



# National Council of Churches in Australia

*Monday, 15 December 2025*

## **Statement on the terror attack at Bondi Beach**

The National Council of Churches in Australia are shocked and overwhelmed by the murderous events that happened at Bondi Beach last night on the first day of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. A terrible darkness descended on the festival of light and hope.

This act of terror on the Jewish community, on innocent Australians, is an attack on all Australians and on our way of life. We utterly condemn the anti-Semitic hatred that has led to this appalling event.

We express our heartfelt sorrow to the families and friends of those who have been killed or who suffered injuries, whose lives have been shattered. We hold them in our prayers as they deal with the shock and grief that now engulfs them.

“Such appalling violence and terror has no place in Australia and we affirm the freedom of all people to live with peace and safety. We condemn such acts of terror,” said Rev John Gilmore, President.

We stand in solidarity with Jewish communities and value our relationships with them and their Rabbis. We will continue to accompany them with our thoughts and prayers, now and in the weeks ahead.

The courage and bravery of the police, paramedics and ordinary citizens who risked their lives to save others and prevent further loss of life; deserve our sincere gratitude.

This appalling violence seeks to divide us. It will not succeed. This is a moment for national unity, for all of us to come together to work for harmony, peace and respectful relations among all the religions and cultures of this great nation.

Such events can be very upsetting and unsettling, even if you were not directly impacted. We encourage you to look out for and care for each other, especially if you are feeling overwhelmed. Your local Church or faith community can help. Please reach out to them. They stand ready to listen and offer support.

We pray together in the words of our Lord’s prayer: ‘Deliver us from evil’ and grant us peace in our days.

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