



# MUSLIMS AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF ISLAMIC COUNCILS INC.

[www.muslimsaustralia.com.au](http://www.muslimsaustralia.com.au)

# 2014

ANNUAL  
REPORT

*In 2014, 50 years of community service and counting...*



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## OPENING REMARKS BY **THE PRESIDENT**

*In the name of Allah the Most Merciful, the most Beneficent.*

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakautuh.

I thank and praise Allah Almighty for the many blessings I have received. I count serving the community in my capacity as President of AFIC over the last three years as one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences. My journey at the helm of this longstanding organisation during its milestone 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2014 will stand out as one of the most gratifying memories which I will cherish, Alhamdulillah!

This year, our annual report presents a snapshot of another year's key activities, community engagement programs, and the outstanding role and contribution that AFIC, our State and Territory Councils and Societies provided. I thank you for your support and contribution. My thanks and gratitude also extends to our partners in local, state and federal governments, the diplomatic corps and many supporters who volunteered countless hours of assistance to achieve better outcomes for the Muslims of Australia and the wider community.

In the pages ahead, we highlight and celebrate our achievements of the past 12 months and thank Allah SWT. By the Grace of Allah Almighty and thanks to Him alone, the court case against our flagship school, the Malek Fahd Islamic School brought by a small group of residents who opposed the school was finally brought to end in early March 2015, after 5 years of appearances in a number of courts. I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to all those who stood by us and helped us to stand firm, resolute and patient. In particular, I thank the staff of Malek Fahd and AFIC for their invaluable contribution that has enabled us to bring this long saga to an end. It is because of these efforts that we can continue to excel in the provision of services across the board.

During my tenure we have continued to build partnerships and strengthen our networks, creating future pathways for AFIC to improve facilities and services and be more dynamic in our responses to the needs and aspirations of our evolving society.

We ask Allah Almighty to accept our work and forgive our mistakes and shortcomings and we ask Him to guide us to the best of our ability in serving the needs of the community. Once again it gives me great pleasure to present AFIC's Annual Report for 2015.

Assalaamu Alaikum,

**Hafez Kassem**  
President





Message from the  
Prime Minister  
Tony Abbott



I am pleased to provide this message for Muslims Australia's 51st Anniversary Congress.

This 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Congress is an opportunity to consider how together we can build even stronger communities and a stronger Australia.

In challenging times, it is important we do what we can to promote respect, understanding and unity across our country.

It is the efforts of individuals that make a real difference. Our nation saw this when Manal Kassem interrupted her wedding to provide a floral tribute at Marin Place. Her intentions were a reminder that Muslim Australians – all Australians – have been affronted by events in our country and around the world. As Australians, we all need to speak up clearly because, no matter what the grievance, violence against innocents must surely be a blasphemy against all religions. The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils has an important role in advocating this.

As we reflect on what it means to be an Australian, we draw on the words of Australia's 12th Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies: *"What we need in Australia is that every person who comes into the Australian community should retain his quality but should add it to the qualities of all the other people in the community. So that finally we get a community of high ideals, of clear faith, of generosity and understanding"*.

This is the country we are building: a community of high ideals, of generosity, and of understanding.

I send my best wishes for a productive Congress.

**Tony Abbott**  
Prime Minister





Message from Leader  
of the Opposition  
**Bill Shorten**



It gives me great pleasure to send my best wishes to the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils on this occasion of its 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary.

For over half century the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils has worked with Australia's Islamic community and the wider community to provide settlement assistance and work to foster harmony and understanding in the community.

The Australian Federation of Islamic Council's contribution cannot be underestimated and is greatly appreciated.

The Islamic story in Australia has a rich history and grows stronger each year. Australia's Muslim community continues to do our nation a great service by fostering enduring cultural and religious harmony, and making a substantial contribution to our national prosperity.

This reflects modern Australian multiculturalism: a story of cultural enrichment social cohesion and economic growth and it is a story that the Labor Party is committed to and will always defend. Congratulations to the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils on its 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary and I wish you well for a wonderful celebration.

Yours sincerely,

**Bill Shorten**  
Leader of the Opposition



Communication from  
His Excellency  
**Sir Peter John Cosgrove**  
Governor General of the  
Commonwealth of Australia

Dear Mr Kassem

The Governor General has asked me to thank you for your letter of 3 February in which you request a message of support for Muslims Australia (AFIC)'s 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Congress.

His Excellency was honoured to be asked to contribute, and has given serious consideration to your request, particularly in view of his attendance at your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at Parliament House last year.

However, the number of requests for messages from the Governor-General has grown to such an extent that we are no longer able to accommodate them all. I regret to advise that we cannot assist you on this occasion.

Sir Peter has asked me to send you his best wishes for your 51<sup>st</sup> Congress.

Yours sincerely

**Stephen Murtagh**

Deputy Official Secretary to the Governor-General  
Government House, Canberra



Message from Governor  
of New South Wales  
His Excellency, The Honourable  
**David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)**

As the national organisation for Australians of Islamic faith the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils has played a significant role as ambassadors for Muslims Australians in the wider community.

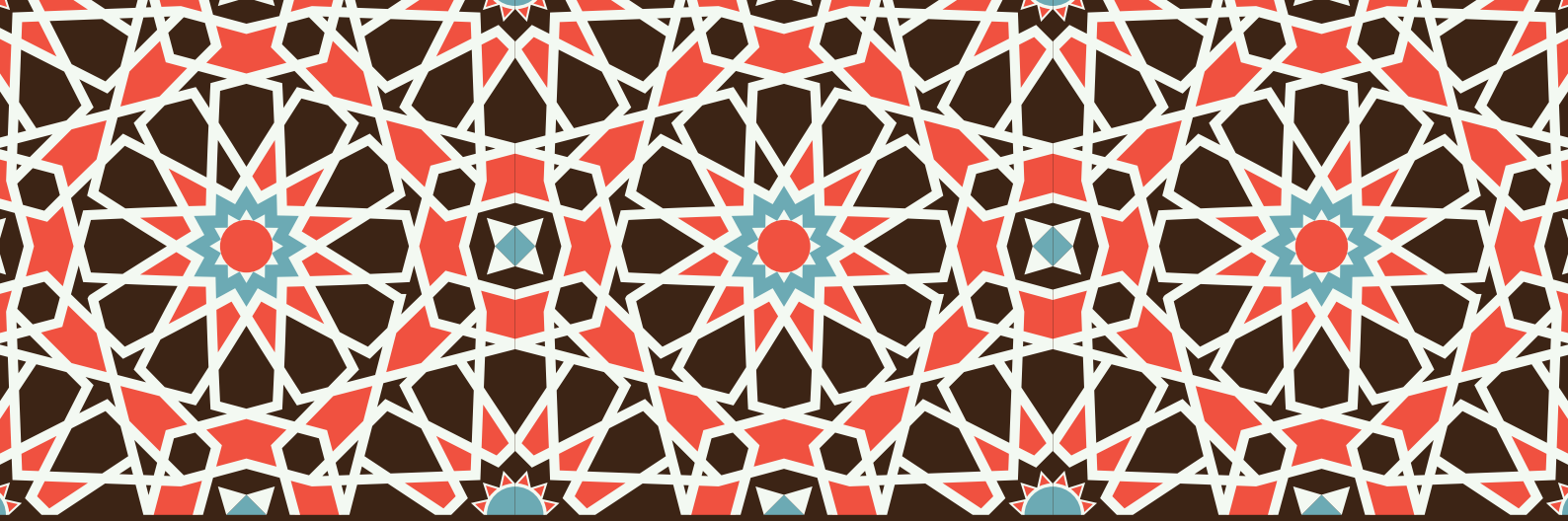
The work of the Federation has covered many important achievements over the past 51 years in the areas of faith culture community work and education.

The Federation continues to make positive contributions to the development of Australia's multicultural and inclusive society. Interfaith understanding and harmony are hallmarks of a prosperous and peaceful society and these are values all people in New South Wales share.

I congratulate you and convey my best wishes to all on the occasion of the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Congress.

**General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)**  
Governor of New South Wales





**Message from the  
Premier of NSW  
Mike Baird**

I am delighted to send my best wishes to Muslims Australia on the occasion of its 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

Muslims Australia since it was founded, has actively promoted peaceful Islamic cultural practices and encouraged peace between Australian-Muslims and the broader community.

The rich multicultural tapestry of our State has enabled people from so many different backgrounds and nationalities to call Australia home and has contributed positively to NSW enabling people to experience the very best of all cultures.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Muslims Australia for its dedication and commitment to actively supporting our important values of peace and tolerance, and for the work does supporting important cultural events each year.

On behalf of the NSW Government I wish everyone celebrating this occasion an enjoyable and memorable anniversary.

**Mike Baird**  
Premier



**Message from the  
Chief Minister of ACT  
Andrew Barr**

I would like to extend my best and warmest wishes to Muslims Australia – Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) on the occasion of its 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

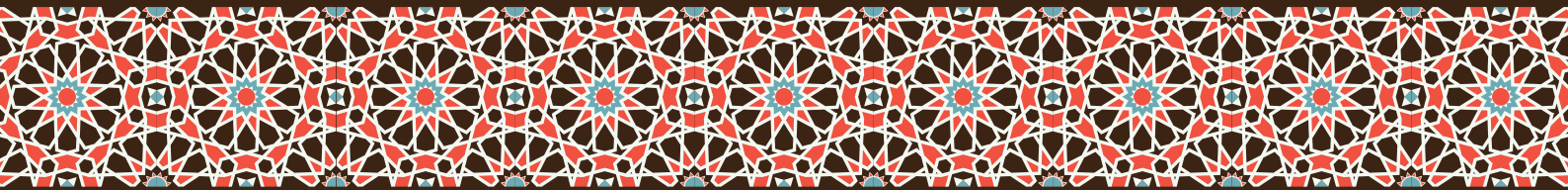
The ACT is home to an incredibly diverse and multicultural community and we have benefited from the leadership shown across different cultures and faiths in creating harmony and respect for all.

I am particularly proud of Canberra's Muslim leaders who are at the forefront of projects and initiatives that create greater understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous contributions the Muslim community has made to the development of our nation and community life throughout contemporary Australia.

On behalf of the people of the ACT I want to wish all members of Muslims Australia – (AFIC) a very peaceful, happy and prosperous year ahead.

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Barr MLA**  
Chief Minister





## Who We Are and What We Do MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE

Muslims Australia AFIC is managed by a committee of management commonly known as the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee members of Muslims Australia AFIC, volunteer their services and are not paid by AFIC. The Executive Committee plays an important role in the organisation as both leaders and decision-makers. It is their responsibility to ensure everything the organisation does supports its vision, purpose and aims as outlined in the organisation's constitution.

The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the Federal Congress which is made up of member societies and Councils from across the State, Territories of Australia, Christmas Island and Tasmania. The other office bearers are appointed by the President in consultation with

the elected officer bearers. The Federal Congress reviews and evaluates all areas of AFIC's performance and formulates AFIC's key strategic planning and policy, moving forward.

The President together with the Executive Committee is accountable to the membership of the organisation and other key stakeholders to ensure compliance with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements and seeks guidance from the Federal Congress and/or Federal Council members around any uncertainties.

The Executive Committee of Muslims Australia AFIC is elected by the Federal Congress to serve one term of three year duration. The Executive Committee can be re-elected after completing their first term of office and may hold office for their elected position for a maximum of two terms.



## MUSLIMS AUSTRALIA - AFIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - PROFILE



**PRESIDENT**  
**Hafez Kassem**

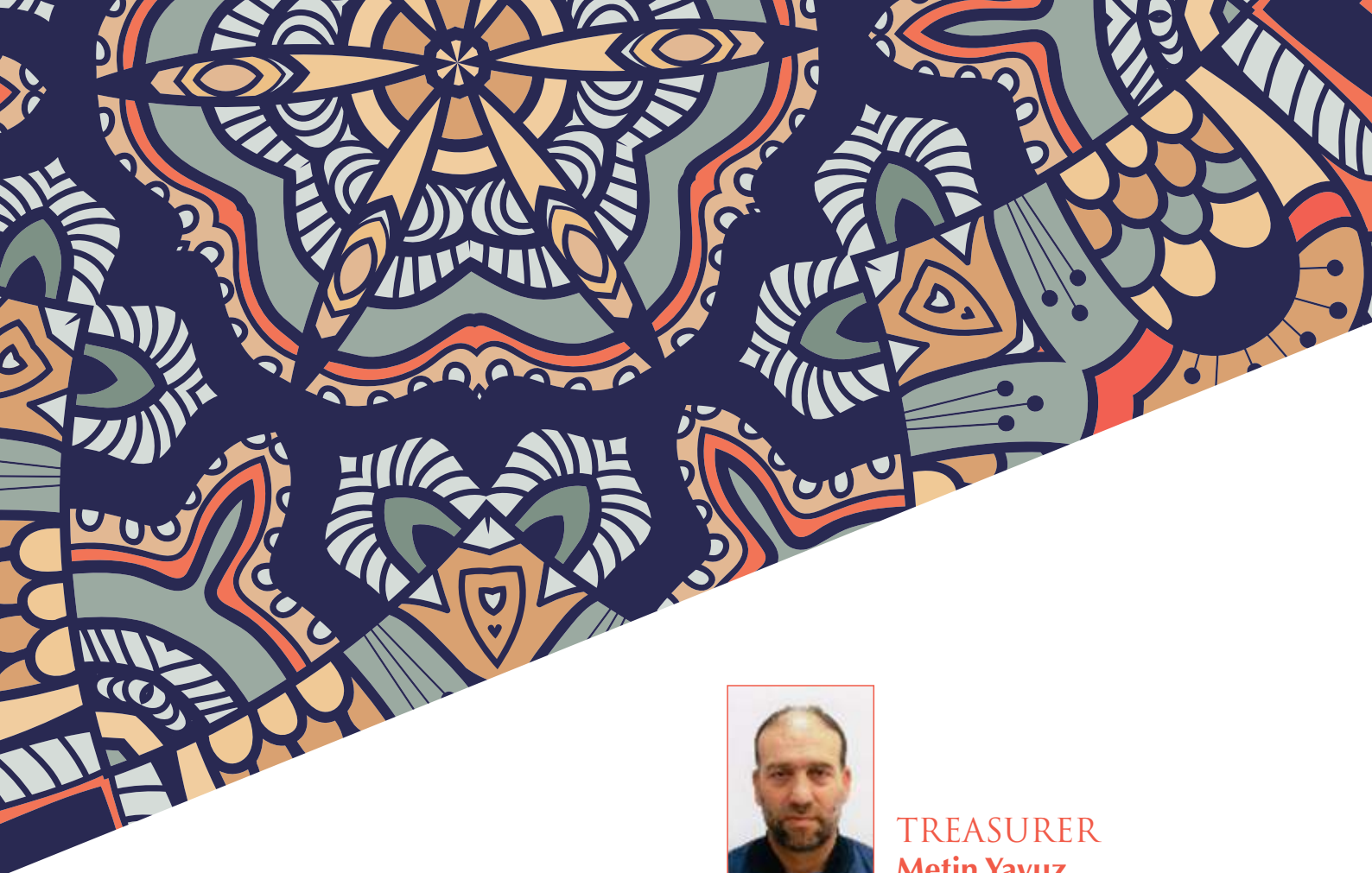
Br Hafez Kassem brings broad experience and extensive networks developed over his forty one years in Australia. During his early days in Australia he was employed as an Agricultural Inspector progressing over some years to being self-employed and running four successful child care centres in Sydney.

