchildren were the victims of 21 incidents, representing a 50% increase compared to 2021. In 2022, CSG received an influx of reports regarding antisemitic incidents at schools across New South Wales, particularly relating to cases of bullying. A substantial portion of these incidents could not be included in this report as they related to historical incidents which occurred prior to 2022.

Almost 50% of these incidents occurred at non-Jewish schools, across New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania. Three incidents occurred on public transport and 3 occurred during school excursions.

Two of these incidents were assaults, whilst 13 were incidents of antisemitic verbal abuse. Victims were predominantly male, and offenders were exclusively male. Of note, 71% of the offenders were also minors.

Law enforcement across Australia were notified of 12 of these incidents.

EXAMPLES:

■ Clothing belonging to a Jewish student at a non-Jewish school was removed from his bag and placed in the shape of a large swastika, most likely by other students onsite. (Sunday 23 January 2022, Western Australia).

■ A group of students from a non-Jewish school approached students from a Jewish school at a campsite and shouted, "F-ck Jews" and "Hitler never did anything wrong". Additionally, they made 'Sieg Heil' gestures towards the Jewish students. (Wednesday 24 August 2022, New South Wales).

■ A student made repeated 'Sieg Heil' gestures towards a Jewish student at a non-Jewish high school. When asked at one stage to stop by the Jewish student, the other student made a gun gesture and pretended to shoot other school students, saying "Shoot the Jew! Shoot the Jew", at a bus stop.
(Monday 15 August 2022, New South Wales).

■ A Jewish high school student was subject to antisemitic bullying on social media, including other students making 'Sieg Heil' gestures and sending messages such as, "Hitler did so much good. I wish he was the leader. F-ck the Jews, gas them all" and "We love neo-Nazis" and "Change the group name to 'No Jews Allowed'". (Thursday 1 September 2022, Tasmania).

■ Whilst a Jewish student was in a shower, an unknown individual sprayed deodorant over the cubicle wall and shouted, "Jew, you're in a gas chamber". (Thursday 6 October 2022, Western Australia).

■ The driver of a passing vehicle shouted, "You all belong in the oven, Hitler should have finished the job", and made threatening hand gestures towards three Jewish schoolchildren walking home from school. (Friday 4 November 2022, Western Australia).

■ A group of children, aged between 8 to 13 from a non-Jewish school, approached schoolchildren of a similar age from a Jewish day school and said, "F-ck Jews", "Kill Jews" and "Get out of our territory". (Saturday 19 November 2022, New South Wales).

■ A Jewish student was forced into a locker and sprayed with deodorant to simulate a Nazi gas chamber by another student. Other students laughed and filmed the incident.
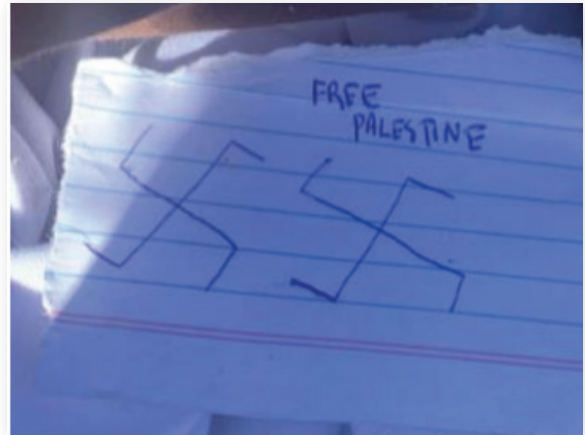(unknown month, New South Wales).

UNIVERSITY

Ten incidents targeted university students, with 9 incidents occurring on university campuses across Australia. This included 6 incidents in New South Wales and 4 incidents in South Australia.

Consistent with historical data, 90% of these incidents involved anti-Israel discourse. This finding demonstrates that Jewish students continue to be subject to antisemitic incidents due to their faith as opposed to political beliefs. This remains an issue on university campuses globally, where Jewish students are subject to abuse due to other students' views about the actions and policies of a foreign government.

