

Muslim Community/QPS Consultative Group meeting

Wednesday 19 August 2015 1900hrs – Islamic College of Brisbane

Meeting Notes

Call to Order (Mr Sultan Deen Chair)

Opening Du'a by Imam Muhammad Ibrahim Shami

Apologies noted

Chair – Welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Janeth Deen for her achievements in community work

Introductions

Adoption of minutes – amendments made

Department of Immigration and Border Protection

Zoltan Swain –

Update on border clearance for Hajj Pilgrims

Grant Shaw -

Emphasised on the importance of early arrival at the airport in case there are any issues that might need addressing

Declaration of cash and foreign currency and any relevant declarations

Importance of readying the relevant documents and paperwork and if not sure to ask

Downloading of illegal (not all internet downloads are legal) content across borders is illegal and can cause people a lot of angst (all electronic devices)

Wael Al Abdulla -

Queried what would be the consequences if somebody received offensive material

Grant Shaw -

Advised not to take the device(s) across borders as it may cause problems, and that the onus is on the user/owner to prove otherwise. Also if the material is offensive it should be reported to the local police

If suspicious or in doubt it should be reported to the relevant authorities

Also any illegal/objectionable material or photos should be deleted

Fahim Khondaker -

Queried if the authorities go through the Meta-data if deleting of offensive materials was not enough

Grant Shaw -

Confirmed that to be the case if there was any suspicion

Fahim Khondaker -

Also queried as to how well trained are the Border Protection Officers and how much discretion are the officers are allowed

Grant Shaw -

All Officers are trained and that the training is ongoing and urged people to always be honest and that the discretion depends on the individual officer

Also appealed to the community to be patient as officers have been trained specifically for different issues eg drugs squad

Ali Kadri -

Asked for special considerations for Muslims travelling to Mecca for the purpose of fulfilling their religious obligations especially during the month of Hajj and offered to provide some training to the officers

Community report:

ICQ - report

Ali Kadri -

Stated that the Eid Celebrations went well with a record number of participants

Ali thanked the Deen family for providing lunch and Ismail Cajee and the volunteers for controlling and directing traffic

Also thanked QPS for support and service they provided

Ismail Cajee –

Stated that the application for chaplaincy for prisons has been put forward to have a qualified Imam especially for Friday prayers and Qur’ans (Koran) with English translation (version)

Thanked Sultana Deen for her efforts in acquiring Cemetery space in Beenleigh and will be meeting with the Logan City council soon

ICB will have a Qld majority members of the Board and only 2 members from NSW

EidFest event has been taken over by ICQ, however the name has not been acquired yet and will work with the community for a suitable name

Also mentioned that ICQ has successfully partnered with QPS to provide training to police officers and have received positive feedback

Ali Kadri –

Stated that protests against mosques have been organised by right wing groups across the country on the 10th Oct 2015

Asked for reassurance from QPS for the community

Darryl Johnson –

Stated that at the moment the protests appear to be Melbourne centric and will liaise with the local police, mosques and the community of any new developments

A/C Peter Martin –

Assured the community that QPS will be on top of this and will advise the community as needed and that community safety is QPS number 1 priority

Sultana Deen –

Asked the ICQ to be aware especially of the regional small mosques to be made aware of the issues

Ali Kadri –

Stated that ICQ will pass on the information to all the Mosques and that it is important and more appropriate for the government to speak out and condemn these groups and such actions and also commended the work QPS does in this regard

Fahim Khondaker –

Asked if the community needed to do anything or what appropriate action the community should take

AC Peter Martin –

Advised the community to leave it with the authorities and the community will be informed accordingly

Also the intelligence will develop appropriate strategies to deal with these issues and also irrespective of where the Mosques are located in Qld, QPS will provide security as required to all in the community

Fenti Forsyth –

Asked the police to inform the Indonesian community as they need to inform the Consular General especially as there are so many Indonesian students

Ali Kadri –

Mentioned that there will be an information session at ICB re rights and responsibilities on the 30th August 2015

Zoltan Swain –

Mentioned that should there be any issues with international students re discrimination or harassment because of their religion they should contact immigration

ICB report

Dr Ray Barrett –

Mentioned about the newspaper article - **See attachment**

Fahim Khondaker –

Mentioned the 'Walk Together' as a national event promoting a culture of Welcome and social cohesion.

Saturday 31st October from 1pm to 3pm walk across Kurilpa Bridge next to Gallery of Modern Arts to 415 George St courtyard outside Law courts

Have gone through the regular channels of Police and Council to have the walk approved

A/C Peter Martin –

QPS are very happy to support events such as this, and we can take the request offline and put it through our normal approval process and advise you of the outcome and how we can facilitate that.

ADCQ

Deputy Commissioner Neroli Holmes -

Stated that ADCQ was working closely with QPS to strengthen the vilification provisions and anti-discrimination act and are keeping a close watch on the internet

All commissioners across the country are encouraging Facebook to be aware of Australian Law

AFP

Shane Johnson –

Friday 21st August 2015 a pro-Kurdish group was holding a march in the city and if there are any concerns then AFP/QPS should be contacted

Apologised to those who were not invited to the dinner that the AFP organised. The dinner was supposed to be for the youth only and had 1 representative from each government department and hoped that next year there will be more funding for a larger event

Wael Al Abdulla –

Iraqi event at Svoboda Park was attended by QPS and PLOs, and was successful without any issues. Thanked South Brisbane District for their ongoing support.

QPS report

Det. Supt Darryl Johnson –

QPS Officers were currently undertaking training with the help of ICQ and that the sessions are going very well

The training is about engagement with the community, prevention and early intervention for persons who are going down the wrong path

Supt Johnson also thanked ICQ for their support

John Fox

Attended conferences and Iftaar dinners

Mentioned that the training for QPS officers re Islam/Muslim community has been excellent

David Forde

Mentioned that meetings are currently being held with different communities by MAQ in regards to policing issues

Visited Rockhampton and that there are some issues with right wing extremist groups against the Muslim community and targeting of Mosques

Janeth Deen –

Reminded and invited everyone to the Abrahamic Faiths Concert to be held at the Griffith University Centre for Interfaith and Cultural Dialog on the 27th August 2015

Sgt Bellos –

Commended the United Muslim Brothers (UMB) for engaging QPS whenever they are having events especially Eid Celebrations and also commended Mahmoud Naaman for being proactive in engaging local police

Jamal Rifi –

Queried if a person had their passport confiscated by authorities how would they go about getting the passport returned or a new one issued

Kemal Begic –

Mentioned that the Bosnian Islamic Centre is opening a restaurant at the Eight Mile Plains Mosque and all welcome.

Fenti Forsyth –

Commended John Paul College for showing respect to the Muslim students in allowing them to go for Friday prayers and that they were a good example to the community

Next Meeting: TBC