His demonstrated business acumen places him in good stead to manage Muslims Australia and its subsidiaries. He is also able to draw on his wide range of business networks and his communication skills to the benefit of AFIC. His many years of services to the community are noteworthy.

### **Islamic Community and Social Work:**

- 1975: Joined Alminia Charitable Association
- 1976: Joined the Lebanese Moslem Association (LMA)
- 2000: Established El-Minia Islamic Youth Centre Association and elected as President.
- 2001: Joined Muslim Council of NSW Inc and one of the pioneers of this umbrella body.
- 2002-2006: Elected as Treasurer of Muslim Council of NSW Inc.  
Represented MCNSW Inc in various conferences, meetings and Congresses.
- 2007-2009: Entered Muslims Australia – AFIC as an Executive Member.
- 2009-2012: Vice President of Muslims Australia – AFIC
- 2012- President of AFIC





**SECRETARY**  
**Shahabuddin Abdullah**

**Training and Experience**

- MBBS, FRACGP – Medical Practitioner and GP

Dr Shahabuddin Abdullah is an active, professional member of the South Australian Muslim and broader community. He has spent many years actively working with Islamic Societies and the Islamic Council of South Australia to progress the aspirations of the Muslims of South Australia as well as contributing to the professional and economic sectors of the State. He is passionate about justice and equity issues at all levels of engagement.

Dr Abdullah worked with the Adelaide Islamic students and with various Islamic associations of South Australia including the Islamic Council.

He also brings a wealth of Islamic knowledge through his study and contributes with professional and religious/spiritual insight into the AFIC community.



**TREASURER**  
**Metin Yavuz**

Metin Yavuz is known for his dedication to community support. He is a keen social justice advocate for the Muslim youth especially the disadvantaged youth in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. He has been involved in Islamic youth support services at the Coburg Mosque since 1975.

He moved to South Australia in 1984 and returned to Victoria in 2010. He continued his passion for Islamic work amongst Muslim youth in South Australia and Victoria; he actively served the South Australian Muslim and wider community in various capacities, as the President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Islamic Council of South Australia over a number of years.

He is also the founding member of the Islamic College of South Australia, which was started by AFIC in 1998. He has been a member of the School Board for many years.

He is also actively involved in Halal services for over 20 years and continues to oversee AFIC's Halal Services portfolio in the present Exco.

He is a businessman & a farmer and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to AFIC.



**ASSISTANT TREASURER**  
**Dr Senad Smajic**

**Training & Experience**

- MBBS (Syd), Certificate in Primary Care Skin Cancer Medicine
- Certificate in Advanced Dermoscopy & Histopathology
- GP and Business Owner.

Dr Senad Smajic is skin specialist who has been actively involved in the affairs of Muslims in Sydney for many years. He brings an array of professional skills, youth, and diversity, technical and managerial to AFIC. Board Member of Parramatta Islamic Cultural Association, 2011; Executive Member of Australian Bosnian Islamic Society Gazi Husrevbeg.



**EXECUTIVE MEMBER**  
**Abdul Muhaymin Kamareddin**

Dr Abdul Kamareddine is an active volunteer in a number of Islamic societies in Melbourne with his activities focusing mainly on the youth.

Dr Kamareddine holds a PhD from the University of Melbourne and several lesser qualifications. He is the chairman of the Islamic College of Melbourne and has held teaching and research positions at the University of Melbourne as well as abroad.



**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**  
**Rawah El Samman**

**Training & Experience**

- Master of Education, 2009-2010, Sydney University (Merit)
- Bachelor of Teaching, 2005-2006, University of Western Sydney
- Bachelor of Adult Education, 2004-2005, University of Western Sydney
- Certificate IV Workplace Training and Assessment, 2011

Sr Rawah El Samman is a full time High school teacher for English and ESOL Adult education teacher on weekends.

Rawah has volunteered her services with the Muslim community for almost 15 years. Her specialised skills in education management are an asset to AFIC's objective to provide educational services through schools to the specific requirements of the community.



## EXECUTIVE MEMBER Muhammad Harun Abdullah

Harun Abdullah is the longest serving member of the AFIC Executive Committee. His experience is broad ranging and he is a champion for social justice and human rights. He holds a BA (Hons) from the University of Tasmania and is an employee of Centrelink. His experience is wide range and as follows:

- Member of Tasmanian Muslim Association since 1984; Secretary of Islamic Centre of Tasmania Trust Inc 1994 to date; Member of Muslims Australia – AFIC Executive Committee from 1998 to present. Positions held include Treasurer, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary.

Harun is especially concerned for the welfare of newly arrived refugees and also interested in homeless issues, mental health and drug addiction problems. He has worked as a welfare officer with the St Vincent de Paul Society for 11 years. He has been on the board of Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania) for 12 years and served as Chairman.

He is particularly interested in strengthening relationships between Muslims and other faith communities. He is passionate about dispelling myths and misunderstanding about Muslims and vilification of the Muslim community. He also seeks to promote a policy of access and equity in AFIC schools so that young people of all abilities can develop as Muslims and have the skills to meet the challenges of life in Australia.



## EXECUTIVE MEMBER Soofia Abbas

### Training & Experience

- Diploma in Community Services 2015
- Diploma in Financial Services (1999)
- Diploma in Professional Interior Design (1987)
- OMEGA (CBA's American based in house Business Cashflow 2000)
- Cowen Brown in Customer Service (CBA/1999)

### Experience

Sr Soofia Abbas brings almost 30 years of experience working in various roles in the Banking & Finance industry together with the richness of community development work on her list of accomplishments. Her last appointment was as a Credit Risk Manager in Commonwealth Bank of Australia's Credit Risk Solutions managing troublesome and impaired assets. She served the Islamic Women's Welfare Association (IWWA) for 14 years, working from the inception to the growth of IWWA in various roles as Treasurer, Secretary and Vice President. Also added to her credentials is the role of Caseworker with the National Zakat Foundation from 2014 and with ISRE as a Volunteer Scripture Teacher at Belmore North Primary School.

Sr Soofia Abbas has been recognised for her services and awarded:

- Recognised under the Canterbury Citizens Award (2004)
- Twice recognised by NZF as a valuable case worker
- Recognised by ISRE for contribution as a volunteer

Her areas of interest include:

- To be able to positively contribute to the Muslim Community in Australia
- To make a difference to those less fortunate by motivating and empowering them

Her aim is to reach out to the diverse and different Muslim nationalities in Australia so that they may one day unite and work together in the best interest of the Ummah.





## MUSLIMS AUSTRALIA – AFIC STAFF

Muslims Australia AFIC's day to day operation is managed by a small, yet dedicated group of individuals who work closely with the President and Executive Committee members. The staff ensure continued, effective service delivery within the diverse range of AFIC's services.

The Executive Committee is very grateful to all staff members for their loyalty, hard work and contribution to the ongoing success of Muslims Australia AFIC and the wider community. This is an opportunity to thank the spouses and families of our staff for their support and understanding over the last 12 months.

The Executive Committee also appreciates the work of our Halal services personnel, our food technologists, veterinarians, slaughtermen, supervisors, inspectors for their important work.

The Executive Committee acknowledges the vital role of all staff members in achieving Muslims Australia AFIC's key outcomes.



# MUSLIMS AUSTRALIA

## AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF ISLAMIC COUNCILS INC.

Muslims Australia (The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils - AFIC) was established in 1964 and is the national peak Islamic community organisation representing and serving the needs of Australian

### Vision

To empower Muslims through its affiliated State, Territory Islamic Councils and Islamic Societies to achieve their full potential as Australian citizens.

### Mission

To be an Australian leader in developing, marketing and delivering products and services through innovation and teamwork.

### Culture

Muslims Australia – AFIC will work together to

- Strive to exceed community expectations by recognising and anticipating their needs
- Meet challenging but achievable organisation objectives with well planned and clearly communicated strategies
- Continually improve Muslims Australia's image, through the promotion of creative ideas and the development of targeted, innovative products and services

### Values

- Community focussed
- Innovation and improvement in provision of services
- Commitment to quality and equity
- Teamwork
- Integrity, honesty and ethical behaviour
- Respect for individuals

### Strategy

Muslims Australia aims to meet the ongoing needs of the community by:

- Articulating the interests of Australian Muslims in political advocacy and social justice
- Acknowledging the rights and addressing the community's diverse, multi cultural, social and religious needs
- Assisting in the provision of buildings and organising leisure activities of local Muslims in their respective areas
- Assisting Muslim communities in remote and regional areas to establish prayer and burial facilities
- Providing educational services through Schools to the specific requirements of the community
- Providing support and assistance to culturally disadvantaged and socially isolated communities through specific initiatives and programs, aid and resources
- Advocating a "fair-go" values system for all Australians
- Provision of Halal certification and advisory services
- Access to AFIC Halal Advisory Committee for advice and counsel on all matters relating to every day issues



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### AFIC Schools



Sydney

**MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL**  
405 Waterloo Rd.  
Greenacre NSW 2190  
P: 02 9642 8766  
F: 02 9642 5479  
mfis@ihug.com.au



Sydney

**MALEK FAHD HOXTON PARK**  
Pacific Palms Circuit,  
Hoxton Park NSW 2171  
T: 02 8783 5190  
E: hoxtonparkdp@mfs.nsw.edu.au



Sydney

**MALEK FAHD BEAUMONT HILLS**  
20 Mungerie Rd.  
Beaumont Hills NSW 2155  
T: 02 8814 5282  
E: beaumont.hills.dp@mfs.nsw.edu.au



Canberra

**ISLAMIC SCHOOL OF CANBERRA**  
CIT Block A and B  
33 Heysen St.  
Weston ACT 2611  
P: 02 6288 7358  
F: 02 6287 3517  
iscact@bigpond.net.au



Brisbane

**ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF BRISBANE**  
45 Acacia Rd.  
Karawatha QLD 4117  
P: 07 3841 3645  
F: 07 3841 4320  
isbl@bigpond.net.au



South Australia

**ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
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P: 08 8340 7799  
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Perth

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Langford WA 6147  
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Melbourne

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admin@icom.vic.edu.au

*Hand in hand for a brighter Australia.*



Message from the Ambassador  
of the State of Kuwait  
**Khaled Al-Shaibani**

Dear Mr Kassem,

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to the Islamic community in Australia through your well respected magazine “Muslims Australia”, and to convey my sincere congratulations on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Congress of the Australian Federations of Islamic Councils, hoping this millstone event will further promote the true image of our Islamic faith and the Muslim Community within the multicultural Australian Society.

I would like to take this opportunity to praise the generous efforts of the Australian Federation of the Islamic Councils towards providing extensive services to the Muslim community and promoting the distinctive morals of Islam as a comprehensive way of life, where compassion, mercy, modesty, tolerance and peace prevail in our Islamic education.

The Australian Federation of the Islamic Councils is carrying out a very important and vital role which is highly appreciated and recognised by the Islamic community in Australia, therefore maintaining this credibility is important and adds great responsibility, especially with the upbringing of Young Muslim generations in Australia, to adopt the highly refined values of Islam and reflect respect and peace, and at the same time to further benefit from the Australian society which fully respects and appreciates cultural differences and diversity.

We should appreciate and take into respect the freedom to practice our faith which was granted to us by the Australian legislations and institutions. We should also appreciate the Australian institutions and legislations which extended and demonstrated the ability of the freedom of beliefs and treat this freedom with responsibility and transparency as we should respect the beliefs of the majority.

I would like to wish you all success in delivering your services of Islam and humanity and May the blessings of Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala shine upon your lives, hoping that all Muslims live in harmony within cross cultural communities fostering a safe and peaceful Australia.

Please accept my best wishes.

Yours Sincerely,

**Khaled Al-Shaibani**  
Ambassador of the State of Kuwait





# *Highlights* OF THE YEAR

This was a year to celebrate. Muslims Australia AFIC celebrated its milestone 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, welcomed new members to the organisation, achieved remarkable outcomes in education services and much more as presented to you in the following pages. Your support has been crucial, you shared our goals and we delivered. Our approach has been an open and accessible one. Thank you for your support in achieving many improvements over this period.

# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF MUSLIMS AUSTRALIA AFIC

Muslims Australia AFIC celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a stellar event making sure Australian Muslims stamp a lasting vivid impression on Australian politics and Australian society.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at Australia's Parliament House in Canberra. This was the event where religious and political put the final nail in the coffin of the highly controversial government proposal to repeal S18c of the Anti-Discrimination Act opposed by all sections of Australia's multicultural society. The result was quick, the very next morning, Attorney General George Brandis QC made the announcement that he would abandon the move to repeal S18C of the Anti-Discrimination Act citing concerns of Muslims and other Australians.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations held at the Australian National Parliament was a monumental event for Australian Muslims. The Prime Minister sent a message but the event was marked by the attendance of The Hon Sir Peter Cosgrove, Governor General of Australia and Lady Cosgrove and more than 50 senators and members of parliament and many ambassadors and diplomats representing different countries from around the world.

Keynote speaker, His Grace Bishop Kevin Manning outlined the very notable similarities between the teachings of Islam and the teachings of Christianity highlighting in particular the sharing of the five pillars of testimony of faith, prayer, fasting, charity and pilgrimage. Bishop Manning also highlighted our shared concerns about a humanitarian treatment of asylum seekers, the sanctity of marriage and family and the drive to promote peace on earth. Bishop Manning, the winner of the 2010 prestigious international Islamic Friendship Association of Australia prize "Champion of Cultural Inclusion" also highlighted the tremendous contributions of Muslim in the area of interfaith dialogue and the efforts by Vatican Councils over years to work together with Muslims in the field of mutual understanding and in seeking partnerships to better this world.

In delivering the Prime Minister's message, Senator the Hon Concetta Fieravanti-Wells, congratulated AFIC, wished it well and conveyed the government's support for diversity and the rights of all Australians and praised the contributions of Muslims over the last 200 years.

Muslims Australia President, Hafez Kassem stressed to the members of parliament and the ambassadors in attendance, the crucial need to end violent conflicts in our world and to start by bringing a just end to the Palestinian and Israeli conflict. Hafez Kassem added that the world community must divert some of its weapons spending towards humanitarian aid. He said that instead of producing the means of destruction, the world community must produce means of saving lives and the environment. President Hafez Kassem concluded his speech by asking the guests to hold hands and make a prayer to God to bless Australia and its people and to bring peace on earth.

