



**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF
AUSTRALIAN JEWRY Inc.**

Australia's Jews Oppose Discriminatory Immigration Policy

PROFESSOR Raphael Israeli, who clearly accepts that there are both moderate and extremist Muslims, has allegedly argued for more stringent policies to protect national security, including greater policing of terror, the capping of numbers of Muslim immigrants to Australia, and a return to a more homogenous culture in order to protect Australia's democratic way of life (AJN 16/2).

The Australian Jewish community supports freedom of speech. Professor Israeli is a distinguished scholar who is entitled to his views. We also recognise that extremist Islam, with its record of, and potential for, terror is a real threat. Thus our community accepts the need for stringent examination of potential immigrants, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, at any time and particularly now. However Australia's Jewish community continues to oppose any discriminatory immigration policy that rejects or limits potential Australian citizens based only on the applicant's religion or race.

The issues raised by Professor Israeli are increasingly being debated in western nations – issues on which hard decisions may eventually have to be made. However they have huge ramifications for the democratic nature of our societies. Seeking meaningful collaboration with truly moderate Muslims is our preferred response to the current concerns about Islamic terror.

**Grahame Leonard,
President,
Executive Council of Australian Jewry**