

From: [JOHNSTON, Mathew](#)
To: [Aftab MALIK](#)
Cc: [JOLDIĆ, Jasmina](#)
Subject: Islamophobia Education Taskforce - draft Terms of Reference and Membership for feedback [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Sunday, 19 July 2026 11:12:26 AM
Attachments: [Islamophobia Education Taskforce - Terms of Reference 210526.docx](#)

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Dear Aftab

Thank you for your time on the phone earlier, it was a pleasure to speak with you and I look forward to working with you closely on the Islamophobia Education Taskforce.

Please find attached the draft Terms of Reference, including proposed membership. I have highlighted where the approach mirrors the approach of the Antisemitism Education Taskforce and where there are suggested changes based on our past 6 months experience. As we discussed, this is draft and very happy to take feedback.

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Mathew Johnston

Acting First Assistant Secretary

Islamophobia Education Taskforce

Australian Government Department of Education

Working on Ngunnawal Country

Phone **S. 22(1)(a)(ii)** | Mobile **S. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Newsroom](#)



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Islamophobia Education Taskforce (IET)

Terms of Reference (Draft)

Addressing Islamophobia in the education sector is a priority for the Australian Government. There is no place in Australia for Islamophobia, religious hatred or discrimination of any kind. Everyone should be able to participate in education, and in the Australian community, without prejudice or discrimination.

The Australian Government is committed to helping Australia's education system prevent, tackle, and properly respond to Islamophobia. The Islamophobia Education Taskforce (the Taskforce) is established to provide time-limited, focused national leadership to progress agreed education measures and advise on any further measures required.

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Taskforce is to help the Australian education system prevent, tackle, and properly respond to Islamophobia, and to contribute to existing efforts to strengthen social cohesion through education. In undertaking its work, the Taskforce will oversee rapid implementation of education-related measures identified in the Australian Government's response to the Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia's report, and identify further measures to combat Islamophobia in education settings.

2. Scope

The scope of work covers all Australian education systems including early childhood education and care, schooling and tertiary education including vocational education and training and higher education.

The Taskforce will drive and monitor implementation of education measures announced as part of the Australian Government's response to the Special Envoy's Plan to Combat Islamophobia. This includes:

- a focused review of the Australian Curriculum, including primary and secondary content, to identify opportunities to strengthen racial and religious tolerance, ensuring that students can develop the knowledge and capabilities required to support a cohesive, inclusive and respectful society. The focused review will examine all forms of hatred, including islamophobia. It will be undertaken by ACARA, who will provide advice to Education Ministers.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Taskforce will also identify and advise on any further measures required to tackle, respond to, and prevent Islamophobia.

3. Membership

The Taskforce will be chaired by Ms Jasmina Joldić PSM.

Representation on the Taskforce will include:

- Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia
- Australian Government Department of Education
- State and Territory Departments of Education
- Independent Schools Australia
- National Catholic Education Commission
- Islamic Schools Association of Australia
- Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority
- Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership
- Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority
- VET sector representation (including national peak/quality and provider voices)
- The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency
- Universities Australia
- The Australian Tertiary Education Commission
- Chair, Antisemitism Education Taskforce

- Other relevant community representatives, subject matter experts and stakeholder groups, as determined by the Chair, to ensure the Taskforce's work is grounded in lived experience and evidence.

The Taskforce will be supported by a secretariat in the Australian Government Department of Education.

4. Consultation

The Taskforce will, as appropriate, consult with the Australian Muslim community and representative organisations; young people, students and their parents and carers; early education providers; educators, teachers and school leaders; the National Principal Reference Group; student, education and industrial unions; and universities and tertiary education providers.

5. Timing and reporting

The Taskforce will present early findings and directions to the Education Ministers Meeting within 6 months, noting any emerging priorities, implementation risks and proposed next steps.

The Taskforce may provide a final report at 12 months, setting out progress against agreed measures, any further recommended actions, and any issues requiring ministerial consideration.

From: [Aftab MALIK](#)
To: [JOHNSTON.Mathew](#)
Cc: [JOLDIĆ.Jasmina](#)
Subject: RE: Islamophobia Education Taskforce - draft Terms of Reference and Membership for feedback
[SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Saturday, 25 July 2026 12:32:01 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
Importance: High

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Hi Mat,

Sincere apologies for the delay.

