



# Newsletter 2017

## ICQ President's Message

It has been another busy year for the Islamic Council of Queensland. In 2017, ICQ has worked to deliver significant community benefit through our continued advocacy to government and law enforcement agencies on behalf of Muslims both in Australia as well as overseas. We have worked to develop youth specific programs to provide our young people with the opportunity to overcome challenges related to personal circumstance. We have worked with like-minded community organisations to build sustainable, social inclusion outcomes for those who are a recent arrivals to Australia or those who are at risk of prolonged disengagement. We have once again undertaken initiatives to showcase the best of the Muslim community. This newsletter provides a brief outline to some of the work which has been done over the last twelve months to share with you some of the success stories for the community.



  
**Ismail Cajee**  
*President*  
Islamic Council of QLD

## ICQ Executive Committee.



**Ali Kadri**  
*Vice President*



**Fahim Khondaker**



**Nasser Al Cheikh**



**Amar Ali Khan**



**Imran Mateen**



**Saba Ahammad**



**Asim Hodzic**



**Junaid Qadri**



**Tanveer Ahmed**

## ICQ Member Mosques & Community Organisations.

Algester Mosque  
Al-Mustapha Institutue  
Cairns Mosque  
Darra Mosque  
Gladstone Musallah  
Gold Coast Mosque  
Holland Park Mosque  
IPDC Qld/Slacks Creek

Mosque  
Ipswich Mosque  
Islamic Women's Association of Aus  
Kuraby Mosque  
Logan Mosque  
Mackay Mosque  
Mareeba Mosque  
Moorooka Mosque

Muslim Business Network  
Muslim Charitable Fund  
Rochedale Mosque  
Rockhampton Mosque  
Toowoomba Mosque  
Townsville Mosque  
West End Mosque



# Brighter Future Collective / Youth Initiatives

## Youth/BFC

The Islamic Council of Queensland have set up the Brighter Future Collective to deliver in collaboration with other national providers on the Youth Transition Support Pilot Program. This is an initiative funded out of the federal Department of Social Services to develop and deliver innovative engagement initiatives for young people of migrant and refugee background. ICQ/BFC have been tasked with delivering outcomes to 460 young people over the pilot to date across the pillars of sports/cultural engagement, education, training and employment. The pilot is currently scheduled to run until 30 June 2018.



## Youth Connect QLD

ICQ and the Brighter Future Collective have supported and partnered with Youth Connect QLD to help establish itself to provide a positive mentoring environment for young people across the community. The focus is on exposure to organised sport, study and career support and to provide leadership development opportunities for young people.



ICQ and BFC have sponsored Youth Connect QLD in their inaugural year providing both financial support through the Youth Transition Support Pilot Program funding as well as providing the location for Youth Connect to base itself at the ICQ leased facility, Oates Park, Oates Avenue, Woodridge. Should you have any questions or have any suggestions regarding potential youth initiatives please contact Abdul Khan at [secretary@youthconnectqld.org.au](mailto:secretary@youthconnectqld.org.au) or 0413 669 987



## Learn to Drive

This year, the Islamic Council of Queensland, with the support of Gear-Up Driving School, launched a subsidised driving program for our community. The program provides affordable packages for driving lessons to support recently arrived Refugee and Migrants as well as people suffering from financial hardships.

To date, fifty-five participants of the program have successfully completed 5 driving lessons and significantly improved their ability to drive. Twenty-two of these participants were referred by ICQ's member organisation, the Islamic Women's Association of Australia (IWAA).

A representative from IWAA stated: "We are very pleased with this program and are so grateful that our clients were given this opportunity to learn to drive. Something all of them would not have been able to achieve without this program."





## Logan Roos Football Academy

Logan Roos Football Academy is a soccer club established by Youth Connect QLD and sponsored by the Islamic Council of QLD to initially provide a safe and welcoming environment for members across the various local communities to engage in organised, competitive soccer. In its first season, the Logan Roos entered a Senior Men's team into the South East Queensland Football League Division 2 competition and the team took out the Premiership winning the Grand Final 2-1. In 2018, Senior Men's A Grade, Senior Men's Reserve Grade, U'16 Boys and a Senior Women's teams are looking to be entered into the Football Brisbane Capital 3 and South East Queensland Football Leagues.

