



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

15 June 2021

The Office of Mr Paul Lynch MP
100 Moore Street
Liverpool NSW 2170

By email: liverpool@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Lynch,

Re: Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Vilification) Bill 2021

Thank you for introducing the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Vilification) Bill 2021. This is a long overdue bill and if passed will bring us to par with other progressive states.

AFIC, is the peak national body representing Muslims in Australia supported by nine State and Territory Councils, over 100 member organisations across Australia and hundreds of thousands of Muslim constituents. Our mission is to advocate for a better society and build pathways and opportunities for success and harmonious respectful co-existence.

AFIC acknowledges that the focus of the amendment is to protect persons from being racially vilified on the grounds that they are of a specific religious belief or affiliation.

Given current events locally and internationally, including the most recent tragedy of the Afzal Family in Canada who were murdered because of their faith, the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Vilification) Bill will provide safeguards for individuals and families such as the Afzal Family from being targeted based on their faith.

The Religious Vilification Bill will accord diverse Australian communities much needed protection and better access. It protects the fundamental rights of people to maintain their faith affiliation and practice without the risk of suffering hatred or abuse.

AFIC supports the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Vilification) Bill 2021 and commends you for this much needed initiative.

Kind regards,

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