



# Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

## Vol 2, Issue 11, Dec 2021



### Successful Job Forum at Toowoomba Mosque

Islamic Society of Toowoomba organised an excellent Job Forum in Toowoomba Mosque on Saturday, 20 November 2021. The objective of the event was to inform and connect members of the community about the opportunities exist to get jobs or access training and apprenticeships as a pathway for jobs. The community event was jointly organised by Queensland Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT); Multicultural Australia; and Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce. Over 200 people participated in the event with free BBQ lunch.



Muhammad (PBUH) worked for a woman in business and he also was a shepherd and soldier. Ms Jenelle Choyce and Mr Scott Christ from DESBT and Ms Tanja Miljevic from Multicultural Australia also spoke. They explained the opportunities for the Toowoomba communities for jobs and getting help for training and apprenticeship, and how to engage with the stakeholders to avail the opportunities.

The main attraction of the event was one to one conversation of members of the community with the officials who help navigate jobs via training, apprenticeship and linking with employers. Everyone was very happy and engaging. Special thanks to Br Mohamed Ali who coordinated the event very efficiently, and Br Muhidin Hadzich for managing and cooking best quality BBQ lunch. The ultimate credit goes to the unknown volunteers who work so hard behind the scenes. Jazakum Allah Khair.

The speakers emphasised that employers in Toowoomba are finding it difficult to recruit staff for their businesses. Also, the employers often do not look for specific degree/certificate. In many cases they are looking for good workers simply with demonstration of commitment to job, punctuality and work ethics. The meeting also emphasised that the employers require to open themselves to the culturally diverse staff and look beyond any discrimination. It also agreed that lack of local experience should not be an issue for the new migrants and refugees. They should get the job if they able to do their duties as per Australian standard and quality.

The officials from the DESBT and Multicultural Australia were very happy with the organisation, management and running of the event, especially spontaneous engagement of the members of the community with the guests.

Special thanks to Mr David Forde from the Department of Multicultural Affairs, Queensland for connecting the community with the DESBT, Br Habib Jamal, President of Islamic Council of Queensland for discussing the benefits of such engagements and Br Mohamed Abdulkareem for liaising with the Multicultural Australia.

The event was an outcome of a series of meetings and communications with the various stakeholders.

Professor Shahjahan Khan welcomed everyone and explained that earning income through jobs or businesses is an act of worship (ibadat) in Islam, a highest level of good deed. He told that all prominent prophets (PBUT) had profession to earn livelihood along side preaching divine teachings. Prophet



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## YouBelong Australia's podcast on 'Who is your neighbour'

President of Islamic Society of Toowoomba, Professor Shahjahan Khan reflects on the multicultural transformation of Toowoomba in an interview with Professor Warren Midgely and Ms Sorgul Maho of YouBelong Australia's podcast on 'Who is your neighbour?'. The YouTube video covers various wide ranging experiences and engagements in Toowoomba as a long term community activist and academic.

**Shahjahan Khan** EP#4 SEASON 2

**Who is my neighbour?**  
A PODCAST BY youBelong

YOUTUBE.COM  
Shahjahan Khan - On Toowoomba's Multicultural Transformation

The full interview (24 minutes) can be viewed on YouTube link  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qnh0d3YrcUQ>

## Getting help to download your COVID-19 vaccination certificate

### Education session for Kurdish Kurmanji and Arabic speakers **How to download your Covid-19 Vaccination certificate**

**WHEN:** THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 12:30PM AND 1:30PM  
**WHERE:** MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA  
 107 RUSSELL STREET TOOWOOMBA (ENTER VIA SNELL ST)  
**BRING:** YOUR IDENTIFICATION CARDS AND PHONE

From the 17 December 2021 you will be required to show proof of your COVID-19 vaccination status when you go to many Queensland businesses. We will help you to download your certificate onto your phone, or print a copy of your certificate out for you.

#### PLEASE BOOK

[Click here](#) to register or  
 phone: 040 667 3971 (English) phone: 046 610 5999 (Kurdish Kurmanji and Arabic)  
 email: [adminshesolutions.com.au](mailto:adminshesolutions.com.au)

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### First Mosque in Australia using Fibre Glass for construction

The concrete slabs at Toowoomba Mosque will be made from Glass Fibre Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) bars, which are corrosion resistant, durable, lighter, more sustainable and stronger than traditional steel bars. Research has shown that GFRP reinforced structures emit 43% less carbon-dioxide than steel reinforced structures and reduce energy consumption by almost 50%. This initiative is a crucial step toward achieving the Australian Government's 2050 plan for net zero emissions.



