

Winning Hearts, Changing Minds: Youth Dialogues

Wanna make a *real* difference at the grassroots level? Winning hearts, changing minds is the way!

What is it?

Winning Hearts, Changing Minds is a MYServices initiative that brings together Muslim and non-Muslim young people in an informal, safe and comfortable setting, encouraging deliberation and discussion about those really itchy issues and questions you have about different people, but you don't ask because you don't want to be rude or sound weird.

Why it started?

Have you ever judged people you don't know? Ever regretted that judgement once you got to interact with them? We all have, and we all know that it is interaction with the 'unknown other' that breaks barriers.

The initiative emerged when many mainstream youth organisations, schools and young people approached MYServices with a keen desire to get to know young Australian Muslims, learn about their beliefs and hear individual stories.

What young people in past *Winning Hearts, Changing Minds* sessions have said:

"I liked coming to a much clearer understanding about the entire Islamic culture and the friendliness of the people who came to share. We definitely need more time in the future, I would like to learn more."

~ Young non-Muslim Participant

"What I got out of the dialogue was that we are all the same. Their personalities are so similar to ours and it's awesome to know. They were so open about everything and so down to earth. Certainly broke down lots of barriers and fears. I would really like to talk with more Muslims."

~ Young non-Muslim Participant

"They were actually interested in finding out the facts about Muslims. I now understand why they have the misconceptions they had [about Muslims] – it's not because they are bad people, just uninformed."

~ Young Muslim participant

Who we're looking for?

MYServices is looking for young people with, or the desire to develop:

- ✓ Charisma and a sense of humour
- ✓ A positive attitude
- ✓ A passion to make positive change
- ✓ An adequate understanding of Islam

Yes, that's right; you don't have to possess all of the above, just have the desire! Where there is a will, there is *always* a way.

What's in it for you?

You will:

- ✓ Improve your communication skills
- ✓ Get to step out of your comfort zone, and grow your confidence
- ✓ Develop an appreciation for other young citizens, different to you
- ✓ Add gigantic deposits into your hasanah account!

MYServices can cover any travel costs involved. A session is typically an hour long.

I'm a winner! Count me in.

Email info@myservices.net.au with 'I'm a winner!' in the subject line. Send in your contact details, age, general time availability, and tell us why you think you are a winner! We welcome your ideas, feedback and any questions you may have.



MYServices is a division of Al-Nisa Youth Group Inc.