



**Executive Council of Australian Jewry**

## **Australian Arabic Council Divisive**

Last Friday, eighty members of Victoria's Jewish and Arabic communities participated in a local radio station discussion on the current Middle East situation. Despite the emotionally fraught times and potential for hostility, the debate was courteous and civilised, a credit to all involved. Indeed it generally typified the discourse between our communities.

It was hence distressing to read an intemperate letter from Milad Bardan of The Australian Arabic Council in your columns (24/07). Amongst other boasts it brashly spoke of Hezbollah being "superior fighters", and promised that soon every Arab mercenary will come to Lebanon "for the chance of a lifetime to fight Israel".

Bardan is treading on very dangerous ground. Even allowing for hyperbole and rhetoric, these inflammatory words sound very much like a call to arms. This is not the sort of divisive and extreme language we ever want to hear in Australia, particularly from an official spokesman of the Australian Arabic community.

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