■ Jewish students were advised by a university that they were not allowed to serve Middle Eastern food, such as hummus or falafel, during a university event. The students were intending to serve the food on behalf of a Jewish student union to promote Mizrachi and Sephardi Jewish culture; however, they were advised by the university that this food could only be served by Palestinian students or unions and that the Jewish union was a threat to Palestinian students on campus (January – March 2022, New South Wales).
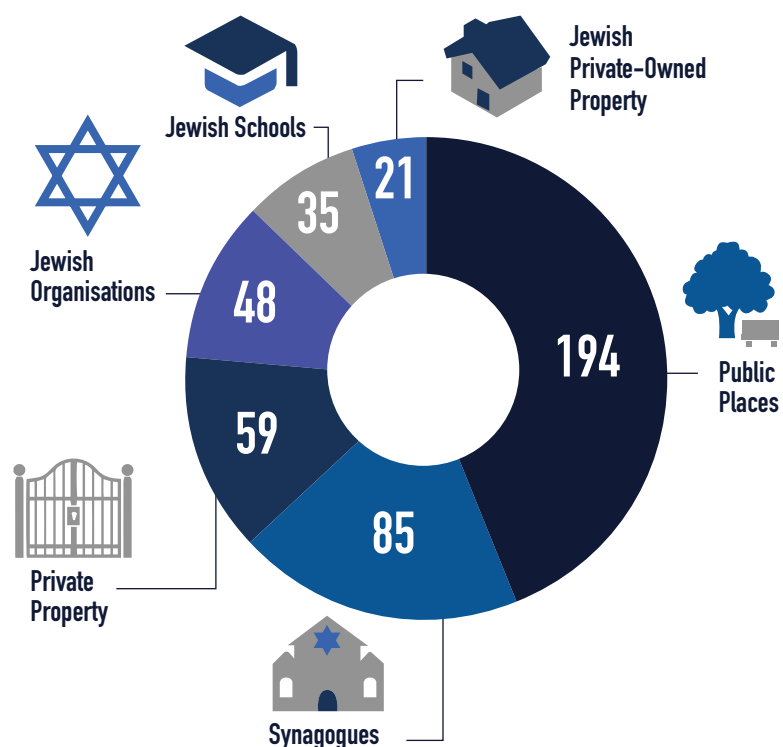
■ A Jewish student at a university found a note in her bag on campus which included the words, "Free Palestine", and two swastikas. (Thursday 10 March 2022, New South Wales).

■ Jewish students were subject to anti-Israel verbal abuse at student union meetings. This included a chant by a female student, who shouted, "Death to Israel", towards the students. Note, these incidents did not occur within the context of advocacy for Israel. (Thursday 1 September 2022, South Australia).
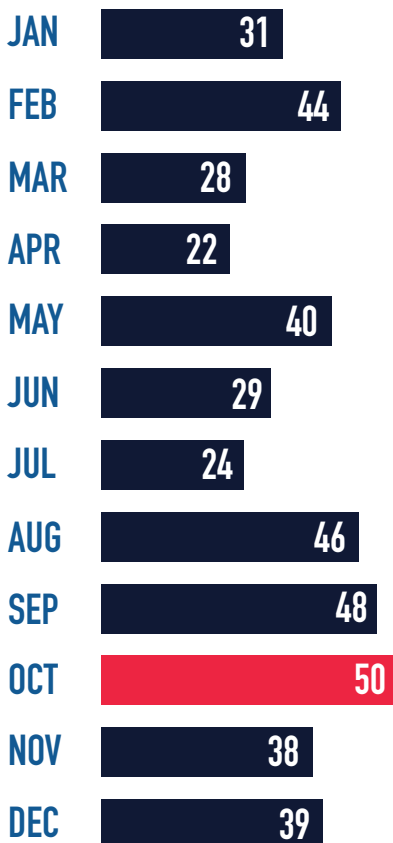
SITES TARGETED

The highest recorded location of antisemitic incidents were public places at 194 incidents (44%), followed by 85 incidents at synagogues, 59 incidents at private property, 48 incidents at Jewish communal organisations, 35 incidents at Jewish schools and 21 incidents at Jewish private residences, businesses or properties.

Jewish Schools — 35
Jewish Private-Owned Property — 21
Jewish Organisations — 48
Public Places — 194
Private Property — 59
Synagogues — 85

MONTHLY BREAKDOWN

There was an average of 37 antisemitic incidents per month in 2022. The distribution of antisemitic incidents throughout 2022 was relatively equal and consistent with historical data. This also equates to approximately 1.2 antisemitic incidents per day.

