

CITY CIRCLE

MUSLIMS & THE AUSTRALIAN STORY –
ON THE ROAD TO POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



Mohammed Elleisy (endorsed Greens candidate for Preston - Victoria).
Photo courtesy of Mohamad Lutfi Hakim

With the Federal and State election fast approaching and political parties vying the public for their vote, City Circle posed the question, what role can the Australian Muslim community play on their road to political participation. Invited speakers Waleed Aly, political and social commentator, and Mohammed El-Leissy, endorsed Greens candidate for Preston (Victoria) in the November State election, discussed their views on this vital issue.

Waleed Aly's talk focused on differentiating reality from the assumed ideal. He discussed the nuanced differences within the Muslim community itself and reminded the audience that our personal aspirations for change may not be the same change another fellow Muslim may seek. In fact, as Muslims enter the political sphere, whether as individuals or through lobby groups, we must prepare ourselves for each differing view these individuals or groups bring to the political arena. Waleed also outlined that holding onto one's ideals is never an easy task, especially when change requires working with other parties who bring their own ideologies to the table; a reality the Greens party may have to face if they are successful in achieving the balance of power in the upcoming elections.

Mohammed El-Leissy approached the issue from his personal experiences of initially not being active in politics to ultimately joining the Greens in an effort to make a difference in his own local community. He acknowledged that while issues such as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are extremely important, efforts to protect children by building school crossings, better transport and the environment are also important issues which should not be neglected by the Muslim community. Mohammed also explained that while negative perceptions are potential barriers to Muslim participation, his experiences have generally been positive, particularly noting that through shared common concerns, people tended to look beyond race and religion.

For more information about City Circle visit:
<http://citycircle.weebly.com/>

Ramadan Food Parcels

القائم بأعمال السفارة يلتقي رئيس الإتحاد الأسترالي للمجالس الإسلامية

سفارة الدولة / الإتحاد الأسترالي للمجالس الإسلامية
كانبرا في ٢١ يوليو / وام / بحث سعادة حمد حارب الحبسي
القائم بأعمال سفارة الدولة لدى أستراليا وإقبال بتاك رئيس
الإتحاد الأسترالي للمجالس الإسلامية ..
استعدادات تنفيذ المكرمة الرمضانية السنوية لمؤسسة خليفة بن
زايد آل نهيان للأعمال الإنسانية ومبادرة هيئة الهلال الأحمر
اللتين تتدرجان ضمن برامج " إفطاراتنا الخيرية " و " المير
الرمضاني " .

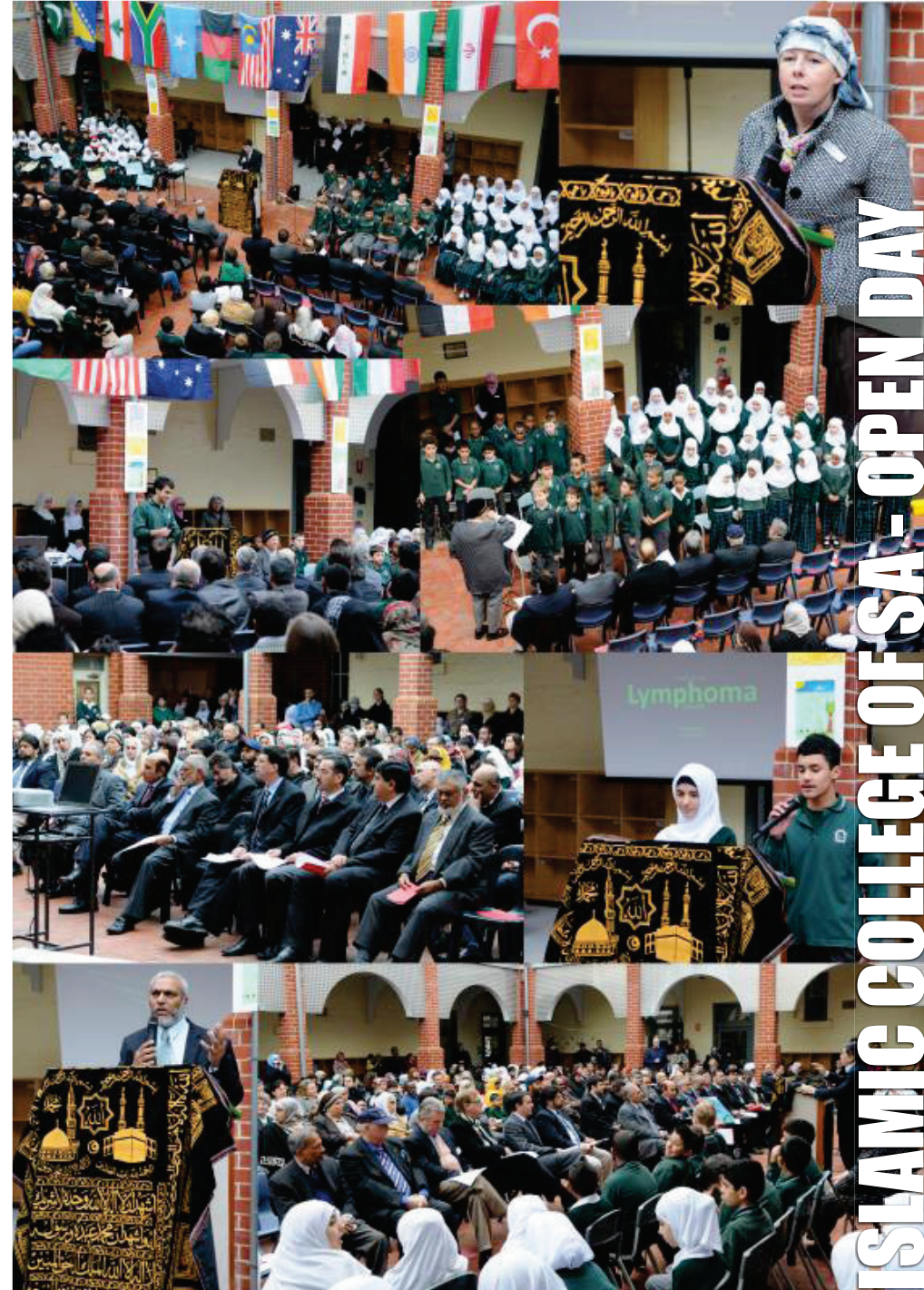
واستعرض الجانبان خلال اجتماعهما اليوم في العاصمة
الأسترالية كانبرا الترتيبات الخاصة التي تسبق إنطلاقة تنفيذ
البرامج الخيرية التي تستهدف الفئات المعوزة والمحتاجة .. كما
تم استعراض العلاقات المتميزة بين الجانبين .

وقال الحبسي إن " البرامج الخيرية " التي ترعاها مؤسسات
وهيئات الدولة بإشراف السفارة تحظى بسمعة طيبة وتلقى
استحسانا كبيرا من قبل المؤسسات الإسلامية الخيرية
والمنظمات الإنسانية التي تناشد السفارة بمضاعفة أنصبتها
المخصصة من " المير الرمضاني " الذي يتم توزيعه عليها بالتعاون
مع الإتحاد الأسترالي للمجالس الإسلامية.

مل / زا /
واما/root/عا/را



القائم بأعمال السفارة يلتقي رئيس الإتحاد الأسترالي للمجالس الإسلامية
Charge d'affaires of UAE Embassy in Australia meets President of AFIC



ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF SA - OPEN DAY