His Excellency Nabil Al Saleh, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also congratulated AFIC and wished it well and praised its contributions to Australian society and in particular to Muslims in Australia and elsewhere.

The event honoured a small number of brothers and sisters who have contributed to Australian society over the years, especially, his eminence Sh Taj Aldin Alhilali, the first Mufti of Australia. Sh Alhilali held the post for 18 years before handing the post to the National Imam's Council which he established in 2007. Sh Alhilali travelled to war torn Iraq in 2005 to procure the release of Australian hostage Douglas Wood at tremendous risk to his personal safety.

The evening saw performances from the Islamic School of Canberra choir singing the Australian national anthem, Matilda House performing a welcome to country and nasheed by Ali Nabulsi and Stephanie Kurlow from the Australian Nashid and Arts Academy.

AFIC Secretary Dr Shahabuddin Abdullah drew tremendous applause when he asked in his vote of thanks the MPs present to convey a message to the government that we must protect the rights of minorities, we must protect Medicare and its universality, and we must keep education affordable.

The president of the Australian National Imams Councils, Dr Abdel Aziem Afifi concluded the evening with a prayer to Allah Almighty to keep Australia safe and secure and to grant us the wisdom and compassion to do more for the betterment of our world.







50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Muslims Australia AFIC at Parliament House in Canberra



50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Muslims Australia AFIC at Parliament House in Canberra



Br Hafez Kassem, President of Muslims Australia AFIC



Hon. Bill Shorten, Leader of the Opposition



Br Hafez Kassem with Jason Claire MP



Br Hafez Kassem with Hon. Phillip Ruddock (Former Minister of Immigration) and Sheikh Tajjedine Al Hilaly (Former Mufti of Australia)



Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove and guests



Br Hafez Kassem with guests





Message from the  
Premier of WA  
**Colin Barnett**

It is a pleasure to congratulate Muslims Australia (Australian Federation of Islamic Councils) and all its members on the occasion of your 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Congress.

The Western Australian Government proudly acknowledges and celebrates our cultural diversity as one of our State's great strengths and recognises the important contribution of Muslim communities to every facet of Western Australian's development.

Muslim Western Australians are an integral part of the West Australian community and have brought valuable skills, values, insight and traditions to the rich cultural heritage of WA's diverse population.

The Eid-ul-Adha and Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations are becoming important festivals on Western Australia's calendar and add to the cultural and religious diversity of this State. Muslims Australia (AFIC) has grown into a large and respected organisation that provides an important service to Muslim communities across the nation.

I commend Muslims Australia (AFIC) for its leadership and commitment to community service and take this opportunity to congratulate it on the occasion of its 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Congress.

I wish Muslims Australia (AFIC) and its members every success for the congress and for the future.

**Colin Barnett MLA**  
PREMIER



Message from the  
Greens Senator  
for Tasmania  
**Christine Milne**

I am pleased to join with the Muslim community around Australia in celebration of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary.

Australia is characterised by a strong multicultural and multifaith presence. Our diversity makes our community stronger, more vibrant, and more resilient. The hard work and generosity of Muslim Australians have long been central to this task, and we are made richer as a result of their contributions.

The Australian Greens will continue our fight against hate, discrimination and for inclusion and acceptance. We are grateful to pursue this goal alongside Australian Muslim communities, who work hard to promote and preserve peace, friendship and inclusion. We will continue to work with you, speaking out against those that seek to promote fear, anxiety and division.

Congratulations on your 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebration.

**Senator Christine Milne**  
Leader of the Australian Greens



# THE WORLD ALLIANCE OF RELIGIONS AND PEACE SUMMIT



*Br Hafez Kassem at the Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light Conference*

The president of Muslims Australia AFIC, Br Hafez Kassem and the president of Muslims New South Wales, Br Amjad Mehboob, were invited to attend an international peace conference in Seoul, South Korea during 17-19<sup>th</sup> September 2014, along with 70 other participants representing Australia.

The 2014 the World Alliance of Religions' Peace Summit hosted by the Chairman of The Heavenly Culture Worlds Religion, Restoration of Light (HWPL), and Mr Man Hee Lee was held at the Seoul Olympic Stadium. During the opening ceremony, the entrance of distinguished guests was followed by the spectacular Card Section performance, who conveyed the message of the vanity of war. All the performances were akin to performance during the Seoul Olympics, outstanding discipline and coordination and choreography.

In his opening address, Mr Man Hee Lee said "If the heads of state love their country and people, they should sign an international agreement that would put an end to all wars and bring about peace". In her commemorative address, Ms Nam Hee Kim, Chairwoman of the International Women's Peace Group (IWPG), emphasised the important role of women in achieving world peace. The audience was shown a video of Mr Lee's peace movement and his World Peace Tours in which he covered 54 countries delivering the message of peace. In January in Mindanao, Philippines, one of the most war-torn regions in Asia – Mr Lee played a key role in resolving the 40 year old conflict between Catholics and Muslims through a peace agreement. Also in Zamboanga City of Mindanao, Mr Lee presented the practical solution to peace at the Peace Walk in which over 12,000 people participated.



Messages of congratulation from dignitaries including Emil Constantinescu, the former President of Romania, Kgalema Petrus Motlanthe, the deputy President of South Africa; Alexander Rutsokoy, the former Vice President of Russia; Bertie Ahern, the former Taoiseach of Ireland, Stjepan Mesic, the former President of Croatia, Gaudencio Rosales, Archbishop Emeritus of Manila; Giani Gurbachan Singh, the Jathedar of Akal Takht, and Shmuley Boteach an American Orthodox Rabbi. Notably, Emil Constantinescu, the president of ICD Academy and former president of Romania said in his congratulatory speech that "everyone in the world should become a messenger of peace, irrespective of nationality or race.

The conference invited global and faith leaders to call an end to all wars around the world. The speeches were all focused on highlighting the horrors of wars and the challenges we, as a global community face in bringing about peace. The threats to peace are many and varied motivated primarily by political and economic factors but invariable and misguidedly fought on "religious" grounds.

The overwhelming outcome of the conference was a loud and clear call to the end of all wars and the determination by all present to do their utmost as religious leaders to call on their respective governments to stop war now and give peace a chance.



## RAMADAN FOOD PARCELS PROJECT

The Ramadan Food Parcel Project has become a regular event eagerly anticipated by many. Alhamdulillah, now in its sixth year, this honourable gesture from Shiekh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Humanitarian Foundation based in the United Arab Emirates and in partnership with the UAE Embassy in Canberra and Muslims Australia AFIC many Australian Muslims have benefitted enormously. During Ramadan when many households are under greater pressure to provide for their families, the food parcel comes as a welcome contribution to many families.

The food parcels are distributed to families in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, their feedback is positive and families are grateful to receive this additional support during this blessed and demanding time of the year. This Ramadan food parcel project signifies the importance of being generous especially during the days of fasting and nights of prayer.

A common response from many of the families is: *“May Allah bless and reward all of you for the good work you do.”*



*Distribution in Melbourne by Dr Kamareddine and members of Newport Islamic Society*

## AFIC IFTAR 2014

The month of Ramadan is a special time of the year for Muslims. MFIS Iftar which become a regular event in the calendar of all our friends in the Muslim and the wider community of Sydney. The MFIS Iftar 2014 was attended by local politicians, community and multi faith leaders, respected imams, presidents and executives of societies, staff and students of Malek Fahd Islamic School and friends.

This gathering provides an opportunity to network, engage with each other renew acquaintances, make new friends and enjoy the hospitality of Muslims Australia AFIC and MFIS.



*Br Hafez Kassem*



*Member of Parliament, Jason Clare*

*Br Hafez Kassem with guests at AFIC Iftar*







Mr Matt Kean, Member for Horesby



Mayor Khal Asfour



Guests at MFIS Iftar



Guests at AFIC Iftar



Sr Rawah El Samman



Br Amjad Mehboob  
President MNSW



Sheikh Faiz Saif



Mr Shaoquett Moselmane



Principal Shamsheer Ali (back row, second from right) with Business Manager Agim Garana (back row, far right) & Amjad Mehboob, President MNSW (back row, second from left) with Malek Fahd staff



From left, Br Mohammed Safi & wife with Br Waji Houchar & Hussain Houchar



## Harmony Day at MFIS

Harmony Day was celebrated on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March across Australia. At MFIS Harmony Day celebrated Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.



Ahmad Abdul with MFIS student on Harmony Day at MFIS



L to R: Sheikh Khaled Bouchafaa, Hafez Kassem, Ahmad Abdo from NSW Police, Chaplain sheikh with Fawaz Kamaz on Harmony Day at MFIS

## Mecca Conference

In 2015 Muslim World League (MWL) organised an international conference in the holy city of Makkah, to discuss counter terrorism from a Muslim perspective. The theme of the conference - "Islam and the Fight against Terrorism", highlighted efforts by the Kingdom in the field of fighting terrorism.

The overwhelming point of agreement being - Islam considers all life forms as sacred. However, the sanctity of human life is accorded a special place. The first and the foremost basic right of a human being is the right to live.



Br. Hafez Kassem with His Excellency Dr. Adil bin Ali al-Shedid, Assistant Secretary General of Muslim World League





## Australia Day Celebrations

On this Australia Day 2015, we are reminded of our journey to this wide, open, beautiful land. We reflect on our challenges and applaud our accomplishments as a community and a nation. We value freedom of religion, free speech, equality and respect for others' beliefs faith and practices, peace and harmony. We cherish friendships, mateship and harness resilience during Australia's harsh climate – bush fires, floods and storms. We are a nation, rich in cultures and languages and the voice of our nation speaks for justice, freedom and the rights of all humanity with one standard applicable to all.

As we celebrate this Australia Day, let us give thanks to The Almighty for all of these blessings we enjoy. Let us take a stand in 2015 to expose bigotry, injustice and racism as curses upon humanity, requiring swift eradication each and every time it rears its ugly head!



*Br Hafez Kassem celebrating Australia Day with Craig Laundry MP for Reid with his son Madyan.*

## Community Engagement

- Br Hafez Kassem, Sr Rawah El Saman and Sr Soofia attended
- Fundraising dinner for Jihad Dib
- Fundraising Dinner for the Afghan Society



## Closure of Detention Centres



Muslims Australia AFIC joined together with the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, the Uniting Church Synod, Doctors for Refugees and many other organisations to support a petition which called on the Australian Government to close both the Manus Island and Nauru Detention Centres. The protest rally for the closure of the detention centres on Nauru and Manus Island was held in Sydney city in December 2014.



## Interfaith Engagements



*Multifaith Meeting at AFIC Sydney office on 26/11/14 with Br Hafez Kassem, expressing solidarity and support for Muslims facing unprecedented onslaught of islamophobic hysteria. The gathering agreed to support pathways to peace, cooperation and mutual understanding.*



*Australian National Dialogue of Christians Muslims and Jews (ANDCMJ) meeting at AFIC 4/5/15*



*Over the past 12 months Muslims Australia – AFIC continued to utilise its wide reaching communications networks to inform and connect communities and promote mutual understanding and respect of Australia's rich and diverse religious and cultural communities through publications, online resources and media releases.*

## Flood relief in Bosnia - Appeal



A call was put out for assistance and support for the people of Bosnia after being struck by the fiercest flood in 120 years. As the flood came down mountains, rushed through the valleys, filled Bosnia's landscape; homes; businesses, livelihoods were destroyed leaving some people dead and many homeless and in desperate need of assistance.

## Muslims Australia - AFIC to host...

His Excellency General the Hon. Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (ret), Governor General of Australia and Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove along with ministers, Senators, MPS, diplomats and community leaders at its 50<sup>th</sup> Congress Dinner in the Great Hall of the Australian Parliament in Canberra.

In a first of its kind, the Australian Muslim Community's peak body, the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils will hold its 50<sup>th</sup> Congress dinner in the Great Hall of the Federal Parliament. This monumental event will be chaired by former Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Honourable Gary Hardgrave and features His Grace Bishop Kevin Manning (ret) as a keynote speaker addressing our shared values.

## Palestine-Israeli Conflict

The President of AFIC appealed to Australian citizens to send the strongest possible message of condemnation to the Israeli Government to the disproportionate use of force by Israeli military against innocents.

## Muslims Australia (AFIC) Condemns ISIS

The President of Muslims Australia (AFIC), condemned ISIS and criticized them for being in violation of Islamic laws and distanced Islam from the actions of this militant group, saying they *"have nothing to do with Islam and its principles that call for justice, kindness, fairness, freedom of faith and coexistence."*

## Eid-ul-Adha Message

The Staff and the Executive Committee of Muslims Australia (AFIC) extend sincere greetings to the Muslim community of Australia on the occasion of Eid al Adha. Congratulations for Hajj Mabroor to all who have made the journey to perform pilgrimage to Makkah, Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifa. We pray and look forward to your safe return, Insha'Allah, invigorated and with renewed faith and humility!

On behalf of Muslims of Australia, I also extend our good wishes to all Australians of all faiths on this special day of Eid ul Adha and pray for peace, harmony and goodwill among all people of planet earth.

## Condemnation of the Actions of a Criminal – Martin Place Siege



The criminal responsible for attacking and killing innocents in Martin Place Sydney, the criminals responsible for the killing of journalists in Paris are no more than criminals who committed brutal acts of violence and killing. These actions and all others like them have been condemned by all Muslims and they have nothing to do with Muslims and Islam.

Let us identify criminals as criminals and not by any other definition that would motivate others into such atrocities, seeking to terrorise communities and erode the freedoms we all value.

## Muslims React to PM's Scapegoating of the Community

The President of Muslims Australia – AFIC, while on a visit to the holy city of Makkah, said that the National Security address by the Prime Minister was a great disappointment to the Muslim Community of Australia.

He said all Islamic organisations in Australia and overseas have repeatedly condemned all forms of violence and extremism at home or overseas and distanced Islam and Muslims from all forms of terrorism. *“I am amazed at the suggestion that Muslims need to continue to do this as if to prove our loyalty to Australia. The allegiance of the Muslims of Australia is to Australia first and foremost,”* he stressed.

## NSW Elections

As the NSW elections looms with Election Day on 28 March, I take this opportunity to remind my fellow New South Wales citizens who are eligible to vote, 'to make your vote count'. Your vote is your voice and your opportunity to participate in the decisions that are likely to affect your daily lives. There are numerous issues that affect individuals differently depending on your particular locality and overall as a citizen of Australia's premier State.

To our young, first time voters, your right to vote are a responsibility that can influence your choice of State government and what is important to you. This is your opportunity to be heard, make your voice heard by making your vote count, Insha'Allah.

## Muslims Australia (AFIC) Condemns Martin Place Stand-Off

*Sydney, 15 December 2014*

The President of Muslims Australia (AFIC), Mr. Hafez Kassem condemned and criticized the stand-off at Martin Place.

