



# PUBLIC STATEMENT

26 December 2025

## ANIC Statement on NSW Protest Legislation and Invitation to the President of Israel

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) is extremely disappointed and expresses serious concern over the NSW Government's new legislation introduced following the Bondi terrorist attack, which significantly expands police powers and places broad restrictions on peaceful protest.

There is no evidence to suggest that peaceful protest, including expressions of solidarity with the Palestinian people, has any connection to the Bondi terrorist attack. ANIC rejects and condemns attempts to link lawful protest with the horrors of Bondi or to use that tragedy to suppress political expression. Conflating peaceful protest with acts of violence risks deepening social division at a time when communities need leadership that promotes understanding, unity, and justice. ANIC rejects the premise of this legislation entirely.

Over the past two years, the Israeli government has committed genocide and war crimes, killing more than 70,000 civilians, predominantly women and children. These actions have been widely condemned internationally. Many people have expressed their grief and condemnation through peaceful protest, which is a legitimate and long-standing democratic right that must be protected.

### **ANIC is concerned that the legislation:**

- Conflates lawful, peaceful protest with terrorism and acts of violence, despite there being no evidence of any connection.
- Imposes disproportionate restrictions on public assembly and political expression, including extended limitations in declared areas.
- Increases social division rather than strengthening cohesion.
- Threatens fundamental democratic freedoms and rights.
- Was rushed through without meaningful community consultation.

ANIC calls on the NSW Government to engage constructively with communities, uphold freedom of expression, and ensure that public safety measures are balanced, proportionate, and just.



ANIC also rejects the Australian Government's invitation to the President of Israel. The President is directly implicated in grave war crimes and acts of genocide against the Palestinian people, including the mass killing of civilians, the destruction of Gaza, and the expansion of illegal settlements. These actions have been condemned globally, including by the Australian Government, and have contributed to one of the worst humanitarian catastrophes of this century. The Israeli President is directly morally and politically responsible for the scale of these atrocities.

While ANIC stands in solidarity with the Jewish community and mourns the victims of the horrific Bondi terrorist attack, accountability and justice must not be compromised. A person implicated in widespread war crimes and breaches of international law should not be welcomed or afforded legitimacy in Australia.

Extending such an invitation undermines Australia's stated commitment to human rights, international law, and moral leadership.