



# PRESS RELEASE

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The Islamic Council of  
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Australian Capital Territory Inc.  
(ICTACT)

Islamic Council of  
Queensland Inc. (ICQ)

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Northern Territory Inc. (ICNT)

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Western Australia Inc. (ICWA)

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Islamic Council of  
Christmas Island Inc. (ICCI)

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**AUSTRALIA'S  
NATIONAL ISLAMIC  
ORGANISATION  
REPRESENTING  
MUSLIM COMMUNITIES**

**29 October 2007**

## **CARDINAL PELL'S SERMON TO MUSLIMS OF AUSTRALIA**

The President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Ikebal Adam Patel responded with disappointment to the recent comments from Cardinal Pell on Australian Muslims assimilation in Australia. There are many examples of Muslim countries offering the same and even better treatment to non-Muslims with many examples of this going right back in history too, especially in the Kodova period.

He further said that any cases of non-Muslims being persecuted in Muslim countries are deplored in the strongest terms. Australian Muslims acknowledge the freedom provided to them to practice their faith, the same as that given to Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews and even those that have no faith. For this all Australians are grateful to our previous generations for working so hard to maintain and enable this to continue.

This should not require any one religion to be singled out who should be coerced every now and then to acknowledge their difference and pushed in a corner and be made to feel inferior. Cardinal Pell in raising this issue at this time when the country is in the midst of a federal election does not auger well for the Australian Muslims when it is obvious that this could be made an election issue in the name of our migration policy.

On the contrary, Cardinal Pell should have directed this issue to his many Muslim friends who would have been happy to discuss and debate this with him.

The Muslims world and the Muslims of Australia also have genuine concerns and criticism of the Western (Christian) countries and its treatment of not only minority Muslims, but entire Muslim countries. But responsible Australian Muslim leadership is able to go beyond Australian or other Christian country foreign policy and work with our interfaith friends to ensure a harmonious environment is achieved, said Mr Patel.

Any Australian, irrespective of their faith, including Muslim Australians who have any intentions of carrying out violent activities should have the full wrath of the law thrown at them, said Mr Patel.

***For further information, please contact::***

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