

Emerson, Marc

From: Dolstra, Anita
Sent: Tuesday, 12 March 2013 4:19 PM
To: Emerson, Marc
Subject: MIN12/785 At-Taqwa Islamic School (1)
Attachments: min12 785 final.PDF; Attachment D - Letter of support, Islamic Society of ACT.PDF; Attachment C - Letter of support, Canberra Mosque.PDF; Attachment B - Letter of support ACT Muslim Advisory Council.PDF; Attachment A - NGSEC letter.PDF

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----< TRIM Record Information >-----

Record Number : DOC12/11558
 Title : min12/785 final

-----< TRIM Record Information >-----

Record Number : DOC12/7736
 Title : Attachment D - Letter of support, Islamic Society of ACT

-----< TRIM Record Information >-----

Record Number : DOC12/7735
 Title : Attachment C - Letter of support, Canberra Mosque

-----< TRIM Record Information >-----

Record Number : DOC12/7734
 Title : Attachment B - Letter of support ACT Muslim Advisory Council

-----< TRIM Record Information >-----

Record Number : DOC12/7732
 Title : Attachment A - NGSEC letter

MIN12/785

Date due Executive Director
Date Due (Min's Office)

31/08/2012
04/09/2012

Record Barcode



**APPLICATION FOR IN-PRINCIPLE APPROVAL BY
CANBERRA MUSLIM YOUTH FOR A NEW
NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL**

OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT FILE
REFERENCE:

Responsibility Area: Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy & Coordination

ACTIONS REQUIRED

RESPONSE

Reply for Signature of: Nil

Response Type: Nil

NOTES:

Minister agreed 17/12/12, returned to MSR 19/12/12.
"Tuesday, 18 December 2012 at 1:55:45 PM (GMT+11:00)
KING, ASHLEY:"

To Minister adviser 27/11/12.
"Tuesday, 27 November 2012 at 4:28:11 PM (GMT+11:00)
KING, ASHLEY:"

"Tuesday, 27 November 2012 at 12:24:54 PM
(GMT+11:00) Sherman, Kerrie:"
To Minister's Office

"Monday, 19 November 2012 at 3:01:06 PM (GMT+11:00)
Boyle, Lisa (Ms):"
Brief given to DDG from Joanne Garrison via Lisa Boyle.

"Thursday, 20 September 2012 at 1:01:00 PM
(GMT+10:00) Bell-Towers, Lynn:"
D-G advised to hold for incoming government so now with Linda Tooth.

"Thursday, 13 September 2012 at 2:03:08 PM
(GMT+10:00) Visvanathan, Shirani:"
DG requested further work.

"Tuesday, 11 September 2012 at 1:02:07 PM
(GMT+10:00) Visvanathan, Shirani:"
DG taking the brief to the MO on 12 September 2012.

COMPLETED

BRIEF

Brief - Addressed to: Nil

- Issues No
- Meeting No Officer to Attend? No
- Variance brief No
- External Relations No
- Dot Points: Coordinated Response Prepared by MCR No
- Q and A Sheet No
- Media Release No
- Minister Agenda Item Brief No
- Protocol Brief No
- Protocol - Attachments - Background No
- Protocol - Attachments - Order of Ceremonies No
- Protocol - Attachments - Invited Guest List No
- Protocol - Attachments - School Background No
- Protocol - Attachments - Speech No
- Protocol - Attachments - Media Release No
- Protocol - Attachments - Media Alert No
- Protocol - Attachments - Media Q and A No
- Protocol - Attachments - Thank You Letter No
- Protocol - Attachments - Map No
- Appointment Package No

Your MCR Officer is:



ACT
Government
Education and Training



BRIEF

Ref:

APPLICATION FOR IN-PRINCIPLE APPROVAL BY CANBERRA MUSLIM YOUTH FOR A NEW NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

To: Minister for Education and Training

From: Deputy Director-General, Education and Training Directorate

Director: Joanne Garrison
Branch: Information, Communications and Governance

Recommendation

That you:

- Determine the outcome of the application made by Canberra Muslim Youth (CMY) for in-principle approval to apply for provisional registration of At-Taqwa Islamic School.

