

3rd March 2021

Sharing our Faith and Cultural Heritage - ICV's Victorian Mosque Open Day 2021

"The best of friends in the sight of Allah (Most High) is the one who is best to his friend, and the best of neighbours in the sight of Allah (Most High) is the one who is best to his neighbour." [Prophet Muhammad as narrated in at-Tirmidhi]

The Victorian Muslim community is a multicultural microcosm within the larger Victorian multicultural community with over 100 different ethnic groups, and over 200,000 Muslims who call Victoria home..

Cultural Diversity Week (March 16 -24) and Harmony Day (March 21) are Victoria's largest multicultural celebrations, featuring week-long programs of festivals and events in metropolitan and regional areas. This year, the Islamic Council of Victoria's (ICV) annual Victorian Mosque Open Day will run in line with both festivals, and will see Mosques across Victoria open their doors and hearts for visitors from any race, belief and gender on Sunday, March 14 between 10-4pm.

ICV's Victorian Mosque Open Day project launched in 2017 and has grown over that time becoming an annual feature that many look forward to with great anticipation. Thousands of Victorians have flocked to a local Mosque near them not only to get to know their Muslim neighbours, but also to learn about the Islamic faith and the diverse Muslim cultural norms. They participate in a range of activities including guided Mosque tours, hijab tutorials, henna tattoo art, and discussions about Islamic beliefs etc. Visitors have also enjoyed the warm hospitality, tasty food, and fun activities like children's jumping castles. .

The state-wide annual event, supported by the Victorian Multicultural Commission and Victorian Government (Office of Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion), celebrates the community spirit of Cultural Diversity Week and Harmony Day.

ICV would also like to emphasise that the event will run in a COVID-safe environment. All the Mosques taking part in the event have developed COVID Safety Plans specifically for the event and follow the Victorian Government Health Department guidelines. COVID-Safety Officers will be on hand to ensure that everyone respects these requirements and that the community can enjoy the event safely.

ICV President Adel Salman said the Victorian Muslim community was proud of its successful multicultural society, "sharing our cultural heritage is part of celebrating what it means to be truly Australian."

“It is about celebrating the benefits of our multicultural society which has come about as a result of the successful integration of migrants into the Australian community. Victorian Muslims are proud members of this rich multicultural and multifaith fabric”.

As we approach the second anniversary of the Christchurch massacre, we reflect on the progress that has been made to prevent something like this ever happening again. The ICV’s Victorian Mosque Open Day is an opportunity for all people of good will to come together and break down the barriers that divide us..”

End of Statement

Please forward all enquiries to admin@icv.org.au or contact the office on (03) 9328 2067

The following 15 mosques and Islamic communities will open their doors on the day anytime between 10-4pm;

- * Afghan Islamic Centre & Omar Farooq Mosque –AICOM
- * Australian Bosnian Islamic Centre
- * Albanian Mosque - Albanian Australian Islamic Society
- * Australian Islamic Centre –Newport Mosque
- * Benevolence Australia
- * Doncaster Mosque - UMMA Centre
- * El Sedeaq Heidelberg Mosque
- * Emir Sultan Mosque Dandenong
- * Geelong Mosque - Islamic Society of Geelong
- * Golden Wattle Mosque
- * ICV City Mosque
- * Islamic Museum of Australia -IMA
- *Islamic Society of Melbourne Eastern Region- ISOMER
- *Maidstone Mosque
- *Virgin Mary Mosque

Find your nearest participating mosque and keep up to date with the Victorian Mosque Open Day here <https://www.facebook.com/events/249094666807875>