



PRESS RELEASE

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The Muslim Council of
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**AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL
ISLAMIC ORGANISATION
REPRESENTING
MUSLIM COMMUNITIES**

**45 Years of Community
Services**

18 September 2009

Welcome Change to Citizenship Test

The President of Muslims Australia, Mr Ikebal Adam Patel welcomed the changes to the Citizenship test introduced by Senator Evans to make it fairer and more relevant to migrants of all backgrounds.

The previous citizenship test has raised serious concerns in the wider Australian community and the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils had raised these concerns, said the President, Mr Ikebal Adam 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 and which Muslims Australia supports.

The new citizenship test will ensure all migrants have a better understanding of their responsibilities and privileges and the best possible opportunity to become Australian citizens.

He confirmed that Muslims Australia does not oppose regulated immigration but was opposed to a test with biased questions targeting particular cultural or ethnic groups which went against the very values of Australia as a country of FAIR GO. This change will be appreciated by all and he congratulates Senator Evans and the Government for the vision and wisdom to be inclusive.

For further information, please contact:

MR. IKEBAL PATEL (CHAIRMAN) AT 0419 418 237.