

Liberal death threat - 'Bullet through your brain' email over multicultural stand --- State of the nation

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ABSTRACT

The minister also accused Mr Bernardi of making a "carbon copy" of frontbencher Mr Morrison's comments that questioned the taxpayer cost of funerals for asylum seekers killed in December's Christmas Island shipwreck tragedy.

FULL TEXT

OUTSPOKEN Liberal frontbencher Cory Bernardi has been targeted with death threats after speaking out against multiculturalism and extremist Muslim enclaves.

The South Australian Senator last night said he had referred a raft of death threats to the Australian Federal Police including an email a few weeks ago saying, "I hope people put a bullet through your brain."

Just days after the Gillard Government launched a new multiculturalism agenda, Mr Bernardi yesterday launched a fiery broadside on radio, declaring: "Islam itself is

the problem."

"Whilst we can always fix the balance sheet given enough time, you cannot fix a cultural balance sheet when the excesses have gone too far," he said.

The shadow parliamentary secretary for supporting families said multiculturalism had failed. "I do reject it. They say multiculturalism works but

so many Australians have concerns about isolation of Islam," he said.

Mr Bernardi also claimed that the Government was providing funding to a range of "Islamic extremists" to help them promote their religious beliefs.

Despite the controversy over shadow immigration minister Scott Morrison's alleged remarks about targeting muslim integration, Mr Bernardi said Opposition Leader Tony Abbott had not tried to stop his public outburst. "No one has ever tried to stop me making these comments. In the current environment, I am defending the position of Scott Morrison," he said.

Immigration Minister Chris Bowen slammed the Senator's remarks.

"The Liberal Party professes to have said this week it would not make political points out of race and religion but

here we have Tony Abbott's parliamentary secretary launching an attack on a religion," Mr Bowen said. The minister also accused Mr Bernardi of making a "carbon copy" of frontbencher Mr Morrison's comments that questioned the taxpayer cost of funerals for asylum seekers killed in December's Christmas Island shipwreck tragedy.

While Mr Morrison later partially backed down by describing his timing as "insensitive", Mr Bernardi said: "I think it's the wrong thing to do, it sends a bad message to the taxpayers of Australia – that's a personal view."

Credit: Steve Lewis National Political Correspondent

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