

**THE HON RICHARD MARLES MP  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE  
MEMBER FOR CORIO**

**E&OE TRANSCRIPT**

**TV INTERVIEW**

**SKY NEWS LIVE**

**AM AGENDA**

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***SUBJECTS: Fraser Anning***

**HOST:** To the politics of the day now and joining me is the Shadow Defence Minister, Richard Marles. Thanks very much for your time. Earlier, you heard the interview with Senator Anning. He says it's the thought police, people trying to restrict debate about immigration. What do you say in response to his maiden speech and his arguments made on this program earlier?

**RICHARD MARLES, SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE:** Well, Keiran, I've been here just over 10 years, coming up to 11 now, and in that time I think what we heard from Fraser Anning last night was as an appalling contribution to the parliament as I've heard in that time. I mean it was an absolute disgrace, and if he used that phrase inadvertently he made matters completely worse in the interview that he did with you earlier this morning by absolutely refusing to apologize for it.

This is a man who has no idea about what modern Australia is and where we're going and where we seek to go as a confident country. Multiculturalism - the communities, the wonderful communities in this country which together make up what Australia is in the 21st century - is the definition of our country, and harking

back to an age and a policy, the White Australia policy, which really is a stain on our history, I thought was something that we would have seen in the past. That we've seen it uttered in the parliament in the last 24 hours I find totally unbelievable.

**HOST:** You deal with the security agencies, and as I mentioned to Senator Anning one of the arguments that's been put regularly by the head of ASIO, no less, is the need to work with the Islamic population, with our Muslim Australians, to be the front line of security, really, in the face of Islamist terrorism, and yet this sort of behavior would make matters worse, wouldn't it-

**MARLES:** -It totally makes matters worse.

**HOST:** -because people feel alienated, isolated, marginalized further.

**MARLES:** And feel that that blame is being applied to them in circumstances where many, many thousands of Muslims have been the victims of this terrorism as well. There is a shared resolve from the vast majority of the Muslim community in this country to deal with terrorism and to work with our agencies, and as you rightly point out those agencies identify this community as being the front line.

You know, Muslim Australians are as much Australian and what it means to be Australian in the 21st century as Fraser Anning, and that's the point that needs to be made here. There's no superiority that comes to Fraser Anning by virtue of the color of his skin, and so what I heard last night was absolutely appalling to be heard in this parliament.

But I make this point as well: what we now need to hear is real leadership on the part of the Government to make sure that this outbreak of bigotry does not get out of control. I absolutely commend Josh Frydenberg on the comments that he made today. He is right. Fraser Anning should go to the Holocaust Museum to remind himself on what has occurred and I am glad that the Prime Minister has made his statements.

I am worried, though, that a person who was the Deputy Prime Minister of this

country just a year ago has published a book where he talks about white Australian poor in the regions. I'm not sure why need to use the term white. That worries me.

I am worried when every serious economist in this country says that we need to have a significant permanent migration intake, and yet that has become a debate in this country.

**HOST:** Richard Marles, I appreciate your time. Let's go live to your party leader, Bill Shorten.

***ENDS***

Authorised by Noah Carroll, ALP, Canberra.