

## Professor Andrew Markus FASSA

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Andrew Markus is the Pratt Foundation Research Professor of Jewish Civilisation at Monash University and is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. Andrew heads the Scanlon Foundation social cohesion research program, which completed its seventh national survey in 2014. He is also the principal researcher on the Australian Jewish population and Yiddish Melbourne research projects. Andrew has published extensively in the field of Australian race relations and immigration history.

### **Social Cohesion in Australia: The Past, Current Trends and the Future**

For the first time in Australian social research, annual surveys with a focus on immigration, cultural diversity and social cohesion have been conducted, funded by the Scanlon Foundation. Between 2007 and 2014 seven national surveys and four local area surveys were conducted utilising probability samples, with an additional two experimental surveys (of recent immigrants and third generation Australians) utilising online panel respondents. The database of respondents numbers close to 24,000. This paper will draw on these surveys to explore the pattern of Australian opinion, with reference to the five domains of social cohesion which structure the survey approach: belonging, social justice, sense of worth, participation and levels of acceptance and rejection. The presentation is particularly concerned to determine if there is evidence of heightened tension in the context of domestic security concerns and rising unemployment.