AGREED/NOT AGREED/PLEASE DISCUSS

If in-principle approval is granted:

- Record your decision at Attachment 1 and sign the letter advising the applicant of your decision (Attachment 2).

AGREED/NOT AGREED/PLEASE DISCUSS

If in-principle approval is not granted:

- Advise the reasons for your decision in accordance with the requirements of the *Education Act 2004*.

AGREED/NOT AGREED/PLEASE DISCUSS

Ms Joy Burch MLA 11/12/12

Action Officer: Lynda Tooth
Branch: Information, Communications and Governance
Extension: 59301

Critical date and reason
Nil.

Purpose

To provide information that will enable you to make a decision on an application from CMY for in-principle approval (IPA) to apply for provisional registration of At-Taqwa Islamic School.

Background

CMY, an Islamic community organisation in partnership with the Islamic Society of Belconnen, is seeking to develop an Islamic preschool - year 10 school in either Belconnen or Gungahlin to cater for the growing numbers of Islamic families in northern Canberra.

CMY has held preliminary conversations with the Direct Sales section of Economic Development Directorate regarding possible sites for the proposed school.

Currently the ACT has one Islamic school, the Islamic School of Canberra (ISC) in Weston Creek. ISC educates approximately 150 students from kindergarten to year 8 from across the ACT and surrounding regions.

In its preliminary conversations with the Education and Training Directorate (the Directorate), CMY indicated that they are seeking to establish the new school because:

1. there is a growing number of Muslim families living in the northern suburbs of Canberra
2. access to Weston Creek is not palatable to Muslim families with young children who live in Belconnen and Gungahlin
3. the manner in which the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) administers ISC is not acceptable to CMY.

Legislation

The *Education Act 2004* (the Act) details IPA as the first stage in the development of a new non-government school.

The Act requires the application for IPA to state the proposed opening day for the new school. The proposed opening day must be at least two years, but not more than four years, after the day the application is made.

The Act also requires the Director-General to publish a public notice of the making of the application in a daily newspaper. This notice must state that written comments on the proposed registration may be made within a stated period of at least 60 days after the day the notice is published.

The Act prescribes that in deciding upon IPA applications you must have regard to any written comments made following the publication of the aforementioned notice of application.

Under Section 83 of the Act you must also consider:

- (a) whether the provision of the new school would undermine the viability of existing schools;
- (b) whether there is, or is likely to be, demand in the community for the proposed school, including-
 - (i) any increase, or likely increase, in the number of school-age children in the area where the school is to be located; and
 - (ii) the level of registration of interest shown by the community for the proposed school.

After considering the application and having regard to any comments received, the effect of the proposal on existing schools and the demand for the new school:

- if you are satisfied that IPA should be given, you must grant IPA for the proposed application
- if you are not satisfied that IPA should be given, you must refuse to grant IPA for the proposed application stating your reasons for refusing the application.

It is noted that a decision to refuse to give IPA is a reviewable decision under the Act.

The application

The Directorate received an application (Attachment 3) from CMY on 6 February 2012 for IPA for a new school in the northern ACT regions of Gungahlin or Belconnen.

The application states that the proposed opening day of the new school is 6 February 2014. This date is consistent with the requirements of the Act.

Supporting documents provided with the application are at Attachment 4.

The proposed school will initially provide a single stream kindergarten to year 4 primary education and subsequently grow to accommodate students to year 10.

If IPA is approved the applicants have indicated that they intend to provide additional services for the wider ACT community including the provision of educational literacy for parents particularly mothers of children enrolled in the school to enhance their English language skills, and members of the general community who want to learn languages such as Arabic, Hindi, Urdu, Hausa, Swahili, and Bengali.

Attachment 5 includes a copy of expressions of interest from Muslim families for the proposal provided by the applicant at time of application.