Month	Incidents
JAN	31
FEB	44
MAR	28
APR	22
MAY	40
JUN	29
JUL	24
AUG	46
SEP	48
OCT	50
NOV	38
DEC	39

*Note: 3 incidents occured over multiple months.

The highest number of antisemitic incidents were recorded in October at 50, closely followed by September at 48. In the absence of any overseas conflict involving Israel, CSG typically records the highest number of antisemitic incidents during the months of September and October which coincide with the Jewish High Holy Days, the peak festival period of the Jewish calendar. Due to the significant increase in Jewish communal activity during the High Holy Days, there is typically a corresponding rise in reports of antisemitism and opportunistic antisemitic incidents targeting identifiably Jewish individuals in public areas.

[5] Australian Strategic Policy Institute: https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/asio-chief-flags-alarming-increase-in-children-lured-to-extremism/
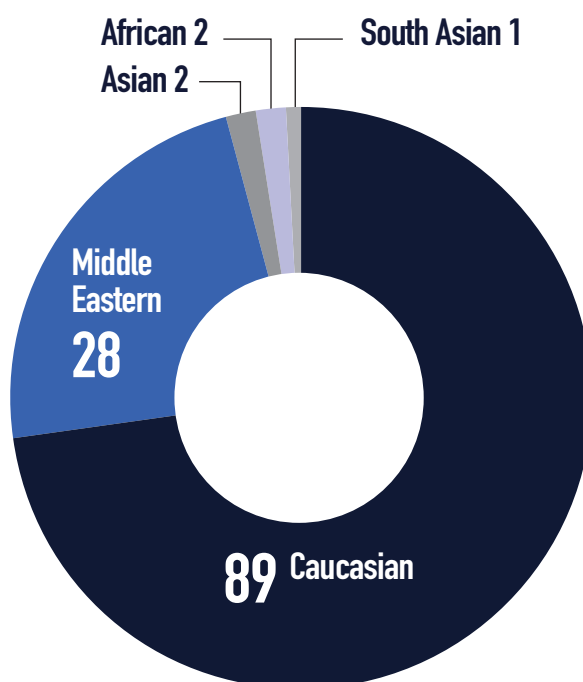
INCIDENT OFFENDERS

Where possible, CSG has recorded the age, gender and appearance of incident offenders. In 17% 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 43% of incidents, with offenders described as adults in 162 incidents and minors in 27 incidents. Of note, the number of incidents with offenders described as minors increased by 145%. This is consistent with reporting by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation regarding the rise in minors in Australia holding extremist ideology.[5]

In 41% of incidents, CSG received a description of the gender of an offender. In 158 incidents, the offender(s) was/were described as male, whilst 16 offender(s) was/were described as female. In 8 incidents, offenders included both males and females. In 46 incidents, offenders were in groups.

A physical description of the offender was obtained in 122 incidents, with offenders described as 'Caucasian' in 89 incidents, 'Middle Eastern' in 28 incidents, 'African' in 2 incidents, 'Asian' in 2 incidents and 'South Asian' in 1 incident.

TYPES OF OFFENDERS

African 2
Asian 2
South Asian 1
Middle Eastern 28
89 Caucasian

◯ SOCIAL MEDIA

Thirty-two incidents (7%) of reported antisemitic incidents occurred on social media. This represents a substantial decrease compared to 2021 and 2020, which is expected given previous figures were recorded during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fifty percent of these incidents involved extreme-right discourse.

These figures marginally reflect the volume and scope of antisemitism on social media and other online platforms.

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.
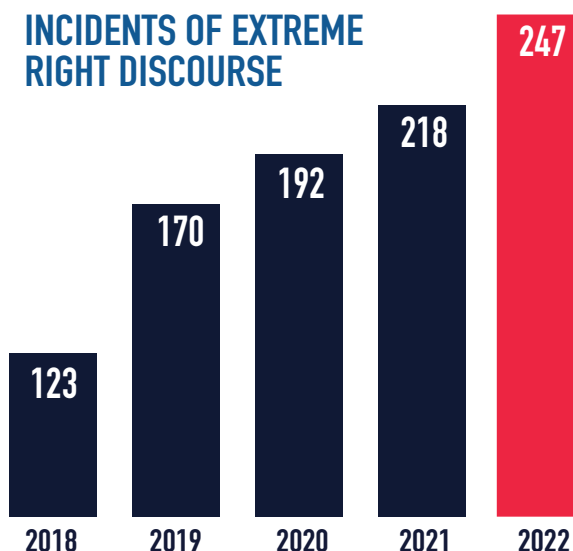
◯ DISCOURSE

