

# CHALLENGES FACED BY MUSLIM WOMEN SETTLING IN AUSTRALIA

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# CONTENT

## 1. Setting the scene

- Landscape – Muslim Communities in Australia

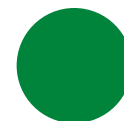
## 2. Spectrum of needs across settlement for Muslim communities

- 1<sup>st</sup> generation, new generations and recent arrivals

## 3. Settlement and Social Cohesion

## 4. Positive Initiatives to counter recent challenges

## 5. Your contribution



# MUSLIMS IN AUSTRALIA

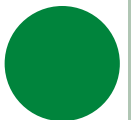
- All Data gathered from :
  - ABS Census 2011
  - Krayem, G (2014) 'Islamic Family Law in Australia', Melbourne University Press
  
- Diverse not just in relation to cultural and linguistic backgrounds but also in relation to settlement .
  - Existing community groups
    - i.e. Lebanese (42%) and Turkish (28%)
  - Newly Emerging community groups
    - i.e. Afghan and Somali communities recently arrived



# MUSLIMS IN AUSTRALIA

## ○ Statistics

- Muslims 2.2% of Australian Population  
(approx 460,000 people)
- 2006-2011 – 40% Increase
- 3.2% reside in NSW; specifically 4.7% in Sydney
- 2.9% reside in VIC; specifically 3.6% in Melbourne



## MUSLIMS BY AGE - %

<b>%</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>0-14 yrs</b>	30.8%	29.9%	29.2%
<b>15-24 yrs</b>	18.7%	18.8%	17.3%
<b>25-34 yrs</b>	18.2%	18.7%	20.8%
<b>35 -44 yrs</b>	15.3%	14.8%	14.5%
<b>45 -54 yrs</b>	9.5%	9.5%	9.6%
<b>55-64 yrs</b>	4.8%	5.2%	5.3%
<b>65 -74yrs</b>	1.9%	2.1%	2.4%
<b>75-84 yrs</b>	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%
<b>85yrs and over</b>	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



# WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

- When working with Muslim communities we have a '*Spectrum of Needs*'
- 1<sup>st</sup> and new generations through to newly arrived
  - Aged care service provision
  - Young, English – speaking community
  - Migration needs
- Family Restoration
  - Holistic approach dealing with each member according to their age and need
- Culturally and religiously appropriate service provision across all fields to meet settlement needs



# CHALLENGES FOR SETTLEMENT

- All new arrivals have common needs, which include addressing the following:
  - Language barriers
  - Cultural challenges
  - Social Barriers to Isolation
  - Economic / Financial
    - Employment
  - Access to & Navigation of Services
    - Health
    - Education
  - Trauma



# RECENT CONTEXT

- Recent National Security concerns have impacted all sectors of Muslim community
  - Raising of the threat level
  - Public nature of the Raids
- ‘Ban the Burqa’ debate
  - Face-covering legislation in NSW passed in 2011
- Particularly difficult for newly arrived communities settling in Australia
  - Exacerbates access issues





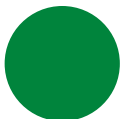
# SETTLEMENT AND SOCIAL COHESION

- Increased fear and mistrust
- Impacts on the psyche of individuals and communities
- Reported increase of Muslim women and their children being attacked in public
- Furthering isolation, marginalisation across the spectrum of these communities
- Creating inherent barriers to access



# POSITIVE INITIATIVES

- National Day of Unity - Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Oct



# POSITIVE INITIATIVES

- An Act of Kindness with a Rose



Took place last Sat in  
Lakemba between 9-1pm



# POSITIVE INITIATIVES

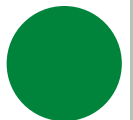
- Social Media Campaigns

‘A piece of the puzzle’

- Australian Muslim Faces
- WISH (Women In Solidarity with Hijabis)

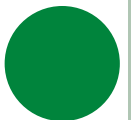
- Olive Green Ribbon Launch

- Sydney Alliance Western Sydney Assembly  
at Parramatta Town Hall



# WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Get involved in these initiatives
- Promote 'Best Practice'
  - Culturally and religiously appropriate service provision ensures dignified, respectful and effective service
  - Holistic approach in dealing with the needs of the family
- Respecting differences and promoting social cohesion
- Conscious awareness re individual and social impacts



# CONTACT US

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