



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Education**

Our Ref MC19-004230

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 22 October 2019 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding alleged anti-Semitism at the University of Sydney. As the issues you have raised fall under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Education, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, your email has been referred to the Department of Education. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

I am sorry to hear about your experiences at the University of Sydney. I acknowledge that this is a serious issue and that the impact on you and your studies is potentially significant.

As you may be aware, Australian universities are autonomous entities that are responsible for their own operations. This includes developing, monitoring and reviewing their institutional policies. The Australian Government does not intervene in the day-to-day operations of universities or control their policies. However, universities are required to adhere to the Higher Education Standards Framework (the Standards), which require them to promote and foster a safe environment for students. The higher education sector regulator, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), monitors compliance of universities with the Standards. This includes receiving and responding to complaints about possible non-compliance with the Standards. If TEQSA considers that remedial action is necessary, it can impose conditions on the registration of a university. Further information about the TEQSA complaints process is available at [www.teqsa.gov.au/complaints](http://www.teqsa.gov.au/complaints).

As the allegations you have made are concerning, I have also written to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney to ask that the university investigate these allegations as a matter of priority.

The Standards also require that universities provide appropriate support services to students. Information about support services at the University of Sydney Student can be found at <https://sydney.edu.au/study/why-choose-sydney/student-support.html>. You may wish to contact the university to discuss the types of support you may be able to access.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of the Australian Government.

Yours sincerely

**Rajan Martin**

Branch Manager, Governance, Quality and Access Branch  
Higher Education Group  
Australian Government Department of Education  
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