



## ISLAMIC SCHOOL OF CANBERRA

*In Knowledge Lies Strength*

Block G, 49 Phillip Ave, Watson ACT 2602  
GPO Box 45, Canberra ACT 2601

**Tel:** (02) 6241 9554 **Fax:** (02) 6241 5448

**Email:** iscat@bigpond.net.au

As a new member of executive of the Islamic School of Canberra (ISC), I would like to introduce myself as Acting Principal of the school. My name is Sr Rima Kemp and I joined the school in 2006 teaching the 4/5/6 class. I have enjoyed being a Primary and Secondary teacher for the last 7 years in the public and Catholic systems.

I have been lucky to have the opportunity to work in an independent school and be involved in the development of the ISC since the first day I joined the school.

This year the school has been active in developing its Health program. With the support of the school community and dedicated teachers we have successfully locked in three healthy eating events at our school that are funded by ACT Health.

The first event organised in term 1 was a success with many parents attending and receiving valuable education in preparing a healthy lunch for their children. The other two events will be held in terms 2 and 3.

Many more challenging and valuable activities will also be run at the school in 2007.

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Many more challenging and valuable activities will also be run at the school in 2007.



## ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF BRISBANE

PO BOX 1769, SPRINGWOOD, QLD 4127  
45 ACACIA ROAD, KARAWATHA, QLD 4117

**PHONE:** (07) 3841 3645 **FAX:** (07) 3841 4320 **EMAIL:** islb@bigpond.net.au

[www.islamiccollegeofbrisbane.com.au](http://www.islamiccollegeofbrisbane.com.au)

### TYPE OF SCHOOL

Independent (AFIC) co-educational PrepYear 12.

### INTAKE YEAR

Prep12 where vacancies exist.

### SPECIAL PROGRAM

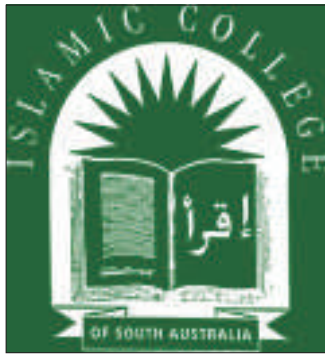
Islamic Studies, Qurán Studies, Arabic, Special Needs Recourse Unit catering for ESL support, and fortnightly TAFE classes for Year 8 to 10.

### CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Range of religious, cultural and sporting activities encouraging inclusion and competitive House spirit.

### GENERAL COMMENTS

Islamic values and principles are taught alongside Education Queensland curriculum. The school nurtures a caring and supportive community environment in fully air-conditioned modern facilities.



## ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

22 Cedar Avenue, West Croydon, SA 5008  
PO Box 147, Kilkenny, SA 5009

**Tel:** (08) 8349 7799 **Fax:** (08) 8340 9988 **Email:** admin@icosasa.edu.au  
www.icosasa.edu.au



### The Islamic College offers:

Classes from Kindergarten to Year 12 in 2007

An excellent academic education based on the SACSA Framework.

The opportunity for students to become successful Australian Muslims.

A friendly environment that allows students to make lifelong friends.

Full support for students from Non-English speaking backgrounds.

An Arabic language program.

An Islamic and Qur'anic Education Program.



## LANGFORD ISLAMIC COLLEGE

*Knowledge, Faith & Discipline*

Lot 176 Southgate Road, Langford WA 6147

**Tel:** (08) 9458 5206 **Fax:** 08 9258 5661 **Email:** principal.lic.wa@bigpond.com

The students have been involved in a variety of learning experiences and I am proud of their efforts. With the help of the staff we endeavor to develop in the students a desire to work hard and give of their best at all times. In my travels around the school I am always impressed with the high standards being achieved by all the students even those who find some things difficult to achieve to the best of their ability. This makes us proud. I am also impressed by the creativity of our students. They have hidden talents which when given the opportunity are able to blossom. One of our aims is to provide a learning environment where everyone is valued and care for. We encourage respect for each other. I am so pleased when I hear from other people how polite and well mannered our students are when they are on excursions or meet visitors to our school.

