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PRESS RELEASE

ANIC Condemns the Recent Comments of Senator Pauline Hanson on Islam

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) hold grave concern for the injudicious nature of the Australian political system in light of Senator Pauline Hanson's recent comments on Islam being a disease that must be vaccinated against.

These comments are exploitative of a fatal situation, involving the death and grief of family and loved ones after a horrific act of violence and terrorism was committed on the Westminster Bridge in London, and it is unethical, unscrupulous and immoral for senators that represent the interests of the Australian community to manipulate public opinion during such a tragedy.

Furthermore, Ms Hanson's recent and past comments on Islam and other communities are not in line with the essence of Australian values and spirit that have guided our nation for the last few centuries. Unfortunately, as a result of such comments, the Muslim community are finding themselves increasingly disconnected from Australia's celebrated guiding principles of multiculturalism and harmony amongst all communities, cultures and religions.

From the earliest stages of this country's development, the Australian Muslim community has been an important part of Australia's growth and social fabric. Despite attempts by political representatives such as Senator Hanson to further the cause of extremism in creating polarising views of Muslims, as well as inciting hatred against others, Australian Muslims have continued to contribute positively and widely in an array of industries and domains to make Australia a wonderful and safe country.

It is unmistakable that Senator Hanson lacks understanding of the Islamic faith as well as understanding of Islamic principles and values. As such, the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) and the Muslim community invite Ms Hanson to engage more with the Muslim community at the grass roots level and consult with official representatives of the Islamic faith to develop policies which do not work towards displacing Australia's values.

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