



الاتحاد الاسترالي للمجالس الاسلامية
**AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION
OF ISLAMIC COUNCILS INC.**
AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL ISLAMIC ORGANISATION
A.R.B.N. 002 757 155

PRESIDENT

Ikebal Patel - 0419 418 237

VICE PRESIDENT

Hafez Kassem - 0420 366 533

SECRETARY

Harun Abdullah - 0420 366 531

TREASURER

Mohamed Masood - 0420 366 534

29 November 2010

To: Chairmen of State Islamic Council
Presidents of Islamic Societies
Imams and Religious Leaders
General Members of the Muslim Community

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

MAJOR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES:

• 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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam,
Assalamo alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh,

Re: Summary Report on Activities of Muslims Australia (AFIC)

I pray this reaches you in good health and high Islamic spirit by the grace of Allah
(swt)

I am pleased to take this opportunity to communicate with you and provide you a brief report of Muslims Australia (AFIC) and recent achievements and also to seek your counsel and recommendations to further improve the efficiency and management of Muslims Australia (AFIC) and to best serve the growing needs of our *Ummah*.

During the past few years Muslims Australia (AFIC) has undertaken a number of projects and initiatives with a wide range of organisations including Federal and State Governments, International partners, Ambassadors from Islamic Countries and regional governments. This has allowed Muslims Australia (AFIC) to assist our Muslim *Ummah* to address their needs through various avenues. We are grateful to Allah *SWT* who provided us an opportunity to serve the Muslim *Ummah*.

We have endeavoured to harness the strengths of all our partners and members and it is through these initiatives and activities that we can create new opportunities for our members and societies, which goes a long way towards understanding Islam and Muslims in Australia, their goals and aspirations.

The Parliament of World Religions Conference

This major conference saw a gathering in the city of Melbourne, one of the largest interfaith event's in the world – Parliament of World Religions from 3rd to 9th December 2009 with participants attending from over 80 countries. I presented two papers as representative of Muslims Australia (AFIC) and also chaired one of the sessions of Parliament of World Religions.

Muslims Australia (AFIC) was one of the sponsors of a Muslims Dinner in Melbourne to show our hospitality to visiting participants at the PWR. Muslims Australia (AFIC) also organised a dinner with visiting dignitaries to the Parliament of World Religions Convention and the Victorian Imams, Islamic Council of Victoria and Islamic Society representatives. Guests included the former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr Anwar Ibrahim, His Excellency Mahmoud Movahhedi, Ambassador of The Islamic Republic of Iran to Australia and Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid from USA who recently began his term as the new chair of the Board of Trustees of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. *Alhamdu-Lillah* it was a gathering of unity, friendship and fellowship.

SCHOOLS & Education

Muslims Australia's (AFIC) most significant achievement is education services. Our Schools in Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra have progressed to excellence in education, *Alhamdu-Lillah*!

Islamic School of Canberra

We recently celebrated the school's achievements starting from humble beginnings to an Islamic School that has grown to delivering a high standard of education within an Islamic environment. This year marks a milestone in achievement with Islamic School of Canberra's new 15-acre campus in the heart of the nation's capital provided by the ACT Government to Muslims Australia (AFIC).

To commemorate the receipt of the new school campus a grand opening ceremony was held on 7 August 2010, with the Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory, Mr Jon Stanhope as the Chief Guest. Some five hundred people attended the opening ceremony including Ambassadors of various Muslim countries, members of the Legislative Assembly, senior officials of the Education Department, members of Muslims Australia executive, principals and board chairmen of AFIC schools, officials of the Community Council and parents and members of Muslim community of Canberra.

The support and encouragement from the Government is an indication of our progress and acceptance in a culturally diverse community where we are able to provide an essential and successful educational facility to the young and thriving Muslim community in Canberra.

Malek Fahd Islamic School - Sydney

Muslims Australia's (AFIC) premier school in Australia is the Malek Fahd Islamic School in Sydney (MFIS). With an enrolment of almost 2,000 in 2010 from Kindergarten to Year 12 and as usual, a large number of children unable to enter the school as it has reached its current capacity, MFIS is one of the largest schools in NSW..

Second Campus of Malek Fahd Islamic School

To address the pressing need for more places to the ever growing waiting lists,, Muslims Australia (AFIC) has secured a property in Hoxton Park (near Liverpool) for a second campus of MFIS in Hoxton Park and, *Insha 'Allah* this school will have its first classes from 2011 with work progressing well on the construction of the buildings and facilities.