Since the January holidays our enrolments have grown so much that we have had to employ additional staff and are in the process of constructing additional classrooms. We have been offered financial assistance from the West Australian State Government to help with future development of our grounds. This will mean that later in the year we will be in a position to extend our car parking facilities and provide much needed playground equipment. We are now into our fourth year of operation as a school and are building a good reputation. We need to continue to work hard to maintain this. My thanks go to the Staff, Students and Parents for their support in the development of our school.

Kevin King  
Principal

### HIGHER TERTIARY EDUCATION

AFIC is also embarking on programmes of higher tertiary education in association with established Australian universities to provide courses in IT, Business Administration, Education Nursing, and other fields including Islamic and Arabic studies. These programmes will ensure provision of Islamic environment and facilities which would include proper boarding house accommodation and supervision. These programmes will cater for Australian students and those from overseas countries who are seeking to study in Australia.

# Halal MEAT & FOOD



Australia is a major exporter of meat and other food products which constitute a major share of its export earnings. AFIC established processes on a national scale in the early 1970's to assist the meat industry to produce Halal products for what turned out to be Australia's main sheep meat markets of the Middle East. AFIC's position as the national representative organisation of Islam and Muslims enabled AFIC to gain the acceptance of importing countries and consumers around the globe.

Australia's meat industry has been a winner measured in the positive contribution to Australia's export growth.

AFIC with its national structure has set up a national and uniform system for the production and certification of Halal meat and other food items.

AFIC's position in Australia enables it to utilize the organisational structure of the Muslim communities to provide these services from its head office and regional offices to regulate the operations required in generally complex situations usually prevalent in the meat and food manufacturing industries.

AFIC made a natural progression into the wider food industry of Australia which is continually seeking Halal markets in different parts of the world.

Again, AFIC's many years of experience, its eminent position as the premier Islamic organisation of Australian Muslims, its ability to call upon the expertise and services of the Muslim Ummah of Australia in the provision of Halal services makes AFIC the logical choice of ever vigilant and concerned consumers both locally and overseas.

AFIC has therefore continued to play a very important role in the supervision and certification of Halal products in the Australian meat and food industry.

AFIC is currently working with Halal authorities in Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore to develop uniform international standards for regulating Halal meat and food products.

For all your **HALAL ACCREDITATION** requirements  
Contact: AFIC's Halal Accreditation Services  
Mohammed Adil Rahman in Sydney on (02) 9319 6733

Email: [halal@afic.com.au](mailto:halal@afic.com.au)

or

AFIC Melbourne Office on (03) 9329 1228

Email: [aficmelb@bigpond.com](mailto:aficmelb@bigpond.com)

# AFIC HOSTS STATE RECEPTION FOR AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) held a State Reception and Dinner in Honour of His Excellency Hassan Talat Nazer, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia & Mrs Nazer on 21 April 2007 in Sydney at the Malek Fahd Islamic School.

The reception was attended by 250 leaders of the Muslim and Inter-faith community of Sydney and was co-sponsored by the Muslim Council of NSW, the Malek Fahd Islamic School and the Australian Islamic Cultural Centre Inc.

NSW's newest minister, Hon. Barbara Perry, MP, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship represented the Premier of NSW and was among those who spoke during the evening. Other dignitaries included His Eminence Sheikh Tajuddin El Hilali, Mufti of Australia, Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian, Chairman of Community Relations Commission, Mr Abdul Karim Rayes, Director of Dawah Office in Saudi Embassy, Mr Mohammed Zuhir bin Abdul Rahman, Consul-General of Malaysia, Mr Ismail Hassan from Brunei High Commission,

Consul-General from Turkish Consulate, Revd John Henderson, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia, Mr Jeremy Jones of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Mr Neil El Kadomi, Chairman of the Muslim Council of NSW, Mr Shafiq Rahman Khan, Chairman of the Australian Islamic Cultural Centre and Mr Tom Zreika, president of the Lebanese Moslem Association, Dr Intaj Ali, Principal, Malek Fahd Islamic School and other community leaders. The Master of Ceremony was Mr Mohamed Berjaoui, Chairman, Islamic Council of ACT.

