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Date: 9th of August 2018

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

## **ANIC Condemns The Daily Telegraph Headline**

Today, the 9th of August 2018, The Daily Telegraph published an article with the headline of "ALLAH AK BARRED", reporting on the five Australian terrorists stripped from their citizenship.

The Australian National Imams Council and the Australian Muslim community are extremely outraged and offended over the disrespect portrayed by the choice of title and wording in this article.

While The Australian National Imams Council and the Australian Muslim community respect and advocate for freedom of speech, this freedom must not be exploited in disrespecting any community or religion and further demonising and unfairly targeting specific communities.

Today's utterly woeful headline by The Daily Telegraph presents lack of responsibility in reporting stories and contributing towards division and hatred within the Australian community, in particular towards the Australian Muslim community which has been a part of the fabric of Australia from the very beginning and which represents the second largest denomination in Australia.

The Australian National Imams Council and the Australian Muslim community demand for an immediate removal of this headline and an apology from The Daily Telegraph, and furthermore calls upon all fair minded journalists, media agencies, and reporters to exercise freedom of speech with respect and with the objective of uniting the Australian community and not dividing them.

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