

Our Ref: D18/72799

7 September 2018

Senator Fraser Anning
Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
senator.anning@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator,

It was with a mixture of shock and disbelief that Australians received news of the inflammatory and discriminatory remarks you made in your maiden speech on 14 August 2018.

Waverley Council wishes to express its strong condemnation of your choice of words and is disappointed and saddened that a speech like yours enters the Australian parliament, elected to represent the views of and honour the contributions made by the nation's culturally diverse communities.

The Waverley LGA has a long and proud history of migration. Our community is made up of people who have come here from all corners of the globe with more than 38% of all residents born overseas in the 2016 census. The area has become a richer, more vibrant and cosmopolitan society as a result and Council acknowledges and celebrates people's contributions that make Waverley great.

In the interests of Australia's social and economic prosperity, the country needs leaders and community representatives that model positive, respectful relationships and support the nation's aspirations of a society that is united, harmonious and culturally tolerant and productive.

So much of the horrors of the past as well as current global warfare and crises have been caused by prejudice, racial or religious intolerance resulting in political instability, economic decline, poverty, displacement and suffering.

We believe all tiers of Australian government are called upon to provide enlightened leadership that supports and enhances an inclusive and dynamic multicultural society that does not tolerate the prejudice evident in your speech.



A significant proportion of Waverley's population is Jewish and Council rejects in the strongest terms your reference to the 'final solution,' understanding the extreme distress, anguish and fear such a statement elicits, especially within the Jewish community.

We also reject in the strongest terms your reference to the discredited White Australia policy of the past by calling for ending all further Muslim immigration. The reasons you have given for this are untrue, vexatious, distressing and alienating of hard working and committed Australians of the Muslim faith.

Waverley Council congratulates our former Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull, the Hon. Bill Shorten MP, Leader of the Opposition and Senator Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Australian Greens on joining together in condemning your speech and reassuring Australians that the nation's parliament will not tolerate any further display of hurtful, divisive, inflammatory or discriminatory attitudes and behaviors.

In closing, Council wishes to reaffirm that we will be doing everything we can to ensure that Waverley's culturally diverse community remains welcoming, strong, inclusive, resilient and fair. These are the principles Australia's nation has been built on and they have proven to be successful ingredients in shaping a productive and cohesive society.

We urge you to refrain from causing further offence and distress. Your comments have been widely reported to have done damage to Australia's reputation as a fair, open and non-discriminatory country that is represented by politicians with integrity who act and behave in the best interests of all its citizens.

Yours sincerely,

John Wakefield
Mayor of Waverley

cc: The Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister
The Hon. Bill Shorten MP, Leader of the Opposition
Senator Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Australian Greens