Mr Hafez Malas, Chairman, Malek Fahd Islamic School represented the President of AFIC Mr Ikebal Patel who was away overseas, welcomed the guests with his opening speech in Arabic and emphasised that the new AFIC executive committee will be working closely with all foreign missions as well as the various Governments in Australia for the overall good of all Australian Muslims and all Australians. This was followed by a speech by Mr Abbas Ahmed, AFIC Executive Committee Member and AFIC's past President who spoke about the major role Saudi Arabia played in establishing Mosques and Islamic Schools in Australia.

The Saudi Arabian Ambassador gave the keynote address and thanked AFIC for the State Reception in his honour and emphasised the strong and deep bond of friendship that had grown between the Muslims of Australia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since the emergence of the present AFIC in 1976. The Ambassador gave an undertaking that he would be working to further strengthen that fraternal relationship with the Kingdom for the future generations of Muslims in Australia and for the greater good of Islam. The guests were served with a sumptuous Middle Eastern dinner.



*Left to right: Sitting Br Neil Kadomi, Br Mohammed Berjaoui, Br Shafiq Rahman Abdullah Khan, Br Hafez Kassem, Br Ashraf Usman Ali, H.E Saudi Ambassador Hassan Talat Nazer, Br Abbas Ahmed, Br Hafez Malas and Br Mohamed Masood.*



*Br Hafez Malas making a speech*



*Br Abbas Ahmed making a speech*



*MFIS Choir*



*Hon. Barbara Perry*



*Saudi Ambassador H. E. Hassan Talat Nazer*



*Stepan Kerkyasharian, Chairman,  
Community Relations Commission*



*H.E. Hassan Talat Nazer with guests*

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Contact Muslims Australia on (03) 9329 1228

Or email: [aficmelb@bigpoond.com](mailto:aficmelb@bigpoond.com) for competitive rates.

### AFIC PUBLICATIONS

AFIC publishes the Australian Muslim News and other resource material to propagate and promote the image and message of Islam. "Appreciating Islam", one of the most frequently requested of AFIC's publication. AFIC's latest publication Muslims Australia making its debut.

### INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

AFIC maintains liaison with the representatives of other religious faiths and takes parts in regular inter-faith dialogue to promote peace harmony and understanding. Although Muslims are relatively small in number, Islam is the second largest religious denomination after Christianity.

### INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

AFIC is active in regional cooperation involving Muslims of neighbouring countries of South East Asia and the Pacific. AFIC is a founder member of RISEAP and supports regional cooperation among Muslims. AFIC enjoys close relationships with the global Muslim community including all Islamic countries.



# THE DRIP IN IRAQ

Drip...drip...drip...it was an alien noise in the aftermath of destruction. Drops of water splashed from the roof onto the ground, shattering into a million pieces.

A pounding sound caught her attention, the crunch, crunch, crunch of footsteps in the alley that ran beside her now-destroyed house. A gruff foreign voice pierced through her thoughts, the sound loud, resounding in her mind. She caught her breath, fear taut in her chest. This could mean only one thing.

Drip...drip...drip...

Desperately, she tried to look as if she were dead, breathing shallowly and clenching her fists to keep from shaking. Through the slit beneath her eyelids, she watched as a pair of black, heavy-duty boots crunched into view, followed by long legs covered in the green and brown trousers that signified a member of the military.

They could not know that she was alive.

Drip...drip...drip...

The footsteps stopped in the centre of the room. With her eyes slightly open, she could see the soldier pause at the dead body of her son. His face was smashed, and blood formed a pool around him. He was barely thirteen years old.

Even though the bomb had struck miles away from their home, the impact had shattered their house to pieces. Her husband, son, mother and father were all gone. Her life destroyed in one single hit.

