



Islamic Council of Queensland Inc.

P.O. Box 204, Sunnybank, Queensland 4109

Email: president@icq.org.au

ABN 65 452 386 148

Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) Calls for meaningful consultations on hate speech

Public statement

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The Islamic Council of Queensland calls on the Federal Government to pause and allow for meaningful community consultation before introducing the proposed *Combating Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism Bill 2026*. While we recognise the importance of addressing violence and extremism, rushing legislation of this magnitude during the holiday period undermines democratic principles and community trust.

This bill, if enacted hastily, risks stifling free speech and silencing dissenting voices. Laws of this nature will remain on the books for generations, and their impact will extend far beyond the current moment. The short consultation window—just days, and during a time when many Australians are on leave—does not allow for proper scrutiny or engagement.

ICQ urges the Federal Government to:

- Extend the consultation period and engage in genuine dialogue with affected communities.
- Ensure transparency and accountability in defining what constitutes “hate.”
- Protect the right to lawful advocacy and political expression.

Australia must not sacrifice civil liberties in the name of security. We stand ready to work with the Government to find balanced solutions that keep our nation safe while preserving the freedoms that make it strong.

Abdul Aziz Khan

President

17 January, 2026

[Islamic Council of Queensland](https://www.icq.org.au)

M: 0422 132 623