Islamic College of Brisbane

Of course our Islamic College of Brisbane has been producing tremendous results and now has over 850 children and had secured a grant from Islamic Development Bank of \$350,000 (USD) for the development of the School. For this we are grateful to IDB for their help.

Islamic College of SA

The Islamic College of South Australia is also growing in leaps and bounds with over 600 children who have achieved above average results in NAPLAN tests which is a testimony of the good academic achievement.

Langford Islamic College

Langford Islamic College in Perth is also growing fast with the hard work of our new principal. We now have close to 450 children and they have also achieved above average results in NAPLAN tests.

Islamic College of Melbourne

Muslims Australia (AFIC) has been successful in obtaining a large property in Tarneit (Vic) and approvals to develop a school on the site. The Islamic College of Melbourne will, *Insha 'Allah*, start operation in 2011. Having lost one of its first Islamic schools in Australia, the King Khalid Islamic College in Melbourne, through controversial circumstances to the present owners, Muslims Australia (AFIC) will once again enable the Muslim Ummah to have their own school in Melbourne and look forward to top class education.

Islamic College of Darwin

Another School project in Darwin is well underway and we will be making an announcement about this in the near future, *Insha 'Allah*.

Muslims Australia (AFIC) also wants to ensure that Muslims in all parts of Australia get the best opportunities in education for their children – the same as they receive at Malek Fahd Islamic School in Sydney. The continued successes and academic excellence is an example to all our other schools to emulate.

The benefits of this investment can be seen in the benefits our students are experiencing in having newly built new class rooms and a multipurpose hall for students in most of our schools now. These facilities will motivate students to excel in their learning in a new and improved educational environment.

We are also ensuring highly skilled teachers and support staff which provides the necessary impetus for our students to reach their maximum potential, *Insha'Allah*, as well balanced, confident, productive individuals whose contribution to this beautiful land and its people will truly make all of us proud.

Mosque Projects

AFIC has either directly or through partnerships supported various mosque building projects. These were either new projects or rebuilds or extensions. Muslims Australia (AFIC) funded a number of these projects and will continue to do so within our meagre resources. There are some 40 mosque projects around Australia, either completely new mosques or rebuilds and conversion of churches to mosques.

Islamic Development Services

Muslims Australia (AFIC) met with officials from the Islamic Development Bank from Jeddah to discuss a number of community initiatives to form partnerships for major projects that will benefit Muslims in Australia. A scholarship scheme was finalised with IDB for Australian Muslim students seeking University studies. Details of this have been announced and applications are sought from students for Tertiary studies. Similarly, scholarships provided by the Government of Brunei Darussalam are also available for Australian students.

Islamic Finance

Muslims Australia (AFIC) has been working with the Australian Government and other partners to introduce a Sharia compliant finance product in Australia. A white paper has been circulated by the government and formal consultation will be carried out soon around the country.

Islamic Banking

There are a range of retail Islamic banking products and services that Muslims Australia (AFIC) is considering as options for Australians and a number of financial institutions are working with us to develop this.

Halal Services

Muslims Australia (AFIC) has been authorised by both Indonesia and Saudi Arabia to carry out Halal Certification. Most of you would be aware that Muslims Australia (AFIC) was not able to do any Halal certification for Saudi Arabia for almost 20 years. This approval for Muslims Australia (AFIC) was much awaited and we are thankful first to Allah SWT and to the World Muslim League (Rabita al Alam al Islami) and Majlis Ulema Indonesia (MUI) for their wisdom and foresight in supporting the work of the Ummah and more importantly supporting community based organisations whose assets and income are owned exclusively by the Ummah with complete accountability and transparency. .

As most of you would no doubts be aware, Muslims Australia (AFIC) was the pioneer of Halal certification services in Australia and can proudly claim that most Halal certifiers presently in Australia were either former employees of Muslims Australia (AFIC) or slaughtermen at one of our clients or members of one of our Councils. Muslims Australia (AFIC) is working with international Halal authorities to formulate a Halal accreditation system which can be uniformly adopted and accepted as is required by Sharia. A discussion paper on this will be circulated soon to bring all the stakeholders together.

Visit to Manila

I represented Australian Muslims at the Special Non Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting and Civil Society Conference in Manila where I delivered the key note address. I attended at the invitation of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The former Australian Prime Minister, Hon Tim Fisher also attended and graciously accepted an invitation to be our guest at one of our regional Ramadan Iftar dinners in Australia. I was also invited by the Australian Embassy in Manila to join the Muslims of Philippines during Ramadan and this was an opportunity to meet the Salaam unit of the Philippines Police as well as other initiatives.

