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Muslim leaders with guide dogs.

## Seminar opens eyes

**Tour | Cassie Maher**

MUSLIM leaders visited Guide Dogs Victoria in Kew for a Victorian-first seminar last Thursday.

The seminar for the Board of Imams aimed to help grow awareness of services available to Muslims with low or no vision via a tour of the Breeding and Training Centre.

Guide Dogs rehabilitation services manager Bashir Ebrahim said the seminar was the first of many more with specific community

groups. "We hope to build a greater awareness within the Muslim community about our association, and expand workshops to include the state's many other ethnic and indigenous communities," Mr Ebrahim said.

"It's only through open dialogue and education programs that we can ensure all Victorians with low or no vision are aware of the services available.

"There is a need to promote a better understanding of cultural differ-

ences and address misconceptions." Guide dog services are provided free of charge and include white cane training, children's programs, counselling, electronic travel aid programs and low-vision clinics.

"We want to ensure that everyone who needs support to live independently despite their vision loss is able to get the help they need, and this seminar will go a long way in growing that awareness within the state's Muslim community," Mr Ebrahim said.