Extreme-right discourse was involved in 247 incidents, constituting 56% of all antisemitic incidents. This represents the highest nominal and proportionate number of antisemitic incidents involving extreme-right discourse ever recorded by CSG. Such a finding is consistent with the reporting of rising levels of far-right extremism in Australia,[6] including specific activity by neo-Nazi groups targeting the Jewish Community. Neo-Nazi groups across Australia targeted Jewish sites, including synagogues and Jewish residences, through propaganda campaigns. These included the placing of neo-Nazi stickers on or nearby synagogues and distributing neo-Nazi letters to residences in Jewish areas. Extreme-right discourse includes neo-Nazi language or symbology such as 'Sieg Heil' gestures (commonly referred to as the 'Hitler salute') and swastika graffiti.

INCIDENTS OF EXTREME RIGHT DISCOURSE

Year	Incidents
2018	123
2019	170
2020	192
2021	218
2022	247

This finding demonstrates a continuing rise in antisemitic incidents containing extreme-right discourse. Since 2018, this represents a 100% increase. Further, this aligns with rising levels of far-right extremism locally and globally, particularly targeting Jewish interests, since 2018.[7]

EXAMPLE:

A male driver circled multiple synagogues whilst publicly making 'Sieg Heil' salutes. The male then exited his vehicle and affixed multiple antisemitic and neo-Nazi posters to street poles in public locations (Friday 4 November 2022, Victoria).

Fifty-eight incidents involved anti-Israel discourse, whilst 11 incidents involved Islamist discourse.

[6] Lowy Institute: https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/rise-extreme-right-new-global-extremism-threat-democracy

[7] Foreign Policy: https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/01/15/far-right-extremism-global-problem-worldwide-solutions/

⃝ GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

New South Wales experienced the highest reported number of antisemitic incidents at 281 (64%), followed by 103 incidents in Victoria, 25 incidents in Western Australia, 14 incidents in Queensland, 10 incidents in South Australia, 5 incidents in Tasmania, 4 incidents in the Australian Capital Territory and no reported incidents in the Northern Territory.
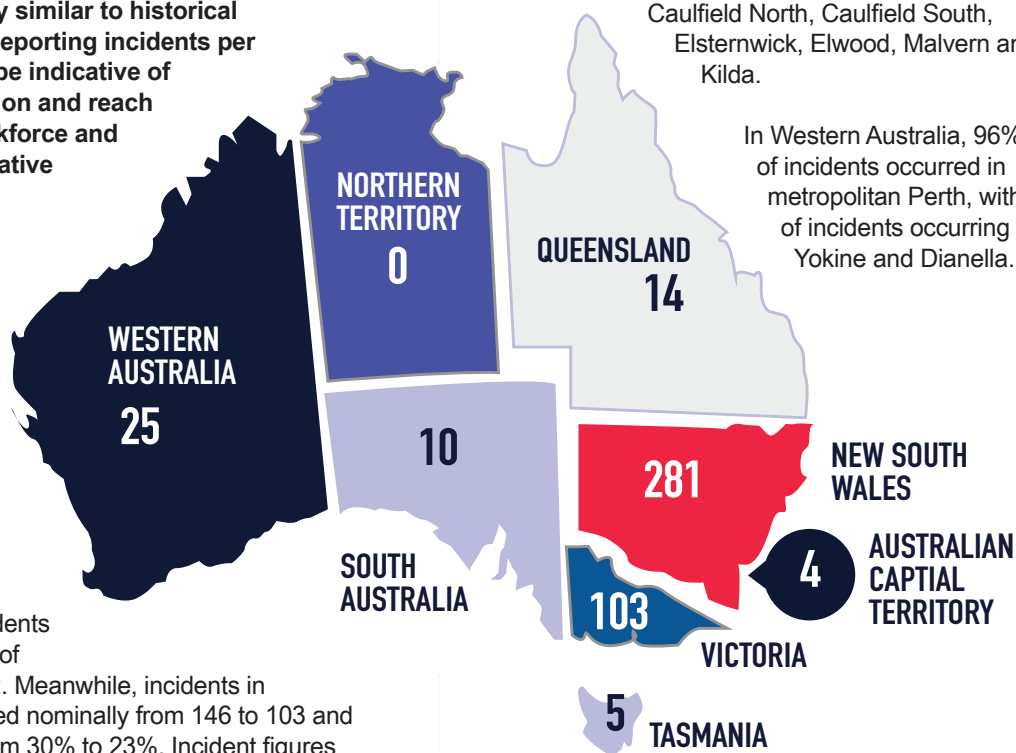
Of the 442 incidents recorded in 2022, 87% occurred in New South Wales and Victoria. This precisely mirrors the proportion of Australian Jewry residing in these two states, comprising 87%, and is very similar to historical incident data. Reporting incidents per state may also be indicative of the size, dominion and reach of the CSG workforce and other representative organisations.