Issues

Community Comments

A public notice of the making of the application was published on the ACT Government's Community Noticeboard in *The Canberra Times* on 11 February 2012. Comments were requested on the application and the application was made available for viewing by the community as required by the Act. Information about the application was also posted on the Education and Training Directorate's (the Directorate) website.

Although comments closed on 20 April 2012, the Australian Education Union (AEU), the ACT Parents and Citizens Associations Council (ACT P&C), and Save our Schools, an advocacy group for public education, requested and were provided with an additional period of consultation.

Written comments supporting the proposal were received from five individuals:

1. Mrs Narelle Hargreaves, Chair of the Non-government Schools Education Council (NGSEC) supports the application because the application meets the legislative requirements for non-government school development in the ACT (Attachment A)
2. [Redacted] supports the proposal as the growing Muslim population warrants an Islamic school in North Canberra (Attachment B)
3. [Redacted] supports the proposal as it would provide a much needed service to the growing community in North Canberra and beyond (Attachment C)
4. [Redacted] supports the proposal due to the Muslim population in North Canberra (Attachment D)
5. [Redacted] supports the proposal as it would help Muslim communities develop student-centred classroom instruction in an Islamic educational environment (Attachment E).

Submissions opposing the proposal were received from the AEU, ACT P&C Council and Save our Schools. These submissions oppose the proposal because there is significant excess capacity in the region which could cater for the projected enrolments of the proposed school if located in Belconnen (Attachments F, G and H).

Directorate assessment

Planning and Performing Branch (PPB) is responsible on behalf of the Directorate for assessing the application in terms of demographic and urban planning matters.

In summary, the assessment shows that:

- there is evidence of demand for an additional independent school in Gungahlin, however CMY has not provided sufficient evidence of demographic demand for a second Islamic school in the ACT
- the proposed school could be accommodated on 2.0ha of land with sharing of existing community and educational facilities
- the proposed school may negatively impact the viability of the existing ISC if drawing from the same cohort of students in the ACT and region
- the proposed school is unlikely to negatively impact local public and non-government schools, and
- the proposal is unlikely to relieve enrolment pressure in public schools in Gungahlin.

The full PPB assessment is at Attachment 6.

Next steps

Granting of the application will enable the applicant to apply to the Economic Development Directorate for a site to develop or a surplus government property site to refurbish. This process requires CMY to provide evidence of financial capacity for the development or refurbishment of the proposed site.

Granting of the application will also enable the proprietor to apply for provisional registration of the school.

If the application is not granted, the Directorate will draft a response to be provided to the applicant after advice of your reasons for not granting in-principle approval has been received.

Consultation

Planning and Performance Branch
Economic Development Directorate

Financial

In line with current policy, the ACT Government will provide funding to the school or governing body for students attending the At-Taqwa Islamic School.

Media

Potential to have media interest, pending your decision.



Leanne Cover
Deputy Director-General

22 November 2012

277



Joy Burch MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS
MINISTER FOR WOMEN -
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR GAMING AND RACING

COPY

MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA

Mr Hassan Warsi
Chair of Board of Governance
Canberra Muslim Youth Inc.

Dear Mr Warsi

I refer to an application by Canberra Muslim Youth Inc. seeking in-principle approval to apply for provisional registration of At-Taqwa Islamic School under section 83 of the *Education Act 2004*. This application was dated 6 February 2012.

I have decided to grant in-principle approval for At-Taqwa Islamic School to apply for the provisional registration as a new non-government school in the northern ACT regions of Belconnen or Gungahlin.

I understand that At-Taqwa Islamic School will initially cater for students from kindergarten to year 4. I further understand that you propose to make further applications for in-principle approval so that the school may grow progressively to year 10.

In granting the application I have considered the information provided in your application and the community comments provided in response to your proposal. I have considered the community demand for the school and the likely impact of the school on existing public and non-government schools.

I consider that the projected enrolments, population trends and written support from the community provide sufficient evidence of community demand for the campus. I consider that the school will not negatively impact upon the viability of any existing public or non-government school.

