



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) welcomes the announcement by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) of a further investigation into Al-Manar TV

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) today announced that it will further investigate Al-Manar TV program content to ascertain its compliance with mandatory program standards including regulatory obligations relating to terrorist-related content, racial vilification and hate speech and exclusion of material that has been classified RC or X 18+ by the Classification Board.

In response to public concerns about the content of Al-Manar TV (an open narrowcasting television service which is reported to have links to Hezbollah, which is currently re-transmitted into Australia via satellite), the investigation will be broad-ranging and will incorporate consideration of any specific complaints about content that are referred to the ACMA.

In response to today's announcement, the President of the ECAJ Robert M Goot AM SC today said:

"The announcement by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) of a further investigation into Al-Manar TV is a most welcome development. It is gratifying that the scope of the investigation, as announced by ACMA, incorporates the breaches of licence conditions by Al Manar that were specified in the ECAJ's formal written submission to the government in September last year."

"The ECAJ will be working closely with other interested organizations in the community to ensure that the complete range of matters referred to in the announcement, are thoroughly investigated."

The full text of the ECAJ's written submission to the government concerning Al Manar is available on the ECAJ's website at <http://www.ecaj.org.au> .

**Robert M Goot AM SC
President**

4 February 2010