



PRESS RELEASE

MEMBER STATE COUNCILS:

The Muslim Council of
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**AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL
ISLAMIC ORGANISATION
REPRESENTING
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**45 Years of Community
Services**

13 August 2009

TRAGIC END BEFORE KOKODA

The President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Ikebal Patel today expressed profound sadness at the tragic aircraft crash in PNG in which nine Australians lost their lives. Mr Patel offered condolences to the families, loved ones and friends of the deceased. He said, the unexpected end to what would have been an experience of a life-time for those on board, who wanted to share in a piece of history is immensely sad and moving.

Mr Patel, reflected on the Australian Federation of Islamic Council who recently sponsored students from their School in Sydney – Malek Fahd Islamic School to participate in experiences of the Kokoda Trek, which they accomplished and recounted at times their very emotional and heartfelt experiences with Australian Muslims.

Mr Patel added the Kokoda Trek experiences of the diggers is etched in Australia's memory. He said, the lessons of strength of purpose, determination and endurance is a lesson for one and all.

Mr Patel, reassured grieving families and friends of the deceased that their loss is heart-felt as many of us who have loss loved ones will know. He said, We find comfort and solace in cherished memories and prayer and remember the departed for their courage and sense of adventure.

Mr Patel also stated, whilst travelling to Port Moresby, " Mr Mohammed Yusuf Chairman of the Islamic College of Brisbane and I will be praying for the deceased at the Port Moresby Mosque tomorrow".

For further information, please contact:

MR. IKEBAL PATEL (CHAIRMAN) AT 0419 418 237.