



Islamic Society of Toowoomba Inc.

Building faith and finding peace

[Incorporation No IA14413, est. 1994]

Help establish the first Masjid in Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia

Place of worship

Muslims are living in Toowoomba for over two decades without any Mosque. Due to significant growth of Muslim population in the city the community has been trying to setup a Mosque for the last 2-3 years. The task has been particularly difficult because of very strict council regulations for a place of worship. Recently the property at 217-221 West St (corner of Stephan St) Toowoomba Australia with a church, came to the market for sale. It is located about 5km from the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), less than 1km from Toowoomba hospital and within 2km from the city centre. The total land size of the property is 2765sqm. The price is AUD\$900,000 (AUD\$1 = USD\$1.03), on top we will need to pay 10% GST and about \$40k stamp duty. The existing church fits our current needs for the first Mosque in Toowoomba. We believe this is a rare opportunity, and we could not afford to miss it.

Attached supporting letters on reverse side from the (1) Grand Mufti of Australia, (2) Vice Chancellor of USQ and (3) Australian Federation of Islamic Councils testify our Society and Masjid project.

Toowoomba - The Garden City

Toowoomba, the Garden City of Australia, is 1.5 hour driving distance from Brisbane, capital of Queensland, Australia. The population of the city is around 150,000 of which over 1000 are Muslims. There has been a 20% growth of Muslims in the city in the recent 2012 census. There is no Mosque in Toowoomba or Lockyer Valley and Darling Downs regions.

The nearest Mosque is in Brisbane. Currently, all Muslims in the city/region worship in a temporary facility provided by the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) which no longer meets the current and future needs. So the Islamic Society of Toowoomba Inc, a Government registered non-profit Islamic organisation, has decided to purchase the property to meet the growing need of a Mosque in the city, and has initiated a major fundraising at home and abroad.



Muslims in Toowoomba

The Muslim Community in Toowoomba is united under the banner of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba (IST) Inc. It is a registered non-profit organization to serve the needs of Islamic practices of the Muslims in Toowoomba and its surroundings. Many Muslim settlers and students at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), prior to their arrival, contact IST to enquire about facilities for Islamic practices. The IST is a member of the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ), a forum of the Muslims in the state of Queensland in Australia. The ICQ is a part of the Federation of the Islamic Councils in Australia (AFIC), an umbrella organization of the Muslims of Australia.

The University of Southern Queensland has provided an Islamic Centre on its Toowoomba campus for its Muslim students and staff. The Centre is run by the IST, and uses it for all the religious needs of the local Muslims. This Centre has a prayer area as well as separate toilets and ablution areas for male and female users. The USQ deserves unqualified thanks and gratitude for its support towards its Muslim population. However it is time for the Muslims to have a Mosque of their own to meet their religious obligations.

The IST manages the regular daily prayers, Friday congregational prayer, tarawi prayers in Ramadhan, and celebration of Eid prayers. It also organizes regular community meetings and dinners. The program includes sharing of varieties food, discussion on Islamic and Community issues and lessons from the Holy Qur'an. The IST also organizes community picnics, raises funds to help distressed people around the world as well as collects and distributes Zakat and Fitr as per Islamic practices. It also runs Qur'an teaching classes for children.

Please feel free to contact us for any further information about the Muslim Community in Toowoomba, or if you need any assistance on or before arriving to Toowoomba. For further details about Muslims in Toowoomba please visit our website: www.isot.net.au

Appeal for Donations

We need AUD\$925,000 to cover the purchase price and cost of essential modifications to make the buildings suitable for worship. Alhamdulillah, many Muslims in Toowoomba have committed to donate one month salary for the Masjid. To make the fundraising drive a success, your active involvement/support/contribution is absolutely essential. Muslims in Toowoomba request you to get the words out to potential donors in the local, national and international level with an appeal to make significant financial contributions (please see the account details below).

We urge you and your family to pray to Allah so that He accepts our efforts and help establish the first Masjid in the city. Your direct contribution and drive to collect funds from other contributors will be highly appreciated. Please don't miss to buy a piece of paradise/jannat with your generous donation. Medium term interest free loan will also be helpful.

