

ANNUAL REPORT

2006



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Front Page: **The Impossible Dream** by
Laila Shawa
Printed with the kind permission of the artist.
Currently this piece is held at The Jordan National Gallery.

Laila Shawa :- Born in Gaza, Palestine, in 1940. She works and lives in London.

Laila's view of her art:

"I recorded a method of communication and punishments which have been sanctified by the (civilized world).... I have to criticise what is around me through my painting. I don't believe in painting butterflies and flowers and pretty things."

She worked as supervisor for Arts & Crafts Education with UNRWA in the Gaza Strip while at the same time lecturing on Art Education for children with UNESCO Institute of Education. From 1977-1988 al-Shawa worked with the Saad Mohaffel Chartered Architects practice on the building of the Cultural Center, in Gaza, and executed the stained glass windows for the project, after which she moved to London and resumed work as a full time artist exploring various techniques and mediums. For more information <http://www.lailashawa.com/>

CONTENTS

Objectives & Vision	2	Annual General Meeting 2005	15
Chairperson's Report	3	Facts & Figures 2006	16
Manager's Report	4	New Collaborations	16
Highlights 2006	5-7	Auditor's Report	17-20
New Staff Biographies	8	Publication Order Form	21
Workers' Reports	9-14		

COUNCIL STRUCTURE

Committee of Management

Executive Committee

Tasneem Chopra	Chairperson
Urfa Masood	Vice Chairperson
Majida Ritter	Treasurer
Dakhylina Madkhul	Secretary

Members

Leila Alloush
Fikriye Demirel
Rasheeda Cooper

Previous Staff

Salma Ibrahim
Aynur Canbolat

Volunteers

Amal El-Cheikh Ibrahim

Funding Body Representatives:

Alicia Rodriguez-Orono	DIMA
Jacques Michel	DIMA Living In Harmony
Alison Smith	The Invergowrie Foundation
Daniel Abraham	Attorney-Generals Department

Current Staff

Joumanah El Matrah	Manager
Sultan Cinar	Team Leader <i>Citizenship, Settlement and Non-Violence Program</i>
Faten Mohamed	Young Women Legal Support & Advocacy worker <i>Citizenship, Settlement and Non-Violence Program</i>
Nilufer Yaman	Project Officer
Nagwa Yassin	Community Development Worker <i>Parenting & Resettlement Program</i>
Jaweria Khalid	Young Women's Settlement Worker and Home work Support Program <i>Diversity, Choices & Communications Program</i>
Maisa Dornaika	Building Futures Program
Moona Hammoud	Young Women's Settlement Worker and Recreation Project <i>Diversity, Choices & Communications Program</i>
Nuzhat Lotia	Research & Education Worker <i>SILC: Leadership Development Program</i>
Asha Bedar	Research & Education Worker <i>SILC: Leadership Development Program</i>
Monalisa Fazzaa & Melissa Tregenza	Administrative Officers

OBJECTIVES AND VISION

Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria is a community welfare organisation established and managed by Muslim women for Muslim women. The Council was established in 1991, as a non-religious organisation reflecting the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and sectarian diversity of Muslim women living in the state of Victoria.

The Council is founded on the belief that meaningful change in the status of Muslim women is to be achieved through the improved situation of Muslim women individually and building their capacity collectively. To this end, the Council aims to facilitate Muslim women's full participation in Australian society. IWWCV is a grass roots organisation, informed by the historical, present and evolving status and needs of Muslim women, reflecting the impressive and complex diversity present in the Muslim Australian community.

The Islamic Women's Welfare Council aims to facilitate Muslim women's full participation in Australian society by:

- developing and delivering programs and services to meet the needs of Muslim women in a manner consistent with their values and that of their community,
- empowering Muslim women through information, skill development, support and advocacy,
- promoting social justice, access and equity in the provision of services to Muslim women,
- contributing to the development of knowledge about Muslims at all levels of government, amongst professionals and within the general community,
- promoting the complexity and diversity of Muslim women's identities, and building an interconnectedness between women through increased awareness of their common and diverse challenges,
- promoting women's right to equality, justice, and self determination,
- working to eliminate discrimination against Muslim women both within their community and in the broader social, economic and political spheres of Australia.

The Council's work has been well recognised by various levels of government, the service system and by the community. Current work priorities of the Council include:

- settlement of newly arrived women into Victoria,
- poverty and housing,
- violence against Muslim women,

- capacity building and leadership development,
- education and training,
- economic participation.

The Council works toward these priorities by:

- providing a housing and generalist support service,
- undertaking a community education campaign on citizenship and Australian law,
- providing parenting education sessions,
- developing leadership capacities in Muslim women
- facilitating identity development and communication skill development among young women,
- conducting research and community education campaign on sexual violence against Muslim women,
- conducting research into school retention rates among young Arab and Muslim women and other issues relevant to Muslim women,
- working against racial, religious and gender based crimes and vilification of Muslim women,
- lobbying and advocating on behalf of Muslim women.

Services available to Muslim women

All Muslim women living in Victoria are entitled to access services and programs provided by the Council. Current services operating at the Council include:

- information and referral,
- individual casework support and counselling,
- range of skill development group work and community education sessions,
- recreation and support groups,
- individual mentoring programs,
- volunteer and student placements,
- SILC (Self-esteem, Identity, Leadership and Community participation) Project.

For mainstream and community organisations, government and academic institutions:

- cross-cultural training and training on Islam
- secondary consultations
- research
- projects
- student/volunteer placements
- publications

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure that on behalf of the Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria, I present to you our Annual Report for 2006.

The socio-political fallout experienced by the Muslim community this year, and in particular Muslim women, cannot be understated. The hype surrounding issues directly relevant to Muslim women, and the manner in which this has been perceived has had dire consequences on Muslim women's place in the public sphere.

As a result, much of the work at the Council has centred around ameliorating the negative experiences and public perception of Muslim women. In a way, our response has been a measured and strategic act of damage control, elicited to promote better outcomes for Muslim women and their families. And in essence, this has always been the ethica underpinning much of the social justice work of this organisation.

Subsequently, the past twelve months have seen the Council achieve great success in various ventures at a local, state and even national front.

Though these achievements are too many to list individually, there have been some significant undertakings that have characterised the professional breadth of the Council's work this past year.

The development, launch and success of the "Media Guide: Islam and Muslims in Australia" stands out as perhaps one of the most successful publications to be produced by this organisation. Following the Victorian launch in March this year, the Guide was sought out nationally, with a launch in South Australia taking place as recently as October.

Of significance this year has also been the Council's role, through Joumanah's involvement, with the Prime Minister's Muslim Community Reference Group. Joumanah has done an enormous amount of work as the co-chair of the Education and Training of Clerics and Lay Teachers and Leaders subcommittee. We are optimistic that the new training course should yield a greater appreciation of issues affecting Muslim women's lives and provide for more effective support of Muslim women.

Personally, in my first year as Chairperson, my commitments were extensive, though always rewarding. I have been involved in a number of conferences and networks. And through these liaisons I have endeavoured to forge stronger partnerships between the Council and important stakeholders.

