



# Newsletter 2018

## ICQ President's Message

Eid Mubarak.

In 2018 the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) has continued to build on the solid foundations of last year and deliver opportunities and outcomes for some of the most vulnerable in our Muslim community.

Our work to support young people of refugee and migrant backgrounds continues to be recognised by the Federal Government and has received an 18 month extension through to December 2019. We have grown our presence in the media, contributing regularly to television, radio, print and digital channels as well as advocating for the Muslim community to all levels of government and law enforcement. We have also focused particularly on delivering opportunities for the women in our Community.

In this second edition of our newsletter, we provide a brief overview of some of the important initiatives undertaken since January 2018. It highlights the great work being delivered by the team at ICQ and the tremendous partnerships being built with like-minded organisations.

We hope you enjoy the update and thank you for your ongoing support.



**Ismail Cajee**  
*President*  
Islamic Council of QLD

## ICQ Executive Committee.



**Ali Kadri**  
*Vice President*



**Amar Ali Khan**



**Asim Hodzic**



**Fahim Khondaker**



**Imran Mateen**



**Junaid Qadri**



**Nasser Al Cheikh**



**Saba Ahammad**



**Tanveer Ahmed**

## ICQ Member Mosques & Community Organisations.

Algester Mosque  
Al-Mustapha Institute  
Cairns Mosque  
Darra Mosque  
Gladstone Musallah  
Gold Coast Mosque  
Holland Park Mosque  
IPDC Qld/Slacks Creek

Mosque  
Ipswich Mosque  
Islamic Women's Association of Aus  
Kuraby Mosque  
Logan Mosque  
Mackay Mosque  
Mareeba Mosque  
Moorooka Mosque

Muslim Business Network  
Muslim Charitable Foundation  
Rochdale Mosque  
Rockhampton Mosque  
Toowoomba Mosque  
Townsville Mosque  
West End Mosque



How Can We Assist You?

- ✓ Certificate II in Skills for Work & Vocational Pathways
- ✓ Development of a Job or Career Plan
- ✓ Assistance with Work Placement & Work Experience
- ✓ Professional Resume/CV Writing Workshops
- ✓ English Language Support
- ✓ Interview Skills Workshops
- ✓ Networking Skills Workshops
- ✓ Drivers Licence Support
- ✓ Queensland Approved White Card
- ✓ Working with Children Check - Blue Card
- ✓ Exposure to Social and Competitive Sport
- ✓ Swimming and Surf Life Saving Lessons
- ✓ Kids First Aid Training
- ✓ Sports Coaching/Refereeing Qualification
- ✓ Self Defence Workshops
- ✓ Mental Health First Aid Workshops



Islamic Council  
QUEENSLAND

<https://www.facebook.com/councilofqueensland/>

[nathan@brighterfuturecollective.com](mailto:nathan@brighterfuturecollective.com)

## Brighter Future Collective

The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) youth initiative, Brighter Future Collective (BFC), continues to provide young people of refugee and migrant backgrounds with the confidence, capacity and skillset to take advantage of every opportunity. BFC focuses on building young people who are clear, capable and motivated to achieve their goals and be leaders in their community. BFC offers support ranging from Swimming Lessons to assistance with English Language Studies and Vocational Pathways.

To sign up or for more information, please email our Program Coordinator:  
[dina@brighterfuturecollective.com](mailto:dina@brighterfuturecollective.com)



The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) is proud to be the major sponsor of the Logan Roos Football Club for the second year in a row.

Building on the success of last year where the senior men's team won the SEQ Football League Division 2 premiership, in 2018 the Logan Roos have stepped up to the Brisbane Football Capital League 3, entering Men's First Grade and Reserve Grade teams as well as Juniors competing in the U12, U8 and U6 competitions.

Anyone interested in joining the club as a player or supporter is encouraged to contact Abdul Khan on 0413 669 987.



## Parenting Between Cultures

The Islamic Women's Association of Australia, with the support of the Islamic Council of Queensland and the Queensland Government, conducted a four week workshop series to assist parents from multicultural backgrounds in tackling the individual issues they face whilst parenting in the 21st Century. Being a Father, Mother or Carer of children can be so rewarding, but also can be challenging. These challenges are heightened when you have different cultural values and beliefs to the country in which you are raising your children...

Fatima, a participant of the program said "The Parenting Between Cultures workshop was brilliant! It was a safe space to discuss a variety of topics concerning our families. The organisers did an excellent job of organising, co-ordinating and providing child care facilities. From this workshop I have kept in touch with several ladies and we continue to reflect on the key messages that were shared and taught."

