



AUSTRALIA'S SPECIAL ENVOY TO COMBAT ISLAMOPHOBIA

Opening Statement

The December 14 terror attack on members of the Australian Jewish community rightly provoked widespread revulsion and condemnation, uniting national solidarity with Jewish Australians. Antisemitism, like all forms of hatred and political violence, has no place in Australia and must be unequivocally confronted.

In its aftermath some have sought to exploit this terrorist attack as a justification for hostility towards Muslim Australians. This widespread Islamophobic response, both online and offline, has led to harassment, vilification and threats against Muslim Australians unfairly holding entire communities responsible for the actions of criminals.

This is both morally wrong and fundamentally at odds with Australia's laws, values and democratic traditions.

Islamophobia is never a justified response to criminal acts, and no community should suffer because of the few.

Collective blame undermines social cohesion and weakens public safety. All Australians must be safe to worship, participate in public life and live free from discrimination harassment, vilification or violence.