I have made numerous presentations on behalf of the Council at critical forums, including: the Unity for Peace-International Peace Conference, The National Tertiary Education Union: Women's Conference, the Melbourne Writers Festival (Taking Liberties: Free Speech in the Age of Terrorism), the Equal Opportunity Commission of Victoria Anti-terrorism Legislation Review Committee, the Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission: Living Spirit- Muslim Women and Human Rights Forum, the Australian Intercultural Society Ladies Network Interfaith Dinner, the Premiers Women's Summit: Respecting Diversity, & Harmony in Practice, a state-wide Peace Rally: Stop the War, and Persecution of Muslims, an Amnesty International/Oxfam Community Forum, and most recently, the Multicultural South Australia: Media Guide Launch.

Ongoing liaisons with our funding body representatives, government department directors, and Members of Parliament continue as the Council maintains a mutually positive working relationship and dialogue with all offices.

And it just wouldn't be a normal year for the Council without media heavy interaction which involved interviews with print and electronic media outlets including: Today Tonight, SBS World News, Radio National, ABC 774, Triple J, 3CR, The Age, The Herald Sun, The SMH, the Adelaide Review and the Melbourne Times.

The accomplishments of the Council have occurred on account of the remarkable team of workers, headed by Joumanah. All the staff must be applauded for their outstanding contribution to their individual portfolios. The end result has been a high quality service that is yielding constructive outcomes for its clients. The ensuing worker reports in this Annual Report are testimony to just that. With each passing year the quality and precision of this service delivery just keeps getting better. The Council continues to raise the bar in its standards of excellence, and its talented staff and dedicated committee of management are to be commended for their enthusiasm.

While we may sometimes be overwhelmed with the social and political overtones that affect many areas of our life, its heartening to hear that amidst the frenetic pace of our work, we have made life better for a Muslim woman. And that is its own reward.

Tasneem Chopra
Chairperson

MANAGER'S REPORT

Muslims in Australia have come to be defined almost entirely by the global political environment and their settlement and acceptance in Australia has become equally captive to global politics. In this context, the development and delivery of community welfare work has become enormously difficult with political debates and media events encroaching ever further into welfare provision and community life.

The vast majority of political debates and media stories do not in anyway meaningfully represent Muslims or their lives in this country and they do not contribute positively to the process by which newly arrived Muslims settle into Australia and most certainly they do not facilitate an understanding of Islam or Muslims. Further, these debates obstruct, injure and deny the basic humanity of Muslims rendering them two dimensional, a homogenous and essentially barbaric mass. These debates generate and entrench precisely the issues they profess to address.

The challenges women face in migrating and settling into a new country are considerable, the current politicised environment makes this task next to impossible; and yet newly arrived migrants are blamed for this impossibility. It is important to remain cognisant that it is disadvantage and social and economic insecurity, not culture and religion that barricade individuals against settlement. The work of the community welfare sector should be to deal with disadvantage, not contend with media events and politically advantageous comments by those who have very little knowledge about gendered oppression, Islam, Muslims, migrants, settlement and integration.

In the context of this environment the Council has continued to carry a significant workload, working both at the state and national level. At the state level, we have continued to provide our regular services, working with 1661 women this year via our individual casework and groupwork services. We have continued to provide training and secondary consultation to mainstream service providers with over 31 presentations and 215 consultations. In addition we have established four of our own working groups on various issues and undertaken 12 focused consultations with service providers and Muslim women on needs/issues for Muslim women. We have also organised a number of conferences this year.

This year I was pleased to give a speech for International Women's Day for the Minister Julie Bishop and the Department for the Status of Women. The event was very successful and a wonderful day for many women. We have also undertaken a number of programs of national significance for Muslim communities, including the publication and launch of the "Media Guide: Islam and Muslims in Australia". The Council has also undertaken program research work, developing

models to address leadership skill development among Muslim youth and the impact of marginalization/alienation.

We also further developed our SILC leadership model to address the needs of a broader group of women. Currently we are in the middle of redeveloping and further extending our Islam 'Opposes Violence Against Women resource manual' to reflect the types of challenges women face in relation to domestic violence but also to document the development of our own understanding of the dynamics of violence against women in the diasporic context.

On the national level, we have participated in the Muslim Reference Group's sub committee; Education and Training of Clerics and Lay Teachers and Leaders, the Conference Organising Committee for Conference of Australian Imams with contributions from Muslim leaders, women and youth, and the panel to assess expressions of interest to host a national centre of excellence for Islamic studies. Related to this work, the Council has been undertaking a small research project to assess women's and young people's needs in relation to the training of imams.

Internally to the Council, this year we have been re awarded a number of grants, including Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs settlement grant for young Muslim women and the Invergowrie Foundation has funded the Council for another three years to provide homework support to young women in secondary schools. The Department of Family and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs have also provided funding for the Council to provide capacity building program for Muslim mothers. Another highlight of the year is the move for the Council to a new office! The shift has been wonderful for us and having space to move around has certainly reinvigorated a few of us around here!

With exception of Aynur Canbolat who has moved onto policy work, there are no permanent farewells this year. But we do have a few new faces whose biographies form part of this year's report. All the new staff members have been a wonderful addition to our existing, quite remarkable team of workers. In conclusion, I'd like to thank the staff of the Council for their hard work this year and their ongoing commitment to the Council. I'd also like to congratulate Committee Members on their new executive positions. They have adapted to their new roles with skill and met all the challenges and changes with intelligence and grace. As always, much thanks is due to those outside the Council who have supported us and our work.

Joumanah El Matrah
Manager

HIGHLIGHTS 2006

Young Muslim Women's Careers Expo

As part of the Recreation Project at the IWWCV, on 2nd November 2006, a Young Muslim Women's Careers Expo was held at the Hume Global Learning Centre in Broadmeadows from 9.30am-3.30pm. This was the first Careers Expo the Council has held for young Muslim women.

The Expo focused on young Muslim women in secondary schools living in metropolitan Melbourne. The aim of the Expo was to provide an encouraging and supportive environment where young women can safely voice their experiences, identify career pathways they may want to undertake post secondary school, meet other young Muslim women, and learn new skills necessary for their career development. The Expo consisted of influential Muslim women key note speakers, several concurrent workshops on issues relevant to career development and an Expo of stalls held by different educational and employment institutions.

The Expo was a success. In total sixty young Muslim women attended the event. The young women provided very positive feedback about the entire day. Some they enjoyed the opportunity greatly; others stated they are already looking forward to the next Expo.



Working with Muslim Youth In Australia

'Working with Muslim Youth in Australia' was the theme and the title of the training held statewide on February 15 2006 at Carlton Primary School. Approximately 60 secondary school staff and youth workers from related youth organisations attended the training.

The day was enormously successful with lots of positive recommendations for work with Muslim youth in the future.



HIGHLIGHTS 2006

Living Spirit - Muslim Women and Human Rights Forum

Living Spirit: Muslim Women and Human Rights Project – the right to participate in social change was held on 21 September 2006 at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre in Preston, Victoria.