### Abrahamic Faiths Gathering

The latest quarterly session of the Abrahamic Faiths Group was held on 17 November 2021 evening in the St Anthony's Hall, Harristown Toowoomba. The topic of discussion was Abraham in Scripture.

Mr Ariel Heber discussed about Abraham in the Jews scripture, and Fr Jamie Collins covered Christian teachings about Abraham. Professor Shahjahan Khan presented on how Muslims know about Prophet Abraham (PBUH).

Quoting extensively from the holy Qur'an, Professor Khan said that Prophet Abraham's extensive search for the true God, persistent criticism of worshipping idols, idol worshipper thrown him into fire, slaughtering his son Ismail, leaving family in the dessert etc were great tests from Allah SWT. He passed all the tests and then rebuilt the Kaaba, House of Allah in Makkah and every Muslim going for pilgrimage pray at the spot where he prayed, Maqam e Ibrahim. May Allah bestow the peace and baraka on Muhammad SWS as He did on Ibrahim (AS).

Interestingly, although Abraham was a prophet long before Judaism and Christianity yet both faiths claim him to be of them, and so do Muslims. The Qur'an says that he was upright and followed monotheistic religion who believed in only one God without attaching any partners, and advised his followers to worship only and unique God.





### Updates on Mosque Reconstruction Project

The old builder has organised a local electrical company to complete the electrical work of the reconstructed Mosque building including connecting power from the main line, setting up meter box, connecting with solar inverter, ducted air conditioning etc. The work is expected to be completed by the end of December.

Currently, we are speaking to a builder to complete all outstanding works of the Mosque. Once we get a quotation, we hope to agree on a contract and take it to our solicitor for his checking and approval.

### Call for Concreting Quotations for Mosque's Carparking

As the reconstruction of Toowoomba Mosque moves to the Final Stage, we are looking for quotations from the interested parties for 42 sealed carparks, two driveways, retaining walls etc. If you are interested in the job or you know anyone who may be interested in submitting quotations, please contact the Project Coordinator, Eng Waqar Butt by emailing on [wbut123@gmail.com](mailto:wbut123@gmail.com)

### Temporary Break of JP Service on Fridays

Toowoomba based Justice of the Peace, Mr George Helon is helping with attestation and certification of documents to the members of the community on every Friday from 11:55am to 1:15pm in Toowoomba Mosque. If you have any documents to be certified, bring it to George. This valuable service is highly appreciated by the community.



The service will be temporarily unavailable after 4 December 2021 until Mid-January 2022 when George will be on holidays.

### Story on the Resilient Muslims in Regional Australia

Recently, the monthly Australasian Muslim Times (AMUST) published a report on the recent visit to six Mosques and Communities in remote and regional Queensland, Australia of Professor Shahjahan Khan. Alhamdulillah, it was really a highly educational and fulfilling trip.

The online version of the full story can be accessed from the link at <https://www.amust.com.au/2021/11/resilient-muslims-in-regional-and-remote-australia/>





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### Toowoomba Mosque Madrasa and Language Class Timetable

The classes on Islam and Basic Arabic are held from 4:00pm until after Magrib (40 minutes each lesson) every week from Monday to Thursday. For details, please contact Br Abdu Mohamed on 0469026540.

The Arabic Language classes are held from 4:00pm on every Friday and Saturday. For details, please contact Br Omar AlSakit on 0434284241.

Bangla Language classes are held on Saturdays at 11:00am. For details, please contact Br Kabir Ahmad on 0424591316.

#### Community Services

- Halal Meat Delivery – Contact Br Murad on 04 0669 1749
- Toowoomba Police Contact Officer Tony Rehn 04 1269 7555
- 1800 RESPECT [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)  
Support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse. Interpreter 13 14 50
- Business advertisement contact: [Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au](mailto:Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au)

#### Communication with Mosque via Technology

Sharing your story: [Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au](mailto:Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au) (If you have a story to be included in the Muslim Community Newsletter please contact Prof Shahjahan Khan)

General contact email: [admin@toowoombamosque.com.au](mailto:admin@toowoombamosque.com.au)

Website: [www.toowoombamosque.com.au](http://www.toowoombamosque.com.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque](https://www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque)

WhatsApp: Toowoomba Mosque Matters / MSA Toowoomba

Madrasah: via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083