

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

المجلس الإسلامي الأصيل لغرب استراليا

THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PRESS RELEASE

Attention: News editors. Social affair, Ethnic media, interfaith media, and community writers

Wednesday 22 March 2017

Federal government move to amend section 18C of Racial Discrimination Act is bad policy

This week United Nations (UN) commemorated *Eliminations of All forms of Racial Discrimination* under its international human rights instruments. Australia as a signatory to the International Human Rights Convention recognised this week as ‘Harmony Week’ which brings diverse groups of Australians together to celebrate multicultural Australia.

It is extremely disappointing therefore to see the Turnbull-led federal government playing populist racialised politics once again by proposing amendments to Section 18C of Racial Discrimination Act. Any move to remove legal protection for minorities is nothing but mean spirited and a bad policy that seeks to divide Australians.

The federal government has an abiding obligation and duty to promote peace and harmony amongst all Australians, and it should never give license to the bigots who seek out to racially vilify minority groups or peoples of different ethnicities that make up this great Australian nation.

The West Australian Muslim community vehemently objects to any changes to the Racial Discrimination Act.

It is unfortunate in this day and age for a national government to pretend that what they propose is in the best interest of all and to mislead the public with its rhetoric and baseless argument when many prominent Australians citizens and public officials are crying foul and oppose amendments to Section 18C.

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Executive Committee

Islamic Council of Western Australia Inc.

Islamic Council of Western Australia (ICWA) was established in 1976 and incorporated as a State Council for Islamic affairs in 1977. We promote unity and friendship amongst Muslims and other communities within and outside of Western Australia.
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