The Commission worked in partnership with the Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria on the forum which was very successful. *Living Spirit* was funded by the Department of Immigration Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) and also officially supported by the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council (FECCA), Equal Opportunity Commission Victoria (EOCV), Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (EECV), Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV), Islamic Girls Women's Group (IGWG), Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI), Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition (VIRWC) and Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE.

The Forum was attended by over 130 women from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, including a combination of Muslim women and girls, and non-Muslim women. Most of the participants were Muslim women who are home-makers, students, service providers, community workers, religious leaders and professionals including lawyers. Non-Muslim women included church leaders, police, community workers, service providers, anti-discrimination agencies, media, government representatives and individual community members.

The one-day Forum included: an Indigenous smoking ceremony and traditional welcome to country; a hypothetical called '*Righting the Wrongs: How would you respond?*' addressing the sets of standards of policy that decision makers use to respond to incidents of discrimination and abuse; a morning tea with politicians; a '*Why Women Matter*' Exhibition profiling achievements and contributions to Australia by ten everyday Muslim women; the screening of '*Veiled Ambition*' and other DVD's; an interactive and empowering drumming workshop; and ten concurrent workshops. These workshops explored human rights issues facing Muslim women, Islam and human rights, the affects of anti-terrorism laws, media issues including freedom of speech and racial vilification, complaints mechanisms and anti-discrimination law, confronting stereotypes and misconceptions, and participating in social change and strategies for the future. Participants also wrote their ideas and thoughts about the day, human rights and Islam on a canvas mural which has been donated to the Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria.

The Forum was followed by a closing dinner held at a local café to mark the end of the forum and celebrate the beginning of Ramadan. Over 70 women and their families attended the dinner.

The key issues and strategies identified in the Forum and previous consultations, as well as the results of a formal evaluation of the *Living Spirit* forum will form the basis of a final Project Report to be sent to DIMA within the next couple of weeks.



HIGHLIGHTS 2006

Bridging Dialogues Project

We launched the media guide on Islam and Muslims in Australia for journalists and researchers in March. The launch was attended by 50 media representatives, government and community workers, while the Media Guide was launched by The Hon Andrew Robb AO, MP Parliamentary Secretary Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. There was a presentations by Peter Manning, Matthew Ricketson (previously RMIT and currently The Age) & addresses from Farah Farouque (The Age) & Margaret Donaldson (HREOC). The guide has been widely distributed to media outlets and journalists in response to specific requests from journalism students, universities and journalists. A second, recent launch in South Australia is a testament to its success. We have included the speech given by Peter Manning at the original Melbourne launch of the guide.

PETER MANNING has been a journalist for 35 years. He began in print newspapers and magazines and then moved to ABC radio and television as a reporter. In the 1980s he produced some of "Four Corners" biggest investigative stories and became Executive Producer of the program. In the late 80s and 90s he took over as Head of ABC TV News and Current Affairs. He later moved to the Seven Network and became Head of Current Affairs there. He is now Adjunct Professor of Journalism at the University of Technology in Sydney and is completing a doctorate on Arabic and Muslim images in the media.

IWWCV MEDIA MANUAL March 17, 2006

Speech at the launch of the manual

HREOC offices, Melbourne

By Peter Manning

This is a milestone event. Journalists are not every day presented with such a comprehensive and useful handbook on a matter that occupies the news agenda so intensely. It shows a maturity in the Muslim community, a coming of age as a lobby group and a sense of confidence in relations with the media. I am saying this as a longtime member of the media - as former reporter in print, radio and television and as former executive in print, radio and television. From both perspectives, a manual such as this is sorely needed.

No-one pretends that the production of a media manual on Muslim beliefs and practices will make for perfect coverage of this community's affairs. In just about every newsroom around the country, the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance's Code of Ethics is either in the top drawer of most reporters' desks or on the newsroom wall. But we still get a steady flow of "Media Watch" stories, re-runs of "Frontline",

apologies and corrections in newspapers and complaints to regulatory bodies. We expect the same after the publication of this manual.

But where it might make a difference is in beginning the process of combating racism and orientalism in our news coverage. I believe there's a real need to stamp out racist coverage in our media. By that I mean the kind of coverage which is so uniformly negative as to ensure that, for the average reader, viewer or listener, there can be no other conclusion than that all Muslims are violent, all Muslims repress women and all Muslims belong to some shadowy global conspiracy that is opposed to Australian values.

Part of this stereotyping comes from a concentration on the peak events in which small groups of Muslims have enacted violent outrages, often against Western people. We see little other coverage of the ordinary lives of the other billion Muslims on the planet. Part of the stereotyping comes from genuine misunderstanding of traditional Muslim concepts and words like "jihad", "sharia" or "fundamentalism".

But part of it undoubtedly comes from an attitude towards Muslims that is inherently antagonistic. It is what the great Palestinian-American literary scholar, Edward Said, called "orientalism". We've inherited it from the Crusades, from Shakespeare's "Othello", from poets like Tennyson and Kipling, from figures like Lawrence of Arabia and from modern day so-called experts like Professor Bernard Lewis and Daniel Pipes in the United States. This tradition simply sees the Arab and the Muslim as tricky, sleazy, sexual and untrustworthy.

I have published an academic study of what this means for the journalism we read. It is a study of 12,000 articles mentioning the words "Arab" and "Muslim" as published in Sydney's two major newspapers, the "Daily Telegraph" and the "Sydney Morning Herald" in the year before and the year after September 11, 2001.

What it shows is that if you are either Arab or Muslim in Australia you will get horrendous treatment in the Press. In the year after September 11, of all articles mentioning the word Muslim, 89 percent also used the word "terror" or "terrorist" or "terrorism" in association with it. Muslim equals terrorist! It is clear that journalists head out from behind their media castle walls chock-a-block full of the "orientalist" stereotype. The stories seem to simply fulfill the attitude already in journalists' heads.

HIGHLIGHTS 2006

Let me give a few examples. There's been a theme in media coverage about Muslims getting special privileges. Radio shock jocks have railed at Muslim women having special times to go to the local gym. They've railed at Muslims having halal hamburgers at McDonald's. And they've railed at Muslim girls having private sessions at suburban swimming pools. And newspapers have taken up the cause of blasting away at these so-called "special privileges". But what are these other than an inability on the media's part to accept difference? Why shouldn't Muslim women have privacy if they ask for it? In Sydney, there's been a Women's baths at Coogee for all my lifetime precisely because women would like to have private space.

Then there's been a theme about the hijab and the oppression of women. We even had an Education roundsman of one newspaper saying she thought it was part of the essence of Islam to have weird attitudes to sex! Even George Bush said part of the reason for the invasion of Afghanistan was to liberate its women! What is the hijab if not a sign of modesty and privacy? As a young Catholic, I used to pray to a woman represented in a hijab. Her name was Mary, Christ's mother. In my first years at school I was taught by women in hijabs. They were called nuns! I can't recall any media panic about them.

This media manual is badly needed because it is a contribution to education and enlightenment. It is a gift to journalists. It challenges them to become a bit knowledgeable about this area of Australian life which seems to be constantly reported and constantly discussed.

