



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils



AFIC National
Sharia Board

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

AFIC welcomes jobseeker increase, encourages community to always seek gainful employment and self-betterment

Media Statement

24 February 2021

"The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) welcomes the increase in jobseeker payments to those looking for work. It is most heartening for us to be looking to improve living standards for those in need." Said Dr Rateb Jneid, president, AFIC.

"We welcome this increase in jobseeker payments for those in need. This is a step in the right direction. Having said that, I would like to stress the teaching of our beloved prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him, as he encouraged people to find gainful employment and to give rather than to take. He said: The upper-hand (that gives) is better than the lower-hand (that receives). We must strive to be the upper hand so that we can give and contribute for the betterment of society. Nevertheless, there is nothing wrong with taking your entitlements when you are in need, but we must always strive to be in a position to fulfil our needs through our hard work and to contribute to society and to those who are less fortunate." Said Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari, head of the Committee of Eminent Elders, AFIC's National Sharia Board (ANSB).

"I understand why it is important to have reporting mechanisms to ensure that Australians are encouraged into gainful employment. I appeal to employers not to give in to the temptation of exploiting hapless workers. The government must install safety measures to ensure that employers do not abuse this mechanism as it would expose Australians to undue disadvantage." Said Dr Rateb Jneid, President, AFIC.

Authorised by:

Dr Rateb Jneid, *AFIC President*

Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari, *ANSB*