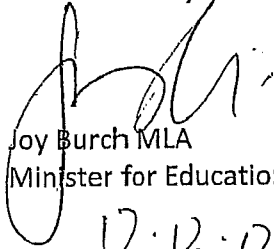
ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

Phone (02) 6205 0020 Fax (02) 6205 0495 Email BURCH@act.gov.au Twitter: @JoyBurchMLA Facebook: www.facebook.com/Joyburchmla

I wish you all the very best in the planning for the new campus.

Yours sincerely



Joy Burch MLA
Minister for Education and Training

17.12.12



ACT
Government
Education and Training

File Ref: 2012/00672

**PROPOSED PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION OF A NEW
NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL**

DECISION TO GRANT IN-PRINCIPLE APPROVAL

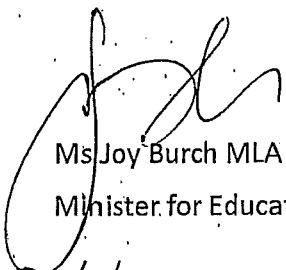
Applicant: Canberra Muslim Youth Inc

Proposal: A new non-government school to be located in either the ACT district of Gungahlin or the ACT district of Belconnen.

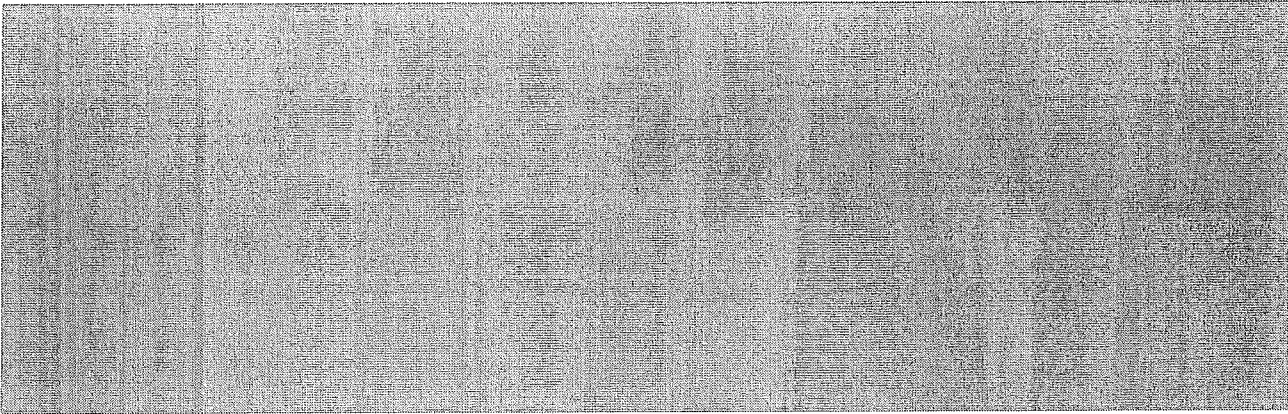
Proposed opening date: 6 February 2014

Year levels: Kindergarten to year 4.

In accordance with Section 84 of the ACT *Education Act 2004*, I have granted in-principle approval for At-Taqwa Islamic School to apply for provisional registration of a school catering for students from kindergarten to year 4.


Ms Joy Burch MLA
Minister for Education and Training

11/6/12



14 October 2011

Lynda Tooth
Manager of Non-Government Education
ACT Department of Education and Training
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

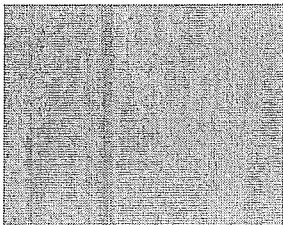
Dear Mrs Tooth,

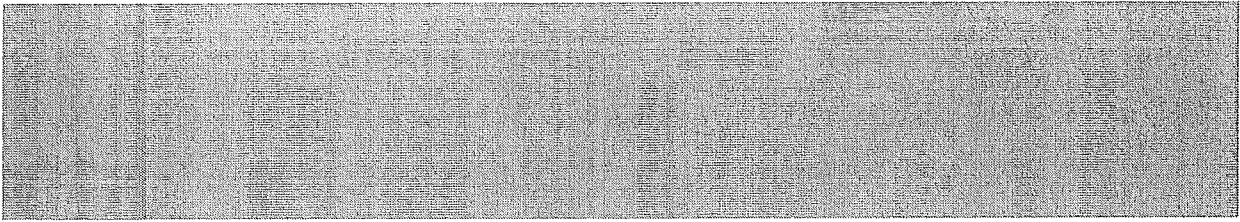
Re: Islamic School in North Canberra

[redacted] an Islamic school in North Canberra is laudable given the Muslim population and children of school going-age. This school will also address current gap in spiritual wellbeing of our children and imbue in them honesty, God fearing and respect for the laws of Australia, our community and the wider Australian citizenry. [redacted] believe that this innovative opportunity will educate our children and instil Islamic values and behaviour, now and in adult life.

[redacted] support the application and look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with the applicant organisation to develop better common goal of the project.

Sincerely,





Attn: Lynda Tooth
Manager Liaison Unit
Information Communications and Governance Branch
Education and Training
ACT Government
CANBERRA ACT 2601

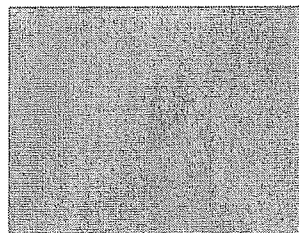
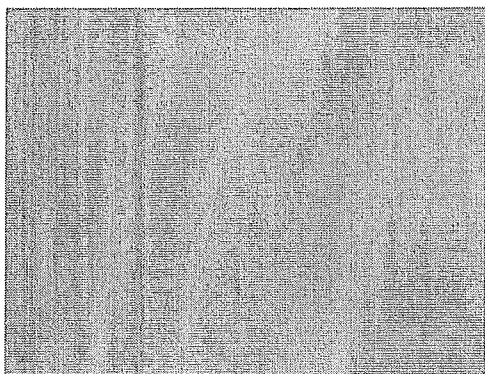
Dear Ms Tooth,

I am writing this letter to inform you of my support for the application of "At-Taqwa Islamic School" to be established in North Canberra. I understand the application was lodged in February 2012 and a call for community for this application closes in April 2012.

I believe there is a need of an Islamic school in North Canberra to help parents and children to meet their basic requirements of faith based education. I have known some of the brothers involved in lodging the school application through the Canberra Mosque and other social activities. I wish them all the very best for this good undertaking which will provide much needed service to the ever growing community in North Canberra and beyond.

Should you have any query, please do not hesitate to write to me at my address above. Thank you for your support to good community causes.

Yours sincerely



23 April 2012

[Redacted]

Mrs Lynda Tooth
Manager
Non-government Education
ACT Department of Education and Training
PO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

[Redacted]

cc: [Redacted]

Dear Lynda

On behalf of the [Redacted] I am writing this letter to advise you that we support the application of the Islamic Society of Belconnen and the Canberra Muslim Youth to establish an Islamic school in North Canberra. Canberra is fortunate to have numerous private schools of various denominations throughout the ACT, and its growing Muslim population warrants support for this emerging need.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] support for this proposed school is based on the opportunity to provide another educational option for families within the region, one which will focus on high standards of achievement, personal growth, creative-thinking and social responsibility.

[Redacted]

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

09 February 2012

1-9 APR 2012


NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS EDUCATION COUNCIL

COPY

Lynda Tooth
Manager
Liaison Unit
Education and Training Directorate
GPO Box 158, CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Lynda


I am writing to you as the CHAIR of the Non-government Schools Education Council (NGSEC) regarding your correspondence to the Council detailing the applications from three school communities, namely, Canberra Christian School – new campus; Brindabella Christian College – new campus; Canberra Muslim Youth Inc. – new school; seeking in-principle approval from the Minister for Education and Training, for non-government school development in the ACT.

