

مجلس الامم القدر الى الاسترالي

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL**



4<sup>th</sup> of April 2019

## **PUBLIC STATEMENT**

### **ANIC Commends the Censure Motion Against Senator Fraser Anning**

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC), on behalf of the Australian Muslim Community, expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the honourable members of the Senate who voted in favour of the censure motion against Senator Fraser Anning, after his repugnant and offensive statements made in the wake of the Christchurch tragedy and terrorist attack - which resulted in 50 innocent people being killed and many more injured.

Statements such as those made by Senator Anning have no place in our Australian society, let alone in the Australian Parliament.

Our political leaders and representatives need to take steps to counter vilification and hatred and, by their example, seek to unite the Australian people. This is particularly important when those with a political and public platform make statements which have the effect of vilifying and dividing our society.

ANIC commends the principled stance taken by members of the Senate. It further calls upon the political leaders and representatives of our country to take steps to safeguard people against hate speech and vilification, particularly on the ground of religion (for which there is no protection under federal law).

Further, ANIC hopes that more practical steps can be taken to ensure that Federal parliamentarians cannot, in the future, use their position of privilege and responsibility to promulgate hateful and vilifying views.

***Please contact the Spokesperson for ANIC, Bilal Rauf, for any questions relating to this statement.***