ICQ sponsorship provides Oates Park, Woodridge to base the Logan Roos, it provides financial support through Brighter Future Collective and YTS for uniforms, equipment and to keep registration fees for players low. If you would like to participate as a player, supporter or sponsor, please contact Head Coach Abdul Khan at [secretary@youthconnectqld.org.au](mailto:secretary@youthconnectqld.org.au) or 0413 669 987.

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## Learn to Swim

The Islamic Council of Queensland, with the assistance of Sisters Support Services, has successfully conducted a Six-Week swimming program for ladies suffering from financial hardship and/or of Refugee-Migrant backgrounds. This very successful program provided the community with a private facility and a female instructor at an affordable price.

ICQ Program's Co-ordinator, Dina Ghaznavi said: "For the last six weeks I have had the privilege of assisting 36 amazing women in learning to swim. Every single attendee gave the program their absolute best. While most were afraid of entering the water on their first day, I can confidently say that every single person will now be able to save their lives and the lives of their loved ones if ever there is a need."

Please contact Dina at [dina@brighterfuturecollective.com](mailto:dina@brighterfuturecollective.com) if you are interested in participating in future swimming programs.





## Youth Camp - Girls

On the weekend of the 21st of July, 40 girls went on a Youth Camp, an initiative of the Islamic Council of Queensland, supported by Islamic Relief Australia. The camp was aimed at enabling young women in the Muslim community to build a strong support network for one another. The camp was held at Binna Burra Mountain Lodge where many camp attendees tried activities like flying fox, abseiling and high-ropes for the first time. The girls partook in a variety of such activities during the day and in the evenings collecting around a campfire to discuss important topics chosen by the group. A survey conducted at the end of the camp identified Islamophobia, Domestic Violence and Mental Health as the most useful topics of discussion.

Community Liaison officer for the Australian Federal Police, Amna Karra-Hassan, was invited to share her experiences. Her talk was deeply motivational as she firmly discussed the importance of being confident with one's identity and succeeding in every aspect of life, whilst never having to compromise one's religion. The camp experience concluded with Imam Uzair's "Ask An Imam" segment, wherein Imam Uzair visited the camp site to answer anonymous questions accumulated by the group over the weekend. This segment was widely acknowledged by attendees as the highlight, as well as a perfect conclusion to the camp.



**WELCOMES YOU**  
to join Imam Akram Buksh

# FREE Youth Camp

**Friday 12th, 13th and 14th of May 2017**

Ages: 15 to 35 years    Venue: Bornhoffen PCYC

**MANY EXCITING ACTIVITIES:**  
Sports, Soccer, Swimming, volleyball, tug of war, cricket, Basketball, bond fire and much more.

Bus leaves Slacks Creek masjid FRI 12th May 4:30pm  
Bus will drop participant back to Slacks Creek Masjid Sun 14th of May at 3pm

In-depth workshop discussions on current issues.  
You will only need to bring your own sleeping bags and pillows

**100% FREE LIMITED SPACES**

To book your spot contact:  
Mualim Abdullah Khan 0413 669 987  
or Imam Akram Buksh 0431 201 164



## Youth Camp - Boys

An ICQ led initiative, in collaboration with Youth Connect QLD, was a leadership and personal development camp for boys at Bornhoffen PCYC Leadership Centre in the Gold Coast hinterland with 120 boys in attendance. Workshops were delivered where the boys could take advice and discuss Implications of listening to unqualified leaders online, Islam's view on unlawful violence, negative impact of participating in overseas conflicts, importance of analysing and questioning sources of online material, using the democratic process to air grievances & influence change, the negative impact of drugs and alcohol and the importance of respect for family & being grateful.

A further special workshop was delivered on perseverance and overcoming adversity by Australian UFC mixed martial artist Brendan O'Reilly



## Women's Self Defence

In November 2017, The Islamic Council of Queensland, with the support of Southside Academy of Combat, began a free 12-week Self Defence program for 20 female participants. Southside Academy provides a safe and private place to teach a holistic system of self-defence, that is simple in application and maintains effectiveness. Female instructor, Cherie Dowley, is a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu purple belt and a former Australian Champions Cup gold medalist.

Maliha Meya, a young participant said: "As a hijabi and a student, it becomes difficult to be able to afford private gyms such as Fernwood to exercise. Three classes a week for twelve weeks has really motivated me to focus on my health. Cherie is amazing and the Self Defence skills I have learnt so far is just a bonus!"

