



*Date: 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2017*

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **ANIC Strongly Condemns the Closure of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, Palestine**

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) strongly condemns the closure of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, Palestine on Friday by the Israeli security forces in response to a tragic and deadly shooting incident.

The unprecedented closure of the third holiest Mosque in Islam is unjustified and unwarranted. Friday prayers and the five daily prayers have been performed in this mosque revered by Muslims globally for centuries. This holy precinct is one of the sacred sites to Muslims, Christians and Jews.

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) calls upon the immediate opening of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. All nations of the world must exert extra effort to fairly resolve the long-standing and devastating Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

*END....*