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of Islamic Councils

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The Hon Alan Tudge MP

Acting Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

31 August 2020

Dear Acting Minister

Re. Recent address to the National Press Club

I refer to your "Address to the National Press Club" released on Friday 28 August 2020.

There were many great points raised in that address with which I and many Australians fully agree. Your desire to maintain "our social cohesion" during COVID, the strength of "our social fabric ... with hundreds of thousands of volunteer and community groups" and concerns over foreign meddling, amongst other poignant points are commendable and we stand strongly with you on these points.

However, Minister, to single out "Islamic" extremism whilst referring to other forms as simply "other forms of extremism" does not help achieve the social cohesion for which we are all striving. I note Minister that this is not the first time that this expression has been used, this is indeed heartrending for us when we are dedicating so much of our resources to enhance our social cohesion.

I urge you minister not to single out Islam in a disparaging way in the future. I would be happy to have a meeting with you minister to discuss this or any other issue in relation to our national cohesion.

Yours faithfully

Dr Rateb Jneid
President, AFIC