

# Muslim Community/QPS Consultative Group

Wednesday 10 June 2015

1900hrs – 2100hrs

Islamic College of Brisbane

## Meeting Notes

Call to Order (Mr Sultan Deen Chair)

Opening Du'a by Imam Ismail Tahir

Apologies noted

Introductions

Adoption of minutes – amendments to be made

### Community report:

#### ICB report

Dr Ray Barrett – Money from Malik Fahad School did not go to AFIC it went towards building the school  
All Islamic Schools are being audited at the same time  
Boards must have a majority of independent Directors and properly elected  
Auditors have been sent to all AFIC Schools simultaneously  
Boards must have local members  
Independent auditors must be used

#### ICQ

Ali Kadri – ICQ participated in AFIC elections and will travel to Sydney to discuss Islamic issues  
Comments from unnamed sources re AFIC/ICQ were found to be misleading and incorrect  
Issues with Muslim inmates ICQ to hold meetings with Corrections in working together to approve a chaplain for Muslim inmates managed by ICQ  
There is an interest from one individual from NSW who has worked for a long period of time  
ICQ to look for funding sources as chaplain is outside of Chaplain Board  
ICQ to organise Eid Prayers with Holland Park and Kuraby Mosques to be held at ICB  
All other Mosques to send information to ICQ to be posted on the ICQ website

Sgt Bellos – Asked members to inform QPS ASAP when they know if there were going to be large numbers of worshippers at their local Mosques

### Somali Community

Ibrahim Osman - Somali Bantu President – Problems with youth unemployment  
Consumption of KHAT and smoking of SHISHA must be looked at they are causing a lot problems for the community and families  
Community education needed for DV and violence in general as this is causing a lot of problems leading to family separation, this must be prevented

- Sultan Deen – Advised that a meeting between QPS and Somali Community has been organised for 30 July 2015 at Upper Mt Gravatt. Contact Sgt Bellos if you wish to attend.
- David Ford – MAQ will be organising a meeting with the Somali Community after Ramadhan and all are welcome and all issues arising will be fed back to Qld Govt.

### **Bosnian Community**

- Kemal Begić – Received an offensive letter in the mail  
Letter handed to QPS for investigation.  
Intel Submission submitted.

### **ADCQ**

- Kevin Cocks – World Café meetings at the Gold Coast with women's groups Muslim and non-Muslim  
Rockhampton office attended Mosque Open Day  
Cairns Multi-Faith World Café well attended and great discussions held
- Neroli Holmes – Mareeba School issues – discussions going on and are looking positive

### **AFP**

- Shane Johnson – Cooperation AFP/Customs/Aviation (AFP also)  
When there are concerns around a person's travel through airports, Customs and AFP aviation Police will sometimes seek advice around whether or not there are notable concerns enough to arrest on suspicion of committing an offence. One such recent incident highlights some positive initiatives being undertaken between the agencies acknowledging a need for community involvement and guidance on some aspects of this issue when appropriate. The family of a particular youth had concerns about his travels and reported this to the police. Understanding the value of community assistance, the AFP investigators called AFP [Shane] seeking his input. Shane contacted a few community representatives who were extremely appreciative of being advised and consulted. Together they attended the AFP office at the airport, spoke with the young male and were able to mutually agree that there was no cause to make further enquiries regarding his intended travels. The community members assisted the youth with accommodation and transport due to him missing his flight (which was changed at no additional cost). The family were advised of the positive outcome and the youth later made contact with investigators to make known his travels.
- Sultan Deen – Asked whether the checks were random or specific intelligence was available.
- Shane Johnson - Responses at airports can relate to intelligence, observations, through dialogue and via random means. People in airports can be stopped and spoken to for a multitude of reasons relating to a multitude of concerns/offences including drugs, people smuggling, counter-terrorism, sex trade, visa violations and organised crime.
- Ali Kadri – AFP are flexible working with the community however Customs are not. Mr Kadri also asked for greater cooperation especially during the Holy month of Ramadhan and that Hajj (Pilgrimage) is not far away
- Sultan Deen – Asked if there was a need for a police clearance beforehand
- Shane Johnson - Clearance prior to travelling  
There are no requirements for anybody to receive 'clearances' prior to travelling however a number of people have in the past have let him know of their pending travel plans due to perceptions in the community around travel warnings. If people wish to do this that is fine however it's not a requirement.

Yasmin Khan – Enquired if the AFP surveillance on women is as stringent as on men

Shane Johnson – Confirmed that to be the case  
AFP surveillance  
People working within airports are required to maintain an awareness across many issues as identified previously and should observe odd or suspicious behaviour that may raise suspicion about their activities. If this occurs then that person may be stopped and spoken to. This is not restricted to any one person, gender, ethnicity, religion or cultural background.

### **General business:**

Chief Superintendent Allan McCarthy – Investigation on the arson attack on Toowoomba Mosque are still on going. The recent graffiti attack on the Mosque the offender has been located in Redcliffe and charged  
The offender is former attendee of the Toowoomba Mosque

Inspector Les Bulluss – Stated that the 2 male offenders who threw pork products at the Sunshine Coast Musallah have been apprehended. They have been charged and are due to appear in court shortly.

John Fox – Travelled to NSW and Victoria and had constructive meetings with both the Authorities and the Muslim Communities  
Both Police forces are working differently to QPS  
Meeting with Hass Dellal re Community Awareness Training Manual – Building Community Resilience and Cohesion  
Community engagement and Intel Gathering very difficult task  
Talked with AFP in Canberra and shared what QPS does  
Six monthly report has been finalised

David Forde – Recommends that all the good work being done by QPS and the Community should put on social media for more community awareness

Zoltan Swain – New Citizenship Act being proposed by the Federal Government and public Submissions to be in by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Urged the Community to make a submission  
Submissions will be by invitation only

Sultana Deen – Raised the issue of some councillors not understanding Muslims/Islam  
Meeting held with Deputy Mayor Russell Lutton and Logan City Councillors to clarify any issues of concern, she also stressed the need for communities to work together  
As a result the councillors now have a better understanding of Muslims/Islam and are positive towards Muslims/Islam

Yasmin Khan – Following the successful launch of Domestic Violence posters last year the program will continue with a new ABC Guide for reacting to victims of Domestic Violence that has been developed and will be sent to all Mosques, Temples, community spaces and Conference rooms  
Volunteers are welcome to help

David Forde – Meeting with the Minister for Multicultural Affairs to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 for members of the Muslim communities to come along and raise any issue/s of concern to the Government directly

Ibrahim Abdul – The proposed Mosque in Currumbin is as a result of the growing Muslim Community in the Gold Coast and overflowing numbers of worshipers at the Arundel Mosque

The aim is a community centre where the community at large can utilise the space

The project had been approved by the Town Planners. However a small section of the community have been vocally against the project and the council then rejected the project due to pressure

Opponents not interested in any mediation just didn't want the Mosque in the area

Currently negotiation are still going on

Majority of the community have been very welcoming

Zaffar Khan –

ICB held a very successful Fete many people attended

Robbie Maestracci –

Slacks Creek Mosque opening on the 17/6/2015 for Maghrib prayer first Jammah (congregational)

Requests QPS to help with Crime Prevention and Security Audit. Sgt Bellos to email Logan DCPC after permission obtained from trustees from Slack's Creek Mosque

Daud Bachelor –

Muslims in Qld have not committed any terror act against any Queenslander, however Muslims have suffered a lot.

The AFP should also dedicate the same resources on right-wing extremism.

Shane Johnson –

Agreed with the suggestion and will be open to any ideas.

Sultan Deen –

Meeting with Toowoomba Council and Toowoomba Islamic Council next Monday [15.06.15] re rebuilding the Mosque

Jamal El Kholed –

Radio Islam to operate soon

Sgt Bellos

The QPS wishes everyone a very blessed and spiritually uplifting Ramadan

Closing Du'a by Imam Ismail Tahir

**Next Meeting: 7.00pm on 19 August 2015 at ICB.**