The ticking noise from their clock suddenly caught her attention. It had somehow survived destruction and its voice now joined the dripping of the roof.

Drip...drip...drip...

Tick...tick...tick...

"They're all dead," the soldier stated in a strange foreign accent. "Clear out lads." She heard the footsteps thud away and breathed a sigh of relief. Pain was spreading through her body, numbness seeping through her veins, turning her body to stone. She knew she wouldn't last for much longer. Her back was broken and she could hardly breathe. She longed for sleep like never before.

Tilting her head slightly, she could see the fallen bodies of her relatives all around her. They were with her always, she thought to herself faintly, even in death. She felt as if she were alive in a coffin.

Drip...drip...drip...

Tick...tick...tick...

She could feel the life draining out of her with each second. Just as her eyes closed, she remembered with a flash the noise the bomb had made. A horrible squeal and a rush of air, followed by the shattering sound of destruction.

The tap dripped again.

Drip...drip...drip...

She breathed one last, shuddering breath. It was over.

Tick...tick...tick...tick...

She is not found by her people until five days later. Her house remains untouched by anything other than the cold fingers of death.

It is a rescue worker who finds her in the end, surrounded by the bodies of her family. The woman shrieks, dropping the bucket of water she had been carrying through the alley beside the house.

The floor is dark with blood, the stench of decaying bodies faintly apparent. The entire village has been destroyed, but rescue workers are still attempting to salvage what they can for the handful of survivors.

The water from the woman's bucket crashes to the ground, drenching her legs and splashing onto the walls of the alley. Feeling nauseous, but unable to look away, the woman creeps closer, holding her sleeve over her mouth to stave off the smell.

The scene before her is crushing. A family, together in death as they were in life. The child is close to his mother, her arm draped protectively over his body. The father lies next to him on the other side, his hand pulled at an unnatural angle so that it almost claps his wife's. Two others, presumably the grandmother and grandfather of the child lie nearby, close, but still apart from the small family.

A sound catches the rescue worker's attention- a faint dripping noise resounding larger than life in the eerie silence of the destroyed house. She glances up to see water dripping from the roof onto the ground. It is clean water, the droplets catching the light of the nearby window as they fall.

Large puddles now stretch across the ground, fingers of liquid crawling towards the dead family.

Pure, clean water.

It can not wash away the blood.

Drip...drip...drip...

Foot Note: One wonders as to how many barrels of oil will wash away all the blood. The leaders of the powerful have a lot to answer for.

By Zoya Jasmin Patel (Age 15)

# AFIC Press Releases

## ISRAELI SPREADS HATRED

Professor Raphael Israeli's recent observation that if the Muslims in Australia were to increase to a 'critical mass', according to him, to about 10%, the country will face an imminent danger, is in our view a subtle injection of venomous propaganda intended to destabilize the religious and ethnic harmony that all communities in Australia have built up over many years, said Mr. Ikebal Patel, the recently elected President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils.

In elaborating his point Mr. Patel also said that it is insulting for the academics of Australia as well as in the world for one of its members to make that remark without any evidence to back up that claim. Scholars are noted for their objectivity in analysing any issue. Professor Israeli appears to have thrown away that objectivity out of the window to strengthen his anti-Muslim propagandist agenda. One wonders whether this erudite scholar was trying to win Australian sympathy for what the Israeli Government is pursuing as a policy of ethnic cleansing in the West Bank and Gaza in occupied Palestine.

Mr. Patel further said that AFIC appreciated the stand taken by the Jewish community in Australia in condemning the Professor's extreme views. In this country we have built over the years an environment of ethnic and religious harmony and peace. We will not allow anyone, said Mr. Patel, whether that person be a scholar or a simple mouth-piece of a government to jeopardise that environment.

For Further information, please contact:  
Mr Ikebal Patel (President)  
Tel 0419 418 237.

## REVEREND NILE'S COMMENTS AN INSULT TO ALL RELIGIONS

The President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Ikebal Patel said that the comments made by Christian Democrat MP, Reverend Fred Nile's are in no way befitting someone who claims to be representative of one of the great religions of the world, or in fact of a Reverend.