I read the document, and it looks fine to me.

I have one question:

- s. 47C(1)
- [Redacted]

As you know, I am keen to ensure that I can communicate what is happening in this space to the community and will take your advice on that. The Islamophobia education taskforce website is an excellent source of information, and I would like to link this from my website (only when you advise the timing is right).

The Stakeholder Reference Group will be essential, as I know so many community stakeholders will want to be involved in this momentous effort.

Thank you for everything.

s. 47C(1)

[Redacted]

Many thanks,

Aftab



~~PROTECTED//CABINET~~

From: JOHNSTON, Mathew S. 22(1)(a)(ii) @education.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 19 July 2026 11:10 AM
To: Aftab MALIK S. 22(1)(a)(ii) oseci.gov.au>
Cc: JOLDIĆ, Jasmina S. 22(1)(a)(ii) @education.gov.au>
Subject: Islamophobia Education Taskforce - draft Terms of Reference and Membership for feedback [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

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Mathew Johnston

Acting First Assistant Secretary

Islamophobia Education Taskforce

Australian Government Department of Education

Working on Ngunnawal Country

Phone S. 22(1)(a)(ii) Mobile S. 22(1)(a)(ii)

[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Newsroom](#)



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To: [Education - Islamophobia Education Taskforce](#)
Subject: FW: Islamophobia Education Taskforce - draft Terms of Reference and Membership for feedback [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Saturday, 25 July 2026 12:34:50 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
Importance: High

~~PROTECTED//CABINET~~

Apologies.

Sent without adding you!

Aftab



~~PROTECTED//CABINET~~

From: Aftab MALIK
Sent: Saturday, 25 July 2026 12:32 PM
To: 'JOHNSTON,Mathew' [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) @education.gov.au>
Cc: JOLDIĆ,Jasmina [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) @education.gov.au>
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Thank you for everything.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED]

Many thanks,

Aftab



~~PROTECTED//CABINET~~

From: JOHNSTON, Mathew s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@education.gov.au>

Sent: Sunday, 19 July 2026 11:10 AM

To: Aftab MALIK s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@oseci.gov.au>

Cc: JOLDIĆ, Jasmina s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@education.gov.au>

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From: [MOHR, Jessica](#)
To: [Aftab MALIK](#)
Cc: [Education - Deputy Secretary HERI](#)
Subject: FW: Aftab's Email: Islamophobia Education Taskforce - draft Terms of Reference and Membership for feedback [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Thursday, 30 July 2026 6:41:38 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

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Good afternoon Aftab,

Thank you for your feedback. s. 47F(1)

So, consider this the start of a more fulsome response from us.

s. 47C(1)

In terms of linking to the Islamophobia Education Taskforce website from the Special Envoy website, this makes complete sense. We are happy to work with you on this if helpful. Perhaps after the first meeting of the Taskforce would be appropriate from a timing perspective.

I completely agree regarding the importance of the Stakeholder Reference Group. It will be a critical mechanism for ensuring that a broad range of community perspectives and expertise can inform the Taskforce's work. We would welcome any views you have on this, including how best to ensure it reflects the diversity of the Muslim community and incorporates a broad range of perspectives.

s. 47C(1)

In the meantime, I would be very happy to discuss this further with you we recognise the importance of ensuring you have the right support in place to make the most of this opportunity.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with you as we establish the Taskforce.

Kind regards

Jess

Jessica Mohr
 Acting Deputy Secretary (she/her)

Released by Department of Home Affairs
under the Freedom of Information Act 1982

Higher Education, Research and International Group
 Australian Government Department of Education
 Working on Ngunnawal
 Phone **S. 22(1)(a)(ii)** | Mobil **S. 22(1)(a)(ii)**
[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Newsroom](#)

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Sent: Saturday, 25 July 2026 12:35 PM
To: Education - Islamophobia Education Taskforce
<IslamophobiaEducationTaskforce@education.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Islamophobia Education Taskforce - draft Terms of Reference and Membership for feedback [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Importance: High

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Sent without adding you!

Aftab



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