

GALUS AUSTRALIS

Jewish Life in the Antipodes

Israeli Perfidy? Holocaust Mawkishness? Leader Overreach? Medical Marijuana Kosher? What do You Think?

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From the [editor](#):

There is [increasing evidence](#) that Israel **tricked or forced Ethiopian women to use the long acting birth control, Depo-Provera**. When Israel's behaviour is problematic, is it the place of Australian Zionists to criticise? What responsibility do we have to ensure the liberal democratic nature of the State?

A quest to record **every note of music ever composed in a concentration camp** draws the ire of James Loeffler who sees the project as an [“insult to music.”](#) What is your view of how we commemorate the Holocaust? Are we overly mawkish or do we have it right?

While the RCV has given in principle support to organ donation, it's still [investigating](#) the halachic complexities. Meanwhile The [Halachic Organ Donor Society](#) has done a lot of the leg work already. Considering the low rates of Jewish organ donation, do you think the RCV is moving quickly enough on this issue or is this too religiously important to rely on the deliberation of other rabbis around the world?

Meanwhile, Rabbi Efraim Zalmanovich declares **medical marijuana [kosher](#)**, but still advises against recreational use. Is marijuana use in the Australian Jewish community commensurate with use in wider Australian society? Is it a problem?

New Deputy PM, **Anthony Albanese gets a pass from from ZFA President, Philip Chester**, despite being a founder of the Parliamentary Friends of Palestine group. Because he doesn't support BDS and has spoken out against the Marrickville Council's attempted boycott, Albanese is not coming in for the sort of criticism leveled at Bob Carr last week. What do you think about our leaders' approach to political figures? Do you feel giving “passes and fails,” alienates and eventually becomes white noise, or do you think it's an important contribution to promoting Jewish Australian interests?

Thousands of **seminary girls [prevented](#) Women of the Wall from praying at the Kotel**. There is nothing in Australia that can compare with the Western Wall in terms of eliciting extreme emotion; however, is the fabric of our community threatened by some of our religious leaders' refusing to sit on a panel with those from another denomination?

Are you – or is anyone you know – **a child survivor of the Holocaust**? If so, please have a look at this [important information](#) regarding compensation – from [J-Wire](#)

Best of [Seek and You Shall Find](#): Nomi Kal asks how an observant Jew should respond to [blessings](#) bestowed by someone of a different religion. How would you respond to such a blessing?

Shabbat Shalom!