**PARENTING BETWEEN CULTURES**

• WORKSHOP SERIES •  
BY: SUSAN ALMAANI & JOAN BURROWS

FOUR SESSIONS  
WEDNESDAY 7TH, 14TH, 21ST & 28TH MARCH, 2018  
9AM - 12PM  
VENUE: IWAA HALL  
ADDRESS: 11 WATLAND ST, SPRINGWOOD, 4127  
COST: FREE  
Tea and coffee provided, please bring a plate to share :)  
STRICTLY adults only in attendance  
Participants must be able to commit to every session  
\*Limited spaces available

An initiative of the Islamic Women's Association of Australia.  
Supported by the Islamic Council of Queensland and the Queensland Government.

To register your interest: [dina@brighterfuturecollective.com](mailto:dina@brighterfuturecollective.com)

## Train With Us

With the support of the Brisbane City Council and Brisbane Boxing Mount Gravatt, the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) conducted a four week intensive boxing program for women in the community. Over 30 women took advantage of the free boxing classes which were offered twice a week and lead by a qualified female trainer.

A participant said "These programs run by ICQ are well organised, highly appreciated and motivating." Another participant added "It has helped me take charge of my health and really reverse the state I was in. Working out is hard and a commitment, but overall the reason why a lot of Muslim women struggle is because finding a place with quality trainers where we feel comfortable, is either impossible or expensive."

LADIES ONLY

**TRAIN WITH US**  
MARCH 2018

Thursdays 10am AND Saturdays 12PM  
15 years +  
LOCATION: Brisbane Boxing @520 Kessel's Road Macgregor, 4109  
FREE  
To register your interest:  
[dina@brighterfuturecollective.com](mailto:dina@brighterfuturecollective.com)



**LADIES FITNESS PROGRAM**  
With Layla Shaw  
*One class every week!*

**EIGHT WEEK CHALLENGE**  
Monday 19 March - Monday 7 May  
4:30pm - 5:30pm OR 5:30pm - 6:30pm  
VENUE: Kuraby State School Hall  
15 YEARS +  
**FREE**  
\*Limited spaces available  
To register your interest:  
dina@brighterfuturecollective.com

**ICO** Islamic Council of QUEENSLAND  
**BRIGHTER FUTURE Collective**

## Fitness Challenge Success

An eight week fitness challenge tailored towards women and their individual needs has been delivered by The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICO) with the support of the Brisbane City Council and qualified Personal Trainer (PT), Layla Shaw.

The participants put in an enormous effort and a collective 13.5kg was lost in only 8 PT focused sessions!

Madiha, a participant of the program stated, "This challenge was exactly that, a challenge! Layla Shaw was great, and I know many of us will continue our fitness journey with her after this program. Sometimes life gets too busy and you forget how long it has been since you were last active. Thank you to ICO for presenting this opportunity to us and for reminding us to take care of our health."



**Islamic Council of QUEENSLAND** **BRIGHTER FUTURE Collective**

**SUBSIDISED DRIVING PROGRAM**

For Refugee, Migrants & people suffering from Financial Hardship	For Refugee & Migrant Youth between 16 - 20 years old
0 5 Lessons	0 5 Lessons
0 Qualified Male & Female Instructors	0 Qualified Male & Female Instructors
0 Free pick ups in Logan area	0 Free pick ups in Logan area
0 Insured Vehicles	0 Insured Vehicles

**CONTACT**  
ICO & BFC: 0456 426 523  
IWAA Client: 0414 673 022  
Youth Connect: 0421 979 690

**155** **100**

**SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVERS**

**11** **STOP** **60** **ROAD SIGNS**

## Driving Just Got Easier

The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICO) subsidised driving program continues to provide affordable packages for driving lessons to support recently arrived Refugee and Migrants, as well as people suffering from financial hardship.

This year, the ICO has introduced bilingual instructors from Urdu and Dari speaking backgrounds.

This addition aims to further assist our community by allowing members of the community to participate in the program with added confidence



## Sisters Support Services

The Sisters Support Services is a unique Islamic community project that is staffed and managed by volunteers. The purpose of Sisters Support is to provide Muslim women and children with the opportunity to participate in worthwhile classes, gain Islamic knowledge, work together on projects and socialise in a friendly and relaxed environment.

