

# PRESS RELEASE



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 15/08/18

### **The LMA Condemns Racist Rant by Bigoted Senator**

The LMA unequivocally condemns the deliberately inflammatory and deeply offensive comments made by Queensland Senator, Fraser Anning.

Senator Anning's callous attack on the Australian Muslim community must be called out for what it is: systemic racist bigotry. Senator Anning's call for a complete ban on Muslim immigration, his wish for a return of the White Australia Policy and his reference to the "final solution," a term used in Nazi Germany relating to the mass extermination of the Jewish People, is a vile reflection on the current state of racially motivated dog whistle politics in Australia.

The implications of his words are deeply concerning and further demonise and dehumanise Muslims and other minority communities. The use of such abhorrent and bigoted language has absolutely no place in Australia or any other part of the world.

The LMA calls on the members of Katter's Australian Party to exercise cultural humility, educate themselves as to the contributions immigration continues to make to this country and in the process they may even realise that Bob Katter himself is the grandson of Lebanese immigrants and a product of the system they call to end.

President of the LMA, Samier Dandan said, "The animosity towards minority communities and blatantly racist rhetoric cannot continue in a country that takes such pride in its ongoing multicultural success story. Senator Anning is not an anomaly; we have continuously seen minimal commitment from our government to address the underlying environment which allows sentiments like these to exist. The Australian government should be looking at the structural problems that provide a platform to amplify these voices. As a united Australian family, we need to stand together in the face of hatred and put an end to the politics of fear and division."

The LMA categorically rejects such Islamophobic, racially motivated and hate filled diatribe to dictate the conversation on Australian Muslim communities and other minority communities and encourages the solidarity of all faiths, beliefs, political figures, media platforms and everyday Australians to put an end to the racist discourse of those in positions of power.

For more information, please contact LMA Media Team [media@lma.org.au](mailto:media@lma.org.au)

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