These findings demonstrate a nominal and proportionate rise in antisemitic incidents in New South Wales, from 262 incidents comprising 54% of all incidents in 2021 to 281 incidents comprising 64% of incidents in 2022. Meanwhile, incidents in Victoria decreased nominally from 146 to 103 and proportionally from 30% to 23%. Incident figures fluctuated in Western Australia, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory; however, given these figures are consistently low, accurate analysis is limited and changes, unless significant, are unlikely to be indicative of any particular trend.

There does not appear to be a discernible cause of the change in incident distribution across New South Wales and Victoria. It may be due to a rise in activity of neo-Nazi groups in New South Wales targeting Jewish sites and persons. Further, reporting mechanisms in New South Wales are from a greater and more diverse range of sources.

Incidents were generally concentrated in the suburbs most heavily populated by the Jewish Community, located in metropolitan capital cities. In New South Wales, 95% of incidents occurred in metropolitan Sydney, with 39% of incidents occurring in the Eastern Suburbs area[8] and 50 incidents occurring in the 'Bondi area' (Bondi, Bondi Beach, Bondi Junction and North Bondi). Further, 27 incidents occurred in the North Shore area, another Jewish communal area. In Victoria, all incidents occurred in metropolitan Melbourne, with 48% of incidents occurring in the collection of predominantly Jewish suburbs: Balaclava, Caulfield, Caulfield North, Caulfield South, Elsternwick, Elwood, Malvern and St Kilda.

In Western Australia, 96% of incidents occurred in metropolitan Perth, with 40% of incidents occurring in Yokine and Dianella.

NORTHERN TERRITORY 0

QUEENSLAND 14

WESTERN AUSTRALIA 25

10

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES 281

AUSTRALIAN CAPTIAL TERRITORY 4

VICTORIA 103

TASMANIA 5

In Queensland, 71% of incidents occurred in metropolitan Brisbane, whilst the remaining proportion occurred in the Gold Coast. Within Brisbane, most occurred in Brisbane CBD; and within the Gold Coast, most occurred in Surfers Paradise.

In South Australia, all incidents occurred in metropolitan Adelaide, with 40% of incidents occurring in Adelaide CBD and 30% of incidents occurring in Hackney. In Tasmania, all incidents occurred in Launceston, whilst in the Australian Capital Territory, all incidents occurred in Canberra.

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION

An offender was charged in relation to 13 incidents in 2022. This represents a more than 100% increase compared to 2021 and is the highest number of charges in relation to antisemitic incidents ever recorded by CSG. This finding reflects the continued efforts by law enforcement to hold perpetrators of antisemitic incidents responsible for their actions as well as their continued support for the safety and security of the Jewish Community.
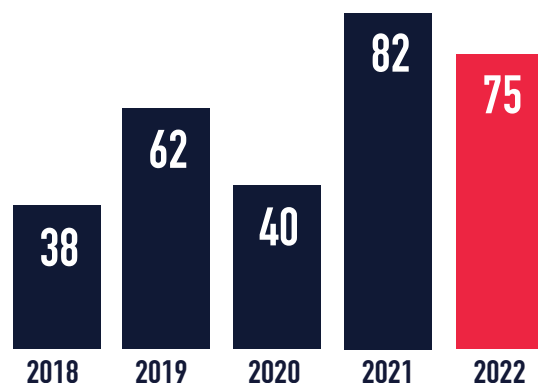
Note, whilst only 3% of antisemitic incidents resulted in criminal charges pursued against offenders, a significant amount of antisemitic activity does not qualify as criminal offences and not all victims wish to report incidents to law enforcement and/or pursue charges against offenders.

