



Mark Latham MLC discusses religious freedoms with Muslim leaders at AFIC: One Nation Bill positive for Australian Muslims

Media Statement

10 September 2020

One Nation's NSW MLC Mr. Mark Latham visited the offices of Australia's peak Muslim organisation the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) in a move that further opens One Nation to our community. A number of representatives of AFIC member organisations joined Mr. Latham at the meeting.

"It was refreshing to witness Mr Latham's passion to fight for Australian faiths (including Islam) and place them on a level playing field." Said Ms. Mohamad AFIC's Dawah Support Officer.

"This is a brave and remarkable move towards human equality, it embraces the principles of diversity because Australia is founded not only on diverse cultures but also diverse religions." Said Ms. Ali, AFIC's legal officer.

"AFIC supports Mr Latham's initiative, AFIC's submission in support of the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 (The Bill) has received tremendous support within the Muslim community. AFIC calls on all members of parliament to stop discrimination against faith communities and pass this bill into law." Said Dr. Rateb Jneid, president of AFIC.

Mr Latham stressed that the objective of the Bill is to safeguard all persons from social bias and suppression. It supports the notion that all people following the Rule Of Law should have the freedom to equally express their religious beliefs without fear of exclusion and/or discrimination.

He said that he joined One Nation as an anti-discrimination party and this Bill in the NSW Parliament proves that the party is serious about treating all communities fairly, offering protections from discrimination.



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

At the 2019 NSW election One Nation ran a Muslim candidate thereby showing the party's determination to treat all people on merit.

"We thank Mr Latham for his attendance and are grateful for his proposal in advocating for people to express their faiths freely without fear of penalisation." Said Dr. Jneid.

"We are told from a very young age that in Australia, we have the freedom to choose who we are and what we believe in. We believe it is time that NSW law caught up with most of the nation and protected our expression of that choice." Said Dr. Jneid.

Authorised by:

Dr. Rateb Jneid

President, AFIC