

USQ Islamic Centre breaks down religious divide

The USQ Islamic Centre will once again host an Open Day, and are inviting members of the Toowoomba and University community to participate in the biennial event.

Now in its fifth episode, the biennial event aims to raise awareness in the community and break-down misconceptions about Muslims. Event coordinator, Associate Professor Shahjahan Khan, said the event was for people of all faiths, particularly non-Muslim USQ staff and student and members of the wider community.

“Open Day is an opportunity for our non-Muslim friends and fellow members of the wider community to mix and talk with local Muslims and find out more about the followers of Prophet Muhammed- peace be upon him- who was described, in the Qur’an, the Holy Book of Islam, as a mercy to humanity,” Associate Professor Khan said.

“The main objective of the event is to remove artificial barriers, create awareness, increase interaction, develop and promote understanding and appreciation for peaceful and harmonious living as respectful and responsible citizens.

“With increased presence of Muslim students and staff at USQ from diverse background and nationality it is time to actively engage with wider community to develop an environment of harmonious living.”

This year’s event is supported by the Islamic Society of Toowoomba Inc, USQ Multicultural Centre, Multicultural Affairs Queensland, and Toowoomba’s Pureland College. Some activities will take place in USQ’s Quadrangle and will be officially opened by Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Goodall.

Speakers will include USQ Chaplain Mr Evan Reichelt, Director of Multicultural Centre, Dr Krzysztof Batorowicz, and Coordinator of Islamic Centre, Dr Shahjahan Khan. The main speaker of the day is Mrs Faiza El-Higzi of Romero Centre, Mercy Family Services, Brisbane. She will speak on the misunderstanding about Islam.

“The event is open to people of all ages and gender and this year it is particularly catered for the USQ students and staff. Activities and displays include posters of Islamic art and architecture, calligraphy, Islamic books and crafts, brief presentations, information booths, stalls, mosque tours, distribution of information sheets and light refreshments.

Proceeding will commence at 11:30am in the USQ Quadrangle with a free morning tea including Arabian coffee. At 1:15pm people are invited to attend mid-day prayers at the USQ Islamic Centre, lunch will also be provided there. Non revealing/modest dress would be appreciated.

For further information on this event and the Islamic Society of Toowoomba Inc, please contact [Associate Professor Shahjahan Khan](#) or [Mr William Conwell](#), Manager, USQ Multicultural Centre.