Nine of the charges were laid by New South Wales Police. This includes offences relating to intimidation, offensive conduct and assault. Of note, one of these charges was under the recently enacted criminal offence, section 93ZA.[9] This offence was assented in New South Wales in August 2022 and bans the public display of the Nazi swastika and other Nazi symbology. Similar legislation is in force in Victoria, with proposals by other state legislative regimes to enact a similar ban. Three charges were laid by Victoria Police, whilst one charge was laid by South Australia Police.

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. Law enforcement was notified in relation to 219 (50%) incidents. Likewise, law enforcement notified CSG of 15 incidents.

Hate crime statistics are actively recorded by law enforcement across Australia. In New South Wales, the New South Wales Police Engagement and Hate Crime Unit classified a total of 75 incidents as 'Hate Crime Related'.[10]

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

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
38	62	40	82	75

The concentration of the Australian Jewish population in particular areas of metropolitan cities across Australia has also meant that antisemitic incidents are generally confined to a select number of police jurisdictions.

In New South Wales, 130 incidents (46%) occurred in Eastern Suburbs Police Area Command, with 26 incidents in Sydney City Police Area Command, 18 incidents in Ku-Ring-Gai Police Area Command, 16 incidents in Eastern Beaches Police Area Command, 15 incidents in Kings Cross Police Area Command, 9 incidents in North Shore Police Area Command and 9 incidents in Inner West Police Area Command. In Victoria, 40 incidents (38%) occurred in the Caulfield service area, with 23 incidents in the St Kilda service area and 8 incidents in the Boroondara service area. In Western Australia, 13 incidents (52%) occurred in the Morley Police Station area.

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[9] *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW) s 93ZA.

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

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTS

A critical function of CSG is to identify, respond 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. On 15 January 2022, an Al-Qaeda sympathiser took a Rabbi and four congregants hostage at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas in the United States. All hostages were able to escape unharmed, attributed to security training delivered by a local Jewish communal security group. Likewise, authorities worldwide foiled plots against Jewish targets, including a credible threat made against synagogues in New Jersey in the United States on 4 November 2022, triggering a large-scale response by the FBI.

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

In 2022, there were 361 reports of suspicious activity to CSG. These included 101 reports of suspicious photo, video or note-taking by unknown persons, 97 reports of suspicious interactions, 82 reports of suspicious correspondence, 41 reports of unknown individuals denied entry to Jewish sites based on suspicion, 25 reports of suspicious unknown persons observing Jewish sites or persons and 15 reports of suspicious objects outside Jewish sites. In addition, CSG processed and assessed 110 reports 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 investigative efforts, 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 law enforcement and CSG.

CONCLUSION

Whilst CSG recorded 442 incidents in 2022, representing a 10% decrease compared to 2021, this figure still constitutes a historically high number of antisemitic incidents. Akin to figures recorded globally, antisemitism remains prevalent and mainstream.

This decrease recorded in 2022 is most likely due to the absence of a conflict overseas involving Israel. The 38% increase in antisemitic incidents recorded in 2021 was principally due to a sharp rise in incidents during the May 2021 Israel-Gaza conflict. These findings are similar to that released by the Community Security Trust in the United Kingdom.[11]

Further, although CSG recorded a decrease in overall incidents in 2022, there was a rise in the number of incidents involving extreme-right discourse by 13%, consistent with reporting of increasing far-right extremism in Australia, including the specific targeting of Jewish interests.

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.

[11] Community Security Trust: https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/e/6/CST%20Incidents%20Report%202022.pdf

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Please direct all Australian Capital Territory, South Australian, Tasmanian and Northern Territory inquiries to the CSG national hotline. Note, Jewish communal security in these states is managed by the Community Security Group New South Wales.

National 24 HR emergency response, incident reporting, advice and assistance
1300 000 CSG (1300 000 274)