



PRESS RELEASE

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**AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL
ISLAMIC ORGANISATION
REPRESENTING
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**45 Years of Community
Services**

28 December 2007

PASSING OF BENAZIR BHUTTO

The President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Ikebal Patel today expressed deep sadness of the Muslims of Australia at the passing of Ms Benazir Bhutto, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan and the first female Prime Minister in the Muslim world and popular opposition leader of Pakistan.

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils is saddened with the ongoing cycle of violence in Pakistan, President Ikebal Patel commented. Violence is not a means of solving political differences.

At the end of the day the will of the people through the democratic process will be needed to solve the present crises in Pakistan.

Mr Patel further stated that whilst the people of Pakistan are going through a very testing and trying period, the Australian Muslims hope and pray that dialogue, patience and tolerance of all views will be the winner in achieving an amicable and long lasting solution.

"It is also hoped that during these difficult times for the people of Pakistan, the entire world community will provide the country with support and not take advantage of the present turmoil for their own vested interests." Mr Patel urged.

For further information, please contact:

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