Mr Kassem said his thoughts and prayers are with those individuals who are caught up in this terrifying situation. He further said that Muslims all over the world had already condemned ISIS and criticized them for being in violation of Islamic laws and distanced Islam from the actions of this militant group, saying they "have nothing to do with Islam and its principles that call for justice, kindness, fairness, freedom of faith and coexistence."

This individual displaying the ISIS flag and threatening the lives of innocent Muslims should be brought to justice and we are happy to offer our services in whatever way we can to resolve this situation and free innocent civilians who are going through this ordeal for no fault of theirs.

Mr. Kassem is requesting media to be more balanced in their coverage of this and other news as it has implications for the whole Muslim community.

## Grand Mufti and ANIC Message to the Muslim Community

*Sydney, 16 December 2014*

In light of the tragic incident in Sydney today, the Grand Mufti of Australia and the Australian National Imams Council would like to convey the following message to the Muslims of Australia:

- We are deeply saddened by the tragic end to the siege with the loss of life. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those killed and to the hostages who suffered the trauma of the siege
- We commend the community for showing great strength and resilience in the face of the current challenges.
- We encourage all Muslims to continue to draw on their strength of faith to help sustain them through these times of difficulty in a calm, dignified and respectful manner.
- We urge anyone who experiences threats or abuse to report it to the authorities. Call the Multicultural NSW Speak Out Hotline 1800 131 555.

## Innocents die in vain...

*Sydney, 17 December 2014*

As the President of the peak Islamic body in Australia, the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, also known as Muslims Australia, I wish to convey our deepest sympathies and support to the families of the innocent victims of the tragedy that saw two persons die in vain and several injured and many traumatised. As a Muslim leader in Australia, I condemn the action by the perpetrator who did not represent the Muslims or Islam. I also want the Australian people to know that Islam rejects such fanatical action and those behind it. I further assure fellow Australians that all Muslims reject the actions of this lone individual.

Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow Australians, I plead with you to remain united as Australians together and reject those who strive to cause division among the citizens of this country. Let us not be like this individual to create division amongst us all. I call upon all Australians to not engage in blaming all Muslims in this country for the actions of this renegade. Let not the Muslim women, girls, children and men be made victims for the actions of this person!

I pray to Almighty God to keep this nation united and its citizens safe and healthy. For the families of the victims I pray for God's mercy and forbearance for their great loss! Ameen!

Hafez Kassem  
President



**PRESS RELEASE**

<for IMMEDIATE release>  
Monday December 15 2014

The Australian Muslim community shares with fellow Sydneysiders their utter shock and horror at the unprecedented scenes emerging from the Lindt café in Martin Place this morning. Our immediate thoughts go to the hostages and their loved ones. We pray for their safety and hope this matter is resolved quickly and peacefully.

We reject any attempt to take the innocent life of any human being, or to instill fear and terror into their hearts. Any such despicable act only serves to play into the agendas of those who seek to destroy the goodwill of the people of Australia and to further damage, and ridicule the religion of Islam, and Australian Muslims throughout this country.

We remind everyone that the Arabic inscription on the black flag is not representative of a political statement, but reaffirms a testimony of faith that has been misappropriated by misguided individuals that represent no one but themselves.

We urge everyone to stay calm as the police and authorities continue to deal with this incident and the facts come to light. We ask Australian Media to be responsible in their reporting. This is a time for all Australians to stand together and support each other.

We pray for a swift resolution to this crisis with no injuries or loss of life.

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

<for IMMEDIATE release>  
Tuesday December 16 2014

**AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM COMMUNITY SADDENED AT TRAGIC END TO THE SIEGE**

The Australian Muslim community is deeply saddened to learn this morning of the tragic end to the siege with the loss of two innocent lives and the gunman. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those who lost loved ones and to the hostages who endured the trauma of the 17-hour long siege. "We pray for the speedy recovery of all those injured and traumatised by this incident," said the Grand Mufti of Australia, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammad.

Police reported that the gunman was acting alone and was not part of any group. The man was well known to police with an extensive history of violence and possible mental health issues.

Credit goes to the media, political leadership and the police for the manner in which they have dealt with the siege. "We are confident that with a continued display of responsibility and restraint, community harmony will be maintained and all Australians will be able to recover from the incident and return to normalcy" said the Mufti.

Today is a test for the nation; we call on all people of goodwill to stand together against fear and injustice. Tolerance and harmony are the cornerstones of what makes Australia great. These are the values that must guide our collective response.

**Signatories**

- Office of the Mufti of Australia
- Australian National Imams Council
- Australian Federation Islamic Council
- Islamic Council of NSW
- Lebanese Muslim Association
- United Muslims of Australia
- United Muslim Women's Association
- Australian Muslim Women's Association
- Daar Aisha Shariah College
- Daar Ibn Abbas
- Islamic Sciences Research Academy
- Centre for Islamic Dakwah and Education
- Al-bayan Institute
- Abu Hanifa Institute
- Islamophobia Register
- The Islamic Egyptian Society of NSW
- Granville Youth Association
- Australian Islamic House
- The Islamic Society of UNSW
- NSW Turkish Religious Affairs (Diyaret)
- SICHMA
- Islamic Society of Bosnia
- Bondi Muslim Association
- Surry Hills Mosque
- Bhanin el Minieh association
- Elminieh Association
- El Dannieh Association
- Tripoli Fayhaa Islamic Association
- laal Association
- Tripoli & Mina Association
- NSW Light Foundation
- Muslim Cultural & Youth Association
- Affinity Intercultural Foundation
- Islamic Dawah Centre of Australia
- NSW Auburn Turkish Islamic Cultural Centre Inc.
- Redfern Islamic Society (Redfern Mosque)
- Western Sydney Turkish Islamic Centre
- Bonnyrigg Turkish Islamic & Cultural Center
- Sydney Turkish Islamic Culture & Mosque Association (Erskineville Mosque)
- Islamic Society of Illawarra (Bilal Mosque)
- Islamic Centre of Newcastle (Newcastle Mosque)
- NSW Islamic Social & Cultural Association inc.
- Turkish Islamic Association of Queensland Inc.
- Seekers Hub Sydney
- Foundation of Islamic Studies and Information
- Al-Hijrah Indonesian Community Mosque
- IQRA Foundation
- Afghan Community Support Association
- Ashabul Kahfi Islamic Centre (AKIC)
- MIA Liverpool
- Australian Islamic Mission
- Newcastle Muslim Association (Newcastle Mosque)
- Kuraby Mosque



# Halal SERVICES

**M**uslims Australia AFIC Halal services portfolio under the leadership of Br Metin Yavuz has maintained its trajectory in the provision of quality services during the preceding 12 months.

AFIC Halal Services has had its fair share of challenges with the recent controversy over halal certification featuring prominently in social media. The Federation addressed and clarified its position amidst the incorrect and misguided

allegations. The Federation is legally registered entity within Australian government requirements and provisions.

Halal certification contributes millions of dollars to the Australian economy every year – far more than anything that is paid for the certification itself. The repercussions of this anti-Halal campaign, if not withdrawn will certainly hit Australian industry and farmers to the extent of loss of export dollars and Australian jobs.





AFIC Halal services during the year ended 31 Dec 2014 expanded in spite of the controversies created around Halal Certification of food products in Australia. At the peak of this anti Halal movement, which was orchestrated by well organised anti Islam groups, our office received many calls on a daily basis from Halal food manufacturers who were being harassed by this movement on social media and elsewhere and asking Australians to boycott their products.

None of the companies whose products are certified Halal by AFIC withdrew the Halal certification of their products.

AFIC Halal services are conducted by well trained staff from our head office in Sydney and a branch office in Melbourne. Consumers can be assured that our Halal guidelines are in accordance with Shariah laws and Ulema are consulted in compiling Halal guidelines.



## CONFERENCES & COLLABORATION

During the preceding 12 months Muslims Australia AFIC continued its collaboration and networking in Halal services, locally and overseas.

### MUI HALAL CONFERENCE

AFIC was represented at the MUI Halal Conference in Indonesia in October 2014.



Br Hafez Kassem at the Halal Conference in Indonesia



Dr H. Amidhan, Chairman of MUI with Br Hafez Kassem



L to R: Ustadha Noor Ashkeen, Sr Waheedah, Ustadha Sharidah Binti Zainal Abidin, Dr Sirajuddin Suhaimee, Br Hafez Kassem & Dr Mohammed Anas



Br Hafez with Indonesian Halal officials

### HALAL CONGRESS MIDDLE EAST

AFIC was represented at the Halal Congress Middle East, in December 2014 in the United Arab Emirates. The conference was a meeting point to discuss moving forward to having one universal halal logo. The conference also touched on halal and how to brand it better. The chance to meet many other certifying bodies and foreign delegates was a success.

### HALAL CONFERENCE - THAILAND (HASIB)

AFIC was represented at Halal Conference - Thailand (HASIB) in December 2014. The conferences main objective was to work towards branding halal logo in the world better, many foreign delegates and industry personnel had attended. AFIC was represented with a few other certifying bodies from around the world, the experience was very educational.



Left to Right: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shrifudin MD Shaarani (Dean-Faculty of Food Science & Nutrition, UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA - SABAH), Wasim Raza (General Manager - AFIC), Nor Azlan Sulaiman (Halal Auditing Trainer - Singapore), Hajah Mariam Bt Abdul Latif (Assoc. Professor - Faculty of Food Science & Nutrition, UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA - SABAH) Prof. Shaarani and Prof. Mariam are experts in: Quality Food Production, Halal Food Production





Message from the Commissioner  
of the Australian Federal Police  
**Andrew Colvin**

On behalf of the Australian Federal Police I would like to congratulate the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils on the occasion of their 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

51 years of community service is an outstanding achievement and testament to the central role that your organisation plays in the lives of the Australian Muslim community.

The AFP recognises the importance of building resilient partnerships with community organisations across the social, religious and cultural spectrum in order that together we can make Australia a safer and fairer country for all.

We look forward to future partnerships between the AFP and AFIC to support your continued contribution to the Australian community as a whole.

**Andrew Colvin**  
Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police



Message from the  
Director-General of Security  
**Duncan Lewis**

On behalf of the Australian Intelligence Security Organisation (ASIO) I would like to extend best wishes to the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC). This is the first opportunity I have had to contribute to the magazine and I thank AFIC for the invitation.

One of Australia's greatest strengths is that we are a diverse, multicultural, multi-faith nation. Australia, by any measure, has been a shining success story of harmonisation and integration of migrant communities from every corner of the globe. Australian Muslim communities have been, and continue to be, extremely important and vibrant contributors to our success. AFIC provides our Muslim communities with valuable support and guidance.

Since my appointment as the Director-General of Security, I have met with leaders and members of Australian Muslim communities. We share a view that Australia will always be a harmonious nation which embraces all communities, faiths and cultures. ASIO has a commitment to protect Australia, all Australians, and Australian interests from security threats. We take this important responsibility very seriously.

ASIO appreciates the close support and working relationship we have with many Australian communities—and the shared promotion of mutual respect.

I look forward to the continuation of strong partnerships between ASIO and our Australian Muslim communities into the future.

**Duncan Lewis**  
Director-General of Security



# MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL EVENTS 2014/2015 REPORT



Mr Shamsher Ali  
Executive Principal



Mr Hafez Kassem  
School Board Chairman

It is a privilege to serve Malek Fahd Islamic School and its community as the Executive Principal of our three campuses located at Greenacre, Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills.

I am astonished by the support I have received from parents, students, staff and the School Board. This is a time for incredible change for you and indeed for me. One of my goals is to support and promote the established foundation of collaboration between teachers, the parents and students to offer every student the best, ensuring continued growth to greater heights. Our teachers will continue to work in their collaborative teams to develop the most effective teaching strategies to ensure students are truly grasping the main concepts of the curriculum in every classroom. We are proud of our school, especially the hard work of the students, dedicated staff and wonderful supportive parents for which I am grateful.

The year was full of events in which teachers and students participated in a wide variety of curricular and extra-curricular activities. These incursions and excursions are designed to further enhance teaching and learning outcomes across all KLA's.

## MARCH 2014

- 3/3/14 – 12B2 and 12G2 visit UNSW
- 4/3/14 – Video Game development in School Library
- 14/3/14 – UNSW School Visit for Careers
- 18/3/14 – Year 12 Senior Science Excursion to Museum of Human Disease (UNSW)
- 25/3/14 – Year 7 Boys and Girls Vaccination (HPV & Polio)
- 25/3/14 – Year 10 Boys Geography Excursion
- 25/3/14 – Year 10 Girls Geography Excursion
- 27/3/14 – Year 7 Girls Survivor Workshop – Sydney Olympic Park
- 27/3/14 – School Lockdown Practice
- 28/3/14 – University of Sydney visit MFIS in the Hall for Careers
- 28/3/14 – Bullying Workshop in School Hall

## APRIL

- 2/4/14 – Bill Turner Cup - Soccer
- 3/4/14 – Year 11 & 12 Boys Sports Comp
- 28/4/14 – Staff Develop Day (Pupil Free)
- 30/4/14 – ANZAC Day Ceremony and visit by ex-servicemen

## MAY

- 5/5/14 – Year 12 Careers workshop in School Hall
- 6/5/14 – year 12 Biology Excursion
- 8/5/14 – Biology Excursion – 11b1 and 11g1
- 13th, 14th, 15th – NAPLAN
- 19th – 22nd Parent Teacher Interviews
- 20/5/14 – ICAS Computer Skill Test
- Chiropractor Visit to School to give advice on School Bags
- 22nd – 23rd – Year 7 Swimming Lessons
- 26/5/14 – Year 11 Physics Excursion to ANSTO Nuclear Reactor
- 29th and 30th – Year 7 Swimming Lessons

## JUNE

- 2/6/14 – Football Gala Day
- 4/6/14 – ICAS Science Test
- 4/6/14 – Preliminary Biology Excursion
- 5/6/14 – Preliminary Biology Excursion

- 6/6/14 – Preliminary Biology Excursion, MFIS School Photos
- 11/6/14 – Year 7 & 8 – Netball Gala Day
- 12/6/14 – Year 7 Swimming, Year 11 Shakespeare Incursion
- 13/6/14 – Year 7 Swimming
- 16/6/14 – Michael Ennis Gala Day
- 17/6/14 – Cricket Gala Day
- 19/6/14 – Year 11 Careers Expo, Year 7 Swimming
- 20/6/14 – Year 12 Advance English
- RAMADAN

## JULY

- 15/7/14 – Staff Development Day – Pupil Free
- 28th – 9th August – HSC Trials I Week
- 29/7/14 – ICAS English Test

