

Minutes, Police, Muslim Community Meeting Monday 24 October 2016  
Islamic College of Brisbane

Item	Discussion	Person	Action
1. 7:15pm	<p><b>Open welcome and opening Prayer</b> Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and custodians past and present Acknowledgment of Dr Tim Soutphommasane – Australia’s Race Discrimination Commissioner Acknowledgment of ICB and the ongoing support</p>	<p>Sultan Deen – Chair  Du’a - Hamza Shale</p>	
2.	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Bill Graham, Zoltan Swain, Neroli Holmes AC Paul Stewart, Supt. Tucker  <b>Attendees:</b> See attendance sheets</p>		
3.	<p><b>Adoptions of Minutes</b> Minutes/summary of meeting - accepted</p>		
3.1	<p><b>Introduction and Welcome</b></p>	Commissioner Stewart	
	<p><b>Guest presenter</b> Acknowledge the community in action e.g. ‘Walk Together for Refugees in most capital cities. The strength of the community coming together to support refugees. Note that diversity is being celebrated by the broad community however the ongoing politicisation of the issues means it is a fight that is not yet won. The National debate creates new challenges. Discrimination in proposed policies means the ‘fight’ for equality and Respect will be ongoing. We must ensure that those values which are incompatible with our own liberal democracy are recognised for what they are. Tolerance towards the views of others is what our democracy is built upon however we cannot let those views override core values. The vast majority acknowledge the strength of diversity and the benefits it brings Free speech remains a cornerstone of our democracy Section 18C of the Act is important, the attempt to repeal it was defeated but ‘it is not over’. Free speech must be aligned with responsibilities. Laws need to limit our capacity to defame others of use offensive language. People must also be held to account. Racial slurs/discrimination is/are different to disagreements e.g. over the best football team. We must all enjoy freedom from vilification and retain free speech. Unequal power in society is an ongoing challenge Communities and groups are places for people’s voices and concerns to be put to a wider audience. Trust between police and agencies and communities can be enhanced through forums such as this. Conversations with colleagues, friends and like</p>	<p>Dr Tim Soutphommasane – Australia’s Race Discrimination Commissioner</p>	

	<p>minded people etc are part of demonstrating the ‘solidarity’ in purpose.</p> <p>Targeted work is planned to hear from communities and groups especially youth regarding experiences – What works, What does not and Ways forward in this ‘space’.</p>		
	<p><b>Questions/comments</b></p> <p>Ray Deen  Discrimination continues in some areas e.g. Prisoners in jail cannot get proper religious support form Imams. Unlike most other Chaplains, some are not allowed in to provide this support to community members.</p> <p>There are still some persistent food issues and an understanding of ‘prayer’ and timings/space for this. It is often difficult for Imams to get in to visit</p> <p>The community understands that vetting is important to minimise the risk of radicalisation however if the ‘right’ imams were provided access that would minimise the risks of self appointed leaders from within preaching the wrong messages.</p> <p>There also appears to be an issue with identification, e.g. the Mufti who went to a jail in NSW to see 10 prisoners and found that the jail contained 150. Because of a range of factors, a lot of people don’t want to register their faith – that is an issue in itself. Also Women prisoners – who is looking after them?</p> <p>David Forde  Re Chaplaincy in Qld – some high level representation is being made to change the largely ‘Christian based’ focus.</p> <p>Response – Dr Tim Soutphommasane  My jurisdiction is Federal, however I will look into the issues you have raised.</p>		<p>Response from Dr Soutphommasane re issues raised re prisoners.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Standing Items</b>		
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>ICQ update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condolences to family of A/c Supt Ziebarth and the QPS.</li> <li>• AGM next month</li> <li>• On behalf of the Chair – I thank those organisations who have assisted and worked with ICQ throughout the year</li> <li>• Introduce ICQ youth – this is a way of supporting the emerging leaders to the fore and teaching them how our – and other – organisations do business.</li> <li>• Treasurer report provided and PPT to be forwarded to those requesting copy.</li> <li>• The halfway house on Compton Rd is to deal with homelessness and related issues</li> <li>• ICQ representatives have been interviewed by high profile media of late including Lateline, The Drum and The Project. The hallmark of</li> </ul>	<p>Ali Kadri</p> <p>Fahim Khondaker</p>	

	<p>these interviews is that the ICQ has maintained a consistent message.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has also been some work with the Courier Mail- again with the consistent message.</li> <li>• The ‘Walk Together’ event last weekend provided an opportunity for one of the young leaders to take charge and did an admirable job.</li> <li>• Eid, as always was a success.</li> <li>• Community engagement projects are progressing well and community specific projects such as the one to assist/support the Rohingya community are showing good/positive signs.</li> <li>• The work with/through other agencies including MDA with sports and social events is positive as is the work with/through the PCYCs.</li> <li>• The project ‘the Deep Blue Line’ in partnership with the QPS is also working well.</li> <li>• ICQ advocacy in Prisons, with DV and through Mosque Open Days, as well as some environmental programs are also progressing.</li> <li>• Mentoring program is also progressing with mentors looking to make the biggest impact on their mentees.</li> <li>• ICQ also acknowledges the groundwork of the elders and others who have been working for the past 20-30 years towards where we are now.</li> </ul> <p><b>Q – can the public come to the ICQ AGM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a public session before the AGM and then the formal meeting will be members only.</li> </ul>		
4.2	<p><b>ADCQ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference to the question earlier re women’s support in prison. There is a report from 10 years ago and we will revisit that to see what learning we might glean from that.</li> <li>• ADCQ is looking to implement strategies under the Whole of Gov. Multicultural Action planning processes.</li> <li>• ADCQ is working with the Commonwealth (Dr Tim Soutphommasane) towards common ideals and goals – this is ongoing.</li> <li>• We both recognise that a lot of our consultation is with the ‘converted’ and we are looking to consult more broadly to those who may see things a little differently.</li> </ul>	Kevin Cox	

<p><b>4.25</b></p>	<p><b>Graham Perrett</b>  Politics is a ‘different occupation’ the many agendas in the current crop of politicians are moving the debates in many different directions.  We must all guard against ‘populist policies and politicians as they will come and go, but can do immeasurable damage in the interim. Thankfully the ‘middle path’, sense and sound ideas will normally prevail in the longer term.</p>		
<p><b>4.3</b></p>	<p><b>QPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QPS remains supportive of many events including the Refugee walk and Syrian support/protest action on last weekend, Mosque open days and events such as the Iraqi community gathering (amongst others).</li> <li>• No major incidents to report and note events interstate and overseas may have an impact on community members.</li> <li>• Two community relations officer appointments will be made shortly</li> <li>• Seeking input from the community re minor vilification incidents, through Cultural support Unit or PLOs. QPS is looking to ensure we deal with these matters appropriately and any feedback, good or bad, is welcome  Q – has the school had any incidents that might fit this category  A- none reported.</li> <li>• QPS remains open to comments or questions as the need for ongoing dialogue is crucial to ongoing success in Queensland</li> </ul>		<p>Community to report on matters of minor vilification and feedback on QPS response to CSU or through PLOs.</p>
<p><b>4.4</b></p>	<p><b>AFP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• brief discussion regarding recent court outcomes regarding people assisting people to travel to Syria and how to support people without breaking the Australian laws.</li> <li>• It is not illegal to provide funds to family or registered charities however it is an offence to provide funds to fighters.</li> <li>• People were encouraged to discuss specific issues with AFP representative.</li> </ul> <p>Q – With arrests of individuals 3 years ago – why does prosecution take so long?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the specific incident referred to the brief was provided in 2015 however the proceedings can be more complex than you might think.</li> <li>• There are a small number of others in similar situations and unfortunately the process may still take some time.</li> <li>• Chair – As a community we have to maintain a mix of compassion and support for people. Muslim Chaplains are supporting people</li> </ul>		

	<p>through these matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is apparent that these issues have in fact strengthened the partnerships between stakeholders. This increased community engagement and support is set to continue.</li> </ul>		
4.5	<p><b>Other</b>  Incidents in Cairns recently (over weekend) involving an Afghani person. Taken on notice  <b>Outcome:-</b> original incident was noted as a public nuisance as it was part of a pattern of behaviour by offenders and not directly targeted at Afghani person. Follow up with Cairns to reinterview victim to see if assault did occur and investigate racial element as necessary (Cultural Support Unit and Cairns CCLU). Also advice re QPS support for Cairns Mosque Open day.  A – QPS will definitely be in attendance and the partnership with the Mosques around the State remains strong.</p> <p>Wael Al- Abdulla of the Iraqi Unity Association will provide details of upcoming Iraqi events There are a number of functions upcoming. Members will be notified by email.</p>	Yasmin Khan	Action by CSU and Cairns CCLU and provide feedback at next meeting
	<p>Chair acknowledged Dr Tim Soutphommasane and his contribution as well as other reps  Close 9.00pm</p>		
	<p>Next meeting TBA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>		