May Allah Subhanahuwata'ala accept your support and reward you unboundedly in both worlds. *Fiamanillah and JAK*. For further information: **Contact** Prof. Shahjahan Khan on +61 421 081 048 **or write** to Islamic Society of Toowoomba, PO Box 336, Darling Heights, Toowoomba, Qld 4350 Australia.

Bank Account Details for Mosque Project

Account Name: Islamic Society of Toowoomba Inc. **Bank/Branch Name:** Heritage Bank, Toowoomba Main Branch
Branch Address: 400 Ruthven St, Toowoomba, Q4350, AUSTRALIA
BSB No. 638060 **A/C No.** 1300 9958 **Swift Code:** HBSLAU4T

Property Details

The property at 217-221 West St (corner of Stephan St, as marked red on the map below), Toowoomba, Australia has two churches (photos below) and another old building. There are three separate entrances to the property with 800sqm of vacant land for parking. The larger church building fits our current needs for a Mosque in Toowoomba. It is a rare opportunity that must not be missed.

Property: 217 West Street, Harristown, Toowoomba, Queensland

Land Area: 2,765sqm

Zoning: Residential Choice. Urban Residential Precinct.

Primary Land Use: Religious

Position: This property is located approx 2km South West of Toowoombas CBD. It is also near the Toowoomba Base Hospital and on route to the University of Southern Queensland.

Buildings: (1) A stylish brick Chapel

Built in the 1960's. The building is almost 270sqm of which there is covered entry, foyer, childrens crying room and main auditorium. In addition, there is an area of approx 40sqm at the rear which is used as an office, reception, toilet and storage. Construction is of brick walls, timber frame and tiled roof except for the rear office which has a klip-loc skillion roof.

Buildings: (2) Original Church and Hall

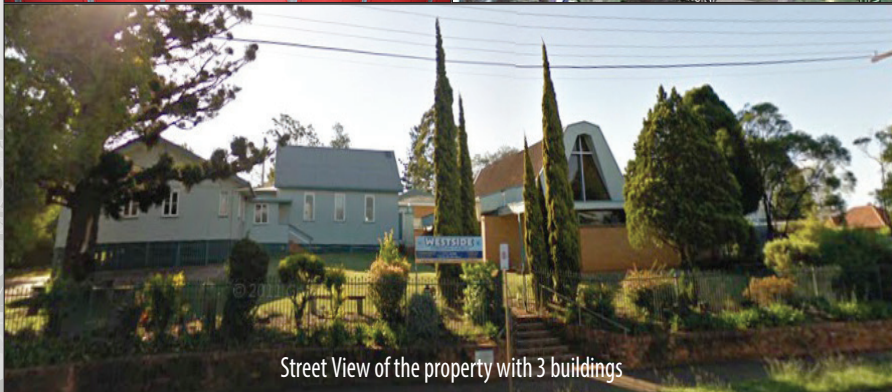
The old church dates back to around 1910. A lovely building of approximately 100sqm including original entry and kitchen. Construction of weatherboard and chamferboard walls on timber floor and posts. The roof is of a steep pitch design (corrugated galvanised iron) which adds to the character of the building. Internal wall cladding is mainly VJ pine and balance fibro cement sheeting. The adjoining hall is thought to have been constructed in the 1960's. This building has an area of approx 190sqm including 20sqm of male and female toilets. The external walls are weatherboard and hardiplank and the roof is corrugated galvanized iron. Internal partitions are VJ pine and fibro cement. There is also provision for storage rooms and additional toilets.



Proposed Mosque



Inside view of proposed Mosque



Street View of the property with 3 buildings

Mufti
Rota of Australia

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

To Whom It May Concern 5 April 2013

The Islamic Society of Toowoomba Inc. is a Government registered non-profit Muslim organisation affiliated with the Islamic Council of Queensland and the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC).

The Society is the only Muslim organisation in Toowoomba, a city of over 150,000 people. The Muslim population in the city is growing at a healthy rate, the Society has moved to purchase a property of 2765 sqm which includes existing use Church buildings to establish its first Masjid. The cost of the property including all fees is SAU\$900,000 (nine hundred thousand dollars Australian).

