

**Speech by H.E Allaster Cox, Australian High Commissioner to Singapore
National Day of Mourning – 22nd January 2026**

Thank you all for gathering here today to observe the National Day of Mourning to honour the victims and all those impacted by the Bondi Beach terrorist attack.

We stand in solemn remembrance of the lives lost in the tragic events at Bondi.

On Sunday 14th of December, at a community event intended to celebrate the beginning of Hanukkah, families, friends, and strangers going about their daily lives were confronted with unimaginable loss.

We honour those who lost their lives, and we extend our deepest condolences to their loved ones, whose grief is profound and enduring.

The theme for this National Day of Mourning has been chosen by the Chabad community in Bondi, and draws on the message of Hanukkah itself:

‘Light will win, a gathering of unity and remembrance.’

This is very appropriate, as we know that many faith communities have traditions annually, which mark the triumph of light over darkness.

This National Day of Mourning is also a moment to acknowledge the courage and humanity shown in the face of terror — the bravery of first responders, medical personnel, and everyday citizens who acted with selflessness and resolve. Their actions remind us that even in moments of darkness, compassion and courage do endure.

In mourning the victims, we also stand in solidarity with the people in Australia and around the world. Acts of terrorist violence seek to instil fear and division, but they do not define a community. Australia’s strength lies in its values: respect for human life, community, and resilience in the face of adversity.

As members of the international community, we reaffirm our shared commitment to peace, to the protection of civilians, and to upholding the dignity of every human life. We reject violence in all its forms and stand united against hatred and extremism.

Let this moment of remembrance also be a moment of resolve — to care for one another, to foster understanding, and to ensure that compassion prevails over fear.

And at this point, before we observe a minute of silence, I will read the names of the fifteen victims, and will light a candle in their honour:

**Edith Brutman
Boris Gurman
Sofia Gurman
Rabbi Eli Schlanger
Boris Tetleroyd
Adam Smyth
Marika Pogany
Matilda
Peter Meagher
Dan Elkayam
Alexander Kleytman
Rabbi Yaakov Levitan
Reuven Morrison
Tania Tretiak
Tibor Weitzen**

Now please join me in a minute of silence.

