



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) 6288 7358
Fax: (02) 6287 3517

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4 January 2011

FORGET THE ASHES; AUSSIES CELEBRATE DIVERSITY WITH THE FIRST MUSLIM TEST PLAYER!

Mr Ikebal Patel, President of Muslims Australia- AFIC expressed great pride at the selection of Usman Khawaja as the first Muslim on the Australian Cricket team.

Mr Patel further went on to congratulate the selectors on their choice and applauded their genuine respect for the game and progressive thinking with regard to those who could make the biggest impact on, and indeed contribution to the game.

Although wishing him the very best, Mr Patel raised the importance of understanding that irrespective of how well Khawaja performs in his first test match, the real celebration is for all Australians to enjoy the country's diversity, as now demonstrated by all international sports.

This innovative move is sure to cause a stir amongst the Australian Muslim youth, and encourage their support for, and participation in one of Australia's greatest sports.

However, greatness comes at a price, and Khawaja will find himself shouldering great responsibility. He will not only be carrying the weight of an entire country on his shoulders, but also the expectations of his family, the Australian Muslim community, and of course the Pakistani community.

Mr Patel did however comment that it was of utmost importance that Usman go out and enjoy himself and the company of some of the greatest cricketers of the modern era, and rest assured that his natural talent and flair would no doubt follow.

Mr Patel once again acknowledges Khawaja's achievement, and wishes him, and the entire Australian team nothing but the best of luck in their upcoming test matches. Mr Patel further commented that the former Australian PM, Mr John Howard can take heart in fair play and merit being well and alive in Australian cricket, which is more than what can be said for the international Cricket Council and their selection processes.

For further information, please contact:

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