



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

AFIC Commends the Australian Government on its Decision Regarding Palestine.

Media Statement 14 August 2023

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) commends and extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Australian government for its recent decision to reinstate the term "Occupied Palestinian Territories" and strengthen its objections to "illegal" Israeli settlements. This important step resonates deeply with the values of justice, peace, and adherence to international law that are integral to the principles upheld by AFIC and the broader Australian Muslim community.

The Australian government's commitment to adopting this terminology is a significant stride towards recognising the reality on the ground and reinforcing its stance against activities that undermine the prospects for a just and lasting peace in the region. The decision to use the term "Occupied Palestinian Territories" underscores the historical context and reaffirms Australia's dedication to upholding international norms and conventions. By echoing the position of key allies such as the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and the European Union, the Australian government demonstrates a unified international front that emphasizes the need for a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

AFIC President, Dr Rateb Jneid stated, "We commend the Australian government's decision to use the term 'Occupied Palestinian Territories,' which reflects a dedication to upholding international law and fostering the conditions for a meaningful and lasting peace in the Middle East. This step aligns with the values of justice and human rights that are at the core of our nation's principles."

AFIC notes that the ALP resolved, at its last national conference, to recognise the Palestinian State. While the present announcement is a positive and welcome step it still falls short of the ALP's resolution. We urge the Australian Government to continue down this path with the formal recognition of the Palestinian State and calling on Israel to withdraw from all occupied territories.

AFIC encourages continued constructive dialogue on this matter and is hopeful that such measures will help pave the way for progress towards a comprehensive and sustainable solution for the Palestinian people who have been dispossessed of their homeland for over 60 years.

Authorised by:

Dr Rateb Jneid
President AFIC

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils

*The peak body for Australian Muslims representing
State and Territory Islamic Councils and Societies*



Sydney (Head Office): 932 Bourke Street, Zetland, NSW 2017

Melbourne: 66-68 Jeffcott Street, West Melbourne VIC 3003

Canberra: 21/41 Liardet Street, Weston ACT 2611

Perth: 17 Mercantile Way, Malaga WA 6090

W: afic.com.au **E:** admin@afic.com.au **PH:** (02) 9319 6733