



AUSTRALIAN  
FEDERATION  
OF ISLAMIC  
COUNCILS INC

# MUSLIMS AUSTRALIA (AFIC) PRESS RELEASE

## PRESIDENT

Ikebal Patel – 0409 775 102

## HEAD OFFICE

932 Bourke Street, Zetland  
Sydney NSW 2017  
PO BOX 7185 SSBH,  
Alexandria NSW 2015  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: (02) 9319 6733  
Fax: (02) 9319 0159  
admin@afic.com.au  
www.afic.com.au

## MELBOURNE OFFICE

66-68 Jeffcott Street West  
Melbourne VIC 3003  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: (03) 9329 1228  
Fax: (03) 9329 1677  
aficmelb@bigpond.com

## AFIC SCHOOLS

**Malek Fahd Islamic School**  
Tel: (02) 9642 8766  
Fax: (02) 9642 5479

**Islamic School of Brisbane**  
Tel: (07) 3841 3645  
Fax: (07) 3841 4320

### **Islamic College of SA**

Tel: (08) 8340 7799  
Fax: (08) 8340 9988

### **Langford Islamic College**

Tel: (08) 9458 5206  
Fax: (08) 9258 5661

### **Islamic School of Canberra**

Tel: (02) 6241 9554  
Fax: (02) 6241 5448

- Halal Certification & Accreditation
- Muslims Australia Magazine
- Islamic Schools Projects
- Zakat & Charitable Services
- Imams & Religious Services
- Dawah Work
- Interfaith Dialogue
- Political Advocacy

## MEMBER STATE COUNCILS

Muslim Council of NSW  
Islamic Council of VIC  
Islamic Council of QLD  
Islamic Council of WA  
Islamic Council of SA  
Islamic Council of ACT  
Islamic Council of NT  
Islamic Council of TAS  
Islamic Council of  
Christmas Island

## MEMBER SOCIETIES

Over 100

**46 Years of Community  
Services**

25 June 2010

## **Burqa Ban - An Election "Scapegoat"**

Mr Ikebal Patel, President of Muslims Australia- AFIC expressed disappointment with the NSW Parliament in allowing the Christian Democratic Party MP Rev Fred Nile to succeed in introducing a bill to ban the wearing of the burqa in the NSW Upper House on Tuesday 22 June.

Mr Patel said, "We recognise Fred Nile's right to freedom of speech and expression. However, "ban the burqa" legislation does not afford the same freedom of expression to one of NSW's most marginalised communities".

Mr Patel stated, Australian Muslims are disappointed by NSW government's lack of support for human rights of residents of NSW. This is an important test for the Labour Government, given State elections are imminent and the "burqa ban" is sure to be one of the "hottest", emotive and divisive election issues."

Mr Patel further stated, "Our members and the wider Muslim communities in NSW certainly see this dangerous, apartheid style, intolerant measure as an important denial of the legitimate rights of Muslim women and their freedom to choose their dress code. Voters will definitely choose the Greens and Family First candidates, who value basic human rights and promote tolerance as alternatives to the current divisive stance"

*For further information, please contact:*

**MR. IKEBAL PATEL - AFIC PRESIDENT - 0409 775 102.**

**CHAIRMAN – MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL**