



PRESS RELEASE

MEMBER STATE COUNCILS:

The Muslim Council of
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Islamic Council of
Australian Capital Territory Inc.
(ICTACT)

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Queensland Inc. (ICQ)

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Tasmania Inc. (ICT)

Islamic Council of
Christmas Island Inc. (ICCI)

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**AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL
ISLAMIC ORGANISATION
REPRESENTING
MUSLIM COMMUNITIES**

**45 Years of Community
Services**

30 July 2008

AUSTRALIA RESTORED AS A COUNTRY OF COMPASSION

The President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Ikebal Patel welcomed the Rudd Government's announcement to change the immigration detention policy.

This comes as a welcome gesture, given the Keating government had introduced this inhumane policy in the first place which has since been perpetuated by the Howard Government putting Australia in a shameful position in terms of its human rights.

Mr Patel said Australia's reputation as a welcoming, compassionate and embracing country can now be restored and we can once again be proud Australians, at home and abroad.

Mr Patel echoed the sentiments expressed by human rights advocates such as the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Amnesty International and others in repairing Australia's shameful reputation over the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers and restore faith in a system affording compassion and dignity, often during a very traumatic and difficult period.

Mr Patel said people do not just break all ties with their roots and flee safe, comfortable lives without reason. And he further commented that he is confident that Australian Government agencies will assess each and every case of refugee and asylum seeker entering Australia, on its merit within a reasonable time frame, without compromising border security and maintaining human dignity at all times.

For Further information, please contact:

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