

STATEMENT IN FULL BY KAREN ANDREWS, MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS

- There's no place in Australia for anti-Semitism, nor any other racist or hateful ideology. This Government does not tolerate racism or discrimination of any kind.
- Unfortunately, the threat of religiously and ideologically motivated violent extremism is real and growing.

- During COVID we have seen increases in the time people are spending online; this connects us to friends and family, but it also makes us vulnerable.

- Just yesterday my Department launched an online platform called 'Fearlessly Australian'. It is designed to engage young Australian men in particular.
 - It presents alternatives to anti-social, criminal or extremist influences to counter those who seek to prey on fears, uncertainties and prejudices to foster division in our society.

- The Government is serious about addressing religiously and ideologically motivated violent extremism.
 - Earlier this year, the Government made a record \$1.3 billion investment in ASIO's most sensitive capabilities, which will help the agency detect and deter extremists.

 - In addition, the Government referred an Inquiry into Extremist Movements and Radicalism in Australia to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security in December 2020. It is currently underway.