

Graduates sing praises of Muslim leadership program



For release

Melbourne – 2 December 2009

For Maryum Chaudhry, co-ordinator of the Daar Aasya Foster Care Program, the opportunity to take part in Australia's first tertiary-accredited Muslim leadership course was a welcome gift.

"I saw the program as a missing link in my preparation for the work I do as volunteer co-ordinator at the Daar Aasya program providing advocacy and support for Muslim children in foster care," Maryum said.

"I have been volunteering for community projects for numerous years, yet had been provided with no methodology or structure on how to achieve long-term outcomes. This course has given me fresh insight in this area which I am already putting to good use in my voluntary work."

An initiative of the Federation of Australian Muslim Students and Youth (FAMSU), the Believe Achieve Inspire Leadership Program is a multi-streamed leadership course, co-delivered by FAMSU and Victoria University for the development of the next generation Australian Muslim community leaders.

Developed in response to the increasing demands placed on Australia's Muslim community for effective representation and leadership, the BAILP program seeks to empower future leaders with professional and Islamic-based development opportunities.

Designed for individuals who have demonstrated outstanding community service, the program consists of two course streams: a professional development component delivered by Victoria University, developed in collaboration with the Chair Academy of the USA; and an Islamic leadership component developed by FAMSU.

The first graduates of the course, including Maryum and fellow Daar Aasya volunteer Mohamed Elmasri, completed their course last month and will graduate on Saturday.

"The program has given me a great deal of confidence by building my knowledge and capabilities to enable me to become a more effective and responsible leader in our highly under-resourced community," Mohamed said.

“There are several sessions that I have particularly liked. In the FAMS stream I enjoyed the discussion on conflict resolution and finance, while in the VU stream I was inspired by the corporate ethics and sustainability topics along with team management, personality traits, and project management.”

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

ENDS

Further information:

Contact@believe-achieve-inspire.org