The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICO) has been a proud supporter of Sisters Support Services events for the past 12 months. Some events are conducted out of the ICO managed Logan Roos Football Club Clubhouse at Oates Park, Woodridge.

One of the supported events included the highly successful "Winter Wonderland" party. This very successful event brought together 60 young women (12-18 years old) to engage in activities and networking opportunities.

## Learn to Swim

For the past 18 months, Sister Farah Scott has been organising private swimming classes suitable for Muslim women. Last year, the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICO) teamed up with Sister Farah Scott through Sisters Support Services, to offer a six week swimming program for women suffering from financial hardship and/or of Refugee Migrant backgrounds.

This very successful program provided the community with a private facility and a female instructor at an affordable price.

Sister Farah Scott will continue to offer the swimming classes through a not-for-profit organisation 'Hurricane Stars Club' at a new location. The program has attracted some Logan City Council Funding and expanded to offer private male classes (with a male instructor), kids learn to swim (eligible for the 'Get Started' vouchers) and women's aqua aerobics.

Following the success of the six week program, ICO will continue to provide subsidies for our recently arrived refugee community members, so they are also given the opportunity to learn to swim.

For more information please visit their website [www.hurricanestarsclub.org](http://www.hurricanestarsclub.org) or email [contact@hurricanestarsclub.org](mailto:contact@hurricanestarsclub.org)

**4 Week Program**

**PRIVATE LADIES SUBSIDISED SWIMMING LESSONS**

**Join Now!**

**Stanford Swim School**  
Basement of Sunnybank Hills Shopping Centre, 661 Compton Road

**ENQUIRE ABOUT:**

- ✓ MEN'S LEARN TO SWIM
- ✓ KIDS LEARN TO SWIM
- ✓ MUM AND BABY LEARN TO SWIM
- ✓ LADIES AQUA AEROBICS

**4 LESSONS \$11 PER LESSON**  
Eligibility Criteria  
✓ Available to all Females in the community  
✓ 13-30+ years of age

**\$44 MUST BE PAID FOR 4 WEEKS IN ADVANCE**

**ALL CLASSES HAVE BEGINNER & INTERMEDIATE LEVELS**  
**TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS**

**BOOK YOUR LESSONS: 0432 026 375**

**4 LESSONS \$6 PER LESSON**  
Eligibility Criteria  
✓ Refugee/Migrant Background  
Living in AUS less than 10 years  
✓ 13 - 30 years of age

**\$24 MUST BE PAID FOR 4 WEEKS IN ADVANCE**

Get Active & Have Fun. Confidently!  
**HURRICANE STARS CLUB**

**BRIGHTER FUTURE Collective**

## **Logan Roos Football Club Open Day & Fundraiser**



The Logan Roos Football Club sponsored by the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) hosted a fundraising carnival in support of our youth in January of this year.

The Logan Roos Football Club offers subsidised registration fees so all members of our community are able to join. The club also provides a community space for young people to engage in youth development programs, social activities and competitive sports.

The carnival was a great success, among the many guests was MP Jim Chalmers, who was also a keen supporter of the event.

The carnival was a joint initiative of ICQ, Youth Connect Qld and Sisters Support Services.

Logan Roos head coach, Abdul Samim Khan, said "It is great to see so many great organisations coming together to support our young people".

## **Community Awareness Initiatives – Domestic Violence**

A morning of art activities was organised by the Islamic Council of Queensland and Accoras to create awareness for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention month.

Accoras is a not-for-profit organisation working to strengthen the mental health, wellbeing and futures of people and communities.

The event was extremely successful and enjoyed by people of all (and no) faiths.



## **English Language Classes and Workshops**

The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) and local Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) professional, Ms Nadima Peer, delivered a four week intensive English Language course.

The classes held at Kuraby Mosque are designed to improve English speaking, reading, listening and writing skills.

Completion of this course assisted participants in tackling everyday routines such as grocery shopping, using public transport systems and confidently speaking to their neighbours and/or children's teachers.

Feedback from the classes was positive and the program is intended to continue after the month of Ramadan. To register your interest, please email: [dina@brighterfuturecollective.com](mailto:dina@brighterfuturecollective.com)



## **Ramadan and Eid Activities in partnership with Westfield Garden City**



This year the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) supported Ramadan and Eid Kids Activities at Westfield Garden City.

The event marked the first of its kind to be hosted by a shopping centre in Queensland.

Muslim and Non-Muslim children alike were overjoyed to participate in the activities and celebrate the forthcoming days of Ramadan and Eid.

