



Leadership Program wins “Australian Muslim Best New Community Project”

For immediate release

Melbourne, 11 December 2009

The *Believe Achieve Inspire Leadership Program*, Australia’s first tertiary accredited Muslim leadership program, launched in March this year, has been announced as winner of the “Australian Muslim Best New Community Project” by the Australian Muslim Achievement Awards 2009.

Developed in response to the increasing demands and challenges faced by Australia’s Muslim community in respect of its leadership capacity and effective representation, the program was honoured in recognition for its contribution to the wider community and in demonstrating excellence in leadership development.

Program Director of the *Believe Achieve Inspire Leadership Program*, Craig Dent said the conferral of the prestigious award is testament to its relevance and currency in the furtherance of social cohesion, harmony and development in Australia;

“The award of Australia’s best new Muslim project reaffirms the value of the *Believe Achieve Inspire Leadership Program* in the development of effective, capable and inspirational Australian Muslim leaders for optimal contribution, representation and engagement in wider Australian society”.

“The future of Australia’s Muslim community is dependent on the development of such leaders who possess strong faith-based groundings and robust engagement with wider Australian society, of which the *Believe Achieve Inspire Leadership* program is intended to facilitate and generate”, he said.

The first intake of the *Believe Achieve Inspire* leadership program commenced in March this year, differentiated by its tertiary accreditation as a Graduate Certificate in Management; and its comprehensive one-year tenure featuring faith-based leadership and professional development components.

Designed for individuals who have demonstrated outstanding community service, the program's professional development component is delivered by Victoria University, as developed in collaboration with the Chair Academy of the USA; and its faith based component is delivered by the Federation of Australian Muslim Students and Youth (FAMSY) with the input and involvement of wide-ranging community organizations and leaders.

For Mohamed Elmasri, Melbourne resident and a first graduate of the award-winning course, the opportunity to take part in Australia's first tertiary-accredited Muslim leadership program was of imminent value in his role as project manager of Muslim community initiative, the Daar Aasya Foster Care Program;

"The *Believe Achieve Inspire Leadership Program* has given me a great deal of confidence by building upon my knowledge and capabilities to enable me to become a more effective and responsible leader in our highly under-resourced community", he said.

Mohamed, including other first graduates of the course, completed the 2009 intake last month and graduated on Saturday, with an official convocation to follow in May next year.

There will be a fresh intake of the course in the new year. Those interested in applying should visit www.believe-achieve-inspire.org for more information.

ENDS

Further information:

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