In closing let me say the next manual needs to be for politicians. Rule one should be: don't open your mouth until you know what you are talking about. We have recently had a succession of statements from federal Ministers that simply betray their ignorance at understanding Islam. "Jihad" does not simply mean "holy war". It means "struggle" - for instance, against overweening pride. "Sharia" law does not necessarily involve contradiction to Australian civil law any more than Catholic church law or Jewish marriage law do. "Fundamentalism" does not necessarily involve violence any more than the fundamentalist Hillsong church so beloved of Peter Costello, does. And just because an imam preaches in Arabic doesn't mean he's hiding something. The beautiful language and script of Arabic have been integral to expressing Islam for 1300 years. And that applies in Indonesia as much as Iraq or Morocco.

As a nation I think we are awash with misunderstanding about Islam. It is not helped by politicians

playing party games in this sea of confusion and ignorance. Their excuse is that they are simply reflecting community concern. Well, its about time they took on a leadership role and starting educating the community and finding a way forward rather than stoking up the embers of racist hatred. Its time to turn back before we get an outbreak of Cronullas all over Australia.

As my old dad would have said, I take my hat off to the women who have produced this media manual. Journalists urgently need it as a handy ready-reckoner. So do politicians. So do community leaders across our multicultural society. From now on, no-one in the media can say "I didn't know". It's all there, in plain English. Have a read!

Peter Manning



BIOGRAPHIES

Faten Mohamed

Young Women, Legal Support and Advocacy Worker

I have joined the Council in May 2006 as the Young Women, Legal Support and Advocacy Worker. Since joining the organisation I have worked with Muslim women from a range of backgrounds. My work has been mainly co-facilitating parenting workshops, legal information workshops and providing a case work support for women.

I was born in Khartoum, Sudan and migrated with my family to Australia over 12 years ago. I am currently completing my Honours in Social Science at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT). I have a passion for working with women, and an interest in working in the area of international development.

My father is Sudanese and my mother is of Eritrean background. I am actively involved with both communities in Melbourne.

My biggest achievement has been my involvement in a group called Sudanese Youth for Reconciliation and Hope. It is a group of eleven young people from North and South Sudan working together to reconcile a country and community divided by a devastating 50 year civil war. We aim to empower young people from Sudanese backgrounds living in Australia and around the world to take up a leadership role and to actively participate in sustaining peace in Sudan and to work together on building a nation free of religious and racial hatred.

Nagwa Yassin

Community Development Worker

I am very passionate regarding community issues and that is evident in my commitment to the work I do. This is my heritage and part of my strong family traditions. My experience spans 5 countries in 3 different continents over 15 years. I voluntarily founded and managed the Eritrean Young Women's Club (1995-1997). I was also a committee member and vice president of the Eritrean Committee of Australia (2000-2002) and co-founded another unisex social club for Eritrean youth in (2000-2001).

I am currently working with the Council as a Parenting case worker. I have also been part of the Cancer Council as a bilingual health educator in 2000 and worked with VICSEG as a youth worker for the Horn of Africa communities for three years.

I have three young children, Muhammad, Fatima and Wafa.

Maisa Dornaika

Building Futures Program

I am an Australian from a Lebanese background. I have always held a deep desire to work in youth work and the Muslim community. I graduated from university in 2004, receiving my Bachelor Of Arts Degree (Youth Work Studies), and so I am really enjoying my job at the Council. Currently I coordinate the Homework Support Program (Building Futures) which operates in the Western & Northern regions of Melbourne. I am enjoy my job and the dynamics of the office and appreciate the cultural differences around me even though we are all Muslim here.

Monalisa Fazzaa

Administrative Officer

I am currently a student at RMIT University, completing my Business Degree. My skills and knowledge have been very useful to the Council as one of their administration officer. At the Council I have undertaken major administrative tasks that have furthered my communication, interpersonal and problem-solving skills. I've been successful at the Council also as a person who promotes education and career options for young women and I have done this on many other occasions, outside the Council including Victoria University, RMIT University and Australian Lebanese Welfare. My motivational skills meant that I could participate in the successful 2006 career's expo as a guest speaker sharing my experience about my own career pathway. I am hoping to complete my Degree and manage my own accounting firm in future years and also become an effective ambassador for young Muslim women.

Melissa Tregenza

Administrative Officer

I joined the Islamic Women's Welfare team on the 21st September 2006. I am a 35 year old seventh generation Australian with two beautiful children. Coming from a nine year Telstra career in Land Development this is all new and exciting. Since joining the team, my eyes have been opened. I greatly look forward to learning more about the Muslim community

WORKERS' REPORTS

CITIZENSHIP & VIOLENCE WORKER'S REPORT

Sultan Cinar

as Team Leader

2006 has been another extraordinary and fruitful year for the Council. We have continued to deliver quality services to the Muslim community and made excellent progress. Our ongoing commitment to learning and consultation, effective networking, collective approach with service users and service providers and working as a team has helped us achieve this outcome.

In 2006 the Parenting, Citizenship and Young Women's programs successfully completed their work plans. The staff who run the program are dedicated, hard working people. Without their commitment and energy the Council would not be able to maintain its quality of work.

I would like to thank the staff, who have all been undertaking excellent work. At the same time I would also like to extend our thanks to Women's Legal Service Victoria, Coburg and Broadmeadows Legal services and Mackillop Family Services for their continued support and collaboration.

Developing a community legal education program

This year we have further developed our legal education module with the assistance and expertise of an advisory committee comprising representatives of the Family and Magistrate Courts, Victoria Police Family and Domestic Violence Unit, and various other legal centres and women's agencies. The support and advice of the committee and their ongoing input into the module as we tested it was invaluable.

Catering social enterprise program

The Council has been over the years mentoring Muslim women to develop their skills, self-esteem, knowledge and confidence to settle in Australia and to enter the work force. This year, we initiated a social enterprise program in collaboration with AMES and CERES that aims to train Muslim women participants in producing organic pastries, preserves and breads for CERES café and market, and also for local retailers. The program will train the participants in small business management, food handling, cooking, baking, and processing food as well as focus on developing their confidence and self-esteem.

Cross cultural training

The project also provided cross cultural training on

Islam and diversity of Muslim communities and their cultural practice in Australia to mainstream services.

Group work

The demand for training on Islam & Muslims continues to grow, in part due to the increase in the number of Muslims seeking assistance, and in part due to the rise in the misconception about Muslims.

Twenty seven community education sessions were provided to Muslim women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in the metropolitan region and rural areas. Four hundred & fifty nine women attended these sessions that were primarily about the Australian Legal System, citizenship rights and responsibilities and capacity building in terms of how to access available services.

After years of providing group work sessions, I still believe it is the best method of providing important information to women.

Case work

The project continued to provide case work services to Muslim women. The case work service focused on supporting the community on housing, legal information, domestic violence, health, mental health, parenting issues as well as providing material aid and advice on other settlement needs.

