

## Hyder Gulam: a Muslim leader building bridges

What do an Royal Australian Air Force Officer, a lawyer, a Registered nurse, an accredited mediator and the President of the Islamic Council of Victoria all have in common. Well manifested in Br Hyder Gulam, are all these attributes.



and risk management. The ICV's core areas are:

- NILS (the ICV Qara Hassan No Interest Loans Scheme)
- Australia-Indonesia Muslim Exchange
- Muslim Leadership Programs
- Hospital and Prison

### Chaplaincy

Hyder was elected President of the ICV late last year. He is no stranger to leadership roles, having been President of the Student Union at Deakin University, when he studied nursing. He also founded the Islamic Society of Deakin University in 1995 and in 2008 co-founded the Muslim Legal Network, which has now expanded from Victoria to NSW, with plans to extend coverage to WA and Tasmania soon.

When asked about his new role as President of ICV, Hyder replied:

"I walk humbly in the footsteps of a great man, namely Brother Ramzi Elsayed, whom we are blessed to have as our Vice President. I am also blessed to have many of the previous ICV Executive staying on, and to have very good people coming on board for the first time, including Craig Dent, Mohamed Nur, Nawal Ali and Nadeem Hussain.

"Working at the ICV can be demanding and stressful at times. However, it is the effort that you make in responding to emails, attending ICV functions, contributing to meetings and leading programs that has positive outcomes for our ummah. The most important thing to remember is our vision, which is: To build a better community for all Australians through the empowerment of Muslims in Victoria."

On election day, Hyder outlined his goals for his term of Presidency which were:

1. To work for the best interests of the ummah without fear or favour.
2. To unite the many Muslim organisations and the Muslim Societies at the various Victorian Universities and foreign student associations under the ICV banner.
3. To grow ICV membership from the current 38 member societies and introduce a system whereby older member societies 'mentor' the newer member societies.
4. To continue to foster positive and productive relationships with AFIC (Muslims Australia), ANIC and the Board of Imams - Victoria.
5. To engage the Victorian government and agencies at all levels to obtain the best outcomes for Muslims in Victoria.
6. To focus on our core areas and consolidate corporate governance

•the multifait and interfaith engagement program (JCMA)

- Convert support program
- City Circle
- Stories in the Park
- Prayer Facilities
- Conducting workshops on Islam for non-muslims, schools, Government departments and other agencies
- Provision of meeting and office space for the Muslim community
- The ICV Arts program
- Miscellaneous Muslim community matters.

7. To be become financially self sufficient.

8. To engage with and provide therapeutic strategies on issues that impact our community such as domestic violence, dispute resolution, unemployment, youth affairs.

9. To fund raise for community goals.

10. To provide platforms for young Muslim professionals to work in the best interests of the ummah using a model similar to that of the Muslim Legal Network (ie a Health Professionals committee, a Media and Journalists committee etc).

11. To build up our volunteer database.

12. To implement a Muslim awareness week in Victoria.

13. To be pro-active rather than reactive in media engagement strategies.

14. To continue to provide leadership for the ummah and the wider Victorian community in terms of strategic planning for mosque developments regionally.

15. To stand up against violence and bigotry within (and against) our community.

16. Finally, to continue our dawa work to be noble, pious model citizens.

Hyder expressed his concern with the status of halal certification, saying that he would investigate this matter during the term of his Presidency.

His main goal however is to work towards uniting the ummah. "The theme under my Presidency is 'One Mosque'. We are all Muslims, and like the fingers of my hand [he formed a fist] when the ummah is united we are strong, and no one can divide us".

## MCCA: significant business achievements



On the 22 of December 2010, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the MCCA

Group, Dr. Aladin Zayegh on behalf of the Chairman Dr Akhtar Kalam welcomed Mr. Hyder Gulam and Mr. Mohammad Helmy to the MCCA Ltd. Board.

Dr. Zayegh also acknowledged and extended his appreciation and gratitude to the MCCA Group's directors, management staff and above all their customers for their contribution and support of MCCA.

MCCA started business in 1989 as a registered cooperative in the inner Melbourne suburb of Burwood with \$20,000 and a vision to address the financial, banking and investment needs of the Australian Muslim community by offering sharia compliant housing mortgage loan products.

Regarded as the pioneer of Islamic finance in Australia, MCCA now operates from two modern offices in Sydney Road Coburg (Head Office and Victorian Branch) and in Haldon Street, Lakemba (Sydney / New South Wales Branch)

The MCCA Ltd. Board of Directors is comprised as follows:

Dr. Akhtar Kalam – Chairman  
Dr. Zuhair Segu, Dr. Abdul Khair Jalaluddin, Dr. Zehdi Ferkh, Dr. Aladin Zayegh, Mr. Hyder Gulam, Mr. Mohammad Helmy.

This year MCCA celebrated its 21st birthday – a significant milestone for the business and a testament to its steadfast commitment to the values of integrity, excellence, innovation, faith and people.

These very important values have provided the foundation for MCCA's business longevity, direction, financial success and product development.

Furthermore, the Directors have remained committed to MCCA's long term objective to be Australia's first Islamic retail bank.

In 2009 MCCA developed and launched the ASIC regulated MCCA Income Fund in response to a growing demand within the Australian Muslim community for a sharia compliant investment based on ethical investing principles as an alternative to mainstream investments.

The MCCA Income Fund has been well received by the Muslim community and last quarter the fund targeted a distribution of 5% return (annualised).

New product development plans are well advanced and the MCCA Group is on target to release three new sharia compliant products by the second quarter of 2011:

- \*Property Trust
- \*Superannuation Trust
- \*Equity Trust

During his AGM address Dr. Zayegh made mention of the Australian Taxation Board Review that is currently underway. Dr. Zayegh said he welcomed the review and hoped that it would address many of the anomalies that have adversely impacted on Islamic finance and future Islamic banking products and product development and innovation.

Dr. Zayegh concluded, "We are confident that the MCCA Group will continue to grow and develop new and innovative sharia compliant financial products and services demanded by Australian Muslims and in doing so provide the benchmark for the Australian Islamic banking and finance industry."



Above from left: Ibrahim Yusuf, of Victoria, and Nizam Jazeer President of the La Trobe University Nijamudeen, President of the Islamic Islamic Society, Hyder Gulam, Society of Deakin University. President of the Islamic Council

## QLD: Flood crisis donations

Muslim Charitable Foundation Brisbane ([www.muslimcharitablefoundation.com.au](http://www.muslimcharitablefoundation.com.au))

Account name:

Muslim Charitable Foundation Emergency Acct

- Bank: Bank of Queensland

- BSB: 124 155

- Account No: 2089 7395

Human Appeal International Australia : ([www.humanappeal.org.au](http://www.humanappeal.org.au))

- Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia

- BSB: 062-191

- Account No 0090-3948 (Please state specifically that the donation is for the flood appeal)

Muslim Aid Australia

([www.muslimaid.org.au](http://www.muslimaid.org.au))

Muslim Aid Australia

- Commonwealth Bank of Australia

- BSB: 062-191

- Account no: 10 448 216

( in order to receive your receipt, please email your deposit stub details to [mail@muslimaid.org.au](mailto:mail@muslimaid.org.au) if you make a direct deposit for any appeal)

Mercy Mission([www.mercymission.org.au](http://www.mercymission.org.au))

Account Name: Mercy Mission Dawah Inc.

- St George Bank

- BSB: 113 879

- Account Number: 456 608 524

SWIFT: SGBLAU2S

## PERSONAL ADS

- 30 year old Muslim male living in Sydney. Medium build, olive skin, looking for religious, nice girl from any part of Australia. Feel free to ask me any questions. I can be contacted by email: [jc9351354@gmail.com](mailto:jc9351354@gmail.com)

- 35 year old ethnic Sunni, practicing Muslim, Australian citizen living in Sydney. Working full time, looking for honest, devoted, serious, pious, good looking girl for marriage. Age group could be 18-30 years, open to race, background or country.

I am 5 feet 4 inches tall, 55kg with beard, average build, don't drink or smoke at all. Very easy going, honest, practice sunnah, simple life style. Any hafiza, aleema (niqaab or hijab) would be first priority.

If you are interested, drop me a line today:  
[blue.ocean1066@yahoo.com.au](mailto:blue.ocean1066@yahoo.com.au)