Nahdlatul Ulama Congress

I also accepted an invitation by the Central Board of Nahdlatul Ulama at their 32nd Muktamar in Sulawesi and had an opportunity to discuss various means of cooperation between Muslims of both the countries. A MOU was signed between Majlis Ulema Indonesia and Muslims Australia on cooperation between the two organizations in various areas. This cooperation has already been of benefit in securing our Halal certification status as well as exchange of scholars from Indonesia and assistance with halal practices and Sharia requirements.

Rabita al Alam al Islami

I attended Muslim World League's 50th anniversary celebration in Makkah. Muslims Australia (AFIC) appreciates the work and support of RABITA not only in Australia but throughout the world. Opportunity was taken to highlight areas of

most need for the South Pacific Muslims as well. Muslims Australia (AFIC) President was appointed on the Rabita Committee and the Secretary General gave a commitment to support the Ummah in our region. We would like to thank His Excellency Br Hassan Nazer, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Br Saad Bin Nasir Al Shumaimary, Manager for Rabita in Australia and New Zealand for their his leadership and support.

Australian Baitul Mal

Muslims Australia (AFIC) hosted a successful Baitul Mal Conference in Sydney earlier this year with RISEAP. This workshop was organised to introduce the concept of Zakat collection and distribution as successfully established in Malaysia.

RISEAP Meeting

I attended RISEAP'S AGM which was held in Fiji and presented a report on Australian Muslims. Muslims Australia's (AFIC) President was elected to the Executive Committee of RISEAP. Muslims Australia (AFIC) is committed to work for the benefit of the Muslims in the South Pacific Island countries and has provided funding for the training of Imams and Alimas for the region. We would like to thank the Regional Dawaah Council of South East Asia and the Pacific and the Chairman, Tan Sri Taiyab Mahmoud for his tireless work and support for the Muslims in the region.

Community Support

Muslims Australia (AFIC) assisted Cocos Islamic Society and Muslims of Papua New Guinea in various projects.

Sponsorship of local Muslim newspapers including Al Wasat, Al Musteqbal, Crescent Times and CCN

Sponsorship of Islamic Council of Queensland Qur'an Competition and the Qur'an competitions in NSW and Victoria. A national Qur'an recitation competition will be held annually from 2011, *Insha'Allah*.

Supporting State Islamic Councils in major projects – Tasmania Islamic Council and Islamic Council of Victoria with building renovations which will improve prayer facilities for the increased number of Muslims attending daily and Juma prayers and Tarawih and other prayers.

Visitors to Muslims Australia (AFIC)

Muslims Australia (AFIC) received numerous delegations from Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines, and many other countries who were interested in educational services and school educational exchange programmes.

The delegations visited our schools in Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra.

Muslims Australia (AFIC) Leadership Program

In line with our leadership development program, Muslims Australia (AFIC) sponsored a number of our members to attend the Rihla program in Spain earlier this year. Muslims Australia (AFIC) has been actively supporting a number of youth activities including leadership training through Victoria University and similar. We have also actively engaged with Muslim Students Associations around Australia and have supported the establishment of a National MSA which will be part of AFIC.

Engagement with Governments and NGOs

There have been numerous meetings at various levels with Ministers and Heads of Departments on numerous issues. A paper was also circulated to all Australian Muslims encouraging political participation.

Muslims Australia (AFIC) also had a meeting with the Director of Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation on matters of security as well as ensuring the rights of Australian Muslims.

Attorney General Hon Robert McClelland has accepted AFIC's invitation to open Secure Australia Conference. Further details will be provided soon.

Engagement with the Media

Muslims Australia (AFIC) has been very active in the media putting out press statements on major issues as well as doing TV and radio interviews.

Muslims Australia magazine has been regularly printed which has been reaching out to various communities. A Mosque and Halal Restaurants booklet has also been printed. Pamphlets on Halal and Muslim Patients have been produced to provide information to carers on the needs of Muslims. I would like to acknowledge the initiative and support on this from ICV and this demonstrated the partnership that Muslims Australia (AFIC) and its State Councils must enter into for the Muslim Ummah in Australia.

Donations for Mosques, Imam's Salary and other projects.