Community and secondary consultation with mainstream service providers

We conducted a number of consultation sessions with Muslim women to identify Muslim community's needs. Outcomes of the consultation showed that many women would like to learn more about the legal, health and education system in Australia and ways of linking to the local services. In addition, we also provided secondary consultations to one hundred and nine individuals and fourteen organisations about working effectively with Muslim communities.

Anti-terrorism Laws Information Project

Another collaborative effort of the Council involves researching community knowledge and concerns about the new Anti-Terror Laws in partnership with the Darebin Community Legal Centre. The information collected via this research will be used to produce an information resource on anti-terror laws for future community education programs.

In the end, I would like to thank the many people especially women who have supported and partici-

COMMUNITY SETTLEMENT & PARENTING WORKERS' REPORT

Jaweria Khalid & Nagwa Yassin

The council's Parenting Program has continued to work with Muslim mothers and their families, particularly newly arrived women and their families. This year we started working with newly arrived Muslim Women from Sudan and Afghanistan in the Dandenong area. The Council aims to continue working with these women and to provide them support in successfully settling in Australia. The workers who are currently working in varying capacities in the parenting program team are Najwa Yassin, Faten and Jaweria Khalid. The parenting program provided casework services, groupwork services and radio programs to raise support to newly arrived Muslim women in dealing with parenting challenges and difficulties in the settlement process.

Case Work

The aim of the Council's casework services is to work with newly arrived mothers on parenting issues that obstruct the settlement for themselves and their children. Homelessness continues to be a significant issue for women and their children, leading to a significant delay for women establishing themselves in their new country.

The other issues of concern in casework parenting service were:

1. Parenting issues (discipline, behavior issues, communication problems etc)
2. Schooling
3. Childcare, Health & Well being
4. Financial instability
5. Legal issues
6. Domestic Violence
7. Islamic divorce

Group Work

In 2006 we carried out our parenting education sessions for Arabic speaking Muslim mothers in Shepparton, Sudanese women in Nobel Park and Afghan women's group in Dandenong. The community parenting education sessions aimed to increase newly arrived Muslim communities capacity to parent in Australia.

For Iraqi women in Shepparton the parenting program focused on issues of adolescent parenting, communication with children, absence of fathers in parenting, sole parenting and stepmother issues and challenging adolescent behavior.

In Melbourne, we conducted a few consultation sessions with Sudanese women that are a part of the newly arrived community in Australia. Approximately 40 women participated in the consultations and decided that there was a need for a parenting education group as well as a need for them to be linked to the local agencies.

The Sudanese parenting group started in October and continued for six weeks and was attended by approximately 50 women, who speak Sudanese Arabic. The issues discussed and addressed were child development, child disciplining, sleep problems, meal times and Vitamin D deficiency in African Women.

The Afghani parenting group began in November and was attended by a total of approximately 60 Dari speaking women. The sessions focused on developing positive parenting skills. The participants are newly arrived and very young mothers. Most of the women have children under five and the following issues were raised: discipline, challenging behavior, setting limits and parenting in Australia.

Radio programs/ Community Resources

One of the major component of parenting work was to broadcast community radio programs on parenting related issues. A series of radio programs on SBS Arabic radio and on 3CR radio were broadcast in August and September 2006. Adolescent parenting issues were addressed. The radio programs provided information to Muslim parents on adolescent development and dealing with their adolescent's issues and in facilitating their adolescent children's adjustment to Australian life. They were also provided with information about local parenting services as well as improving their awareness of rights and duties of parenting in the Australian context.

The most disadvantaged Muslim women and newly arrived communities had a chance to hear information on adolescence and about the Council and its services at a much broader level. The programs got a good response from the community and radio stations and want us to run the program again in the near future.

CORNERSTONES & SELF-ESTEEM, IDENTITY, LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Nuzhat Lotia & Asha Bedar

Cornerstones

In the later half of 2006 we initiated an innovative project aimed at providing a multifaceted capacity building program for Muslim women focusing on parenting, communication, conflict resolution, relationship skills, development and transiting to education and employment. The project will also work with Muslim children as a pilot building their capacities to mediate around different cultural demands by parents and peers and develop better life skills. The first phase of the project – *Setting the Foundation* – consists of initiating collaborations, research, module and material development for the women and children. We have developed the modules for the project which will continue to evolve as we learn from the implementation phase of the project. The module for women focuses on parenting issues related to migration, racism, gender-based marginalisation and skills development in communication and building effective relationships. The module for children involves developing communication skills, understanding and communicating feelings, appreciating differences, developing self-esteem and self-confidence and seeking support.

Self-esteem, Identity, leadership & community participation

The SILC programs were developed and implemented between 2000-2004, both were successful and a focal point in the Council's development of its group work programs. Therefore we have continued to further refine and adapt the model.

The SILC Research and Education Workers undertook two small projects building on the success of the SILC pilot project. These projects were aimed at a greater understanding of capacity building needs of Muslim youth and women and developing initiatives, an area that the Council believes is very critical in the development and integration of the Muslim communities in Australia.

SILC for Muslim Youth

The overall aim of the SILC for Muslim Youth project was to research and develop programs for Muslim youth to enable their effective integration into the Australian society and to facilitate their active community participation. The project involved research and development of a Muslim youth leadership development training module aimed at:

- ✦ Increasing Muslim and youth's self-worth and confidence through a capacity building approach.

- ✦ Cultivating and asserting an effective relationship between Muslim youth and the communities that they are members of.

- ✦ Enhancing life skills and opportunities for Muslim youth.

Providing information and building knowledge among Muslim youth to become active and effective members of their communities through the use of a capacity building approach.

We piloted sessions of the SILC for Muslim Youth leadership module with young Muslim women which was enormously successful, with young women providing very positive feedback.

SILC for Women

The SILC for Women project consisted of the review of the existing SILC modules in light of the evaluation of SILC pilot project and research of new models on women's leadership. We identified that a different workshop focus is required depending on the length of time in Australia, education and literacy levels, cultural groups, etc. More advanced level workshops are needed for women who have participated in SILC workshops so that they can develop more specific leadership skills and strategies, such as advocacy, than are covered in the original module.

We have incorporated these learnings in the SILC modules and have had relevant material translated into Arabic, Turkish and Somali languages. We ran leadership in parenting workshops incorporating the learnings of the review with Turkish and Kurdish women and received very good feedback from the participants.

Throughout the year we also conducted training on Islam for a range of professionals and services such as the Kingston City Council, University of the Third Age in Seymour, WIRE, Women's Health West, The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Carlton Primary School and some community groups. As always, the year has been a very rewarding one for us and we have continued to learn from our work and experiences and look forward to another productive and exciting year.

YOUNG WOMEN'S WORKERS' REPORT

Moona Hammoud & Jaweria Khalid

The 'Diversity, Choices & Communications' program continues its work with young Muslim women in secondary schools across Victoria in 2006. We organised groupwork programs throughout 2006 with East Preston Islamic College, and Peter Lalor Secondary College. We are working with members of the Shepparton and Cobram communities towards a groupwork program with young Muslim women in the near future.