Register your interest for self defence with [dina@brighterfuturecollective.com](mailto:dina@brighterfuturecollective.com).



**Islamic Council of QUEENSLAND**

### WOMEN'S SELF DEFENCE CLASSES

**12 WEEK CHALLENGE**  
Mondays 7PM      Wednesdays 6PM      Fridays 7AM  
Starting Monday 6th November  
**FREE**  
AGE: 15 - 25 years

Location: **Southside Academy of Combat** @ 3261 Logan Rd, Underwood  
Sign up: [dina@brighterfuturecollective.com](mailto:dina@brighterfuturecollective.com)

Southside Academy offers training techniques that adhere to the natural movement of the human body, resulting in a holistic system of self-defence that is simple in application and maintains effectiveness.  
[www.sscombat.com.au](http://www.sscombat.com.au)

<https://icq.net.au>      **BRIGHTER FUTURE Collective**      [info@icq.net.au](mailto:info@icq.net.au)

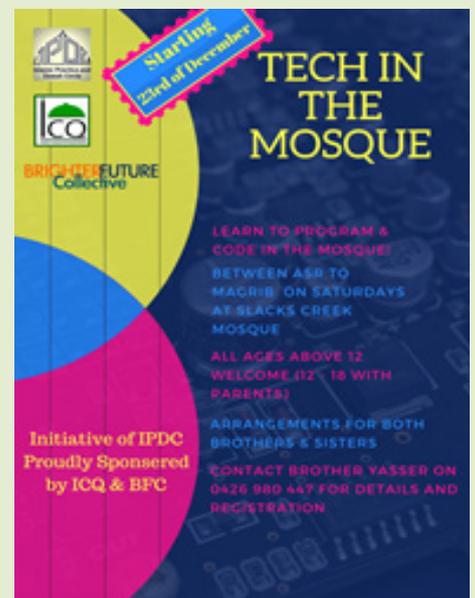
## Partnerships to deliver jobs for community - Diversity Skills Training and Max Solutions

ICQ has built great working partnerships with two training and employment organisations over the last twelve months. Diversity Skills Training and Max Solutions have both been very generous with their time and resources to help members of the community become "job ready" and map out a pathway to meaningful employment. If you or anyone you know are interested in finding work or completing Certificate 3, 4 or Diploma level qualifications please contact Dina at [dina@brighterfuturecollective.com](mailto:dina@brighterfuturecollective.com) to discuss your options.



## Tech in the Mosque

This is a very exciting initiative being delivered in partnership with Islamic Practice and Dawah Circle which is looking to provide the foundation skills and instil a curiosity in our young people for one of the industries of the future. Tech in the Mosque will look to teach the fundamentals of coding and robotics to allow students to pursue formal qualifications should they display a particular talent or interest. Coding, robotics and intelligence augmentation have been identified as high demand, high paying jobs for the next 20 years. This presents a unique opportunity for many new Australians in the community who are bilingual as they are far more likely to pick up the language of coding quickly. If you are interested in attending or enrolling your child, please contact Br Yasser at 0426 980 447 for more information.



**Starting 23rd of December**

## TECH IN THE MOSQUE

LEARN TO PROGRAM & CODE IN THE MOSQUE  
BETWEEN ASR TO MACRIB ON SATURDAYS AT SLACKS CREEK MOSQUE  
ALL AGES ABOVE 12 WELCOME (12-18 WITH PARENTS)  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR BOTH BROTHERS & SISTERS  
CONTACT BROTHER YASSER ON 0426 980 447 FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION

Initiative of IPDC Proudly Sponsored by ICQ & BFC

# ICQ initiatives



## Mosque Next Door

The Mosque Next Door was a project embarked upon by Ali Kadri, ICQ and SBS. The television cameras were granted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week access to Holland Park Masjid over the period of 12 months. Having recently gone to air, the three-part series focuses on the challenges the Muslim community currently face in today's Australia while also showing that Muslim Australians are just as Australian as everyone else. By all reports the endeavour was a resounding success with ICQ and Ali personally receiving national and international feedback from Muslim and non-Muslim alike.

Perhaps it was best said by "Sarah" when she posted: The Mosque Next Door is one of the most open, real and eye opening shows I've ever seen.

Like everyone I had assumptions, things/facts I thought I knew - not negative, but misconceptions. While I can see differences, the most striking things I see are the similarities.