## AUGUST

- 6/8/14 – Mt Keira Rainforest Excursion Year 10 Girls
- 11/8/14 – Luna Park Excursion Year 10 Commerce
- 12/8/14 – ICAS Maths Test
- 13/8/14 – Year 7-10 Girls Gala Day, Soccer Gala Day Boys
- 18/8/14 – Luna Park Excursion
- 19/8/14 – Year 7 Ancient Egypt Excursion – Museum,
- 19/8/14 – Year 9 Science Ecology Excursion to Camp Kedron
- 20/8/14 – Year 9 Science Ecology Excursion to Camp Kedron
- 21/8/14 – Year 7 PDHPE Excursion
- 26/8/14 – Year 7 Girls Excursion to Mount Keira
- 27/8/14 – Know your Waste – Incursion for Year 9
- 27/8/14 – Year 7 Ancient Egypt Excursion – Australian Museum
- 28/8/14 – Year 9 Boys Ecology Excursion to Camp Kedron

## SEPTEMBER

- 2/9/14 – Boys Athletics Carnival – The Crest Bankstown
- 2/9/14 – Year 9 Girls Ecology Excursion to Camp Kedron
- 4/9/14 – Girls Athletics Carnival – The Crest Bankstown
- 4/9/14 – Year 8 Boys Science Excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park
- 8/9/14 – Amended Luna Park Excursion
- 11/9/14 – Islamic Schools Rugby League Competition
- 11/9/14 – Year 8 girls Science Excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park
- 12/9/14 – Cricket Gala Day (Boys & Girls)
- 16/9/14 – Soccer Gala Day

## OCTOBER

- 7/10/14 – Staff Development Day - Senior First Aid Course - Pupil Free
- 10/10/14 – Year 7 Vaccination
- 13/10/14 – HSC Examinations Commence
- 16/10/14 – Year 7 Boys & Girls Urban Jungle Excursion
- 17/10/14 – Fresh Ed Incursion – Year 7/8
- 24/10/14 – Fresh Ed Incursion – Year 9/10
- 27/10/14 – Year 7 Boys Science Excursion
- 30/10/14 – Anti-Bullying Workshop in School – Year 7&8

## NOVEMBER

- 10/11/14 – Year 8 Boys Science Excursion – Ecology Studies at Sydney Olympic Park
- 12/11/14 – League Tag Gala
- 12/11/14 – Year 8 Boys Science Excursion – Ecology Studies at Sydney Olympic Park



## DECEMBER

- 1st – 3rd Year 7-11 Girls Camp – Yarramundi
- 3/12/14 – End of Year Picnic (Girls) – Audley Boatshed – Royal National Park
- 3/12/14 – End of Year Picnic (Boys) Sans Souci
- MFIS High School Greenacre Events Calendar 2015

## JANUARY

- 27 – Staff Development Day - The Accidental Counsellor

## FEBRUARY

- 12 – Lockdown Drill
- 23 – Senior Science Year 12 Excursion to UNSW – Museum of Human Disease
- 26 – Careers' Day University of Sydney for Year 12

## MARCH

- 3 - Cadetship Scholarship for Year 12 talk by universities
- 4 - Parent information afternoon Year 9 and 10 Parents
- 6 - Year 7 and Year 8 Boys and Girls Vaccinations
- 11,12,13 - Brigidine Catholic College Visits MFIS: Cultural Exchange
- 12 - Parent Information afternoon for Year 11 and 12 Parents
- 16 - ANSTO Field Trip Year 12 Chemistry and Physics
- 16 - Year 12 Legal Studies visit courts
- 16 - Orchard Hills sewerage treatment plant visit for Year 11 Senior Science
- 17 - Boys' Sports Carnival at the Crest Oval
- 18 - Student wellbeing talks for Years 7-10
- 19 - School Photography Day
- 20 - Harmony Day
- 24 - Girls' Sports Carnival at the Crest Oval
- 24 - Year 10 boys Geography excursion on Coastal Management
- Week 8 and Week 9 – Year 11 and 12 Exams
- Week 9 - Year 7 and 9 Exams
- Week 10 – Year 8 and 10 Exams

## APRIL

- 23 - ANZAC Day events
- 28 - HSC Biology boys excursion to UNSW
- 29 - HSC Biology girls excursion to UNSW

## MAY

- 4 - Year 12 UNSW Careers' Day
- 5 - Vaccinations Year 7, 11 and 12
- 12,13,14 - NAPLAN
- 13,14 - Swimming Lessons Year 7
- 5 - Maths in Surveying Excursion to Bicentennial Park for Year 10
- 11 - Wollongong Science Centre Year 7
- 19 - ICAS Digital Technologies
- 20 - Wollongong Science Centre and Planetarium Year 8
- 25 - HSC Chemistry excursion to Warragamba Dam

## JUNE

- 3 - ICAS Science

## JULY

- 28 - ICAS English

## AUGUST

- 11 – ICAS Mathematics



Boys' Athletics Carnival



Girls' Athletics Carnival



Girls' Gala Day



Duke of Edinburgh



Swimming Lessons



Pink Ribbon Day





# MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL BEAUMONT HILLS REPORT



Malek Fahd Beaumont Hills is located in the Hills District. It is a progressive school and currently has Kindergarten to Year 9 with about 340 students. The school began with 22 students and 3 teachers in April of 2011. Over the last few years it has grown and achieved beyond expectation.

In 2014, Years 3, 5 and 7 students sat for NAPLAN and produced outstanding results. The school has continued to work hard to provide support and ensure that students continue to achieve to the best of their abilities. Students are provided with opportunities to progress their learning on a daily basis. Students also sat for ICAS assessment and I am very proud to say that some of our students achieved distinction in certain categories.

At Malek Fahd Beaumont Hills, students have been able to participate in outsourced PE programs every term provided by expert instructors. These include cricket, gymnastics, swimming and Little Athletics. We also host an annual athletics carnival consisting of track and field events. The campus has also been committed to providing students with at least an hour of fitness sessions over a week. This combined with our Crunch & Sip initiative has helped promote healthy lifestyle amongst our students.

There have also been numerous incursions such as CSIRO Science Show to complement the Science syllabus, Drumbeats to complement the CAPA syllabus and Healthy Harold (Life Education) to complement the PDHPE syllabus. The campus also hosted various themed activities such as Numeracy and Literacy Week, Book Fair and character parade, Science Week, Environment

week, Plant a Tree Day, Fruit and Vegetable week to name a few.

Deputy Mayor of the Hills Shire Council visited our school during the Harmony Day celebrations in 2014. The Hills Shire Council also awarded a citizenship award to one of our high school students which was presented in the end of year assembly. Our upper primary students were also invited to attend the ANZAC 100 years commemoration hosted by the Castle Hill RSL. This was a great opportunity for our students to become part of the wider school community. Students in year 1 are also participating in the Hills Shire Council Library's Reading Frog Club. The whole school also participates in NSW Premier's Reading Challenge, Athletics and Reading Eggs.

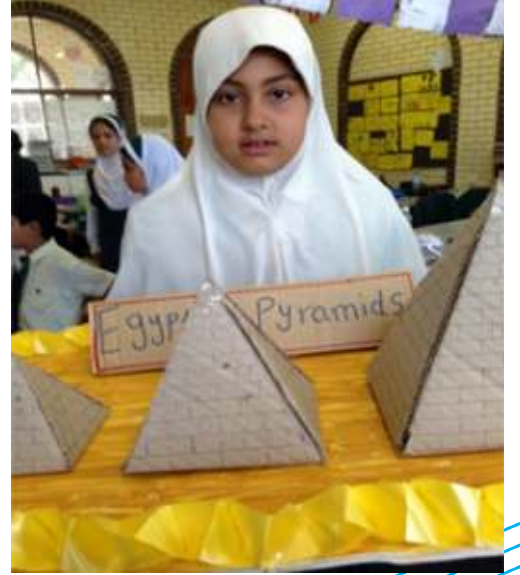
In 2014 our campus began offering before and after school enrichment activities, some of which were outsourced through Australian Nasheeds and Arts Academy. These activities included public speaking, drama, ballet, basketball and netball.

Our campus also raised funds for NSW Cancer Council through the Jump Rope for Heart initiative. The campus is committed to providing students with quality academic education with core Islamic values and ethos. At the same time providing students with opportunities to interact with the wider community and encouraging them to become productive Australian citizens.

**Mehar Khan**  
Acting Head of Campus  
Malek Fahd Beaumont Hills











# MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL HOXTON PARK REPORT



Assalamu alaykum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakaatuhu.

It has been an honour and privilege to have joined Malek Fahd Hoxton Park as the new Actg. Head of Campus.

I have presented opportunities for various beginnings. However, one must remember that newness alone cannot produce transformation. We must be willing to be caught up in the rebirth that is possible with each change. Having change brought to you gives us an opportunity to make plans, design strategies and implement new ideas. Our job is consistent with Islamic beliefs, to continue to strive for academic excellence where each individual is respected and treated with fairness and dignity.

I am privileged to be leading a rapidly growing school. As a Campus of Malek Fahd Islamic School located at Greenacre, MFHP aims to provide quality education coupled with extra-curricular activities and nurture its students into becoming excellent citizens whilst associated with an established and renowned education facility.

MFHP is expanding in size each year, and Stage 3 Building Development is currently in the process and will be completed by July, 2015 Inshaa Allah. The school will then consist of the first Senior High School building, library and canteen. It will cater for up to 450 students and 35 staff. Beginning of 2015, MFHP opened their first Year 7 class, consisting of 19 students. MFHP is developing in facilities and have accommodated for the Year 7 students learning needs, the school has put in a proposal of a temporary Science lab to be established by beginning of Term 2, 2015, we have established a beautiful library and re furnished a new computer lab this year. Rest assure many more great plans for improvement to come.

This year, we started our high school with Year 7. Currently, there are 19 students enrolled and 6 teachers employed to teach. They are:

- Mr M.Naidu – Maths & High School Coordinator
- Mrs Sangeeta Ali – English, Geography and History
- Miss Shazia Khan – TAS, Science and Visual Arts
- Miss Andrea Zaja – PDHPE & Music
- Ms Geehan Ali – Arabic Studies
- Sheik Abdul – Quran/Islamic Studies
- Sheik Fawaz – Community Relations and Islamic studies

Last year and continuing into this year, the school engaged with the community by taking part in; Running Kids League Tag Shield organised by Green Valley and Liverpool Police, Tri-Skills Gymnastics Program, Tree Planting, NSW Parliament House Excursion, Calmsley City Farm, Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC), ANZAC Day Ceremony, Harmony Day, The Worlds Greatest Shave, Multicultural Eid Festival (MEFF), Aligator Book Fair, Scholastic Book Club, End of Term cake Stalls, Mufti Day, Healthy Harold and Book Character Parade. MFHP also provided opportunities for extra curricula activities, developing students' skills in Public Speaking, Drama/Acting, singing Anasheed and playing Daff. This year so far, the upper Primary have started the 'learn to swim program' and will continue to provide swimming lessons in term 4 as well. Year One have also embarked on an excursion to North Head Sanctuary Park in Manly to explore insects in relation to Science.

We encourage all parents and guardians to take an active role in the education of their child. We welcome parent involvement in the classroom and on a range of school activities, including excursions. Parents and guardians can assist in their child's learning and success

at school by reinforcing the following: that students are at school every day, on time, in full school uniform and have all of the equipment required for a successful school day (including a healthy lunch!).

There had been some changes in infrastructure as MFHP has a new administration office, staffroom, canteen, library, two computer labs and new car park for staff, parents and visitors to use. In addition, we have a Learning Support Teacher Mrs Shareen Khan who implements the multi-lit program (K-4) and assist primary teachers to improve numeracy and literacy skills. We also started extra tutorial classes to assist students with numeracy and literacy skills. It is conducted in the morning (8:00am – 8.20am) and in the afternoon (3.20pm – 4pm).

With Stage 3 development (Senior High School Block) in progress, soon MFHP will have a larger brand new library and canteen as well as the first senior building. MFHP ensures that all Stage 4 subjects taught meet BOSTES requirements. As a result, there is an ongoing curriculum checks to ensure compliance and accountability.

In addition, to our continuous effort to improve the school, we have bought Mathletics (Online Maths Tutor Program) and ABC Program (Online Literacy Program) to further help our students and integrate ICT into the curriculum. All students (K-7) are given their login details to personalize their learning. Students have the opportunity to participate in NAPLAN and ICAS.

We look forward to seeing this school flourish, delivering excellent programs from Kindergarten to Year 12 and Inshaa Allah we will be operating at the capacity of 800 students, and what a wonderful sense of accomplishment this will be. The schools aim is to provide a high quality education in all areas of literacy and mathematics as well as information technology, physical education, music, art, Arabic and Islamic education.

The development of the leadership skills of both staff and students is a high priority within the school. Staff professional learning ensures that we continually improve the quality of learning and teaching at MFHP. We need to continually evaluate what we do and how we do it, to ensure that we are providing the best possible educational opportunities for all children. This is our goal and commitment.

By the Grace of Allah SWT and thanks to Him Alone, the court case against our Hoxton Park campus brought by a small group of residents who opposed the school was finally brought to an end today after 5 years. The case was brought up in 2010 before the school actually opened in 2011. The defendants included AFIC, MFIS, Liverpool City Council, the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Government.

In the Supreme Court of NSW, today, the Judge, His Honour Pembroke J dismissed the case and ordered costs against the residents' group known as Hoxton Park Residents Action Group (HPRAG). His Honour said in his judgment: "By this lengthy, muddled and unsatisfactory litigation, the plaintiffs effectively seek, for all intent and purposes, to bring the operation of the School (or perhaps the Hoxton Park campus of the School) to an end."

The staff at Muslims Australia AFIC wish to extend their sincere gratitude to all those who stood by us and helped us to stand firm, resolute and patient. We thank the staff of Malek Fahd and AFIC for their invaluable contribution that has enabled us to bring this long saga to an end.





## ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Assalamu'Alaikum wa Rahmat'Ullah-e Wa Barakatuhu

All praise to Allah SWT the most Merciful and most Beneficent and for His countless blessings. Peace and blessings of Allah be upon our beloved Prophet Mohammed SAWW, his family and companions.

The Islamic College of South Australia is progressing very well and growing rapidly, Alhamdulillah. We have completed construction of six new class rooms. These class rooms are equipped with state of art IT technology as we focus on future requirements of the school. AlhamdoLillah, I am pleased to inform you that we have negotiated and got approval for the construction of a new block with approximately fifteen class rooms, a mosque and technical labs.

Our library is well equipped with Islamic and curriculum based resources that provide a wealth of materials that support teaching, learning, and research across all departments. We have appointed a School Welfare Officer and a psychologist to attend to behavioural needs of our students and staff. We have also appointed a consultant to look into curriculum updating, policies revision and attending to special education needs on continuous basis.

Last year our 100% students passed and most of them are doing their degrees in universities. We hope and pray that our existing and future year 12 students will attend universities after they successfully pass their SACE exams; we all pray for them and wish them best for good results. Another good news is that our NAPLAN results are better than previous years through hard work of teachers, students, parents and board and we are focusing to improve these results much better next year.

We always endeavour to bring our community together as I believe that unity is our main strength. United we stand, Divided we fall. The school Parents Committee and ICOSA Mother's club play a vital role in this regard. We also keep ourselves engaged with mosques and Islamic societies in South Australia, interstate and internationally to invite them as guest speakers and to share thoughts for policy making and curriculum of Islamic studies and ethos. It is important that we all work together for the benefit of all Australian Muslims and not become divided and seek reward only from Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala.

We have also initiated new programs for professional development for teaching and non-teaching staff. We believe in merit and professionalism. Our financial position has improved with vigilance and cautious approach towards spending. The government bodies and NGOs have put their confidence in our school and the way school board is managing its affairs. The staff is motivated and engaged towards the goal of providing best standard of education to the children.

The existing board is highly committed and professional in its dealings. This board believes in transparency and has an open door policy. There is a protocol and professional manner to deal with all suggestions, grievances and comments.

The board members are performing their jobs without any monetary or personal interest. We thank Allah for giving us the opportunity and ability to make the Islamic College of South Australia as one of the most successful projects of our community in South Australia. I also request all of us to pray for brothers and sisters all over the world who are suffering. We ask Allah to accept all our prayers and bless us to become better than we were before, by His mercy and grace. I also take this opportunity to thank all my board members, AFIC, friends of ICOSA, teachers and parents for their dedication and support. May Allah keep us all together and sharing and caring for each other.

Your brother in Islam,

**Farouk Khan**  
Chairman of School Board







## ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF BRISBANE REPORT

Each year brings about a new theme, something upon which to focus our thoughts and endeavours. This year, 2014, was no exception. Our thoughts and endeavours, this year, were centred around ethics, moral, behaviour, attitude, manners and culture as well as obviously our major focus on academic achievements.

I would like to congratulate our graduating Year 12 students the tenth set of graduating class from our college and particularly Zuha Ali and Maryam Mahmoud who had worked conscientiously and meticulously to attain OP 1 ranking and Dux of the College for 2014.

I would also like to congratulate and express my deep gratitude and appreciation to all the teachers whose dedicated work brings about such achievements.

The sole purpose in teaching Islamic Culture and values is to instil in the college community God-consciousness that is awareness that they are being observed at all times by Allah (SWAT). We trust that God-consciousness will help students behave with respect, humility, compassion, tolerance, love and care. And that it will help them avoid wrong deeds or behave unjustly.

So let us all follow the message of love, peace and tranquillity. We act in a belief that we all share fundamental human values and morals with others regardless of their cultural background or faith. A true Muslim is one who truly lives according to these morals and values. Our College community expects that we teach our young people to follow this way of life! May Allah (SWAT) guide us all in the straight path. Ameen!

### College Principal



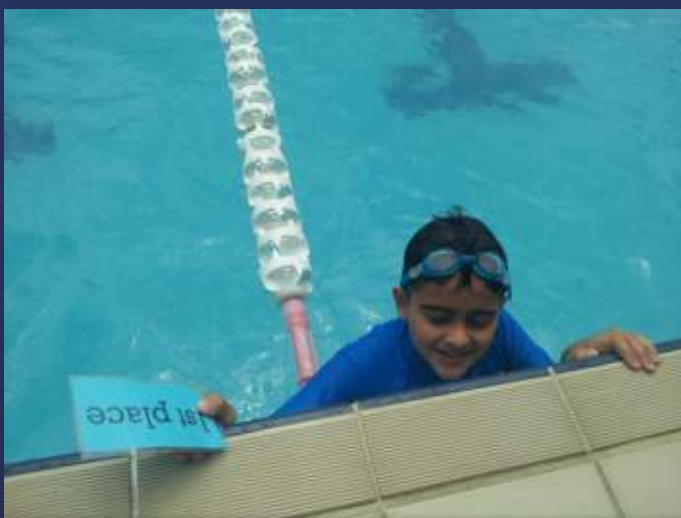
ANZAC Day commemoration



ANZAC Day commemoration



# ICB SPORTS & ART







# ISLAMIC SCHOOL OF CANBERRA



Susan Christiansen  
Acting Principal



Br Hafez Kassem  
School Board Chairman

The Islamic School of Canberra is undergoing enormous change, and, is even going through an aesthetic transformation due to the hard work of many individuals, contracted and managed by our school board secretary, Mr Mohammed Berjaoui. Mohammed has been a one man project manager who has also put on the work clothes himself to cut down tree branches, move furniture, clear rubbish and has generally ensured that the school is receiving some much needed attention.

Projects that Mr Berjaoui has instigated, and followed through with, include but are not limited to; the refurbishment of 4 derelict demountable classrooms which are now being used for Years 5, 6 and 7 (one for a canteen area); extended the student toilets so there are now enough for the increase in student population; tiled and carpeted throughout most of the school; painted all internal walls and some exterior woodwork at the front entrance; retained the help of the Parents and Friends Association to assist with tree trimming, rubbish removal and organised numerous skip containers to remove rubbish that has been left on site over the last 5 years which had become a risk and fire hazard.

Mr Berjaoui has also organised contractors to level the internal courtyard and repair much of the surrounding pergola area which was falling down and becoming hazardous to students. Due to the nature and expanse of the Islamic School of Canberra which is set on bushland there is always maintenance and upkeep to keep the students, staff and visitors safe, and Mr Berjaoui has been, and still is, working towards ensuring that the school passes its work health safety requirement for its upcoming re-registration. Mr Berjaoui recently obtained approval from AFIC's Executive committee to purchase and install a junior playground which is an invaluable addition for our early childhood students.

The addition of our new play equipment has brought colour to the life of the junior playground, and has of course been an absolute hit with the students at ISC. The students have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the new play equipment; they have been able to create new games with their friends, challenge themselves to move in different ways and feel success as they conquer these challenges. Play is an essential part of children's development; this equipment not only facilitates our students in their social play skills, but also encourages them to enjoy physical activity, which is a vital element of health and wellbeing. Playing on the equipment enables the students to practise fundamental movement skills, improve their strength, balance and coordination, and experience new team-building skills as they play



with others around them. The play equipment has become a greatly valued asset to ISC; we kindly thank AFIC's Exco for assisted us in its purchase and installation.

Excitingly on Tuesday 7th April, 2015, Years 5 and 6 went on an excursion to the Mogo Gold Colony to enhance their learning within their History unit. Students participated in two educational programs over the course of the day. The first program was a guided tour of the 1850's gold rush village and the students were able to empathise with the harsh living conditions that the workers on the goldfields experienced. It was gratifying to be able to give the students a lived experience of what life was like during the gold rush era. Students walked away from the tour with respect for what the workers and their families sacrificed for the possibility of wealth.

The second educational program was panning for gold in the creek. The tour guide taught the students several techniques to implement whilst panning for gold. Every student found at least one piece of alluvial gold and was able to take it home. The students thoroughly enjoyed the hands on activity and their respect grew for the hard workers on the goldfields. All students and teachers had an amazing day filled with immersive learning.



The PFA and Mr Berjaoui spent one Saturday recently with buckets, vacuums, brooms and much energy to completely clean out one of our unused but very solid buildings which had been left to the mice. It is now clean and ready for refurbishment and will provide new spaces for our growing school. Our teacher numbers have grown and I as a proud Principal am so impressed with the dedication and professionalism the teaching team displays. Our Arabic/Islamic department has also grown and the teaching and learning in these subjects has improved as a result of the hard work and skills of new and old staff working collaboratively to keep up with the changes in the Australian Curriculum.

We have employed a part-time IT person who has expertise in many areas to do with computers and beyond. The resulting decrease in IT problems and constant computer issues for staff and students is a testament to his contribution.

We have applied for extension to Year 8 which is a two year process, and with such a great team and the support of AFIC, I believe we are on track to go all the way to Year 12!

All in all, in the words of Alasdair Roy, children & young people commissioner, ACT Human Rights Commission, who visited ISC earlier this month; *'As I mentioned yesterday, your school certainly has 'the vibe', with all of your students obviously engaged and excited about being there - well done!'*





# ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF MELBOURNE MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahamatullahi Wa barakatuh

What an amazing and busy journey it has been so far. The education team, comprising of the assistant principal Dr Mahmoud Eid, Head of Primary Ms Fatima Arakji and myself, are enjoying valuable time with our students and being acquainted more with their unique personalities and inspiring aspirations.

This is truly a reflection of one of our essential aims at ICOM, where we encourage and inspire students to become successful learners, confident creative individuals and active informed citizens.

We have been extremely busy implementing our vision in light of those goals and Alhamdulillah there have been many developments at ICOM for 2015. The school has invested in a new library, playground, shaded area for the students, landscaping, ICT Lab, art room, food technology room, science lab and canteen. InshaAllah the students will benefit and enjoy these new facilities.

The Islamic College of Melbourne prides itself in providing its students with a learning environment that will make them the most unique and successful of individuals. Insha'Allah 2015 will be a special year for our children.

**Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine**  
Principal



New playground



New Library



New Food Tech room

*Federal MP Joanne Ryan, State MP Telmo Languiller and Victoria Police Multicultural officer Richard Dove visited the school on Friday, 27 February 2015. Our three guests participated in the morning assembly and addressed the students, took a tour in the school, met with the students in class and enjoyed a breakfast with the school education team.*







*Assalamu-Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh*

Alhamdulillah, we have had a very productive and fruitful year with great academic achievements and many successful College events. In line with our new vision of being an academically focussed College with high standards of Islamic Studies, akhlaq and discipline, many initiatives have been implemented which have resulted in Langford Islamic College being ranked among the top private schools in W.A. (in equal 5<sup>th</sup> position). The year ended on a high note with an elaborate Graduation Ceremony in honour of our Year 12 class of 2014 and the Annual Awards Presentations. I would like to congratulate all my colleagues and students for their exceptional hard work and dedication which resulted in the great successes of 2014. Jazaak-Allahu Khairan.

**Dr Popie Hossain Rhaman**  
Principal



## Year 12 Graduation 2014

A Grand Ceremony and Formal Dinner



# NAPLAN 2014

HIGHLY COMMENDABLE ACHIEVEMENT ONCE AGAIN!

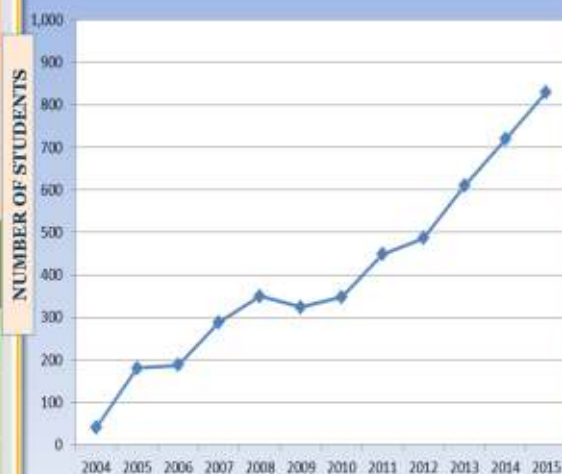
YEAR 3	NUMERACY	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	READING
SCHOOL SCORE	412	408	444	445	412
STATE SCORE	392	397	403	413	407
NATIONAL SCORE	402	402	412	426	419

YEAR 5	NUMERACY	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	READING
SCHOOL SCORE	522	484	535	528	499
STATE SCORE	480	465	492	495	492
NATIONAL SCORE	487	468	498	504	501

YEAR 7	NUMERACY	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	READING
SCHOOL SCORE	571	523	581	549	536
STATE SCORE	545	514	543	544	544
NATIONAL SCORE	546	512	545	543	546

YEAR 9	NUMERACY	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	READING
SCHOOL SCORE	578	570	630	594	600
STATE SCORE	591	560	582	574	585
NATIONAL SCORE	588	550	582	574	580

Growth in Enrolments 2004 - 2015







*Assalamu-Alaikum*

*wahrahmatullahi wabarakatuh*

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to congratulate all staff and students for their fantastic efforts and achievements during 2014.

Langford Islamic College is excelling in all areas, Alhamdulillah. I look forward to seeing continued growth and high standards of achievements in 2015 and beyond, Insha-Allah.

**Dr Rateb Jneid**  
Chairman

TOP PRIVATE SCHOOLS	State Overall Score
Divine Mercy College	100
Hale School	99
Methodist Ladies' College	99
International School of W A	99
Christ Church Grammar School	99
St Hilda's Anglican Schools for Girls	98
St Mary's Anglican Girls' School	98
Presbyterian Ladies' College	98
Penrhos College, Como	98
All Saint's College, Bull Creek	97
Scotch College, Swanbourne	97
Woodthorpe School, Willetton	97
Perth College	97
John XXII College Mount Claremont	96
<b>Langford Islamic College</b>	<b>96</b>
Sacred Heart College, Sorrento	95
Trinity College, East Perth	95
Guildford Grammar School	95
Santa Maria College, Attadale	95
Newman College, Churchlands	95
Aquinas College, Manning	94
Perth Montessori School	94
Kingsway Christian College, Darch	94
Wesley College, South Perth	94
Ursula Frayne Catholic College	94
St Mark's Anglican Community School	93
The Montessori School, Kingsley	93
Carmel School	93
Carey Baptist College, Harrisdale	93
Rehoboth Christian College, Kenwick	92
St Stephen's School, Duncraig	92
Lake Joondalup Baptist College	91
Chisholm Catholic College	91
Perth Waldorf School, Bibra Lake	91
Corpus Christi College	91
Thornlie Christian College	90

There are another 108 schools below this list.

SOURCE : [http://bettereducation.com.au/school/secondary/wa/perth\\_top\\_non\\_government\\_secondary\\_schools.aspx](http://bettereducation.com.au/school/secondary/wa/perth_top_non_government_secondary_schools.aspx)

# Ramadan Lecture

by **Sheikh Yahya**

Head of Islamic Studies & Asst. Principal

## Community Iftaar Dinner 2014

Langford Islamic College hosted a Ramadan lecture and annual Iftaar Dinner for the local community. A packed audience of listeners to the special Ramadan lecture hosted by Sheikh Yahya was followed by the Maghrib prayer and L.I.C.'s community Iftaar Dinner. The P&F Committee, staff, parents and students worked together in the kitchen to ensure there was an abundance of scrumptious food prepared, cooked and served for more than 1000 people. The Iftaar Dinner provided the community with authentic freshly cooked meals and an exquisite array of desserts that brought families and friends together to share in the many blessings provided during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Thank you to the P&F volunteers and staff who contributed to making the event very enjoyable and a great success.



## Iftar Dinner



## Eid Prayer





# Eid Fete

On Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014, the College had its annual fete. Generously sponsored by Islamic Council of Western Australia (ICWA) there was a variety of activities, food and clothing stalls. The P&F Committee received many student donations of ingredients to make food items to sell on the day. It was a fun-filled day packed with families and friends many of whom made the most of the sunny conditions relaxing on the College oval on their picnic rugs.



*Thank you to everyone who contributed to the school fete.*



## High School Camp

### Boys Camp (5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> August) and Girls Camp (6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August) to Dwellingup

For 5 days and 4 nights, students from Year 7 to Year 11 made their way to DARE Adventure in Dwellingup. They enjoyed a range of activities such as abseiling, archery, flying fox and jungle trekking. Students had a wonderful adventure at Dwellingup with countless friendships forged and memorable experiences together. A big thank you to High School teachers, Ms Suriati Raip, Ms Barbara Douglas, Mr Anistino Bakri, Mr Mohammad Bashir and Mr Ahmed Senosy for giving up their time to accompany, lead and mentor students on the camp.







# Quran Competition

Langford Islamic College held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Quraan competition organised by our dedicated Islamic Studies Department under the gracious leadership of our Head of Islamic Studies and Asst Principal

Sheikh Yahya Ibrahim and our Co-ordinator of Islamic Studies, Sheikh Salim Abdool Wahb. There is no greater gathering than one where Allah (swt's) words are recited. The Quran competition of 2014 revealed the high standards of Islamic Education at Langford Islamic College.

Congratulations to Sheikh Yahya, Sheikh Salim and the Quran teachers for their outstanding efforts. Langford Islamic College is indeed excelling in Islamic education including great achievements in the recitation and memorisation of the Holy Quraan, Alhamdulillah.



*The Year 12 Class of 2014 celebrated their graduation in style with a grand ceremony and formal dinner held at the College's Multi-purpose Hall. Muhammad Asim Abdul-Jalil received the prestigious Dux Award and a Toshiba Laptop.*

## CLASS OF 2014



*Langford Islamic College congratulates Muhammad and all Year 12 graduates of 2014 and wishes everyone the very best for their future endeavours, Insha-Allah.*







Message from the  
Chief Minister of NT  
**Adam Giles**



**Northern  
Territory  
Government**

One of the outstanding privileges of living in the Northern Territory is being part of a very multicultural society.

Ours is a community known for involvement with unique markets and annual festivals that have great appeal for both locals and tourists. Ours is a community proud to showcase cultural celebrations and share high days and holidays with fellow Territorians.

We share a long history of migration. For example, there are records of Muslim contact with the Northern Territory as early as 820AD; trade routes were in place with the Macassars for centuries; and in Central Australia memories of Afghan history remain with street names, mosque and an Alice Springs suburb. We can look back and appreciate the contributions of the many Muslims who have chosen to make their homes here, and appreciate the culture of tolerance portrayed in religious beliefs and practices.

Looking to the future, I would urge further engagement with Islamic youth across Australia to communicate this nation's thoughtful stance regarding local and international events. Our values must marry with beliefs, and mutual understanding must be recognised as an important component of multiculturalism.

I wish you all a positive and rewarding year ahead.

**ADAM GILES**  
Chief Minister



Message from the  
Premier of QLD  
**Annastacia Palaszczuk**



**Queensland  
Government**

I congratulate the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils on the occasion of your 51st anniversary celebrations.

The Muslim community makes major contributions to Queensland through community organisations, business, the arts and sport. As the granddaughter of a migrant and as former minister for multicultural affairs, I am keenly aware of the issues facing our ethnic communities.

I take very seriously my responsibility to lead Queensland toward a more harmonious, more inclusive and more equitable future. In 2012, when in Opposition, we introduced a Private Member's Bill to establish the Multicultural Queensland Charter and the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council.

Now that we are in government, we will go ahead and establish both because of our commitment to advancing multicultural equality in Queensland. My Government will be one of consensus and consultation, focussed on jobs and growing our economy.

We look forward to your ongoing role in building a peaceful, harmonious Queensland.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP**  
Premier of Queensland





Message from the  
Premier of Victoria  
**Daniel Andrews**

I offer my best wishes on Muslims Australia's (AFIC) 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Congress. In a long journey there are many milestones that you have achieved with a magnificent history and a bright future ahead.

I commend and admire AFIC's contribution to the Islamic and wider Australian community over the years.

AFIC's service to the Islamic community and its efforts to represent Australian Muslims as a united voice is an important work and AFIC does it well. Working with various governments and other stakeholders AFIC has been assisting community members in settlement and integration within the Australian community. Such contributions make our state richer and we thank AFIC for its great work. I also admire AFIC's work in running education programs and schools for young kids.

The Victorian government looks forward to working with AFIC closely in serving the community.

Yours in friendship,

**Daniel Andrews MP**  
Premier of Victoria



Message from the  
Ambassador of Turkey  
**Reha Keskintepe**

I would like to express my warm wishes and congratulate the members of the AFIC (Australian Federation of Islamic Councils) on its 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary.

Multiculturalism is an essential quality of the Australian society and a prevailing concept of the Australian national identity. Like other culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, Muslims are also big part of this socially cohesive and harmonious society which enriches the Australian community. They work hard to continuously contribute to the prosperity and well-being of this beautiful country.

Islam is a religion based on peace, love and brotherhood and it is my sincere belief that AFIC will continue to play its part in embracing and promoting shared values, such as tolerance, mutual respect and understanding in this multicultural society.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to convey my warm greetings to our brothers and sisters of the Australian Muslim community and express my best wishes for the health and happiness as well as the continued progress and prosperity of your members.

**Reha KESKİNTEPE**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey





## ANNUAL REPORT THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF WA

All praise is due to Allah, we thank Him and seek his forgiveness and we send peace and blessings on the final and most beloved prophet Mohammed, sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam.

*“Oh you who believe fear Allah the fear He is most deserving of and do not die unless in a state of Islam.”*

The ICWA Current Executive Committee are: Br. (Dr.) Rateb Jneid (President), Br Adam Parker (Vice President), Br Ehab El-Gammel (Treasurer), Br Aziz Khan (Secretary), Sister Khadija Kadri (Assistant Secretary), and Br Abdullah Eshtewi (Public Relations).

A milestone was reached with the audited financial statement presented to our members (the associations) at the AGM. Inshaallah this brings more transparency in the affairs of ICWA.

In our Masjid, many activities were conducted by our resident Imam Hisham Oubid, these activities included (to mention a few) Hajj classes, prison and hospital visits, adult religious education classes, classes for converts, counselling for marriage and marital matters, assistance with understanding Halal matters, general assistance to understand the correct or the more appropriate interpretation of many matters in the religion. Through these extensive activities Imam Hisham has made a substantial contribution to the pastoral care including the religious education of the Islamic community over the last year.

Over the year the Masjid has continued to assist other associations by allowing the facility to be used for continuous religious instruction in classes, particularly for youth, and Women Welfare and Advocacy. It is with pride that we note that the associations carrying out these activities did not confine their help to Muslims.

ICWA continue to improve multicultural relationships throughout Western Australia.

Alhamdulillah twenty one organisations are members of ICWA, and our current goals are to attract more Associations.

- ICWA has established Legal Subcommittee and Board of Imams Alhamdulillah.
- ICWA had meeting with WA Cemetery board concerning need for more space for Muslim burials and issues about Muslim cemeteries in WA, also to establish burial services.
- ICWA continue to make donations to help people of their difficult civil conditions.
- ICWA received a government grant for EID celebration.
- ICWA used the money to organise an EID function which both Muslims and non Muslim were invited. The function was held at Langford Islamic College, Alhamdulillah we had an overwhelming response and the event was a great success.
- Halal subcommittee now is functional and income starts coming Alhamdulillah. Our next aim is to expand Halal certification for local and International business Insha-Allah.
- ICWA's hate crime reporting website attracts attention from non Muslim and Muslims across the country.
- ICWA's round table meeting in May last year with WAPOL to discuss rise of Far Right (ADL).
- Rise in anti Muslim sentiments in WA with vandalism of two local mosques and a school and ICWA made representation to WA state government.
- ICWA attended Tea function with AFP and customs and border protection.
- Number of press releases issued on topical issues.

May Allah (s.w.t) guide and lead us to the truth and to Jannah, Ameen!

**Dr Rateb Jneid**  
President  
Islamic Council of WA





## ANNUAL REPORT THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF QLD

Assalam-o-Alaikum WRB,

The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) elected a new executive committee in January 2015. ICQ has set about implementing a number of improvement projects which it hopes to achieve in the short to medium term (In Sha' Allah).

A significant amount of progress has been made on the initiatives to date and the ICQ requests the duas and support of all our Muslim brothers and sisters around Australia as we strive to contribute positively to our society. An overview of some of the key projects is set out below.

- **Community consultations** – Engaging and building a stronger relationship with all of ICQ's Member Societies as well as many other Muslim and Non-Muslim community based organisations.
- **Halal Certification Services** – offering a commercially viable proposition to various retailers (e.g. restaurants, butchers, etc.) and producers (e.g. Abattoirs, processors, etc.) through advertising and promotions.
- **Living Safely Together Grant Applications** – Subject to grant approval (InshaAllah) ICQ will conduct training workshops for Member societies and community organisations. Assist in the coordination of various projects through an interactive digital platform.
- **Active Digital Presence** – ICQ intends to establish a strong digital presence through its own website and various social media channels. ICQ aims to become the central source of information in relation to any matters involving Islam and/or Muslims. The information provided will be suitable for all audiences including Muslims, Non-Muslims, Media outlets and Politicians. A wide range of matters will be addressed including but not limited to religion, training workshops, politics and current affairs, job opportunities, classifieds, Umrah and Hajj packages, halal business directories.
- **Media Representation** – ICQ as Queensland's peak Islamic body, has developed strong relationships with various media

outlets in Brisbane. ICQ constantly engages with the media in dialogue to ensure that the Muslim perspective is heard and portrayed to the public. It is important that ICQ continues to work with various Muslim organisations to ensure a consistent message which will be of benefit to all Australians. ICQ adopts a very proactive approach with the media and responds quickly to media requests. This provides significant benefits when major news items break.

- **Government Representation** – ICQ adopts a bipartisan approach to political engagement. ICQ is very active in engaging with politicians on both sides of the political spectrum and constantly raises matters of importance and/or concern on behalf of the Muslim community. To date, ICQ has found the open dialogue approach with politicians to be productive – politicians show more empathy to those whom they are familiar with. ICQ's goal is to establish a formal lobby group in due course.
- **Support Services** – ICQ continues to offer a range of support services to its Member Societies. These services include the arrangement of hufaaz for the month of Ramadaan, organising group discounts for commonly acquired products and services (e.g. public liability insurance), development of a centralised madressa curriculum, development of various other programs and workshops (e.g. youth development)
- **Property** – ICQ aims to source new premises (land) for a new Muslim cemetery due to the current one approaching full capacity. ICQ also aims to purchase or lease office space to establish a head office which may be used by other organisations including AFIC.
- **Sustainability** – ICQ aims to develop a self-sustainable operating model to support the QLD Muslim community. The exact form is yet to be developed, however current considerations include an organisation which is akin to a scaled down version of an Islamic Chamber of Commerce.

Wa-alaikum-us-Salaam,

**Ismail Cajee**

President – ICQ

ismail@freedomhc.net

# ANNUAL REPORT THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

All Praise to Allah Subhan'o Taalah and salaam and salawat for our beloved Prophet Mohammad SAWW, his family and his companions.

I would like to thank all my brothers who have selflessly devoted their time and efforts for the sake of ummah and also thank AFIC team including Br. Hafez Kassem, Br Amjad Mehboob, Br Agim Garana for their support.

Alhamdulillah, by the grace of Almighty Allah, our council has worked very hard for the unity, betterment and progress of our community. Our number of affiliated associations has increased to eleven. We have seen tremendous zeal and interest of South Australian Muslims to work together for the growth our local community and our council now represents all major regions of Islamic communities of the world.

Islamic Council of South Australia keeps its close contact with the SA Police, State and Government agencies, Adelaide University and other NGOs to promote peace and harmony in the broader communities.

We helped our newly arrived Muslim families to facilitate their settlement and integration in the mainstream culture. We assisted and supported our brothers to set up their businesses and to find suitable employments. We also take pride in representing our people in litigations and providing them with legal counselling.

This year, we intend to raise funds to establish mosques in the regional areas. We will consult with the presidents of these societies and inquire about their requirements. We also intend to support and assist them towards accomplishing their plans for development of their own local community.

We pledge to work together, closely and support each other in order to achieve our goals which are nothing more than to assist and support our Islamic community.

I wish all the best for your future, May Allah bless you and your families with his countless blessings.

**Farouk Khan**  
Chairman of ICOSA

# ANNUAL REPORT TASMANIAN MUSLIM ASSOCIATION

The Tasmanian Muslim community has become increasingly active during the last year. Activities included:

## 1. Mosque Open Day

In October 2014 Hobart Mosque participated in the National Mosque Open Day for the first time. Support was provided by the Lebanese Muslim Association. The function was very successful and the Mosque was filled to capacity with non-Muslims. People who attended included groups from nearby Churches who wanted to express their support for the Muslim community. Community leaders attending included the Lord Mayor of Hobart and members of State and Federal Parliaments.

## 2. Visiting Speakers

The Tasmanian Muslim Association has instituted a program of guest speakers from Melbourne visiting the Mosque. The speakers give the Kutbah at Jumma Prayer and deliver a presentation in the evening. This program is strongly supported by all sections of the community. It helps to provide a variety of viewpoints on many Islamic topics.

## 3. Madrassa

The Madrassa for school age students continues to grow. Membership is now 85 young people. The Madrassa Principal is building up a library of teaching materials which make the program attractive to young people who are growing up with laptops and smart phones.

## 4. Mosque Capacity

The Muslim community has grown rapidly during the last 10 years and the Hobart Mosque cannot accommodate everyone for Jumma Prayer. The University of Tasmania has assisted by establishing suitable prayer facilities which are in continual use by the Muslims at UTAS.

## 5. Muslim Cemetery

The public lawn cemetery in Hobart was established on a non-denominational basis and there were no sections allocated to each religious faith. About 20 years ago a Muslim section was allocated. The cemetery trust recently advised that the Muslim section will be doubled in capacity. This is recognition by Tasmanian Government authorities of the important right of religious minorities to bury their members in accordance with their faith.

**Abdul Hanan Haroon**  
President  
Tasmanian Muslim Association



# ANNUAL REPORT THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF NORTHERN TERRITORY

## 1. Preface

Alhamdo-Lillah! All praise is due to Allah alone who has preserved the ICNT as the symbol of Islamic unity in Northern Territory.

As the Secretary of ICNT, I present before you a summary of the main activities of the Council during the year 2013-2014. The report covers the events from AGM of 2013 to AGM of 2014 in general terms and focuses on some of the issues that have come before the Executive Committee and the Muslims in general. Due to Ramadan and two Eids; AGMs of ISP and ASIS could not be conducted in time. This led to the delay of this AGM of ICNT.

## 2. ICNT Executive Committee

The Executive Committee was elected to office in Annual General Meeting held in November 2013 for two-year term. Unfortunately three members of the committee Treasurer Br. Jillur Rahman resigned and joined the executive committee of ISD, one executive committee member position was reserved for ASIS was not filled up due to continuous changes in Alice Springs. Other member of the executive committee Br. Feroz K Ibrahim also expressed his willingness of not to continue with the executive committee. The ICNT Executive Committee is entrusted with managing the affairs of the Council.

## 3. AFIC

The affair of ICNT during this year was crucial in terms of problems in AFIC and participation of ICNT in the decision making of different AFIC affairs. AFIC and its main school Malek Fahad Islamic School was going through a bad time with both NSW and Federal Government authorities regarding different issues. ICNT took active role in supporting AFIC to resolve the issues during this time. Alhamdulillah the problems are now mostly resolved. ICNT participated in AFIC Congress and Federal Council meetings regularly and contributed to AFIC's many activities.

## 4. Darwin Mosque

ICNT actively participated in many issues of the mosque whenever requested by ISD. This includes dispute resolutions, awareness program and submission to AFIC for financial help. ICNT took initiative to resolve the dispute of the mosque with one of the neighbour. ICNT actively pursue the application of ISD to start the salary support of AFIC for the new Imam of Darwin mosque. Alhamdulillah AFIC now continuing with the salary support to the full of AFIC commitments.

## 5. Palmerston Mosque

ICNT actively participated in the fund collection of Palmerston

mosque's car park and veranda. This includes interstate fund collection and support from AFIC. Palmerston mosque is now fully functional and operating regular prayers including Friday Jumma prayer and classes for the kids. ICNT also help the mosque with many of their activities during Ramdan and other NT Government funded awareness programs. ICNT actively participated in negotiation with the NT police on increased security of the Palmerston mosque. This was requested by ISP after few break-ins of the mosque.

## 6. Gaza Petition

ICNT's took the initiative to organise petition of recent Gaza conflict and handed over the petition to ruling and opposition party leaders in front of the NT Parliament. ICNT also participated in media interview on the issue.



## 7. Thorak Cemetery

After many years of negotiation finally the new section of the Thorak cemetery is now made available to Muslims, Alhamdulillah. This section will have two subsections, one will sections will strictly follow the policy given by ICNT the other section will not be captured under that policy.

## 8. Conclusion

ICNT also participated in many media interview reading many issues currently going on in the world.

This year Darwin has lost few of its senior Muslim members. ICNT pray to Allah SWT to grant them Jannah. We also pray to Allah SWT to help us with strength, confidence, and social harmony so that we could build a stable and practicing Islamic community in Northern Australia. Special thanks to AFIC, ISD, ISP and ASIS for their continuous support towards ICNT. This is very significant for the Muslims around this area in their dedication towards the cause of the outback-Muslim community.

Wassalamu alaikum wa Rahamatullahi wa Barakatuh.

**Abdul Mazid**

ICNT Secretary

# ANNUAL REPORT THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF ACT

The mission of Islamic life is to be of service and a source of comfort, and not a cause of hardship or discomfort to others. All human beings are not alike; some are well to do while others are under privileged. Islam demands from the former to serve the latter, if the Muslim does not feel the need to serve and lack the will to help others, he is then a thankless person who does not recognize his creator. The holy Quran warns on such insensitivity, and exhorts Muslims to serve mankind, Ayahs 8-20 of Surah Al-Balad.

Serving and helping others is serving Allah in the sight of Islam. If someone stretches his hand out to you to seek help, and if it returns empty, you than have refused to help Allah. To please Allah is through pleasing his bondsmen. The one in heaven becomes kind to you if you are kind to those who inhabit the earth.

These are the teachings of Islam which we follow as Executive members of the Islamic Council of ACT.

Alhamdulillah (thanks to God) the members of the Executive committee of the Islamic Council of ACT and the societies under its Umbrella are all honest, hardworking and dedicated Muslims who volunteered their time, skills and knowledge to serve the Muslim community in Canberra in particular and nationwide in general.

The Council and its members are very active in serving the community and protecting their interests. Their work and services cover all the needs of the Muslims in the ACT to bring up a strong and educated young generation whom we depend on to continue this blessed message.

The Council and its member societies were heavily involved in supporting and promoting the Islamic School of Canberra. The current honesty and dedication of the Executive Committee of AFIC chaired by Hajj Hafez Kassem encouraged our fellow Muslims in Canberra to have a full trust in the leadership of AFIC and join hand in hand with them to assist and support the School. The joint and blessed effort from all concerned sides resulted in increasing the number of the students and improving the structure of the School and its standard and reputation. The School Board, the staff and the parents are very satisfied with the direction and outcomes of the School and Insha'Allah, in few years it will be one of the best schools in Canberra.

An article about the School was published in the "Australian

Muslim Times" issue #113, April 2015, under the heading "Islamic School goes from strength to strength" and I quote "on 2014 however with the engagement of a new principal, dedicated teachers and active members of School Board (with Chairman Hafez Kassem and Secretary Mohammed Berjaoui) the School started to stabilize with the overwhelming majority of teachers continuing on to the new year and an increase in the number of enrolments.

The Council and its members were also heavily involved in the discussions about the new laws and legislations regarding terrorism and security. Members of the Council met with Federal Ministers and politicians and expressed their concerns and ideas regarding the proposed counter-terrorism laws. The Council and the societies made it clear to the government that the majority of Muslims in Australia condemn terrorism and extremism, but they also feel that counter-terrorism policing and laws unfairly target our community, and if imposed on us it will generate a community backlash.

We informed the Australian officials that our community feels under siege due to the social and political responses to terrorism, and we felt under constant attack and scrutiny both politically and in the media. We told them that we believe that the media always spread misinformation about Islamic principles (for example in relation to Sharia, Jihad and Halal).

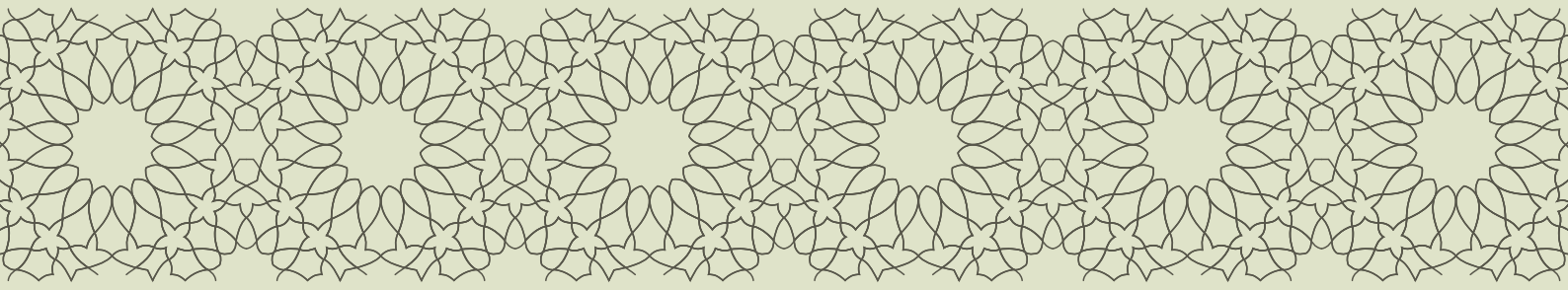
We asked the officials that the Australian authorities should engage the Muslim community in all its efforts and decisions to achieve security in Australia. It is worth mentioning that the Islamic Council of the Act has very good working relations with the Federal Authority and our opinion and ideas are always taken seriously and with respect.

The Council continues to organise the Musalla in the city center of Canberra which services members of the Muslim community, Public Servants and professionals working in the CBD. The numbers of worshipers are on the increase and our Imam, an Indonesian-Australian, has a Master's Degree in Sharia from Al Azhar and speaks Indonesian, English and Arabic fluently.

The Council Executive and members continue are committed to promote Islam, unite the Muslim Community and protect its interests, and thank AFIC for their support and hard work.

**Mohammed Berjaoui**  
President of the Islamic Council





# ANNUAL REPORT THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

The 2014 year brought many challenges and accomplishments, both for the ICV and for the Muslims communities in the state of Victoria. It has been an exceptionally challenging and yet rewarding period.

One of the key features of the 2014 period has been our abilities to form, strengthen and broaden our partnerships and strategic alliances with many important groups, to name a few;

- The Victorian Board of Imams and ANIC
- Al Wasat Newspaper
- Diyanet (Turkish Ministry of Religious Affairs)
- OHPI - Online Hate Prevention Institute

These strategic partnerships give additional purpose, direction and cohesiveness to the myriad of activities that we carry out as the ICV. Some of the highlights of the year;

- Imams Study Tour to Turkey
- Bendigo Mosque Eid Dinner
- Country Mosque's via Friday Prayer collections
- Multifaith activities
- Our traditional and annual Iftar@ICV

The past 12 months saw us continue with our strategy to increase the ICV's proactive work streams, arguably the most challenging times our community has experienced in a number of years.

Clearly our media and advocacy work has been significant in recent times, and the key planks to our strategy have been to:

- push our state and federal politicians to show true leadership by using responsible language and uniting Australians of all faiths and cultures rather than dividing;
- work with the media and other stakeholders to promote more responsible and balanced journalism;
- encourage law enforcement to adequately address all forms of extremism, including hate based crime against Muslims;

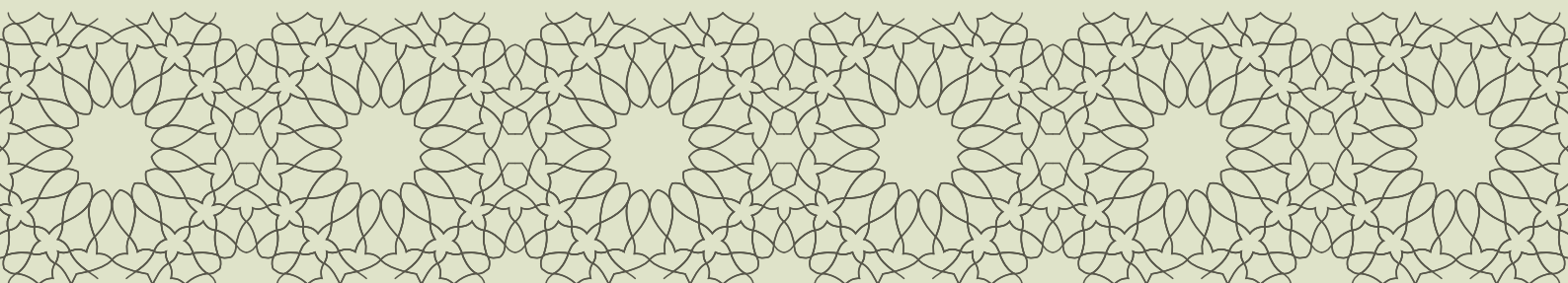
- encourage Australian Security policy makers to devote more of their energy and spending to understand the underlying root causes of deemed security threats to improve prevention.

Our vision statement "to foster and enable a vibrant Islamic community where Muslims enrich society through the values of Islam" is even more relevant today.

Our service strengths lies in the fact that we have a very diverse, well qualified and committed staff who work together as a team to deliver on our priorities and serve our communities to the best of our abilities.

As a community based organisation established to serve our community's needs, our administration team in particular plays a vital role in service delivery hence the Office staffs are to be congratulated for their energetic and responsive efforts to deliver upon the professional levels of customer service sought by our membership. We are most privileged to have a dedicated team of staff who continually strives to improve all aspects of our operations and community services.

The ICV has a total of 15 services, 20 staff, 10 volunteers and 8 executive members who are all committed to serving our community. We wish to thank everyone for their support, community spirits, conviction and vigour throughout the term. We also wish to express my sincere thanks to all the stakeholder organisations that have supported us throughout the year and express our appreciation for their dedicated services. We are grateful for the ongoing core funding support of OMAC, which helps the ICV continue to play its very important role in our multicultural society: community engagement generates better understandings which ultimately leads to greater social harmony and cohesion which we pride ourselves in the state of Victoria.



## Shaikh Saleh Muhammad Ibrahim Al Talib, Imam of Haram Shareef visits Malek Fahd Islamic School in Greenacre.







Right to Left: Br Hafez Kassem with Dr Abdullah Al Turki, Dr Anwar Gani from New Zealand, Imam Omer from New Zealand and Br Hafiz from Fiji FML



Br Hafez with Chairman of MUI, Dr. H Amidhan



Hogorat al Rasoul SAAW



AFIC Treasurer Br Metin Yavuz handing donation cheque to Imam Saleh of Dandenong Mosque



Br Hafez with Lukman Hakim & Mahmoud Abu al Nasser at Majlis Ulema International (MUI)



Snapshots from Islamic College of South Australia





Official opening of Malek Fahd Islamic Primary School - Hoxton Park Campus



Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove with Br Hafez Kassem and Br Munir, editor of Rabitah Magazine at AFIC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Mr & Mrs Kassem with Senator Concetta, Phillip Ruddock MP & Laurie Ferguson MP at AFIC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Br Hafez Kassem with their wives and guests at AFIC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



HE Saudi Ambassador, Ed Husic MP, Greg Laundy MP at AFIC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary





## CLOSING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

*In the name of Allah the Most Merciful, the most Beneficent.*

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakautuh.

This 51<sup>st</sup> Congress of AFIC will see the completion of a term of office of 3 years for me and my Executive Committee. I am truly grateful to Allah SWT for His many blessings especially the opportunity to serve as the President of AFIC in a difficult time. We faced many challenges but Alhamdulillah, with the support, help and advice of my Executive members, State & Territory Council presidents, our School Board Members, and members of the wider Muslim community and others, we have achieved many successful outcomes to take AFIC and the community forward.

I am indebted to all whose invaluable support, encouragement and counsel was forthcoming whatever the circumstances, Alhamdulillah! May Allah SWT reward each and every one of you with the best of rewards, Insha'Allah!

I truly believe that this term marked a turning point for Muslims Australia AFIC, marking our success and achievements – the partnerships we have strengthened, and the results we have achieved especially in the education services.

*“We have listened, are learning and paying close attention to what we did right, what we could do better and what we can learn from our mistakes. We have built the momentum and AFIC is powering ahead, and it is up to you to build on this momentum, going forward, Insha'Allah.”*

By recognising God's bounties in our work, in our homes, on all occasions, our hearts will find contentment and peace. And finally, I am comforted and guided when Allah SWT says: **“Be patient (in adversity); for verily, God will not let the reward of the righteous be wasted.”** *The Holy Quran, Chapter 11, Verse 115.*

And when our beloved Prophet SAW reminds us: **“Whoever abstains from asking others, Allah will make him contented, and whoever tries to make himself self-sufficient, Allah will make him self-sufficient. And whoever remains patient, Allah will make him patient. Nobody can be given a blessing better and greater than patience.”** Prophet Muhammad (saw) as reported by Abu Said Al Khudri in Sahih Bukhari, vol 2 hadith 548.

May Allah SWT accept our striving for His Pleasure and in His Cause! Insha'Allah!

Wasalaam.

**Hafez Kassem**  
President



# *Mission*

*To provide service to the community in a manner that is in accordance with the teachings of Islam and within the framework of Australian law.*