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## **JBD STATEMENT ON MISSIONISING AND MESSIANIC ACTIVITY**

The missionising activities of certain Christian groups are anathema to the Jewish community and are vigorously opposed.

The problem begins with a theological obsession to convert Jews, to the Jew first and also to the Greek (Romans 1:16) and You will not see me until you (the Jews) say 'Blessed is he (Jesus) that comes in the name of the Lord' (Matthew 23:39).

Thus the missionaries believe that the return of Jesus requires the conversion of the Jews and that this conversion may be brought about by fair means or foul.

These days, the missionaries have put away the torture implements of old and instead rely on a cosier claim that Christianity is a completion of Judaism, that one can be a Christian and still be Jewish.

Individuals and groups who are involved in such activity, while they may be doing so in good faith, should however know that the Jewish community perceives their attempt at proselytisation as deeply offensive and an attempt to de-legitimise the religious beliefs of an entire faith community.

We call on Church leaders to recognise this contention and request that they advise their adherents to desist from actively pursuing messianic practices.

At the same time, the Board recognises the need to encourage and engage in continuing interfaith dialogue with the representatives of other religious denominations active in the Australian community.