

## PRESS RELEASE

### Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Slams Racist Election Propaganda

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Tony Fitzgerald, the Anti Discrimination Commissioner for the Northern Territory, has expressed his disgust at the content of racist propaganda distributed in the seat of Lindsay, New South Wales.

“Regardless of whether this was a prank or a deliberate smear campaign, these leaflets demonstrate an absolute lack of respect for Muslim Australians” the Commissioner said. “They also show a lack of regard for our Australian culture which embraces a ‘fair go for all’ and finds discriminatory behaviour offensive.”

Mr Fitzgerald said that the distribution of these pamphlets was obviously intended to play on existing negative stereotypes of people who practise the Islamic Religion.

“In doing so, the people responsible are undermining the work being done all around Australia aimed at educating Australians that terrorism is not a part of the Islamic faith and that the actions of fanatics of any religion should not be blamed on the religion itself.

The Commissioner reminds Territorians that there is a long history of Islam in the Northern Territory going back to the Macassans who traded with Indigenous people from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Approximately 1500 Territorians are Muslims. In an attempt to provide balanced information about Islam in the Territory, the Anti-Discrimination’s latest Newsletter “Fair Go” provides a historical account of the Muslim community in the Territory and describes some of the issues they face today.



TONY FITZGERALD

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER