

The Haji Ebrahim Patel / Crescents of Brisbane Special Achievement Award

presented to

Susan Al- Maani

at

CresWalk2014

7 September 2014

The Haji Ebrahim Patel Special Achievement Award is presented each year at CresWalk by the Crescents of Brisbane Team to an unsung hero in our community – someone who has contributed selflessly of their time, effort or resources to the upliftment of the community or has demonstrated extraordinary courage or fortitude in coping with adversity. It is named after Haji Ebrahim Patel who epitomised, in his lifetime, everything this award represents.

Before I say who she is I want to describe just some of the work she does in the community and I am sure it won't take you long to work out to whom the Haji Ebrahim Patel Special Achievement Award is going out to this year – such is the measure and popularity of this lady.

Incidentally, she has no idea that she is receiving this award so let's hope that she recognizes herself from this short biography.

A highly experienced and active community leader with more than 15 years' experience, this lady tirelessly serves both our local and international communities. Her positive energy is contagious. You are guaranteed to see a dedicated and motivated group of young ladies following her lead. Her involvement in our community includes:

- Serving on the Islamic Women's Association of Queensland management board from 2004 until recently
- Co-founding the Al-Nisa Youth Group, an advocacy group for young Muslim women in Queensland and remained its advisor until a few years ago
- Joining AMARAH in 2009 where she is the current Vice Chairperson and events coordinator
- Co-founding and establishing the very first women's only fundraising dinners
- for several years she worked with the Afghan community to raise money for orphan children, women, and the destitute
- Providing student mentorship at Griffith University
- In her current role as Islamic Relief Australia's Community Relations and Fundraising Manager for Queensland she has dedicated her time to organising several successful

fundraising events, funds from which have been sent to Somalia, Central African Republic, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Syria and of course Palestine

Amidst all of this, she is a committed mum to 3 girls and she has recently graduated with a BA in Social Work from Griffith University, with second class honours. Her dedication and efforts have led to her being awarded:

- The 2012 Inaugural Lesley Chenoweth Equity and Social Justice Award and
- The 2012 Community Service Award

Today, we too would like to recognise her for her outstanding dedication to our local and to the international community by awarding Susan Al-Maani with the CresWalk Haji Ebrahim Patel Award 2014.