

13-July-2026

Statement attributable to the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion:

The Royal Commission is using a range of mechanisms to inform its work, consistent with its Terms of Reference, including written submissions, hearings, information obtained through notices, research and community engagements.

Hearings are one way the Royal Commission undertakes its work and these will continue until the end of August 2026. Each hearing block is focusing on different elements of the Terms of Reference.

Hearing block 1 focused on the nature and prevalence of antisemitism and heard from a number of witnesses about their lived experience of antisemitism. This included evidence regarding the media sector. Hearing block 3 focused on the dissemination of antisemitic content and other forms of hateful speech in the online environment, as well as antisemitism in traditional media and broadcasting, rather than antisemitism within media institutions as employers. Hearing Block 6 will focus on guidance, training and frameworks to respond to antisemitic conduct in different domains, including ways in which government agencies and institutions can counteract and prevent manifestations of antisemitism.

The Royal Commission's role is not to resolve individual complaints or disputes. Commissioner Bell stated the function of the Royal Commission in investigating claims of bias by public broadcasters at the start of hearing block 3:

"The Commission's focus is on the adequacy of the broadcasters' complaint-handling mechanisms, including with respect to allegations of bias in the reporting of events in the Middle East relating to the state of Israel."

The Royal Commission is confident it is discharging its duties as per its Terms of Reference.

Sarah Bamford

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Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion