



Islamic Council of Victoria

Representing Victoria's Muslims for over 40 Years!



ANNUAL REPORT

2010 – 2011



Member Societies

- Afghan Islamic Society
- Albanian Australian Islamic Society
- Ararat Islamic Welfare Association
- Australia Bangladesh Islamic Council Inc.
- Australian Islamic Mission
- Australian Islamic Social Association (Milli Gorus)
- Australian Muslim Media
- Australian Muslim Social Services Agency
- Bilale Ethiopian Community Association
- Bosnia Hercegovina Islamic Society
- Cyprus Turkish Islamic Community Inc.
- Dandenong Turkish Islamic Cultural Society
- Darusalam Society Inc.
- EHSAN (Aust Islamic Affairs & Human Capital Development Assoc)
- El Sedeaq Islamic Society
- Eritrean Islamic Society of Australia
- Federation of Australian Muslim Students and Youth
- Goulburn Valley Turkish Islamic & Cultural Society
- HIRA
- IMAN
- Indonesian Muslim Community of Victoria
- Islamic Association of Australia
- Islamic Call Society of Australia
- Islamic Education and Welfare Assoc. of Dandenong
- Islamic Guidance Society of Australia
- Islamic Society of Albury-Wodonga
- Islamic Society of Ballarat
- Islamic Society of Geelong
- Islamic Society of Melbourne Eastern Regions (ISOMER)
- Islamic Society of Victoria (Preston Mosque)
- Maarefa Group
- Mano River Association of Victoria
- Newport Islamic Society
- Oromo Islamic Resource Centre
- United Muslim Migrant Association
- United Sri Lankan Muslim Association in Australia (USMAA)
- Werribee Islamic Centre

Affiliate Members

- ARKAN Toledo
- Benevolence Australia
- Care with Me
- End Homelessness
- Muslim Legal Network



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President's Report



As-Salamu`Alaykum

It is with great pleasure to present the Annual Report for the Islamic Council of Victoria Inc. for the year ended June 30, 2011.

This report is my first report as President. During my time as President I have been blessed with an executive team and staff of fine individuals who are sincere, dedicated, committed & hard working. Moreover, it is the wider team of volunteers, members, sponsors, funding partners and supporters who continue to make ICV the truly remarkable organisation it is today.

The ICV is moving into a new phase in its growth. Reflecting the composition of the Board, we have become more professional and community oriented in our approach. At the same time it is a message for community leaders and organisations that infrastructure and initiatives have to be developed to accommodate this unprecedented surge in both community members and community participation.

In recognition of this ICV has completed the first stage of a significant building renovation project. This has been challenging and a learning curve for all involved. We hope that the lessons gained in this first stage will enable us to complete future renovations in a timely and efficient manner. We thank the community for their understanding and patience throughout and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

We have restructured our operations and increased resources in order to deliver on certain

key priority areas. This includes increased staff numbers in key areas including the ICV office and chaplaincy, and made tremendous savings. We have moved key operations to a suitable and modern facility nearby.

Some significant achievements thus far include:

- Feeding over 10,000 people at Ramadan@ICV, seeing 3 people become Muslim and 5 marriage proposals all during Ramadan,
- Organising Iftaars for Asylum Seekers and Coverts/Reverts, including an Iftaar & Eid lunch at the Maribyrnong Detention Centre,
- Over 2,000 people attending Eid Prayers at Flagstaff Gardens in the heart of the city,
- The Melbourne Eid Festival at Broadmeadows,
- Close working ties with ANIC and VBOI,
- Organising the first ever Hajj Expo in Melbourne,
- Reaching out to the other faith groups,

The list goes on, and you will find these achievements in this Report.

The ICV is also proud to announce a new class of membership, the Affiliate Member. While not bound by the constitutional formalities of the traditional Member Societies (and having also no right to vote), this new class will provide a vehicle for the Ummah to continue to do broad work for the community. Some examples include the Muslim Legal Network, Care With Me, Arkan Toledo, Benevolence, End Homelessness etc.

It is imperative that the Ummah stays united during this time, and Inshallah the ICV has a number of big events planned for 2012 that will bring and keep us united..

In peace.

SQNLDR (ret) **Hyder Gulam** FRCNA
President

Current Services / Projects

- ARTS & FESTIVALS
- AUDIO/FILM PRODUCTION FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND TRAINING
- CITY MOSQUE - FRIDAY PRAYERS
- CISP – COMMUNITY INTEGRATION SUPPORT PROGRAM
- END HOMELESSNESS
- DISPUTE RESOLUTION
- HAJJ EXPO
- HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY
- IMMIGRATION DETAINEE SERVICES
- INTERFAITH
- MEDIA ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY
- MEMP - MUSLIM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN
- MEP - MUSLIM EXCHANGE PROGRAM
- MLP – MUSLIM LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
- MOSQUE TOURS
- NILS – NO INTEREST LOAN SCHEME
- PRISON CHAPLAINCY
- RAMADAN IFTAR & TARAWEEH
- RELIGIOUS SERVICES
- YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
- ZAKAT FUND



General Manager's Report

The ICV has been representing and serving Victoria's Muslim community for 40 years. Today, the ICV manages some two-dozen projects and attends to numerous other services and events throughout the year. With a shoe-string budget and skeleton staff it is an organization which achieves so much in particular in areas which are often taken for granted.

The past 12 months has been a period of many changes at the ICV, and in a community as vibrant as the Muslim community, changes bring fresh perspectives and new approaches to ICV's growth and future directions.

The ICV is constantly re-inventing itself to meet the changing needs & demands of the growing Muslim population, especially in the CBD area. These are indeed exciting times for the ICV with new portfolios and new people from many different professional backgrounds wishing to volunteer. Membership has increased by 15% to 42 member societies in total.

As part of the restructures and strategies we have introduced a Volunteers Co-ordinator, Office of Women's Affairs with plans for a dedicated Sister's floor, Communication's Team, Religious Services and International Students services to name a few. The ground floor Musalla is almost finished with refurbishments for the middle & top floors scheduled in a couple of months. It is envisaged by mid-2012 the ICV premises will have a total new make-over.

Many people have been involved in the achievements of the ICV of the past year. And as there are new people coming into ICV there have also been people who have moved on, notably CEO Ahmed Imam, Prison Chaplains Co-ordinator Aziz Cooper and Admin Support Ramy Najmeddine. We thank all who have made a valuable contribution and wish the very best in their future endeavours.

I wish to pay my tribute to our member societies for their continuing support, for it is they we represent and are guided by. I thank and compliment my fellow colleagues (past & present) and selfless volunteers who have worked diligently through many challenges throughout the past year.

I wish to also personally thank and acknowledge my predecessor Ahmed Imam who managed the ICV for the past 4 years with sterling leadership and contributed to the affairs of Victoria's Muslim community in so many ways in preparing the ICV to move forward.

In particular I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Board/Exco for its leadership, vision, commitment, dedication and drive to succeed in an organization that is profoundly important to Victoria's Muslim community and the wider Australian society.

I greatly appreciate the support and encouragement I have received from our president Br Hyder Gulam, who is an inspiration for many in the organization. His passion and energy has set new personal & professional benchmarks for me. The ICV is all about "leadership" and Br Hyder is a natural leader. I look forward to serving under his stewardship.

I have every confidence that we can serve and meet the expectations of the local Muslim community and the wider Australian society as we have a very committed and focused operations team who strive for a high standard of services and responds to the changing needs of our members accordingly.

The ICV is an inspiring place. It is an honour to play a role to better serve and meet the needs and expectations of our community.

Nail Aykan
General Manager

Service Delivery Areas

Mosque Tours

In the last twelve months, Sherene Hassan has led a team of dedicated volunteers (Saara Sabbagh, Reem Hakem, Rufiath Youssuf and Jasmine Ouida) to conduct mosque tours and workshops on Islam to almost 10 000 people. These sessions always receive positive feedback, such as "...Our students really benefit from the way you dispel many of the myths and stereotypes they may have about Muslims or the Islamic faith, especially given recent global events." Kate Sherwood, Chisholm Catholic College

These audiences include a diverse range of groups including cadet journalists at the Herald Sun, members of Rotary and Probus Clubs, staff at the Mercy Hospital for Women and students from state and private schools including Melbourne Grammar and Kooweerup Secondary College. Interactive sessions were also conducted at the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Cranlana Foundation and Department of Transport to name a few.

The newly refurbished mosque at ICV has hosted many school groups from metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. Some have travelled from as far as Tasmania. The ICV is grateful to Brother Ibrahim Dellal (Cypriot Turkish Islamic community mosque in Sunshine) and Br Suleyman Sahingoz (Emir Sultan mosque in Dandenong) for allowing us to conduct tours at their mosques.

Policy Submissions

The ICV has been called upon to make a number of submissions in the field of education. These include a submission to the Education Department on "Dress Code Policy," advocating the right of Muslim girls to incorporate the hijab in their school uniform. In addition, the ICV made several recommendations regarding the National Curriculum for Schools. Some of these include the importance of highlighting the historical contributions of Muslim scholars in the fields of science, mathematics and astronomy along with the contributions of Afghan cameleers to Australia in the 1800's.

Media

The ICV has experienced an extremely busy media period since the last annual general meeting. ICV board members have given interviews for many major media outlets such as 3AW, ABC, the Herald Sun, the Age and the Global Herald (international on-line newspaper) plus many more. Some of the issues the ICV addressed are the burqa debate, rise of Islamophobia, interest free loans, halal food and anti-Muslim MP Geert Wilders.

ICV board members have had opinion pieces published in the Herald Sun as well as letters to the editor in the Australian newspaper, Sydney Morning Herald, the Age and the Herald Sun. Earlier this year, several ICV board members met with the editor of the Herald Sun to raise some of their concerns regarding reporting of Muslims in the media

Revert Support

ICV regularly receives enquires about Islam and conversion. ICV has partnered with Benevolence Convert Education & Support to provide education and information services and support to new Muslims and would be converts. The aim is to allow new Muslims to navigate their way through this new journey and enable those considering the step of becoming Muslim the opportunity to explore Islam in a safe and non judgemental environment.

Growing demands have brought greater challenges. New and prospective Muslims require ongoing support and guidance particularly in the early part of their respective journey. Such support requires dedicated, permanent and remunerated staff capable of delivering such higher levels of assistance.

The ICV & Benevolence partnership is significant as it delivers stronger outcomes for all stakeholders.

ICV would like to thank NCEIS (National Centre for Excellence in Islamic Studies) for funding revert support kits for this programme.

Education - Islamic Special Religious Instruction (SRI)

Islamic SRI is offered at only a handful of Victorian government primary schools, due to a general lack of awareness in the Muslim community that the teaching of Islam in schools is allowed. By contrast, Islamic SRI ('Scripture') classes have been offered at government schools for over twenty-five years in NSW, teaching nearly 20,000 students every week about Islam.

Based on the extrapolations from the 2006 Australian Census figures, it is estimated that there are between 20,000 - 25,000 Muslim children attending Victorian government schools (primary and secondary). For many of these children, Islamic SRI would represent the only opportunity to be taught about the basics of their faith, including its main tenets, values, and practices. Many families may not be able to send their children to Islamic schools or may prefer government schools, but still wish for their children to have an opportunity to learn about Islam in a well structured class-based context.

ICV has made Islamic SRI one of its priority focus areas. As a result, the ICV has partnered with Arkan Toledo (www.arkan.org.au), a non-profit organization (also ICV affiliated member) dedicated to the management and delivery of Islamic SRI at Victorian government schools. As the official channel for the delivery of Islamic SRI, the ICV and Arkan Toledo have actively engaged with all of the main SRI stakeholders, including the government and fellow SRI Providers (for other faith groups) to build effective working relationships.

ICV and Arkan Toledo have sought changes to the current arrangements for the delivery of Islamic SRI, which will allow them to actively promote the program to the wider Muslim community, and will enable the Muslim community to benefit from much greater access to Islamic SRI and higher teaching standards.

ICV Fundraising

ICV held its first community-based fundraising night on 8th April 2011, with a number of prominent guests in attendance. The aim was to raise funds for the renovation of the city mosque.

Key guests included his eminence Dr. Malek Alshaar (Mufti of north Lebanon), the Lebanese Consul General, representatives from the UAE Embassy and the Turkish Embassy, and Dr Mohamed Elsharkawy, Chairman of Ar Rahman Academy (London Branch of Al Azhar University). The Fundraising met its target with the community's generous contributions towards the project in helping out with the city mosque renovations.

Muslim Emergency Management Plan (MEMP)

The ICV launched the Muslim Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) on 10 September 2011 to enable the Muslim community to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from adverse incidents and community-wide disasters. This project provides support and guidance to Muslim organisations so that they can develop their capabilities to protect the safety and security of their members and assets in times of emergency such as a terrorist incident here or overseas that may have an adverse impact on the Muslim community.

MEMP was launched by Jose Alvarez (DIAC state Director), Chin Tan (VMC Chairperson), and Michael Hallows (Emergency Services Commissioner)

Muslim Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) objectives are to:

- Enhance understanding and application of emergency management concepts in the Muslim community
- Develop a crisis plan for the ICV to enable it to respond to an emergency that may impact the Muslim community in particular.
- Develop a communications strategy to build awareness and engagement, and that educates the community.

The **MEMP** project managed to deliver the following:

- **1300 884 873** hotline
- Communication plan
- Crisis Management and Recovery Plan
- Produced and distributed Emergency management plan for Family and organizations
- Held a number of training forums to educate community organisations and schools to implement the resources and tools and communicate key messages, prioritizing those areas of the community that are more vulnerable.
- Developed a crisis plan for the ICV to enable it to respond to an emergency that may impact the Muslim community particularly.
- Engaged specialist consultant to identify the role of ICV in a disaster impacting the Muslim community generally.
- Produced a selection of Supplication & Invocations (Du'a) Stickers and Magnets Artwork and distributed these at the Eid Festivals.

Community and Youth Engagement Projects

ICV employed two youth workers to drive and implement a number of key youth and community initiatives. The projects were planned (and some underway) in partnership with Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) and delivered in cooperation with a number of Muslim organisations. The steering committee that led the planning consisted of OMAC Chairperson (Hakan Akyol), Paul Waite (Project Manager) and Mohamed Nur (ICV) - see projects below,

Countering Media Bias - A Practical Media Skills Workshop

Muslims and Islam are frequently negatively portrayed in the media. Many Muslims feel powerless to do anything about it. In partnership with Youth Victoria, a group of active young Muslims associated with the Virgin Mary Mosque in Hoppers Crossing came up with the idea of conducting media training to strengthen the skills, knowledge and confidence of young Muslims to enable to engage more effectively with the media and tackle the problem of media bias.

Asia Pacific Youth Conference

A five day Asia Pacific youth conference was held at Philip Island, focusing on the theme of personal growth and being an effective change maker. Seven young people attended from various Islamic organisations.

Life Skills/Soccer Camp

A three day soccer camp was held involving 20 young men, many of whom are relatively recent arrivals. In addition to soccer coaching/training, the camp conducted life skills training, particularly in the area of pre-employment. Five young people involved in the organisation of the camp became leaders at the camp.

Woodworking Qur'an Stand Project

In partnership with the Islamic Society of Victoria (ISV), a woodworking program was developed which involved the construction of a Qur'an stand at a local technical college. This hands-on initiative involved young men and their fathers to strengthen the bond of the family.

Community Strengthening Through Art

The ICV supported a community mosaic initiative involving 20 Muslim women from the Meadow Heights mosque. The young Muslim women each created their own individual art piece, and collectively the participants created a triptych for permanent display on the mosque exterior.

