

October 14, 2021

**Statement by Liam Getreu,
Executive director of NIF AUSTRALIA**

“We remain concerned about codification of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism and don’t support the government’s decision.

“Fighting antisemitism must remain a high priority. It is equally important to differentiate between the very real threat of hatred and violence towards Jews and legitimate criticism of the actions of the Israeli government.

“The Working Definition is increasingly being used to conflate antisemitism and criticism of Israel. Enshrining the definition into policy and law has not been supported by a wide range of groups, including leading mainstream Jewish-American organisations and even the definition’s lead drafter.

“We’ve already seen how the Trump administration and others have weaponised the IHRA definition of antisemitism to target those who harbour no hatred towards Jews. Doing so has made it more difficult to identify and confront genuine instances of antisemitism.

“We urge the government to remain vigilant about the potential impact of this decision on vibrant discourse, especially on university campuses and in civil society.”