

## **PRESS RELEASE**

## Islamophobia Register Australia Strongly Condemns Vile Anti-Muslim Graffiti

## **MONDAY 20 JANUARY, SYDNEY, Australia**

The Islamophobia Register Australia (The Register) is outraged by recent appearances of blatantly Islamophobic graffiti, which includes hateful and deeply offensive messages targeting Muslims, Arabs and Palestinians. Like the vile graffiti found on a Muslim-owned business at Wiley Park last week, the latest act of vandalism, found in a public toilet in Hornsby, is another direct attack on the dignity and safety of the Australian Muslim community and our broader multicultural society.

The language in this graffiti is filled with unfounded stereotypes, racial slurs, and inflammatory statements designed to sow division, fear and hatred. Such actions are not only morally reprehensible but also a violation of Australian values of inclusion, respect and coexistence. They are a stark reminder of the continued challenges faced by minority and racialised communities in Australia.

Executive Director, Dr Nora Amath said:

Hate speech and Islamophobia, like all forms of racism, must be unequivocally condemned at every level. These incidents serve as a call to action for all Australians to stand united against racism, bigotry and intolerance. We urge local authorities to thoroughly investigate these alleged hate crime incidents, identify the perpetrators, and ensure they face the appropriate legal consequences.

This latest vile graffiti reflects a dangerous and growing trend of anti-Muslim sentiment and hate that undermines our shared commitment to building a welcoming and inclusive society.

Since 7 October 2023, there has been an increase of 540% Islamophobic incidents reported to the Register.

Freedom of expression does not, and should not, extend to hate speech or incitement to violence.

The Register stands in solidarity with the communities who are directly targeted and impacted by these acts. We encourage all members of the public to report such incidents to the police and to the Register so they can be addressed comprehensively.

We also call on political leaders at all levels of government to denounce Islamophobia unequivocally and to implement effective measures to combat such hate crimes, as they do with other forms of racism.



## About the Islamophobia Register Australia

<u>Islamophobia Register Australia</u> is a not-for-profit organisation that has been leading the tracking and tackling of Islamophobia across Australia since its launch in 2014. It provides a secure and reliable online reporting platform that captures nation-wide data and offers first-hand support to victims of Islamophobia. Having recently expanded its board and appointed an inaugural Executive Director, the Register has grown its operations to take its work and influence to the next level.

Its operating model has been commended and replicated by multiple other marginalised groups who have approached the Register to support them in the establishment of their own reporting models. This includes the First Nations Racism Register, 'Call it Out' founded by the National Justice Project and the Jumbunna Institute. The Register was also recently invited to provide evidence at the Disability Royal Commission who are looking to make formal recommendations to create a similar organisation to track and tackle disability hate.

Media Enquiries
For media enquiries please contact:
contact@islamophobia.com.au