The Muslim community in Toowoomba does not have the ability to fund the Masjid project on its own, Toowoomba Muslims are in urgent need of support from Muslims outside their city.

I urge the reader to support this project in every manner within his or her means, establishing a house of God is a highly commended Islamic duty. Our prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him, said: *Whoever builds a house for Allah, Allah will build a house for him in Jannah.* A Masjid is a community centre, it is a hub of social activities that brings together the Muslim community and provides an avenue for Muslim youth to become outstanding citizens. A Masjid is a beacon of light for any city allowing for greater understanding between Muslims and non Muslims.

I urge every Imam of every Masjid in Australia and every community leader to take a leading role in supporting this project, including raising funds during 'Juma' prayers.

I commend this project to every reader and encourage the reader to assist in any way they can.

I pray to Almighty Allah for the success of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba Inc in establishing the Masjid and providing ongoing services to the Muslim and wider community in the years to come.

Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.

Yours faithfully

Dr. Ibrahim Abu Mohammad
Grand Mufti of Australia

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

April 2013

To whom it may concern,

Introducing the Islamic Society of Toowoomba Inc.

This letter introduces the Islamic Society of Toowoomba and specifically their current activity to establish a permanent Toowoomba facility to service the regional Muslim community.

The Islamic Society of Toowoomba has a close relationship with the University of Southern Queensland founded in the provision of Islamic faith services for the university community spanning the last decade. The University has been able to provide on-campus facilities for the Society adequate for the initial patronage levels and needs.

The university has been able to provide support to a number of community groups in this way, adding to the diversity and richness of a multicultural university environment and also contributing to regional community development.

It is acknowledged that the Islamic Society has been a particularly successful and effective group growing their membership through USQ staff and students, and also significantly, through regional Muslim migrant growth. Their success has brought them to a point where a permanent and more accessible facility is now required.

The University of Southern Queensland is supportive of the Society in its endeavour to locate and acquire a suitable facility and is consequently providing in-kind support to assist them, in the form of professional advice and services.

The University is aware that the Society is contacting various members of the proposed facilities. The University has no role in that process and makes no undertakings in that regard other than the representations made within this letter of introduction.

For further information please contact Dr David Povey - Executive Director Campus Services on (07) 46311910.

Yours faithfully

Professor Jan Thomas
Vice-Chancellor & President
University of Southern Queensland

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MUSLIMS AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF ISLAMIC COUNCILS INC.

22 March 2013

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Assalamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu

First Mosque in Toowoomba – Queensland, Australia

I am pleased to introduce the Islamic Society of Toowoomba (IST) Inc. established in 1994. The IST is a member of the Islamic Council of Queensland and the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils.

The IST serves the Muslim Community in Toowoomba and its surroundings, it is an active and has been playing its due role within the community.

For a long time the IST and Muslims in Toowoomba have been using the temporary facility provided by the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), Toowoomba for their Islamic practices. But the community has grown to a level that the USQ facility is inadequate to meet the needs of the community. The increased number of Muslim students at the Toowoomba campus of the USQ who hail from various Muslim countries has led to the need to establish an Islamic Centre in the city.

The IST has undertaken to buy a property to establish the first Mosque in Toowoomba. The property has a great location, a prayer building and is already zoned as a place of worship. Therefore AFIC is very pleased to endorse the project as well as offer its full support for its completion.

We urge every reader of this letter to support this important project in any way they can.

May Allah reward all those who strive in His Path!

With brotherly regards,
Yours sincerely,

Hafiz Kassam
President - Muslims Australia (AFIC)

Member Contributions & Administration
Islamic Studies Programs
Zakat & Charitable Services
Dawah & Religious Services
Islamic Youth
Islamic Education
Public Affairs

MEMBER STATE COUNCILS
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Islamic Council of NT
Islamic Council of QLD
Islamic Council of WA
Islamic Council of VIC
Islamic Council of SA
Islamic Council of TAS
Islamic Council of NT
Islamic Council of Christmas Island

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Hand in hand for a brighter Australia.