I would like to say thank you to all of these who participated, like Ali Kadri, for their openness and bravery. Sadly their participation, like their religion, will make them a target for some people.

If you get the opportunity please watch the series. On SBS every Wednesday and last episodes through the SBS website.

If you missed the series you can still view all three parts online at:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/programs/mosquenextdoor>

## ABC - The Drum

ICQ Vice-President and Spokesperson, Ali Kadri continues to hold down his monthly spot on ABC's The Drum which provides an analysis of the day's news in an engaging and entertaining way. The host is joined by a panel of journalists, political and social commentators for a lively, thought-provoking discussion. Ali provides an insight for the broader community when national issues unfold as to how they may be viewed by or impact on the Muslim community. Ali's work continues to provide a valuable platform to keep the Muslim community visible, heard and better understood.



## Halal certification

Halal certification continues to be an important opportunity for ICQ to both provide a valuable community service as well as generate some revenue to support its community initiatives. Importantly, ICQ offers the only locally based Halal certification as a registered not-for-profit enterprise with the ACNC. ICQ also submits its financials to be independently audited every year so you can be confident if you choose to certify through ICQ the money is being put back into the community. In the new year the register of ICQ certified business will be functioning on the ICQ website so you can check to see if your favourite restaurant or supplier is certified. If you are interested in halal certification or switching from your current privately-owned halal certifier, please get in touch with Hashem Houry on [halal@icq.net.au](mailto:halal@icq.net.au).

## QLD Community Alliance

The Queensland Community Alliance (QCA) is an alliance of the biggest faith groups coming together with charities, unions, community organisations and ethnic associations who work together for the common good. This Alliance is based around the personal relationships built across organisations in our local area. The Islamic Council of Queensland became a member of the Alliance in November 2017.

QCA along with its many members, decide on priorities for action together, through a process of listening to stories of pressures that our members face and witness. QCA identifies and trains people to become leaders in community organising. Recently, Dina Ghaznavi of ICQ, partook in a 6-day training experience with the Alliance. She said "Community organising is about bringing people together, so that they are powerful enough to create the change they want to see. I spent the most part of my week with 14 amazing leaders from community organisations all over Brisbane. I can't wait to work with them to create changes in so many of our shared concerns."



## Mosque Open Day

On Sunday 3rd December, following on from the success of the SBS series, The Mosque Next Door, the Holland Park Mosque, with the support of the Islamic Council of Queensland, opened it's doors to welcome the Australian public. With over two hundred non-Muslim attendees, the BBQ Open day was a great success. Imam Uzair Akbar and Br. Ali Kadri answered a wide range of questions relating to Islam and Muslims.

Free henna art, Arabic calligraphy, hijab tutorials and face-painting for kids were some of the few activities prepared by generous volunteers from the Holland Park Mosque community. Volunteers also worked tirelessly preparing a delicious BBQ against the 34-degree heat of the day. Pleading feedback at the end of the day ensured the hard work was worth it. Attendees who travelled from as far as Dalby and Sunshine Coast expressed gratitude and positive experiences on social media.

Andrea Wildin said:

"Thank you! Our family enjoyed the event. We learned a lot and we can now correct others when they have been misinformed with some things. We especially appreciated being able to ask any question we wanted to and these beautiful people being very open to answering. Oh and the cupcakes!"

Ali Kadri, posted:

"(In the) first one we did around 5 years ago we were struggling to get Muslims to participate but the support from the community has been overwhelming. It seems to me that the vision we set to bring people together is catching on and I am confident that we will win over the hatred and division at least in Queensland if not globally."

For more information on upcoming events, like the 'Islamic Council of Queensland' and 'Holland Park Mosque' Facebook pages.

Additionally, SMS your name and email to 0437 569 960 and receive updates on community events.



## Oates Park Lease

In April of 2017, ICQ entered into a competitive tendering process and was successful in obtaining a 3 year lease for Oates Park, Oates Avenue, Woodridge QLD 4114. The facility hosts a full size, fully lit soccer pitch including a clubhouse and canteen. The facility is currently being made available to Youth Connect QLD, the Logan Roos Football Academy and Sisters Support Services for their community initiatives. Should you wish to make use of this facility, please contact Abdul Khan at [secretary@youthconnectqld.org.au](mailto:secretary@youthconnectqld.org.au) or on 0413 669 987 register your interest and discuss availability.



