



Executive Council
of Australian Jewry Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

AL MANAR

The Executive Director of the ECAJ, Peter Wertheim, cautiously welcomed the findings of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) following its recently completed investigation into Arabic-language programming on the Al-Manar Television service, which is associated with Hizbollah, an Iranian-backed terrorist organization, and transmitted into Australia by an Indonesian owned and operated satellite, Indosat.

The investigation examined the service's program content over a 14-month period and found two breaches of regulatory requirements prohibiting terrorist related material, as well as racial vilification and hate speech.

“A key outcome of the investigation was the recommendation by ACMA to broaden the Broadcasting Services (Anti-terrorism Requirements for Open Narrowcasting Television Services) Standard 2008 so as to prohibit transmissions which indirectly counsel or urge the doing of a terrorist act or which directly praise the doing of a terrorist act”, Mr Wertheim said.

“This will close a loophole in the current standard and bring it into line with the anti-terrorism provisions of the Classifications Act, as recommended by the ECAJ in its submission to ACMA in September 2009. I urge the Australian Government to put the recommendation into effect at the earliest opportunity and to formally request the Indonesian government to stop further Indosat transmissions of al-Manar programming into Australia”.

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