

We are researchers in the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion at Macquarie University. We are undertaking a study to find out what are the most effective community based activities for *improving relations between Muslim and non-Muslim Australians*.

### **What we are looking for:**

- Activities aimed at fostering better relations between Muslim and non-Muslim Australians.
- We are interested in community based undertakings rather than national or state-wide initiatives.
- These are some examples: a community BBQ for Muslim and non-Muslim Australians, intercultural sports activities, multi-faith women's morning teas, a local resident dialogue group to address neighbourhood tensions; Eid-ul-Fitr event inviting non-Muslim Australians, a community based anti-racism initiatives aimed at tackling negative stereotypes; a grassroots community initiative to bring opposing sides together in response to a crisis such as the Cronulla riots. This list is just an example, there may be many more....
- Initiatives sponsored by local governments, or by community groups.
- Initiatives which bring 'everyday' Muslim and non-Muslim Australians together.
- We are also interested in talking to people involved in 'informal' activities; for example a group of Muslim and non-Muslim Australian mums meet in a park while their children play.
- Initiatives can be from anywhere around Australia; in capital cities or rural and regional Australia.

### **What we are NOT looking for:**

- Formal interfaith dialogue initiatives (eg where Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders lead a discussion on the different faith traditions).
- Seminars, symposiums, and information sessions.

### **Some of the things we want to find out:**

- 'What works' in terms of community based activities.
- What doesn't work and why.
- What kinds of people are involved in them?
- How best to engage people from both sides not normally interested in such activities.
- How such activities are funded, and how sustainable are they?

### **Can you help?**

Many of these activities are not widely known. If you know about, have heard of, or have been involved in an activity that you think might fit our profile, please contact Dr Jan Ali by 5 September 2007.

Contact:

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