

مجلس الأئمة القادة الأسترالي

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL



14th of August 2019

PRESS RELEASE

ANIC STATEMENT RELATING TO THE CBD STABBING INCIDENT

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) is saddened by the stabbing incident which occurred in the Sydney CBD yesterday and expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and all those affected. ANIC prays for the victims and their families.

At a tragic time, such as this, it is important that we focus on offering support to those affected. In this context, it is unfortunate that certain media agencies have sought to discuss the incident in terms of a link of the perpetrator to Islam. In particular, on the present information, the perpetrator was affected by mental illness and had no known links to any religion. The family has also denied that the perpetrator's conduct had any connection with Islam. Further, NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller stated that the incident appeared to be a random attack and was not being treated as a terrorist incident at this stage.

The irresponsible reporting by some of the media agencies has the likely effect of causing unnecessary harm to those affected and wrongly implicating other persons and communities by association and without any proper basis. Such reporting is opportunistic and harmful, and should be avoided.

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Please contact Mr Bilal Rauf, the ANIC Spokesperson for any queries relating to this matter on spokesperson@anic.org.au