



Media Statement

4 April 2016

Muslims Australia disappointed in Education Minister's running commentary and politicised decision-making

"Today, we were shocked to see a media statement from federal education minister the Hon. Simon Birmingham updating his running commentary on the internal review of Malek Fahd Islamic School Limited. His media statement came almost at the same time as we received the notice of decision." Said Mr. Kassem, President of Muslims Australia – AFIC and former chairman of the board of Malek Fahd Islamic School Limited.

"Such running commentary by the honourable minister should be of concern to all Australians as it casts doubt over the independence of the administrative decision making process. Prior to applying for internal review, Muslims Australia relinquished any control over Malek Fahd Islamic School Limited (MFISL) and set a process in place to ensure that MFISL fully complies with all the Department of Education requirements. The old board resigned and a new interim board took over to oversee the independent selection of properly qualified board members and the independent governance of the school. All the processes were put in place to ensure compliance with every minute detail of the minister's requirements. The Minister's decision beggars belief." Said Mr. Kassem.

"I am very disappointed in this decision, I know that my community will do what it can, including but not limited to legal support, to rescue the school." Said Keysar Trad, newly elected Muslims Australia Treasurer.

Authorised: Hafez Kassem, President

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