

Ms Loretta Ryan and Mr Ian Skippen
4BC Breakfast

20 October 2014

Dear Loretta and Ian

The members and representatives of our long-standing Muslim organizations and societies of Queensland would like to sincerely thank you and the 4BC management team for broadcasting your Breakfast Show on Monday 13 October from the Kuraby Mosque, and for giving your listeners a first-hand account of the activities that take place at a Mosque as well as allowing members of our community to clear a number of misconceptions and to share their side of the story over the air.

Over the last few months our community has felt besieged and under attack and made to feel responsible for the actions of a few. By all fair-minded accounts, your program certainly did much to clear the air and dispel the many myths and confusions surrounding the religious practices of Muslims and the events of the past few months.

We understand that you, Loretta, have faced some vicious and very personal criticisms for donning a scarf during your entry into the prayer area of the Mosque. Although this was not a requirement on you, we are humbled by the fact that you chose to respect this practice, as one would at any similar place of worship. Whilst in no way undermining the disappointment and sadness we feel for the criticism you have encountered for this gesture of respect, we would like to mention that the women in our community face similar reactions far too frequently.

However, it is only through fair, open and unbiased programmes like yours that ordinary Queenslanders can be given a voice to provide an alternative narrative to the ones that invariably make the sensationalized headlines.

We once again commend and thank you and the 4BC team for leading the way in open-minded and impartial journalism and we look forward to our continued involvement and engagement with your radio station.

Sincerely

Aafiya
Australian Muslim Times
Brisbane Islamic Centre
Crescents Community News (CCN)
Crescents of Brisbane
FAMSY QLD
Griffith Islamic Research Unit

Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ)
Islamic Educational Trust of Queensland
Islamic Medical Association of QLD
Islamic Shia Council of Qld
Islamic Society of Gold Coast (Gold Coast Mosque)
Islamic Society of Holland Park (Holland Park Mosque)
Islamic Society of Ipswich (Ipswich Mosque)
Islamic Society of Toowoomba (Garden City Mosque)
Kuraby Mosque (Masjid Al-Farooq)
Muslim Aid Australia QLD
Muslim Business Network
Muslim Charitable Foundation
Muslim Funeral Services
National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies
Pakistan Australian Cultural Association
Qld Eidfest Assoc Inc
Queensland Education & Cultural Foundation
Queensland Muslim Welfare Association
Queensland Muslims
Queensland Muslims Historical Society
Slacks Creek Mosque
Wisdom College