



AUSTRALIAN
FEDERATION
OF ISLAMIC
COUNCILS INC

MUSLIMS AUSTRALIA (AFIC) PRESS RELEASE

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Islamic College of Melbourne

Tel: (03) 8742 1739

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

MEMBER STATE COUNCILS

Muslims 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

**46 Years of Community
Services**

5 August 2011

MUSLIMS AUSTRALIA APPLAUDS THE GILLARD GOVERNMENTS RACE- DISCRIMINATION INITIATIVE

The President of Muslims Australia (AFIC), Mr Ikebal Patel welcomes the appointment of Dr Helen Szoke as Australia's new Race Discrimination Commissioner. "Dr Szoke's track record as the Commissioner and Chair of the Board of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission will contribute to the success and efficacy of her new role", he said.

Mr Patel stated, the Muslim community is the most culturally and ethnically diverse in Australia incorporating over 100 languages with English as a second language in many instances. The barriers to employment, housing, health and other services this community faces is higher than the Australian average according to Muslims Australia's research. Some of these barriers include racism and blatant discrimination which Muslims Australia is confident Dr Szokes' new portfolio will address.

Mr Patel said "Eradicating racism is task we all share as Australian citizens. Australia's signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sixty years ago is a milestone. The protection and promotion of the human rights encapsulated in the Declaration is vital to global efforts to achieve lasting peace and security, and freedom and dignity for all".

End.

For further information, please contact:

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