NILS

The ICV is proud to have this year launched Qard Hassan Victoria NILS, which is a new program giving people on low incomes across Victoria access to interest and fee-free loans, which has been deemed Shariah compliant by eminent Islamic scholars.

These loans are available for Muslim and non-Muslim individuals and families on low incomes and provide a safe, fair and equitable credit option for those in need.

The No Interest Loan Scheme offers interest-free loans typically up to \$1,200 for low income earners to purchase necessary personal and household goods and services.

This program aims to help combat financial exclusion for people on low incomes and strives to provide the means for people to help themselves by improving financial literacy and building assets. Sister Asma Siddiq is the Project Manager, and Nadeem Hussain, Adeeba Hanif, Ayman Islam and Nazeem Hussain sit on the Committee of Management.

Detention Centre

The ICV has recently begun coordinating volunteers to provide support for detainees at both the Melbourne Immigration Detention Centre in Marybyrnong and the Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation in Broadmeadows.

Together with RISE Refugee – the ICV hosted Eid functions at the detention centres with members of the broader Muslim community sharing an evening with Muslim detainees inside the centres.

The ICV has also begun to coordinate a regular visitation program for members of the Muslim community to commit to regular visits to detainees.

Future programs planned include regular Qur'an classes, basic Islamic classes, sports days, day trips, music and arts classes, in addition to the ongoing pastoral care needs of the detainees.

Immigration Detention Religious Support

This year the ICV launched its Immigration Detention Religious Support program, aimed at providing religious support and hope to the many Muslims in immigration detention. This group includes cases that may not have committed any crime, have suffered traumatic experiences in their home countries and on their journey to Australia, and often have no visibility about how their case is progressing and when they may be released, if at all.

Community iftars and Eid lunches were held at both centres in Maribyrnong and Broadmeadows. The team has reached out to many different sections and networks including the shia community, in order to bring some services, hope and sense of community to detainees. A special thanks to project leaders Sr Rana Hussain and Br Michael Stapleton for their hard work.

Dispute Resolution

ICV has played an active role in reconciling differences between disputing entities. ICV was appointed (May, 2011 to October, 2001) as caretaker manager for a member society. ICV has endeavoured to reconcile grievances and implement a stable and lasting solution. Brs. Mohamed Nur & Ramzi Elsayed played the a key role in resolving these issues.

Professional Services

The diversity of events, projects and community need is ever evolving. Some of the key activities and highlights from the 2011 year include initiatives which the ICV is well progressed to launch includes a new and exciting initiative designed to support and enhance Muslim Professionals Careers and Networks. ICV is also fostering a collaborative relationship with representative bodies that will provide Victorian businesses and business people seeking to do business in the Middle East with the network and introductions to enable this to occur in a structured and beneficial way.

Homelessness

End Homelessness is a new initiative confronting the increasing number of homeless within our community has been established and was previewed at ICV's VIP IMAX screening of Ibn Battuta's Journey to Mecca in September 2011, a successful event at which more than 450 guests came together at IMAX Melbourne.

Arabic Classes

ICV will soon announce opportunities for Victorian's wanting to learn Arabic through a university. The heavily subsidised program will enable students to travel to and live in an Islamic country for the period of program.

SBS Ambassadors

ICV has established close ties with SBS with two of its Board members appointed SBS Ambassadors.

Zakat @ ICV

Many people have approached the ICV in past years, unsure about where to pay their Zakat. Many people have been making ICV aware of Australian Muslims experiencing financial difficulty and would be eligible to receive Zakat. Given our unique position in the community, our networks, and our social justice related programs such as Qard Hassan, and Hospital and Prison Chaplaincy, we are in a position to create a simple solution to a growing problem. So we did.

The ICV this year launched Zakat@ICV, aimed at distributing zakat money exclusively in Australia. Through collecting and distributing Zakat to Muslim Australians, the ICV seeks to build the true spirit of Islamic brotherhood and community among Muslim Australians, in accordance with the direction and guidance of Allah and His Messenger (PBUH).

Zakat and Zakat al-Fitr has been distributed to a number of needy families, including single mothers with literally no food in their house, and Muslim children in the care of non-Muslim foster parents.

Hospital Chaplaincy Services

ICV is pleased to advise that funding for a permanent part time hospital chaplaincy co-ordinator has been secured through the Healthcare Chaplaincy Council of Victoria Inc (HCCVI). Sr. Lina Ayoubi has been appointed to the position in July, 2011 and has assumed responsibility for the co-ordination and operation of the hospital chaplaincy service. The resourcing of this important service will lead to:

- Training of new volunteers in the sector.
- Greater co-ordination and penetration of chaplaincy and pastoral services.
- Continued assistance and professional development for volunteer chaplains.
- On call chaplain in the event of emergency or crisis.

Such expansion should lead to a wider coverage of hospitals reaching a wider number of community members.

Better Connecting Course

During May & June, 2011 ICV participated and supported in the delivery of the "Better Connecting Course". The course was developed by Relationships Australia using the Gottman principles of a successful marriage. Eight couples participated in the course which endeavoured to improve relationship quality and interaction. Practical examples were used throughout to identify relationship dysfunctionality. Participants were empowered with practical methods and tools to endeavour to improve the harmony in their respective relationships. Course content also embedded Quranic teachings and examples of our Prophet (PBUH) and companions (RA). ICV would like to acknowledge NCEIS (National Centre for Excellence In Islamic Studies) for providing the funding for this course.

Arts

The ICV has been assisting the Immigration Museum with their Community Gallery. The gallery includes 6 stationary monitors, each showing excerpts from interviews with people from diverse backgrounds who now live in Australia although they were not necessarily born here; showcasing the stories and contributions of Muslims to Australia. The ICV would like to thank Nur Shkemi for her continued efforts as ICV Arts Officer. The "You are I" Muslim arts exhibition run earlier this year was again a huge success and we call upon any budding artists in the Muslim community to contact Nur if they would like to be involved next year.

St Kilda Islamic Society Jumuah Prayer Facility

Early in 2011, an organisation by the name of Q Society attempted to stop Port Phillip Council from allowing a small group of local Muslims to continue to hold Friday prayers. The basis for their position, amongst issues such as wasting water when washing for prayer and carparking, included claims that Muslims are dangerous, intolerant and should not be supported to use public buildings for religious events. A campaign, led by the Jewish and local communities, came out strongly in support of the Muslim group to condemn the bigotry exhibited by the Q Society. This is testament to the importance of continued interfaith dialogue and co-operation.

The Islamic Council of Victoria ('ICV') was active in supporting the planning application for the Alma Rd Community House ('ARCH'). In particular we had been agitating for the continued use of ARCH by the St Kilda Islamic Society.

On this issue alone, the ICV:

- Sent a letter to the local council in support of the application to amend.
- Assisted the St Kilda Islamic Society with their response to the Q Society's absurd allegations. It was to be sent to the local council as well.
- Supported the St Kilda Islamic Society on print and TV media i.e. A Current Affair.
- Provided direct support via physical attendance at their meetings.
- Provided indirect support via an ICV Member Society helping out the St Kilda Islamic Society with mentoring.
- Both via the Muslim Legal Network and the ICV, we have provided legal advice, and been in contact with Victoria Police.
- Worked with various interfaith and other religious groups to garner support for the application and for the St Kilda Islamic Society. In this regard we acknowledge the assistance of JCMA, Faith Communities Council of Victoria and Ms Deborah Stone.

We are pleased to inform the community that Port Phillip Council heard the issue and allowed the Muslim group to continue holding Friday prayers. The Mayor of Port Phillip condemned Q Society, stating, "The City of Port Phillip has been appalled to see our local planning process hijacked by an anti-Islamic group [Q Society], their despicable campaign attempted to spread fear and

hatred through our local community and across Australia.

This group has no interest in the harmony of our local community, and in fact have sought to divide us for their own political gains." She went on to say, "Racism will simply not be tolerated in our community. And although it has been a difficult process, it has been heartening to see our local community and leaders in the Jewish community condemn the Q Society's behaviour."

Coles Product & Employment Consulting

ICV held a forum with Coles staff and members of the Muslim community to help Coles in its delivery of halal products, as well as other products and services the community would like to see offered. In addition, the ICV provided advice to Coles on appropriate policies for the employment of Muslim women wishing to wear hijab and/or niqab at work.

RMIT Prayer Room

In recent times, jumuah attendance at RMIT Bourke St campus has increased beyond capacity, creating OH&S issues for RMIT management. ICV has been working closely with RMIT Islamic Society and RMIT management on creating alternative solutions. [Watch this space.](#)

Grants Workshop

The ICV in conjunction with the Victorian Multicultural Commission held a grants workshop to help members of our community to understand the grant application process and ensure the preparation of a high quality application.

Ramadan Food Parcels

The ICV distributed a large number of food parcels during Ramadan to a range of needy Australian Muslims. The parcels were arranged by Muslims Australia (AFIC) and the UAE Embassy. In addition to this, we also distributed 100 bags of rice on behalf of Biryani House Restaurant.

Victoria Police Engagement

Disabled Brother attacked and harassed

A distressing case came to our attention of a brother who had been subjected to ongoing attempts to harm him seriously, due to his religion and repeatedly attacked in his lodgings, and on the street. He has had his laptop stolen and jaw broken. The ICV followed this matter up directly with Victoria Police and arranged for alternative accommodation as well as appropriate medical attention, in addition to ensuring Victoria Police was handling the matter appropriately.

Prejudice Motivated Crime

Many months of hard work by the ICV and other community groups found fruition in 2011 with Victoria Police launching the Prejudice Related Crime Unit. This new unit will now formally track and follow up all reported incidents of religious, racial and prejudice related incidents. The formal tracking of these incidents will help the State Government and Victoria Police to correctly resource the attention required to this increasing segment of unfortunate crime.

Australia-Indonesia Muslim Exchange Programme (MEP)

Professor Julia Howell, Philip Knight and Mila Sudarsono participated in the short-listing and interview process in Jakarta and Melbourne. Over 200 applications were received in Indonesia and up to 40 applications were received in Australia, an increase from last year, indicating the programme's growing reputation and popularity. In particular, the credibility of Indonesian applicants was very high making the selection process difficult, especially the selection of female participants for whom there was only an intake of four places.

The programme included a two-week visit by ten Indonesian Muslim leaders to Australia across three groups; a visit of four Australians to Indonesia; and a visit of a media group from Indonesia funded by the Australian Embassy. The media group accompanied the female MEP participants. A larger number of Indonesian participants represented a region outside of Java and various Muslim organisations including Muhammadiyah and NU.

City Mosque During Ramadan

This Ramadan saw the busiest year on record for the City Mosque on Jeffcott Street. 10,000 people across the month were fed iftar (every night!) and sahoor (during the last 10 days). Eid Prayers at Flagstaff Gardens in the city was also conducted for the first time, with 2,000 people attending.

Special thanks to the tireless efforts of Br Mensur and his family for their hard work before and during Ramadan for making the above happen.

Special thanks also to the City Mosque Taraweeh Imams during Ramadan, Sheikh Osama and Dr Ghaith.

Letters of Support

As with most years, the ICV again provided a large number and range of support letters to organisations and individuals, aimed to help Muslims practice their religion freely. These included letters:

- to councils and swimming pool operators supporting the provision of women only swimming events
- encouraging schools to include in their policies the ability for female Muslim students to wear hijab if they desired

ICV Muslim Leadership Program

The ICV Leadership Program (run in conjunction with La Trobe University) entered its fifth year in 2011. The 24 participants in the 2011 program include Muslims from Melbourne, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, and for the first time in the program's history, Sydney and Singapore.

The program takes in field trips to Canberra and Sydney, as well as a number of Melbourne sessions. Participants are able to meet and dialogue with a range of Federal MPs, community leaders, business leaders, and key people active in the social welfare space. Our key partner in this program, the La Trobe University Centre for Dialogue have this year added a Muslim academic to the Centre, Dr Sven Schottman, who will no doubt further strengthen the team and the leadership program.

