



Australian Federation  
of Islamic Councils

## AFIC Demands National Reflection and Action Following New Threats Against Sydney Mosque

Friday, 21<sup>th</sup> March, 2025

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) expresses its gravest condemnation of the recent explicit threat made against the Lakemba Mosque in Sydney. This deplorable act, occurring during the sacred month of Ramadan, is not an isolated event but part of a disturbing trend of increasing anti-Muslim hate and targeted violence against Muslim communities.

Dr. Rateb Jneid, President of AFIC, asserts, "These threats are a direct result of a societal atmosphere steeped in negative stereotypes of Islam and Muslims, fuelled by irresponsible political rhetoric, biased media portrayals, and insufficient hate crime legislation. It is imperative that we recognise how these elements collectively foster an environment conducive to hate and violence."

This latest threat echoes the language and intent of the horrific Christchurch massacre, highlighting an alarming continuity in the type of rhetoric and threats faced by Muslims in Australia and worldwide. It underscores the urgent need for our society to reflect on the culture that perpetuates such hate and to demand more from our leaders and policymakers.

AFIC urgently calls for:

1. **Immediate and comprehensive action by law enforcement** to investigate and address this threat with the seriousness it warrants, ensuring the safety and security of all mosque attendees.
2. **A national reevaluation of political discourse** around Muslims and Islam, with leaders at all levels committing to eliminate divisive and inflammatory language from their communications.
3. **Media accountability** in portraying Muslim communities, moving away from sensationalism and fear-mongering towards balanced and fact-based reporting.
4. **Legislative reforms** that extend hate crime protections to include religious identity, ensuring that all Australians, regardless of their faith, are safeguarded against hate-driven violence.



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Dr. Jneid further states, "It is not enough to condemn, we must act. As we stand together against this wave of Islamophobia, we call upon the Australian government, community leaders, and all citizens to join us in a national effort to combat hatred and to foster a society that values diversity and promotes respect for all."

In conclusion, AFIC reiterates its commitment to working tirelessly with all stakeholders to address these deep-rooted issues. We must ensure that our response to such threats is not just reactive but part of a sustained effort to build a more inclusive and safe Australia for everyone.

Authorised by  
**Dr Rateb Jneid**  
President of AFIC