



الاتحاد الاسترالى للمجالس الاسلامية
**AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION
OF ISLAMIC COUNCILS INC.**

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL ISLAMIC ORGANISATION

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25 February 2011

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The Hon. Tony Abott, MP
Leader of the Opposition
PO Box 6022

Parliament House
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

Fax: 6277 8562

Dear Mr Abott,

I am writing this letter to you in regards to the bigoted comments made by your Parliamentary Secretary Senator Cory Bernardi amongst many other comments made by Liberal politicians against Muslims and Islam recently. It has been said that the Liberal Party does not condone these views and that they were Mr Bernardi's personal views, but we would like you to articulate your personal views and position on this matter as the alternative Prime Minister.

The liberal party has come out recently and said that they will not make political points out of race and religion but the words coming out of one Liberal politician after another is quite the opposite, except of course Mr Joe Hockey and Judi Moylan whom we congratulate for showing some leadership and decency to fellow Australian citizens.

The statements are not only offensive and rude but discriminatory. Australia has always prided itself as being the best multicultural society in the world but comments like these jeopardise its reputation.

How can we live in a multicultural, peaceful and harmonious society when our own members of parliament attacks one of the largest religions in the world. The Muslim community in Australia is the most racially, ethnically, culturally and linguistically diverse religious grouping.

Muslims have contributed much to the Australian society and continue to do so. Muslims have visited and traded with Australians since before white settlement. Without the Muslim cameleers, the outback could not have been explored, settled or supplied until the invention of the truck in the 1930s, and much of what is mythically outback Australia would never have been developed. Burke and Wills required the assistance of Muslim cameleers to make their journey possible.

In recent times, Australia is well served by Muslim doctors, especially in rural areas, by Muslims who are IT professionals, engineers, lawyers, nurses, physiotherapists, geriatric nurses and child care workers, university lecturers and teachers, community workers, accountants and restaurateurs. And of course Muslims also provided that most necessary contribution to Australian social life - the designated driver. Muslims contribute to most fields of life in Australia and

many fit so seamlessly into our multicultural society that their neighbours and colleagues may not be aware that they are Muslim.

Comments like Mr Bernardi's, coming so soon after the petition banning Muslim migration creates unsettlement in the Muslim community and should not be tolerated, and let me assure you that it will not be tolerated. If the Liberal Party is readying itself for an upcoming election soon, then we respectfully ask you as the Prime Minister in waiting to refrain from divisive and bigoted campaigning and certainly not on the back of Australian Muslims once again, as has been the past history of the Liberal party.

And in your position as the Leader of the party, we kindly ask if you could, and I quote the former leader of the One Nation Party, Pauline Hanson to "please explain" your position on this matter and if you in fact endorse the position of Mr Scott Morrison, Senator Cory Bernardi and also Mr Kevin Andrews on all matters anti Muslims, and now anti Islam. And I am not even going to identify and state what these issues were, as they are too bigoted and offensive for me to repeat, and secondly I am sure you are well aware of what they are.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ikebal Patel', written in a cursive style.

Ikebal Adam Patel,
PRESIDENT.

CC: State Islamic Councils of Australia.
Islamic Societies of Australia.
Imams and Religious Leaders.