

Independent review finds sector-wide failure to meet definition requirements

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The independent assessment of Australian universities against the Antisemitism Report Card has found that no institution met the requirements for adopting a definition of antisemitism, the foundation on which all other measures depend.

The assessment was conducted independently by Professor Greg Craven AO, former Vice-Chancellor of Australian Catholic University. Ms Segal thanked Professor Craven for his very sobering report.

"No Australian university assessed met the definitional requirements of the Report Card. Without a clear, adopted, and enforceable definition of antisemitism, efforts to combat hatred on campus are fundamentally compromised," Professor Craven said.

The Report Card was established by the Office of the Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism to assess universities across four priority areas: definition of antisemitism; policy settings; complaints processes; and antisemitism training. Given that every institution failed on the fundamental issue of definition, the independent assessment moved to a single sector-wide examination of that issue alone.

A genuine definition requires more than a general statement of support. It must be clear, prominent, binding, and applicable to future rule-making. On every standard, the sector fell short.

The Special Envoy, Jillian Segal AO, noted the independent findings. "The Report Card process exists precisely to drive genuine, substantive change in how universities respond to antisemitism. This assessment makes clear that the sector has significant work to do."

Professor Craven acknowledged that a small number of institutions are making demonstrable progress, and that many universities demonstrated goodwill toward the process.

The Report Card process will continue, with additional guidance and support provided to universities. Institutions will be given a further opportunity to demonstrate genuine compliance.

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