Community Consultation @ICV

Community Consultation was held on the 28th January 2011 where members of Victoria's Muslim community were invited to engage with the ICV's strategic planning process by answering a series of questions in a workshop format. The workshop's stated objectives were to:

- obtain the community's input into ICV's strategic direction
- identify opportunities to improve our community
- communicate ICV's past and current activities
- enhance the akhuwa (brotherhood and sisterhood) in the Victorian Muslim community
- lead by example by engaging ICV's key stakeholders in a strategic planning process.

Key Discussion Points

The workshop sought to elicit responses to the following key questions:

- What is the role of the ICV as a peak representative body?
- What are the key issues or problems facing the community?
- What are the service gaps in the community?
- What does ICV do well and what should the ICV continue to do?
- What can ICV do better?

Next Steps

The ICV Executive Committee held a strategic planning workshop after the workshop. The outcome of the workshop was discussed in regards to planning ICV's services, programs and communication strategies



SEA visitors at Flagstaff Gardens after Eid Prayers



Eid al-Fitr Prayer at Flagstaff Gardens 31 August 2011



Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
H.E. Mr Hassan T. Nazer with Br Mohamed Nur in Canberra



Iftar at ICV during Ramadan (August 2011)

Treasurer's Report

Year Ending 30 June 2011

I have great pleasure in presenting the Treasurer's Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2011.

This year has seen a substantial increase in the services provided to the community by the Islamic Council of Victoria. This has driven a significant increase in both revenues and expenditure.

Testament to careful management of expenses, and a

diligent adherence to budgets, the ICV achieved revenues which exceeded expenses to produce a surplus of \$92,278, which is an increase of \$47,995 from the prior year.

We are determined to ensure that the ICV reinvests its operating surplus funds into new services which continue to meet our community's changing and diverse needs.

The major financial results are summarised below:

Item	Jun-11	Jun-10	Movement (\$)	Movement (%)
Revenues	845,202	422,289	422,913	100%
Expenses	752,924	378,213	374,711	99%
Ordinary profit from trading activities	92,278	44,076	48,202	109%
Retained profits at beginning of year	185,567	141,284	44,283	31%
Retained profit at end of year	277,845	185,567	92,278	50%

Full financial details are contained in the Financial Statements which follow, available to all members as given to all AGM attendees. The Financial Statements, as presented, have been audited by Taxline Group Pty Ltd.

Consistent with prior years, Travel and Conference & Seminar expenses predominately relate to expenses incurred for the Indonesian Exchange program that the ICV runs on behalf of the Australia/Indonesia Institute and not to travel undertaken by executive or staff members.

As I outlined in the prior year's Treasurer's Report, the ICV expected operating activities to increase this year, in part due to the introduction of the Prison Chaplaincy – Post Release Program, the new Youth Engagement workers and the ICV Qard Hassan No Interest Loan Scheme. We have seen this increase in operating activities and we expect that there will be further growth in FY12 given the range of new projects commencing, and other projects seeking to grow.

The Executive Committee remains committed to implementing the most cost effective measures and practices in the running of the ICV, in order to ensure that the maximum amount of funds raised and provided for from various sources is able to be utilised in services directly benefiting our broad community.

I would like to thank Mr Zaheer Syed and Mr Mustaque Ahmed for their efforts in maintaining current book keeping in line with accepted accounting standards and for providing assistance when required. I wish to acknowledge the diligent contribution of the staff of ICV for the conscientious manner in which the financial affairs have been managed.

Our recently appointed General Manager Nail Aykan has performed prudently and methodically in his control over the activities of the ICV to ensure that budgeted expectations are met.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the President and the Executive Committee for their support and guidance over the year.

I hold myself accountable to Allah (swt) and to my community for this responsibility, and ask for your prayers and forgiveness for my shortcomings.

Wassalamu alaikum

Nazeem Hussain
Treasurer