



Hon Glen Elmes MP
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
and Multicultural Affairs
Minister Assisting the Premier

4 June 2013

Level 6B Neville Bonner Building
75 William Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15397 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3235 4562
Facsimile +61 7 3224 2494
Email atsi@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dr Mustafa Ally OAM
President
Crescents of Brisbane Inc
PO Box 4603
EIGHT MILE PLAINS QLD 4113

Dear Dr Ally *MUSTAFA*

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the success of the launch of the joint Democracy Workshops Project Report held at Queensland Parliament House on Thursday 23 May 2013. It was a very inspiring event and I congratulate the Islamic Council of Queensland, Crescents of Brisbane and Australian Muslim Advocates for the Rights of All Humanity in making the project a success.

Australia is one of the oldest continuous democracies in the world since it was created in 1901. Democracy and our democratic processes underpins who we are as a nation, where each and every citizen is treated as equal before the law and with equal rights under a system of one person one vote.

It is vital that we not only protect and promote our democracy, but that we also educate new citizens and emerging communities on the democratic processes and their rights and obligations as Australians.

Governments may not always make decisions that are supported by any number of citizens, so it is important for us all to understand that our democracy allows us to air our issues and concerns and to have them addressed in a fair and equitable way.

We are constantly reminded that on a global scale, many people do not have the same rights that we have as Australians. We also cannot escape the fact that some – a very small minority – resort to actions that can have devastating consequences on other people's lives, including the very people or cause they claim to represent.

Again I congratulate all involved with this project and indeed, the broader Muslim community for your significant economic, social and cultural contributions to Queensland. Please feel free to share this correspondence with members of your community as you consider appropriate. I would also like to direct you to the speech that I gave at the launch which is available at <http://www.glenelmes.com/Launch-of-Democracy-Workshop-Report.html>.

Should you wish to provide any comments on the project or any other matter, please feel free to email my office at atsi@ministerial.qld.gov.au or contact my Multicultural Affairs Policy Advisor, Mr Zach Davis-Hancock on 3225 1783.

Yours sincerely

GLEN ELMES MP

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs
Minister Assisting the Premier
Member for Noosa