



AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM ADVOCACY NETWORK

ABN: 36 606 000 542

1 May 2020

Lachlan Heywood
Executive Director
Daily Mail Australia

Dear Mr Heywood

Advisory Guidelines: Religious Terms in Headlines

We refer to the abovementioned Guidelines issued by the Australian Press Council in 2004.

Yesterday, your news service published an article with the headline: *Riot police and bomb squad swarm lockdown the streets around Australia's biggest mosque as three men are arrested in a home and a firearm seized.*

As a constituent member of the Press Council, we wish to make a complaint about the decision to emphasise the mosque within the headline, including its size as 'Australia's biggest mosque', where it has no material connection at all to the criminal matters in the story.

The Guidelines advise "newspapers and magazines to be careful about using in their headlines terms for religious or ethnic groups that could imply that the group as a whole was responsible for the actions of a minority among that group."

An ordinary reader that sees this headline and imagery shared on social media would most likely conclude there was a connection between the riot police, bomb squad and armed violence with the mosque and Muslim community at large. In the article itself, the mosque is also mentioned multiple times.

We ask the Daily Mail to consider how such news is used within social media networks to foster harmful prejudice against members of our faith community.

This correspondence will be shared with various organisations within the Australian Muslim community, a number of which have expressed concern and dismay at the headline and the imputation it makes.

To address this, the headline must be amended accordingly and immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Rita Jabri Markwell
Chief Adviser