Reverend Nile has a history of bringing up such issues before elections but one expects that the average Australian and New South Wales voter is much more astute than to fall for this ploy.

Instead of looking at some of the very positive contributions that the Australian Muslims have made over some 150 years in Australia, Reverend Nile still wants to impose his bigoted and divisive values on others, without adding any value to the lives of ordinary Australians.

He further said that Australia is a modern democratic country which has been built and prospered as a result of diverse migration from different parts of the world.

As the newly elected President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Patel will be inviting Mr Fred Nile and other similar misguided politicians to meet with Muslim leaders in the immediate near future over a cup of coffee to discuss various subjects. This is the only way to move forward in an enlightened manner, rather than keep throwing insults at certain groups.

For Further information, please contact:  
Mr Ikebal Patel (President)  
Tel 0419 418 237.

## MUFTI OF AUSTRALIA

This morning, the President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils Inc (AFIC), Mr Ikebal Adam Patel refuted media reports especially those quoting him in relation to the Mufti of Australia, His Eminence Sheikh Taj El Din El Hilaly.

Mr Patel said that there has been no change in the position and role of the Mufti of Australia since the previous Executive Committee of AFIC suspended Sheikh Hilaly's stipend in 2006. Mr Patel stressed that the new Executive of AFIC which took office at the end of February 2007 has not taken any decision to change its position. The Mufti's stipend has not been reinstated so far, he confirmed.

However, Mr Patel said that the new AFIC Executive has been waiting for the Australian National Imams' Council (ANIC) to discuss and decide on the issue of the Mufti of Australia. He added that AFIC will go along with the decision of ANIC which is expected in the next two months and AFIC will be working closely with ANIC in managing the issues relating to Imams generally and the important role they play in the Muslim community.

In conclusion, Mr Patel expressed concern that the Muslim community and its religious leadership are being pushed into a corner and pressurized to take specific decisions in relation to Islamic matters in Australia. He said that the Muslims, their Imams and leaders will decide on the issue of the Mufti of Australia and other issues in relation to Islam and Muslims and not the media or the politicians. Mr Patel said that the media and the political leadership should respect the Muslim community's right to manage their own religious affairs. Such blatant interference in the affairs of the Muslim community only helps to consolidate the stereotyping of Muslims in the wider community and the fear of the Muslims who feel victimised every time the media and the politicians speak in negative terms about them, said Mr Patel.

For Further information, please contact:  
Mr Ikebal Patel (President)  
Tel 0419 418 237.

## CITIZENSHIP TEST FOR AUSTRALIA

The citizenship test being introduced by the Australian government has raised serious concerns in the wider Australian community and AFIC also shares these concerns, said the President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Ikebal Adam Patel. "While AFIC does not oppose regulated immigration, it believes that a test with biased questions targeting particular cultural or ethnic groups goes against the very values of democracy and a fair go that the government is trying to inculcate added Mr. Patel.

He further elaborated that "reasonable proficiency in the English language, familiarity about the history and population of this country, and knowledge about the Australian lifestyle are undoubtedly some requirements that would-be migrants should demonstrate." However, it is unfair and un-Australian to expect them to study about Anglo-Celtic and Judaeo-Christian values especially when those migrants are coming from a different religious and cultural background. These questions do not in any way add value to all Australians by being inclusive in these testing times but by their very nature are being openly antagonistic.

Mr Patel added that AFIC would like the proposed test to be objective in structure and format and value-neutral. He said that he would urge the government to publish the questions for wider discussion in the community before finalising the questionnaire. If these questions are going towards the eventual makeup of the Australian landscape, then all Australians deserve this opportunity to comment. And a good test for the adoption of these questions would be for these questions to be put to all Australian citizens at the upcoming elections, concluded the AFIC President.

For Further information, please contact:  
Mr Ikebal Patel (President)  
Tel 0419 418 237.