This year Groupwork sessions with young Muslim women have focused on issues such as; self esteem, identity development, health and wellbeing, dealing with racism, and positive communication skills. The sessions were well attended by young women from Somalia, Eritrea, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Intensive support and coaching to deal with issues at home, in the community and at school continued in 2006 as part of our confidential casework service to young Muslim women across Victoria. Accessing affordable, long term housing remains to dominate our casework load. Other issues young Muslim women face are: mental and physical health concerns, family violence, marital relationship breakdown, and settlement issues, such as finding appropriate housing, linking them to professional health services etc.

Two editions of 'VOICES of young Muslim women' newsletters have been produced with the help of young Muslim women across Victoria. The newsletter has been our way of resourcing young

Muslim women with updated and reliable information about issues of concern to them. It has also been our way of keeping in touch with young women who have otherwise not been able to contact us directly, such as young women in rural Victoria.

Our networking with schools and agencies is ongoing and we have met with several schools regarding casework and groupwork services. We continue to receive requests from schools and agencies to conduct presentations for students and staff on Islam and Muslim communities in Australia.

Presentations have been held for students at Mentone Girls Grammar, Feminist Lawyers Network, and staff at WIRE. We received very positive feedback from the students and staff about the presentations.

Despite our very busy schedule in 2006, we still managed to run several one off workshops. Workshops have been conducted at Australian International Academy, the 'Health Promotion and Preventing Violence against Women' conference, and the 'Living Spirit: Muslim Women and Human Rights' forum.

We finished our year with the Careers Expo. We have really enjoyed working with young Muslim women in secondary schools across Melbourne and are looking forward to running more groupwork programs in 2007.



BUILDING FUTURES PROJECT WORKERS' REPORT

Jaweria Khalid & Maisa Dornaika

The 'Building Futures' Project offers direct support to young Muslim women through homework tutoring support. The program has been continuing successfully since the last 3 years and has recently been re-funded for another 3 years by the Invegowire Foundation. The target group for the program is young Muslim women in secondary colleges (year 7 to year 12) experiencing difficulties in completing school work and requiring practical homework support. Two homework groups were established, one in Hoppers Crossing and the other in Footscray. The Hoppers Crossing group finalised this year and in June 2006 Lalor homework group was established.

The Footscray homework support group was generally attended by students from Gilmore Secondary College, Maribyrnong Secondary College, MELC Secondary College, and Brunswick Secondary College. The young women sought assistance predominately in Maths, Science, History, English, Law, Health and SOSE. They also utilised the computer and internet services available onsite to further develop their information technology and research skills.

Young women often use our project resources for career pathway and guidance assistance. The project worked with young women on various career options to ensure they were consistent with their aptitude and interest.

Students have consistently requested that the homework group be held more than once a week. They would like more regular assistance, but also that the current 2 hours of support does not fully meet their needs.

The Hoppers Crossing homework support group was attended by students mostly from the Islamic School of Werribee and some from Hoppers Crossing Secondary College and Werribee Secondary College. They received assistance in Maths, Accounting, English, SOSE and Psychology. We also provided them with other forms of support such as dealing with issues of communicating with parents and teachers, self esteem development, understanding and negotiating between cultures, and information about local community services. The group finished in March 2006.

The Council decided to move from the Western to the Northern Region of Melbourne after the Hoppers Crossing group finalised.

The homework support group in Lalor commenced in June 2006. There are no such services available in the area with a rapidly increasing Muslim community.

There is no homework support for Muslim young women in that area. Young women attending the program are from Lalor Secondary College, Peter Lalor Secondary College and Thomastown Secondary College. In this group, young women require assistance with Maths and English subjects.

Because of the homework support, Young women inform us that they are experiencing a remarkable change and improvement in their homework performance report, improved marks in their subjects, which leads to improved confidence. Young women like the way tutors teach in the program and the one to one help that they are able to provide. They do feel that there are times when high homework load means that the number of available tutors are not sufficient to meet their demands. They want to see more tutors in the homework program. Most of the young women also feel that one evening of help is not enough and they need more than one day to improve their English language skills in particular.

The program has been very successful in providing support for young Muslim women. The project has been able to improve young Muslim women's learning skills, their understanding of the educational system and its requirements. This in turn, helps them remain in school and opens up more educational pathways for them. Participants state that have more confidence which in turn just put them on the road to a fulfilling educational and work life.



ADMINISTRATIVE WORKERS' REPORT

Melissa J Tregenza

As a new member of the team, it has been very exciting to work with such intelligent, caring and knowledgeable women, all of whom I have found very inspirational. Coming from a Telstra career of 9 years, this is all very new & exciting.

While becoming a new member of the IWWC team, I have never been made to feel more welcome and for that I express my sincere gratitude.

Since the move from the Fitzroy office (in August) to the Northcote site, I have been involved with establishing the new office and its setup. Whilst doing an administrative role, I have also been assisting Joumanah as her personal assistant. This role has meant that I have regular contact with the Committee, who are an integral part of the organisation but who work outside our office. This has given me more insight into how and why the organisation runs.

On 2nd November I attended my first 'Young Women's Career Expo'. Like the young women that attended, I found it very interesting & inspirational and left there thinking "what could I do, to better myself to help others"? As a sixth generation Australian, my eyes were opened wider & I meet with many lovely women and learnt a great deal.

I greatly look forward to contributing to the Council to help with its ongoing success.

MonaLisa Fazzaa

I began as a volunteer at the Council who was striving for work experience. I commenced work with the Council early May 2006. I found a sense of belonging with my community and felt comfortable. I thought I could learn many things about work life, especially because of the Council's welcoming environment.

My role at the Council is to do with the major operations of the organisation. As an Administrative Financial Officer I provide administrative financial support to the Manager; assisting in the tracking of financial accountability requirements. I maintain up to date organisational records, to undertake preparation for Fitzroy and Carlton Community Credit Co-Operative, and to maintain payroll accounts in accordance with funding body requirements and the Council's guidelines as directed by the Treasurer and the Committee of Management. I also work closely with Treasurer to maintain financial records of the organisation.

With the administrative role I develop and maintain an enhanced filing and storage system that's consistent with industry standards, undertake secretarial and administrative work for programs, process correspondence, including organisations mail outs, stationary supplies, office equipment and undertake other duties consistent with this role and as directed by Manager and Treasurer

I have developed excellent skills regarding my position including communication skills along with telephone handling, technological skills, and interpersonal skills. The most outstanding skill I developed this year was the 'negotiating' skill, which is one of Joumanah's favorite skills!

For me the major development that has occurred in the Council would be moving from the Fitzroy to the Northcote property. At the stage of moving I felt that it would be a major improvement for the Council and would help enhance our services. I had a major role in preparing the Council to move and settle into its new property.

I've developed a good relationship with the Treasurer and all the wonderful staff. I have also trained a new staff member who has recently joined the Council. I also worked closely with Joumanah as a personal assistant and learned many things from her. It has been a wonderful experience.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005

WEDNESDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2005 – PRESTON SHIRE HALL

Attended By:

Adele Murdolo - Working Women's Health, Aisha El-Dik - Australian Lebanese Welfare Inc, Aldo Malavisi - City of Yarra, Alice Macdougall - Freehills, Amal El-Khoury - Australian Lebanese Welfare Inc., Amelia Basset - Darebin Community Health, Amuna Abdella - MCHS, Angela Taft - Mosaic, La Trobe, Atiye, Aynur Akbaba - Roxburgh College, Badria Allaouie - Australian Lebanese Welfare Inc., Aynur Canbolat, Barbara Jary - Invergowrie, Berna Toumanis - Roxburgh College, Beth Parker - Family & Community Services, Cemile Ozkurtullis, Dakhylina Madkhul, Dalal Smiley - Darebin City Council, Dayane Stanovic, Efnan, Elizabeth - Melbourne City Mission, Eman Babbaaza, Emine - Roxburgh College, Emriye, Entisar Ali, Fakiha Ibrahim, Fatima Marcon - Locum, Fikriye Demirel - IWWCV, Firial Ali - Bint Al Huda, Frances Davies - Family & Community Services, G. Johnson - DIMA, Gary Batzloff, Gul Erbas - Turkish Womens Voice, Gulay Bocykal - Roxburgh Park Secondary College, Guler, Gulsen Kaye, Guluzar Gazuacik, Hadia, Halima, Hanady Touchan, Hanifa Deen, Hanim Yuksel - Roxburgh College, Hasibe, Hassina Farag, Hatice Mavili, Hatice Yildirim, Hatice Yumsak, Hussein Tahiri - Victoria Police, Imren Uysal - Roxburgh College, Inaz Madkhul, Jackie Watts - VISTA, Jane Crwley - City of Melbourne, Jaweria Khalid, Jemia Farag, Jemila Ibrahim, Jill Cam - EMC, Joumanah El-Matrah, Judith Smale - Melbourne City Mission, Juh Dugdal - Melbourne City Mission, Kadime Yildirim, Karima Farouque, Kate Culley - Department Of Justice, Kate Reeves, Kath Deakin - Women's Health in the North, Kavitha Chanda - EOCV, Kerar Howe - Royal Women's Hospital, Keziban, Khaled Hassan, Laila Fanebust - EMC, Lasathe Feznanak, Leila Alloush, Liz Sweeney - Kangan Batman TAFE, Lorrelle Mandaru - Freehills, Lowell Wan - Morelans CHC, Lubnah Ackaff, M. Ella - Vista, Magi Marcon - City of Yarra, Maher Mughrabi, Majida Taleb, Manar - Diversity Connect, Manaa Eshaac, Manta Manski - Melbourne City Mission, Mary Ashton - EACH, Mary Benson - Ilhan Foundation, Maryem Sagutau, Matoula Douvartzidis - Roxburgh College, Moona Ellez, Moona Hammoud, Melha, Micheal Kheirallah - Consumer Affairs VIC, Naima Avci, Nasma Khan - Social Work, Nazli Farouque, Nebahat Barut, Nefisa Osman, Nesima Khan, Nevin Bal - Roxburgh College, Nihal - Roxburgh College, Nurahan Ozturk - VIRWC, Nuray, Paula Brosnan - Victoria Police, Nuzhat Lotia, Phil Moorby - DIMA, Philippa Mc Lean - Vic Health, Raina Smith - City of Melbourne, Rasheeda Cooper, Rodayna Harrouk - VASS, Roslyn Mujkancvic, Rubina Brown, Sabiha Tuna, Sahar Yasein - Silr, Saja Sammour, Samar Ahmed - MRC North West Region, Sati, Serap Abak - Roxburgh College, Serim Cinar, Serpil Bulat - Roxburgh College, Sezgin Tonkus - Roxburgh College, Shameem Bhatt - 'Women On The Go', Sheikh Fehmi - Islamic Society of VIC, Sheila Byard - UNAA Status of Women Committee, Sibel Getinkiran - Roxburgh College, Sibel Sevk - Angli Care, Simone Elias - Fitzroy Legal Service, Sabriye, Salma Ibrahim, Sulay Kilic, Sultan Cinar, Susan Johnston - MRC North West Region, Suzan Cinar, Tasneem Chopra, Tenenet Taye - African Australian Welfare Council, Thea Calzani - MCM, Thomas Harding - Indoeasy Language Service, Uoula Messimein - GCCV/AGWS, Urfa Masood, Vivianne Wosra - Latrobe University, Willa Rongriceir - MCM, Zabira Usman, Zahara Abdul Manaf - Children Network, Zeynep Tasci, Zohal Yussuf

Minutes of IWWCV's 2005 Annual General Meeting

1. Opening performance: Traditional Malay Dance by Dakhylina Madkhul
2. Opening: 11:00 am by Leila Alloush, who formally welcomed all members and guests/Apologies
3. Chairperson's Report: presented by Leila Alloush
4. Confirmation of Minutes from last AGM by Leila Alloush
5. Treasurer's Report: presented by Fikriye Demirel. Moved to be accepted by Tasneem Chopra
6. Appointment of Auditor: accepted by Fikriye Demirel. Moved to be accepted by Leila Alloush and Dakhylina Madkhul
7. Appointment of Public Officer: Fikriye Demirel
8. Election of year 2005 Committee of Management: Standing Committee and deemed elected: Leila Alloush, Fikriye Demirel, Rasheeda Cooper, Dakhylina Madkhul, Majida Ritter, Urfa Masood, Tasneem Chopra
9. Keynote address: Hanifa Deen introduced by Majida Taleb
10. Launch of SILC Model of Practice by Senator Kay Patterson introduced by Tasneem Chopra
11. Keynote address: Dur-e Dara introduced by Tasneem Chopra
12. Musical performance by Rasheeda Cooper
13. Close

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005

WEDNESDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2005 – PRESTON SHIRE HALL



FACTS & FIGURES 2006

Casework support to women:	1062	Number of conference participants:	
Secondary consultations:	215	- Statewide Teacher & Youth Worker Training	66
Groupwork sessions:	41	- Living Spirit - Muslim Women and Human Rights Forum	130
Number of groupwork participants:	599	- Young Muslim Women's Careers Expo	73
Education/training/presentations:	31	Reference groups and committees:	
Number of education/training/presentations participants:	640	1. Project Respect Committee of Management	
Community consultations:	12	2. Carlton Community Lifelong Learning Hub User's Group	
Number of consultation participants:	122	3. Department of Justice, Multilingual Community Education Project Steering Committee	
Homework group sessions:	53	4. Royal Women's Hospital Liaison Group	
Number of homework group participants:	350	5. Muslim Reference Group's Sub Committee; Education and Training of Clerics and Lay Teachers and Leaders	
Conferences organised:		6. The Conference Organising Committee for Conference of Australian Imams with contributions from Muslim leaders, women and youth	
1. Statewide Teacher & Youth Worker Training		7. The panel to assess expressions of interest to host a national centre of excellence for Islamic studies	
2. Living Spirit - Muslim Women & Human Rights Forum			
3. Young Muslim Women's Careers Expo			

