



## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL



Date: 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2018

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **ANIC Condemns the Recent Crime Perpetrated in Melbourne and Outraged by the PM's Recent Comments**

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) strongly condemns the criminal act perpetrated by a deranged individual on Friday on Bourke street in Melbourne. Our prayers and thoughts are with the victims and their families.

This incident is a national tragedy impacting all Australians of all faiths and belief systems.

These are the times where all Australians should be standing side by side in solidarity, countering all forms of extremism and violence.

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) and the Muslim community has and continues to work hard to teach the true and ethical teachings of Islam countering the distortions and misrepresentations that might exist and to counter all forms of extremism, violence and crime.

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) and the Muslim community are also outraged by the recent comments by the Prime Minister Scott Morrison connecting Islam to a "radical and dangerous ideology."

It is extremely disappointing in such difficult times and during a national tragedy, when all Australians of all faiths and backgrounds should be called upon to unite and stand together against any form of extremism and violence, to see our nation's leader politicising this incident and using it for political gain.

The Australian Muslim community, its Imams and leaders, have always been at the forefront of countering violent extremism in all its forms.

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) calls upon the PM, his government and all political leaders to be more responsible in their rhetoric in order not to cast aspersions on a segment of the community based on the actions of one deranged individual and to act in the best interests of the Australian people, by calling for unity and solidarity, rather than alienating any group of Australians.

END...