



الاتحاد الاسترالى للمجالس الاسلامية  
**AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION  
OF ISLAMIC COUNCILS INC.**  
AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL ISLAMIC ORGANISATION  
A.R.B.N. 002 757 155

**HEAD OFFICE**

932 Bourke Street, Zetland  
Sydney NSW 2017  
PO BOX 7185 SSBH,  
Alexandria NSW 2015  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: (02) 9319 6733  
Fax: (02) 9319 0159  
admin@afic.com.au  
www.afic.com.au

*Bismillahir Rahmanirraheem*

30 July 2008.

**MELBOURNE OFFICE**

66-68 Jeffcott Street West  
Melbourne VIC 3003  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: (03) 9329 1228  
Fax: (03) 9329 1677  
aficmelb@bigpond.com

To: Presidents of Islamic Councils  
Presidents of Islamic Societies  
Imams of Mosques  
Principals of AFIC Schools  
Brothers and Sisters Members of AFIC

**AFIC SCHOOLS**

Malek Fahd Islamic School  
Tel: (02) 9642 8766  
Fax: (02) 9642 5479

My Dear Sisters and Brothers  
*Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh*

**Islamic School of Brisbane**

Tel: (07) 3841 3645  
Fax: (07) 3841 4320

**SITUATION IN AFIC**

As you are no doubt aware, the AFIC has been engaged in a court case to determine who the rightful Executive Committee should be. These proceedings were against those who tried to take over the Congress with force and then to take over AFIC from the properly elected Committee. I am not happy at all that AFIC has been embroiled in these controversies and wasted so much money on court cases recently.

**Islamic College of SA**

Tel: (08) 8340 7799  
Fax: (08) 8340 9988

**Langford Islamic College**

Tel: (08) 9458 5206  
Fax: (08) 9258 5661

For AFIC to survive, we must all respect the rule of law, and what happened at the Congress on 17 May 2008 was not lawful. It was political thuggery of the worst kind. To allow this to go unchallenged would have been the death of AFIC as a democratic body capable of representing Muslims in Australia. No government could take us seriously if we conducted our affairs the way things occurred on that day, and leading up to it. It has been a scene from one of the dictatorships.

**Islamic School of Canberra**

Tel: (02) 6241 9554  
Fax: (02) 6241 5448

When taking office in 2007 I said that AFIC needed healing. Clearly this is still the case and I apologise to you all for failing to have made more progress on this front. Although I have to say that I have been extremely focussed on the work of rebuilding AFIC and its tarnished image in the first 15 months of my executive's tenure.

• Halal Certification & Accreditation

• Muslims Australia Magazine

• Islamic Schools Projects

• Zakat & Charitable Services

• Imams & Religious Services

• Dawah Work

• Interfaith Dialogue

• Political Advocacy

**MEMBER STATE COUNCILS**

Muslim Council of NSW

Islamic Council of VIC

Islamic Council of QLD

Islamic Council of WA

Islamic Council of SA

Islamic Council of ACT

Islamic Council of NT

Islamic Council of TAS

Islamic Council of

Christmas Island

The court case is however now behind us and I would ask all involved to pause before attempting to create further division within AFIC by continuing to agitate the dispute. We have only around 8 months until the next scheduled elections. If those who disagree with my leadership of AFIC wish to have their chance, let them stand for election at this time. Do not waste more of AFIC's money on unnecessary disputes

**MEMBER SOCIETIES**

Over 100

before then. This money is much better used helping our schools, societies, mosques and community work, not on political disputes.

I will make this pledge to all of you. I will spend these next months focusing on making AFIC more representative and inclusive, so that when we come to the Congress, it can be held in a manner befitting the peak representative body of Islam in Australia, not some unruly rabble.

To this end, during negotiations to attempt to end the recent court case, we proposed a bipartisan Sub-Committee to try to resolve the vexing question of membership. I am pleased to say that Br Sali and his supporters recognised the importance of this and have agreed to participate in this process. We have prepared draft terms of reference for this Sub-Committee and have forwarded these to Br Sali for his input. *InshaAllah*, with cooperation on both sides, this review process will not only be completed before the next Congress, but it will have also developed a clear set of membership criteria that can be used to go forward, so that these issues will not return in the future.

The other initiative that the AFIC Executive announces today is the intent to establish a Constitutional Reform Committee whose task will be to review the current Constitution and make recommendations to the Congress for changes that will make AFIC more democratic and inclusive and reduce the potential for further internal disputes, such as that we have just witnessed.

Therefore, I call for expressions of interest from all those who may wish to take part as a member of this Committee. Please indicate any interest by 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008. We would like this Committee to have at least six members representing a broad cross section of AFIC's membership. We also intend that the Committee call for submissions from all interested parties and that these submissions and the report of the Committee be made available to all AFIC members so everyone can be a part of the process and knows what is going on.

Again, we are looking to have at least the more urgent recommendations discussed at the next Congress.

I would also like to put a proposal forward that AFIC should embrace Annexure A of the AFIC Constitution – **Rules for the Conduct of Islamic Arbitration**. This should be the first body that all disputes in AFIC, or member societies or Councils should be referred to before knocking on the doors of the courts. I invite all to nominate distinguished Muslims, both locally and internationally, who could be invited to serve on the Panel of Arbitrators. These names could be then presented at the next AFIC Congress for discussion and possible adoption. I will appreciate if you would give some thoughts on this and respond to us by 31 August 2008.

In the mean time, I will soon be announcing a number of new initiatives from AFIC that has the potential to benefit all Muslims who wish to partake of the offers. You would by now have received a letter from AON Risk Services, an Insurance broker that AFIC has negotiated with to provide member societies and in fact all Muslim businesses and individuals with very attractive insurance rates on various insurance products.

We will also Insha Allah soon be launching a booklet with details of all mosques, prayer centres, mussallahs as well as halal restaurants, butchers etc. And a number of other products and services, details of which will be announced when these are ready and matured.

I thank you for your patience and support through these difficult times and pray that Allah swt will unite us all together under the banner of Islam and AFIC as the representative body of Australian Muslims.

With my warmest regards and wassalam,

Yours brotherly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ikebal Adam Patel', written in a cursive style.

Ikebal Adam Patel,  
**PRESIDENT.**