## مجلس الأئمة الفدرالي الاسترالي Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) Lakemba 2195, NSW

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

Australian National Imams council is distressed and expressed its dismay on the media reports alleging a 26 year old student had entered into a sexual relationship with a minor.

The Grand Mufti of Australia, Dr Ibrahim Salem expressed his shock and said 'that such behaviour is to be rejected and condemned from a legal and ethical prospective' and any religion, school of thought or faith should not be held accountable for violations by its followers. Rather in reality it is individuals that commit those errors or violations of law so often. Therefore this matter should be dealt with by the proper authorities in a legal manner as with any other crime or transgression against the law.

ANIC would like to emphasis that many Muslim jurisdictions stipulate the age of majority as minimum age for marriage.

ANIC Media Spokesperson Sheikh Mohamdu SALEEM said 'In Lebanon Article 4 of the Family Rights Act which governs the Sunni personal status stipulates for the bridegroom to possess legal capacity for marriage to be at least 18 years old and for the bride to be 17'.

ANIC urges all Imams to exercise caution when dealing with foreign nationals approaching to marry the Australians.

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Sheikh Mohamadu SALEEM

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