# AFIC Halal Certification Services

**The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils Inc AFIC is the oldest and longest serving government recognised Halal certification service provider.**

**AFIC's Halal service has been established over 40 years ago as the first formally structured Halal Meat certification service in Australia. This service has progressed into provision of Halal certification services for meat and non meat products.**

For further information on how to obtain Halal Accreditation for your products contact Mohamed Adil Rahman on (02) 9319 6733 or AFIC's Melbourne office on (03) 9329 1228.

Visit AFIC: [www.afic.com.au](http://www.afic.com.au)

Or come in for a chat: 932 Bourke Street, Zetland, Sydney  
and 66-68 Jeffcott Street, West Melbourne.

Email: [halal@afic.com.au](mailto:halal@afic.com.au),  
[aficmelb@bigpond.com](mailto:aficmelb@bigpond.com)

## OPINION

# AFIC: Quo Vadis?

Dr. Ameer Ali, Vice-President of RISEAP and Past President of AFIC

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) is quietly edging towards its half centenary celebrations by the turn of this decade. It is indeed a remarkable achievement for a national Muslim organization to have survived this long in a Western country. Even though a far greater number of Muslims have migrated to North America and Europe than to Australia none of them can match the achievements of AFIC both in terms of organizational and structural longevity as well as its educational and cultural accomplishments. However, within Australia itself the image of AFIC has suffered sharply over the years and particularly during the last few years of this century. Many have blamed AFIC's leadership, factional infighting, and the rule of gerontocracy for the tarnished image of the organization. There may be an element of truth in these accusations but they do not address the fundamental cause of the sickness. Regime change, which happens frequently in AFIC, does not provide a permanent solution against all accusations. One does not cure a headache by changing pillows. Likewise, in a community of mostly immigrant Muslims who have come from more than seventy countries with different collective memories, beliefs, and affiliations, factions will always be present and they have to be accepted as part of the equation. Also, in traditional societies, seniority matters. But traditions do change albeit slowly. Given these factors, quo vadis is both a timely and a relevant question that AFIC has to answer. When the Australian Federation of Islamic Societies (AFIS) was originally established in 1964, (before becoming AFIC in 1976), the Muslim population in Australia was only a little over 200,000.

Since then, with an influx of tens of thousands of Muslims from several troubled spots of the world (too many of them to enumerate here), and with an above average rate of natural increase, that number has more than doubled, according to some reliable but unofficial estimates. (Some Muslims ridiculously exaggerate the number to closer to a million). This increase, however, has brought with it four significant developments that are now posing a challenge to the national organisation.



Firstly, the ethnic complexity of the Muslim community acquired greater momentum in recent decades because of the increase in the number of migrant intake from countries that already have a multiethnic and multi-tribal population stock. Like the proverbial birds of a feather, the new arrivals descending from various tribal, ethnic and sectarian backgrounds, organized themselves under their separate identities.

Although the names of their associations reflect on a superficial level their national roots such as Albanian Muslim Organization, Afghan Muslim organization, Lebanese Muslim Association, Sri Lankan Muslim organization and so on, a closer look into their make up will show in each of them the dominance of a particular ethnic or sectarian element. This trend towards establishing ethnically ghettoized and sectarian based microstructures among the Muslims is unwittingly helped by a government policy of funding such organizations in the name of community development. A cynic might view this policy as one of divide and rule. From the point of view of a national peak body like AFIC however, these micro-organizations raise the question of how to provide adequate representation to all of them in its own executive body. The macro-micro tension is destabilizing AFIC and distracting it from tackling more urgent issues confronting the community and the nation.

Secondly, unlike in the seventies and before, there is now a growing second generation of Muslims whose outlook towards life in general and family inherited values in particular are disturbingly different from those of their parents. The accusation that AFIC is ruled by a gerontocracy comes typically and understandably from this younger generation. The Muslim youth are crying to be heard and their voice cannot be ignored any more. Thirdly, and again unlike in the earlier decades, a vibrant and articulate Muslim female voice is becoming louder and louder and is demanding recognition and the right to participate in the community's decision making and dialogues. ►