



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) Condemns The Daily Telegraph's Provocative Actions

Friday, 14th February, 2025

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) unequivocally condemns the recent actions undertaken by The Daily Telegraph, which have come to light through investigations revealing an orchestrated attempt to provoke staff at a Middle-Eastern restaurant in Sydney. Such behaviour not only exacerbates the tensions within our community but also undermines the integrity of journalistic standards.

Reports from reputable sources have detailed how operatives linked to The Daily Telegraph engaged in a deliberate act that sought to incite and capture potentially inflammatory reactions by disguising their identities and intentions. This not only misrepresents the ethical landscape of journalism but also paints a disturbing picture of the lengths some are willing to go to create and perpetuate division.

Dr. Rateb Jneid, President of AFIC, stated, "We are appalled by the deliberate actions of The Daily Telegraph which sought to provoke and misrepresent members of the Muslim community. At a time when national unity and mutual respect are paramount, it is deeply concerning that a media house would partake in such divisive conduct."

AFIC demands that The Daily Telegraph provide a full and transparent explanation for these actions and issue an unreserved apology to the cafe owners, staff, and the broader Muslim community. We also call upon media watchdogs and professional bodies to review these practices and ensure that such unethical behaviour is not repeated.

"We must hold media outlets accountable for their role in shaping societal attitudes towards cultural and religious groups. Media should bridge gaps, not widen them with acts that could incite hostility or discrimination," added Dr. Jneid.

AFIC remains committed to fostering a society marked by understanding and respect across all cultural and religious backgrounds. We call on all media organisations to adhere to their duty of responsible reporting and contribute positively to the fabric of Australian society.

Authorised by
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President of AFIC