



Enquiries to: Melanie Nicholls
Manager
Disability and Multicultural
Health Unit
Telephone: 0415 714 040
File Ref: C-ECTF-20/11191

Queensland Health

Hj Habib Jamal
President
Islamic Council of Queensland
PO Box 2014
SUNNYBANK QLD 4109

Email: secretary@icq.org.au

Dear President Habib Jamal,

I am writing to you and Islamic Council of Queensland members regarding your decision to recommend mosques in South East Queensland cancel scheduled events to celebrate Eid Al-Adha this year to prevent the risk of community transmission of the Coronavirus (Covid 19).

I acknowledge the significance of this celebration for Muslim communities across Australia and know this will have been a difficult decision for the Council. It is my sincere hope that all Muslims will be supported by all mosques in South East Queensland to observe Eid salah prayers at home in the company of their families.

Following the announcement of new cases of COVID-19 in Queensland this week, it is essential the Queensland community do everything it can to maintain social distancing where possible. Unfortunately, this will disrupt the religious and cultural practices of many faith groups across Queensland. I would like to thank the Islamic Council of Queensland, the Council of Imams Queensland and the Islamic Medical Association of Queensland for your decision to cancel planned festivities and commend your efforts in supporting members of the Islamic community to contribute to Queensland's efforts to suppress the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Through the Queensland community's collective contribution, Queensland Health has reached the height of our testing to date, managed to maintain low numbers of cases despite other states' increases, and protect the welfare and wellbeing Queenslanders. Although the risk to Brisbane and in South East Queensland is currently low, losing our vigilance in relation to the virus could put us at a greater risk of increased cases and inevitably, reinstated restrictions and lockdowns.

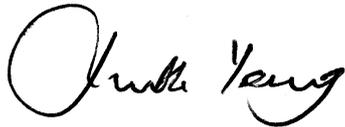
I would appreciate your continued support in encouraging members of Islamic communities to only participate in activities and events where social distancing can safely be maintained, for people to get tested if they feel unwell, and stay home and self-isolate until the results of the test are known.

I bring to your attention the public health alert I released yesterday which is available on the Queensland Health website at <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/news-events/doh-media-releases/releases/public-health-alert-three-new-covid-19-cases>

A range of resources about COVID-19 has been developed in 39 languages, including written and audio files. This information is available on the Queensland Government website at <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/support-and-resources/translated-resources#lang-English>. Your ongoing assistance in distributing these materials to Community Leaders and via your networks would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for your tireless work and quick responsiveness during these unprecedented times. If you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Mr Ross Alcorn, Director, Disability and Multicultural Health unit, Department of Health, on telephone 0408 696 492 or via email at Ross.Alcorn@health.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeannette Young'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'J' being particularly large and stylized.

Dr Jeannette Young PSM
Queensland Chief Health Officer
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Health
30 July 2020