Muslims Australia (AFIC) has been consistently supporting major mosque projects by providing direct donations as well as organising major fund raising events. Similarly Imams in most of the remotest areas of Australia such as Alice Springs, Tasmania, Darwin, and Christmas Island to name just a few, have been provided salary and other support.

Fund Raising for Disasters

Muslims Australia has organised many fund raising for natural disasters in Australia and overseas such as the bush fires in Victoria and floods and cyclones overseas. A major effort was mobilised for the earth quakes in Indonesia and the devastating floods in Pakistan and these funds have already been transferred to the needy.

A more concise report on our activities can be seen on Muslims Australia web site on www.afic.com.au. All of our press statements and details of schools and community events can also be viewed there.

Muslims Australia (AFIC) Sharia Committee

Muslims Australia (AFIC) has enlisted the support and cooperation of leading Imams, Islamic scholars, academics and industry professionals to form the AFIC Sharia Committee. The aim and intent of this Committee is to oversee all aspects of Halal compliance with particular reference to food manufacture, Halal meat and animal welfare as well as wider religious issues.

The Committee also aims to provide counsel on personal and community based issues that affect Muslims in their everyday activities.

One of the pressing tasks is Muslim burials in regional and rural areas where only a few Muslim families reside and access to separate burial areas is not readily available.

The Committee advises local Councils as to the most viable option under Islamic law under such circumstances.

With consumer demand and growth all food industries, particularly food manufacturers are constantly changing and modifying ingredients and methods of manufacture or production to maximum capacity. The Sharia Committee considers all such changes and introduction of innovative practices within the guidelines and references according to Islamic practices.

Aged Care & Nursing Home

The number of elderly Muslims is growing and in many cases the families will not be able to care for them at home. With this in view AFIC is also looking into providing aged care facilities which will include a retirement village and a nursing home. We recently looked at a property which will cater for both the facilities. AFIC is trying to get funding from the Australian governments and from overseas for this project.

Such facilities will be needed in most cities, especially the bigger cities where many such facilities will be needed.

Maturity in Muslim Leadership

In closing, I have to address the present leadership of the State Councils across Australia. In most instances, there are now Councils which are active and are themselves identifying various initiatives and are getting on with serving the Ummah. I will not hesitate in identifying ICV as the most active of all and give credit to the work achieved. This shows that there is great potential in the young if only we are able to involve them in leadership positions and guide and nurture them if necessary. There is now new leadership in Islamic Council of Western Australia under Br Sajit Smajic as the Chairman, in Islamic Council of Queensland under Br Mohammed Yusuf as the Chairman and Islamic Council of South Australia with Br Metin Yevuz and all of these Councils have taken on the task of rebuilding their respective communities into providing much needed services.

I am aware that ICV is able to secure external funding for all of this work and this is to be applauded. There are also other Councils who have also secured funding and it may be an idea that the Councils cross pollinate their ideas for the betterment of all. Of course there is a lot more that can be achieved and I am sure all of us, in Muslims Australia (AFIC) and our State Councils would dearly like to hear of these ideas.

I would like to finish off my thanking all of the many individuals and groups out there who are now willingly offering advice, service and in many cases taking considerable time out of their own commitments to work for the Ummah. A lot of these brothers and sisters are respected Imams, academics, lawyers, accountants and other professionals and business people. Many of these individuals have represented Muslims Australia at many events, meetings, senate hearings, small working groups and the like and many at such short notice. This has included respected elders such as the Mufti of Australia, some of AFIC's past Presidents who have left a lasting legacy of honourable work and other elders. The list is just too long but you all know who you are, and not all of you are Muslims either. The Executive of Muslims Australia (AFIC) would like to thank each and every one of you. We sincerely hope that this assistance will continue well into the future.

And finally, I have to thank the tireless efforts of our staff, both in our Sydney and Melbourne offices, as well as all the hard working school Board Chairman and Board Members, Principals and the entire teaching staff of all the schools. And a special mention to the staff working in abattoirs as halal supervisors or slaughter man. We thank you especially for your efforts, I know your work is one of the toughest, either in the cold of winter or the extreme heat of summer. It would also be remiss of me not to single out Brs Hafez Kassem, Br Mohammed Masood and Br Ashraf Ali Usman, members of the Muslims Australia executive team for their tireless work on a daily basis for the Ummah.

May Allah SWT give all those trying to serve Muslims in Australia wisdom and strength to serve the community better, *Insha'Allah*.

Wassalam,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ikebal Adam Patel'.

Ikebal Adam Patel,
President – Muslims Australia (AFIC)