## Changes to constitution/ new members

At the 2017 AGM changes were adopted to the constitution to increase the accessibility of ICQ to non-mosque members. So if you are a mosque or a community organisation looking to work more closely with the Islamic Council of QLD please email: [info@icq.net.au](mailto:info@icq.net.au).



## Eid Down Under

Eid Down Under once again had a great year in 2017. Over 10,000 attendees came to celebrate, and this year was arguably the best yet due to the improved layout. Rides, food and entertainment were in abundance as the Brisbane Muslim Community along with the non-Muslim community celebrated the conclusion of Ramadan. ICQ looks forward to delivering this showcase event on the Brisbane festival calendar for many years to come. If you have an interest in hosting a stall at next years festival, please contact ICQ on [info@icq.net.au](mailto:info@icq.net.au).

## ICQ Community Forum

On the 20th and 21st of May, the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) conducted a community forum where the Muslim community of Brisbane, as well as representatives from regional towns, were welcomed in a far-reaching consultation to discuss pertinent issues related to the Muslim community. These conversations centred on creating a positive Muslim identity in Australia, and provided an outlet for the community to voice any concerns, issues or topics of discussion that are relevant to the current climate and perception of the overall Muslim community. Discussions mainly focused on the positives and negatives related to how our community organisations operate.

In a broad overview, attendees expressed satisfaction at the level and pace of work involving humanitarian, community, and social work. Fundraising, funeral services and religious education were listed as services provided well by local Muslim organisations.

Attendees identified many serious concerns with the methods of operation used by community representative organisations at local and federal levels. Major structural and management issues were noted. The issues of Islamophobia and extremism were discussed. Racism, internal and external, was also brought up. Problems with attaining jobs as a consequence of islamophobia, and the alienation and stigmatisation of community members was conversed. The need for high-quality media management in combating negative perceptions of Islam was also identified.

Ultimately, concerns centred around the need for community organisations that are effective, representative and responsive – that promote unity, competency and prioritise important needs and issues. Building the service and delivery capacities of our community, especially through peak representative bodies such as ICQ ensure that the Muslim community is empowered to deal not only with its own issues, but also to counteract narratives of extremists who may try to use the fear and frustrations of Muslims for extremely negative ends. A mature, inter-connected and dynamic community setup is the best way to tackle all these issues.

# 2018

## Focus for next year and upcoming events

ICQ will continue to work to advocate for the broader Muslim community and consult with community leaders to develop new programs and initiatives to help our young people become the community leaders and role models of tomorrow. Major priorities will include a rebuild of the ICQ digital landscape to make it easy for the community to receive updates and to provide feedback to ICQ. It will also provide up to date Halal certifications and provide a volunteer/employee-employer matching function to help employers identify and recruit from members of the community the right skill set and attitude. We will also continue to be involved with community events to raise awareness and support for worthwhile initiatives. The next event coming up in January will be for the Logan Roos Football Academy held on Sunday 14 January at Oates Park, Woodridge.

**LOGAN ROOS FOOTBALL CLUB**

## FUNDRAISING SOCCER CARNIVAL FOR LOGAN ROOS FC

The Logan Roos FC offers low cost registration fees so that all members of our community are able to join. The club provides a community space for young people to engage in youth development programs, social activities and competitive sports. We hope to see you at our fundraising carnival in support of our youth!

- ★ FREE Children's Activities
- ★ FREE Introductory Soccer Skills Workshops
- ★ Multicultural Food Stalls
- ★ Sign up to Logan Roos FC on the day!

**SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY**  
9AM - 5PM  
OATES PARK, OATES AVE,  
WOODRIDGE 4114

Hire a stall for as little as \$50.  
Contact Dina on: 0456 426 523

**7 A-side Multicultural Soccer Tournament**  
\$200 registration fee  
Teams: Seniors, Juniors and Veterans  
Kick off starts at 9am  
\$500 Winner Cash PRIZE  
To sign up call Abdul Samim: 0413 669 987

**PS4 FIFA Competition**  
\$20 Entry Free  
\$100 Winner Cash PRIZE  
Kick off starts at 10:00am  
To enter call  
Mohammad: 0421 979 590

For more information contact Youth Connect Queensland  
President Munaf Khan on: 0411 105 626