ICQ would like to thank Sister Laaiqah Ally for organising such a wonderful initiative and inviting the community to be part of it.

## **International Women's Day**

The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) teamed up with the University of Queensland (UQ) Muslimah Society to deliver An International Women's Day 'Reclaiming Faith and Identity' themed event.

The purpose was to foster greater understanding between Muslim and Non-Muslim women, but most importantly to empower and inspire young Muslim women to excel in all walks of life.

The event included meaningful speeches, a spoken word poetry performance and an engaging panel discussion.

Sister Saalihah Seedat presented an 'Emerging Leader of the Year Award' to Anissa Rose Johnson, a young entrepreneur, local volunteer and University student. The award included a trophy, \$250 cash prize and access to a mentorship program!





**Islamic Council of  
QUEENSLAND**



**MAX Solutions**



**Diversity Skills  
Training PTY LTD**

# TRAINING COURSES NOW AVAILABLE

The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) is working closely with Max Solutions and Diversity Skills Training to deliver accredited courses in various locations across Brisbane.

The range of opportunities include job skilling and English language as well as courses in retail, business administration and childcare.

Courses will be made available at a location near you, subject to demand.

Please register your interest via email: [dina@brighterfuturecollective.com](mailto:dina@brighterfuturecollective.com)

## HOMEWORK CLUB

Mondays 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Grades: 7-12

Cost: FREE

Location: Oates Park, Oates Avenue, Woodridge

For more information please call:  
0456 426 523



### Homework Support

Homework Club was introduced to motivate and assist young people to excel in their school work. We have both a female and a male tutor that support the initiative by volunteering their time.

Our female tutor is Sahresh Sani, a dentist who is currently working the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health. Sahresh assists students with English and Biology and our male tutor is Mohammed Bhagoo, an Engineer who is currently working at Bornhorst & Ward. Mohammed assists students with Maths, Physics and Business subjects.

The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) would appreciate your support in further developing this initiative. If you would like to volunteer your time as a tutor, please email:

[dina@brighterfuturecollective.com](mailto:dina@brighterfuturecollective.com)



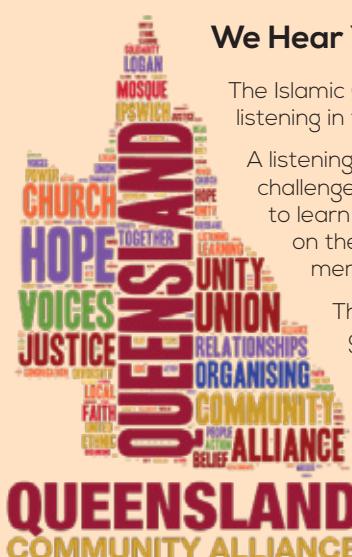
### We Hear You

The Islamic Council of Queensland and QCA will be hosting a community listening in the second half of 2018.

A listening is a unique opportunity for members of the community to share stories of the challenges they face in their daily lives. The event will not only present an opportunity to learn more about our community's needs, but as a group we will be able to decide on the priority of and best ways to address shared concerns with QCA and its many members.

The Queensland Community Alliance (QCA) is an alliance of the biggest faith groups coming together with charities, unions, community organisations and ethnic associations who work together for the common good. This alliance is based around the personal relationships built across organisations in our local area. The Islamic Council of Queensland became a member of the alliance in November, 2017.

For more information, or if you're interested in taking part in this event, please call Dina on: 0456 426 523.



**ADULT MIGRANT  
ENGLISH PROGRAM  
(AMEP)**  
**FREE ENGLISH CLASSES!**

### Free English Classes

With the support of the Australian Government's Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP), the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) will be organising TAFE accredited English classes at local mosques to ensure they are more accessible for women in our community.

The AMEP provides up to 510 hours of English language tuition to eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants to help them learn foundation English language and settlement skills to enable them to participate socially and economically in Australian Society.

It has been identified that many new arrivals within our community miss this opportunity because they do not register within the first six months of arrival, which is a strict requirement of the program.

For AMEP registration support and for more information on upcoming classes, please call Dina: 0456 426 523

## Supporting Healthy Eating

### Importance of Good Nutrition

Having good nutrition is important to achieve and sustain a healthy body, mind and wellbeing. Healthy eating is about having a positive relationship with food and feeding your body with fresh wholesome nutritious foods to provide it with the best nourishment that it needs. To eat healthy is not to follow a restrictive diet, nor to cut out food groups. It is not to deprive yourself of your favourite foods or to have negative feelings, such as shame or guilt, towards food. Adopting habits that are realistic and sustainable can help you maintain a healthy eating pattern throughout your life. In children, nutrition is especially important for normal growth and development.



Discretionary foods such as sweet treats, chips, and soft drinks are not included in the food group as it does not provide our body with any essential vitamins or minerals. However, they can still be included as part of a healthy diet occasionally and in small amounts.

The recommended amounts of each food group you require will depend on your age, gender, and activity levels. Your requirements will change throughout your lifecycle. Few people eat the same foods every day, and it is common to have a little more on some days and less on others. It is best to have all things in moderation. On most days, try to meet the recommended 2 serves of fruit and 5 serves of vegetables a day for a healthy wellbeing.

If you would like to know how many serves of food you as an individual require per day, go to Eat for Health Nutrition Calculators at:

[www.eatforhealth.gov.au](http://www.eatforhealth.gov.au)



For main meals, aim to fill:

- ½ plate with vegetables. For example: leafy greens, carrots, broccoli, peas, zucchini etc.
- ¼ plate with protein. For example: beef, lamb, chicken, eggs, nuts or fish. Meat free options include nuts, legumes such as beans, chickpeas, lentils and tofu.
- ¼ plate with carbohydrates, preferably wholegrains. For example: brown rice, quinoa, oats, wholegrain bread and pasta. Also, starchy vegetables such as potato, sweet potato, pumpkin and corn.

By following the plate model, it will help you to meet the amount of nutrients required such as carbs, fats, and protein to provide you with energy and keep you full. It will also provide you with fibre, essential vitamins and minerals to nourish your body for life.

### Take Home Messages

- Nutrition is important for a healthy life. Everybody has different requirements depending on age, gender, and physical activity levels
- Include a wide variety of nutritious foods in your diet and develop healthy habits which are realistic and sustainable in the long term
- Treat foods can be part of a healthy diet, include them occasionally and in small amount

References: National Health & Medical Research Council, Australian Government. (2017) Australian Guide to Healthy Eating. Accessed via <https://www.eatforhealth.gov.au/guidelines>



# Healthy Eating FOR LIFE

### Eat a wide variety of food

To provide our body with the best nourishment, we need to ensure that we feed it with a wide variety of nutritious to have sufficient intake of all nutrients including vitamins and minerals. It is important to include foods from the following five food groups everyday:

- Plenty of vegetables and legumes/beans. Try to include different types and colours
- Fruit – opt for fresh fruit. Keep canned or dried fruits in moderation.
- Grain (cereal) foods such as breads, cereals, rice, pasta, noodles, polenta, couscous, oats, quinoa and barley. Go for wholegrain and/or high fibre varieties.
- Lean meats and poultry, fish, eggs, tofu, nuts and seeds, and legumes/beans
- Milk, yoghurt, cheese and/or their alternatives such as almond or soy milk. With alternatives, check that it has added calcium. Reduced fat milks are not suitable for children under the age of 2 years.

And last, drink plenty of water.<sup>1</sup>



The healthy plate model is a great starter guide to assist with portioning during meal times



### About me



I am Fitria Sari, an accredited practising dietitian and nutritionist. Although dietitian has the word diet in it, I don't believe in diets. I am a firm believer in having balance and moderation. I believe to be healthy is to be in a state where you are confident, happy and comfortable with yourself and your body. I have a passion to help others achieve this goal and am available to provide one-on-one consultations for individualised nutrition and healthy lifestyle advice. I can also assist with a variety of health issues such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, gut health issues, iron deficiency, disordered eating, PCOS and more.

To book an appointment, see contact details & practice locations below (Available via appointments only)

1. Kuraby Wellness Centre  
10 Strathmore Street, Kuraby QLD  
Ph: 07 3219 9521
2. Mycare Health Professionals  
1/72 Brookes St, Bowen Hills QLD  
Ph: 07 3161 0767

### For other enquiries, please contact:

Mobile - 0406279591 or Email - [diversenutrition@gmail.com](mailto:diversenutrition@gmail.com)  
Follow me on my blog and social media:  
[www.diversenutrition.com.au](http://www.diversenutrition.com.au)

Facebook: Diverse Nutrition Instagram: fitria\_dttn



## ABC The Drum

The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) Vice-President and Spokesperson, Ali Kadri, continues to hold down his monthly spot on ABC's The Drum which provides an analysis of the day's news in an engaging and entertaining way.

The host is joined by a panel of journalists, political and social commentators for a lively, thought-provoking discussion. Ali provides an insight for the broader community when national issues unfold as to how they may be viewed by or impact on the Muslim community.

Ali's work continues to provide a valuable platform to keep the Muslim community visible, heard and better understood.



## Mosque Next Door

The Mosque Next Door continues to be a very popular program accessed through SBS on Demand since it went to air in 2017. This was a project embarked upon by Ali Kadri, the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) and SBS.

The television cameras were granted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week access to Holland Park Masjid over the period of 12 months. Having recently gone to air, the three-part series focuses on the challenges the Muslim community currently face in today's Australia while also showing that Muslim Australians are just as Australian as everyone else. By all reports the endeavour was a resounding success with ICQ and Ali personally receiving national and international feedback from Muslim and non-Muslim alike. For those who are yet to see the program which spans only three episodes, it is certainly time well spent.

# NATIONAL MUSLIM YOUTH SUMMIT



## National Muslim Youth Summit

The National Muslim Youth Summit 2018 was organised by the Islamic Sciences and Research Academy of Australia (ISRA). This fantastic one day summit was held in Sydney and the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) sent young leader, Nadia Saeed as a representative for our community. The summit intended to engage youth in many dynamic and robust discussions about social, socio-political and religious viewpoints.

Topics included speaking about leadership in our Muslim communities and learning how to empower and engage more youth to be a united voice. This provided participants the opportunity to meet like-minded young leaders from all over Australia & recognise that many of the issues we are facing in Brisbane are also issues all around the country.

Queensland representative Nadia Saeed stated "I would like to sincerely thank ICQ for sponsoring me to attend this event. I have gained so much from this experience and look forward to working with the council to provide similar opportunities for young leaders in Queensland."

## Muslim Prison Chaplaincy Program

For almost three years the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) has been lobbying the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Prison Chaplaincy Board to establish a Muslim Chaplaincy Program.

There are currently over 165 Muslim inmates incarcerated in Queensland prisons.

There have been over 200 unpaid visits to inmates in various prisons by unpaid volunteers to deliver this much needed service to brothers in need. ICQ in particular would like to recognise the contributions made by Hamza Robbie Mastracci, Waseem Hassoneh, Imam Akram and Imam Adul Raheem who through generously giving their time have provided support and instruction to the inmates.

ICQ is proud to announce a pilot program has recently been approved to provide ICQ chaplains full access to one prison at Wolston.

We look forward to kicking off this important initiative in the coming months.

## Halal Certification

The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) is continuing to build on its Halal Certification Services.

It is an important opportunity for ICQ to both provide a valuable community service as well as generate some revenue to support its community initiatives. Importantly, ICQ offers the only locally based Halal certification as a registered not-for-profit enterprise with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission so the only people that benefit from ICQ Halal Certification are the community. ICQ structures its Halal fees so that it only charges enough to cover the cost of delivering the service to the community and fund its community development initiatives.

In the new financial year the schedule of ICQ halal certified businesses will be available on the ICQ website so you can check to see if your favourite restaurant or supplier is certified.

If you are interested in halal certification or switching from your current privately-owned halal certifier, please get in touch with Hashem Houry on [halal@icq.net.au](mailto:halal@icq.net.au)

## Lobbying and Advocacy

The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) has remained very active in its efforts to lobby government and be a voice for the Muslim community.

ICQ Vice President Ali Kadri and Secretary Fahim Khondaker participated in a consultation session with the Department of Home Affairs and Border Force on proposed changes to the Citizenship Act. ICQ stands firmly against any changes to citizenship requirements including a so called "Values Test".

Mr Kadri and Mr Khondaker have also recently appeared before and provided evidence to the Committee for Religious Freedom set by the Federal Government.

ICQ has advocated for and supported other organisations advocating the plight of Rohingya Muslims and supports organisations advocating for the rights of Palestinians.



## Opportunities For Work Experience

The Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) consistently works with a number of organisations to provide opportunities for members of the Muslim Community in Queensland. We were pleased to be able to recently refer a wonderful candidate to Maurice Blackburn Lawyers for work experience.

Mrs. Hamid said "I had a wonderful time at Maurice Blackburn as a work experience student. They were very flexible with my hours, and allowed me to extend my two weeks work experience to five weeks. The staff were very kind and helpful and assisted me throughout the entire experience. I definitely learnt a lot and I am very thankful to ICQ for providing me with this wonderful opportunity."