NEW COLLABORATIONS

3ZZZ	Gilmore College for Girls	Health
ADEC	Grief Counselling Australia	Muslim Women's National Network
AMES	Haig Street Primary School	New Hope Foundation
Anglicare Broadmeadows	Hanover Housing Services	NMIT TAFE
Apprenticeships Plus	Hope street Refuge	North Melbourne Legal Service's
Arab Bank	Hoppers Crossing Islamic Women's group	Northcote High School
Asylum Seekers Resource Centre	Human Rights & Equal opportunity Commission - Sydney	Northern Migrant Resource Centre
Australian Catholic University	Hume Global Learning Centre	Office of Housing - Department of Human Services
Australian International Academy	Ilhan Foundation	Pacific Brands
Australian Lebanese Welfare Inc	Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service	Parenting Australia
Australian Mortgage Alternatives Pty	INLLEN	Peter Lalor Secondary College
Broadmeadows Community Legal Service	Kangan Batman TAFE	Princes Hill Secondary College
Broadmeadows Magistrates Court	Kealba Secondary College	Relationships Australia
Broadmeadows Secondary College	La Trobe University	RMIT University
Carlton Community Lifelong Learning Hub	Lalor Library	Roxburgh Park Secondary College
Carlton Primary School	Lalor North Secondary College	SBS Arabic Radio
Carwatha College	Lalor Secondary College	Swinburne University
Centacare Catholic Family Service	LUSH	St Vincent De Paul Housing Services
Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues	Maribyrnong Secondary College	Thomastown Secondary College
CERES	Matchworks	Transcultural Psych Unit
City of Kingston	McKillop Family Service's	Uniting Care Cutting Edge
CMYI	Melbourne Girls College	University of the third age-Seymour
Coburg Legal Service	Mensline Australia	Vic Health
Court Network	Mentone Girls Grammar	Victoria Police-Multicultural Unit
Deakin University	Merrilands Secondary College	Victoria Police-Violence against women review team
Department of Human Services - Child protection	MetroWest Housing services	Victoria University
Dianella Community Health	Migrant Resource Centre - Broadmeadows	Victorian Arabic Social Services
Domestic Violence Unit - Sunbury	Monash University	Victorian Legal Aid
East Preston Islamic college	Moreland City Council	WIRE
EMC	Moreland Community Health	Women's Health West
English House - Cobram	Multicultural Centre for Women's	Women's Legal Services Victoria
Entire Northern Area -Mental Health Service		WYPIN
Equal Opportunity Commission of Victoria		YWCA Victoria

AUDITOR'S REPORT

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ISLAMIC WOMEN'S WELFARE COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

Scope

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2006 set out on pages 1 to 9. The Committee is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of this financial report are appropriate to meet requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act Vic 1981 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria Inc. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Vic. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Association's financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria Inc. presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria Inc. as at 30 June 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Sean Denham
Sean Denham & Associates
CPA
Registered Company Auditor
Date:

AUDITOR'S REPORT

ISLAMIC WOMEN'S WELFARE COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

	Note	2006 \$	2005 \$
INCOME			
Grant – AMES		1,841	10,000
Grant – Victorian Law Foundation		2,727	-
Grant – City of Yarra		10,000	-
Grant – Hume City Council		-	2,500
Grant – Invergowrie Foundation		15,000	-
Grant – City of Melbourne		-	20,000
Grant – Myer Foundation		11,000	16,000
Grant – Attorney General's Department		26,305	-
Grant – FACSIA		30,675	154,554
Grant – DIMIA -1		61,578	63,665
Grant – DIMIA -2		61,641	67,174
Grant – DIMIA -3		67,634	66,090
Grant – DIMIA -4		39,508	10,492
Grant – DIMIA -5		34,760	-
Grant – DIMIA -6		36,192	-
Grant – City of Moreland		-	750
Grant – Ross Trust		-	10,000
Grant – Dept. for Victorian Communities		3,000	15,800
Grant – Research (Bayside)		-	5,000
Overhead Reimbursements		14,666	14,328
Interest received		252	224
Membership Fees		136	227
Sundry Income		7,573	1,880
Consultancy Fees		920	1,977
Sales & Publication		98	19
Donations		5,000	3,161
Training Fees		281	3,361
Project Management & Admin. Reimbursements		23,990	-
		<u>454,777</u>	<u>467,202</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries		298,038	330,838
Workcover		9,474	7,068
Superannuation		25,321	26,181
Staff Travel		6,556	8,253
Audit Fees		1,500	1,200
Bank Charges		331	416
Bookkeeping/Payroll Fees		3,032	3,503
Capital Expenditure (minor equipment)		2,288	11,002
Postage		1,776	1,429
Printing/Photocopy/Fax		19,575	1,499
Rent		13,519	13,982
Resources		532	742
Stationery		3,039	4,760
Sundries		13,305	5,615

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Telephone	3,708	3,875
A.G.M. Costs	1,159	5,167
Insurance	3,525	2,782
Meeting Costs	677	2,599
Training Costs	15	3,375
Publications/Subscriptions/Membership	182	187
Provision for Annual Leave	6,526	(5,701)
Provision for Long Service Leave	993	1,349
Consultancy	12,751	7,000
Travel - Program	656	672
Conferences & Forums	4,516	100
Utilities	2,330	1,660
Administration Costs	23,428	-
Project Management Costs	1,560	-
	<u>460,312</u>	<u>439,553</u>
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax	(5,535)	27,649
Income Tax Expense	2	-
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities after income tax	<u>(5,535)</u>	<u>27,649</u>
RETAINED PROFITS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	<u>75,315</u>	<u>47,666</u>
RETAINED PROFITS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	<u>69,780</u>	<u>75,315</u>

ISLAMIC WOMEN'S WELFARE COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2006

	Note	2006 \$	2005 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	197,150	169,716
Trade and other receivables	4	5,000	-
		<u>202,150</u>	<u>169,716</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>202,150</u>	<u>169,716</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	5	16,663	5,996
Amounts received in advance	6	44,000	32,000
Project balances	7	53,076	45,293
Provisions	8	18,631	11,112
		<u>132,370</u>	<u>94,401</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>132,370</u>	<u>94,401</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>69,780</u>	<u>75,315</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained Profits		<u>69,780</u>	<u>75,315</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT

ISLAMIC WOMEN'S WELFARE COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (Vic). The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (Vic) and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 112 Income Taxes
AASB 1031 Materiality
AASB 110 Events after the Balance Sheet Date

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on the accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

PUBLICATION ORDER FORM



ISLAMIC WOMEN'S WELFARE COUNCIL *of Victoria Inc.*

VOICES of Young Muslim Women
FREE Quarterly newsletter

Number of copies

Poster: 'Are we equal in your eyes?'
**\$5.00 per poster*

Number of copies

Media Guide: Islam and Muslims in Australia

Number of copies

SILC Model of Practise
**\$20.00 per copy*

Number of copies

Please return to:

Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria
1st Floor, 19 Arthurton Road Northcote VIC 3070 or Fax to (03) 9481 3001

*** Please make cheque/s payable to Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria**

Name _____

Organisation _____

ABN _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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for MUSLIM WOMEN