



PJTN Western Australia Quarter 3 report, submitted by Brian Warburton Chapter Director

Thank you email sent to Premier Andrews:

“Dear Premier Andrews. As director of Proclaiming Justice to The Nations WA, I would like on behalf of PJTN International to thank you for your opposition of anti-Semitic remarks aimed at a group of people who defied the lockdown rules recently. At PJTN we have witnessed an alarming upsurge in anti-Semitism around the world, both verbal and physical. Your stand against this verbal abuse against a religion is most welcome and will prevent further verbal attacks which lead eventually to physical abuse. I believe that most of the Jewish community as we at PJTN are law abiding and we believe that most people from other cultures and religions wish to live in a peaceful law-abiding community. Again, thank you Premier. I believe that your comments will help diffuse what could have easily turned into an ugly anti-Semitic incident.”

Sincerely, Brian Warburton Director PJTN WA

Comments made by Premier Andrews:

“Anti-Semitism is unacceptable and evil, and we have a zero-tolerance approach to that in our state,” he told reporters.

“The event ... was not a function of being Jewish. Those people [who broke the rules] are being dealt with. Them breaking the rules was not a reflection on the Jewish community more broadly.

“There is never, ever a place in Victoria for anti-Semitic behaviour or language. It's simply evil. We called out some bad behaviour yesterday. We didn't call out a community because that would be simply unfair and wrong, and that's clearly evidenced by so many Jewish community leaders stepping up and having condemned what has occurred.”

Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton said he was “horrified to see anti-Semitic hate directed at the community.”

“It's profoundly wrong. I also want to flag that it is incredibly destructive to the public health response. Hate directed at any community, geographically, by age cohort, by country of origin, ethnic background, language, whatever, it is destructive to the public health response,” he said.

“We have seen it with Islamophobia, and the reality is communities are focused on protecting themselves, their families, and those around them.”