NGSEC is pleased to provide you with the required in-principle support for these three applications as it is the view of the Council that the applications meet the legislative requirements for non-government school development in the ACT.

Regarding the application by the Canberra Muslim Youth Inc. NGSEC is of the strong view that relevant educational expertise be sought by the Canberra Muslim Youth Inc. particularly in terms of the current implementation requirements of the Australian Curriculum.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this request. Council members appreciated the invitation to inspect the applications at the Education and Training Directorate.

Yours sincerely


Narelle Hargreaves OAM; JP
16 April 2012.

File Ref: 2011/01745

Ms Lynda Tooth
Manager
Liaison Unit
lynda.tooth@act.gov.au

Dear Ms. Tooth,

Thank you for your request on 13 February 2012 seeking comments about the Canberra Muslim Youth Inc (CMY) application for in-principle approval for proposed registration of a new non-government school. CMY is applying to establish an Islamic school for students in Kindergarten to year 10 in Gungahlin or Belconnen commencing with Kindergarten to year four in 2014, year five and six in 2015, year seven and eight in 2016 and year nine and 10 in 2017.

The proposed school would provide a second Islamic school to the ACT, with the Islamic School of Canberra (ISC) in Weston Creek currently providing Islamic education to 150 students in kindergarten to year eight from across the ACT and surrounding regions. The ISC has also applied for in-principle approval to expand on site to years nine to 12 from 2013 to 2016. The demand for the expansion of the ISC is based on the fact that it is the only school in the ACT and region providing Islamic education.

To facilitate further consideration of the application by the ACT Minister for Education and Training, the Planning and Performance Branch (PPB) has assessed the application in terms of demographic and urban planning matters.

PPB confirms that population projections provided by the proprietor regarding growth in the north of Canberra are accurate. The projections support the current growth in these areas, but particularly in Gungahlin and the existing enrolment demand in public and non-government schools in Gungahlin. With one independent school in the Gungahlin region, there is sufficient demand to warrant an additional independent school.

As enrolment projections provided in the application are based on expressions of interest from parents in enrolling children at the proposed school, the applicant has not provided sufficient evidence of a demographic need for a second Islamic school in the ACT. Projections provided by the applicant indicate 100% student retention and significant growth in each year group from 2014 to 2020. As the ISC has experienced very slow growth, from 62 students in 2007 to 150 students in 2012, it is unlikely that the proposed school would experience enrolments of 800 by 2022 as stated in the application.

However, advice provided by the Office of Multicultural Affairs indicates that two major Muslim groups based on location of origin are in existence in the region and affiliation with

the ISC is strongly linked to identification with one of these groups. As the application from CMY is linked to the second Muslim group, the Office of Multicultural Affairs advises that there is likely to be demand from the Muslim community identifying with the CMY.

CMY has identified Gungahlin or Belconnen as suitable areas for the proposed school, with a preference for Forde or Crace in Gungahlin. These areas are of interest to the proprietor due to the increase in Muslim residents and particularly the number of couples in Gungahlin. Alternatively, CMY is interested in acquiring an existing building structure suitable for a school. Advice from EDD indicates that there are limited suitable zoned sites in Belconnen, however a site adjacent to the district playing fields in Gungahlin, near Gold Creek School is possible. Based on likely enrolment projections, a two hectare site would be sufficient for the school if existing community and educational facilities are to be used. If the application for in-principle approval of the school is approved, negotiation regarding a suitable site would need to be undertaken with EDD.

Based on the experience of the ISC, the establishment of the proposed school is unlikely to have any impact on local schools in the Gungahlin or Belconnen region. As potential enrolments are likely to be Muslim children, they would be drawn from public and non-government schools from across the ACT and region, so impact will be minimal.

If the proposed school was to draw enrolments from the same target group as the ISC, there would be impact on the viability of the ISC based on the low enrolment numbers and growth rate of this school. As 34% of ISC students currently reside in Belconnen or Gungahlin, these enrolments could be lost to the proposed school if the Muslim community associates favourably with both groups. However, if as advised by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the proposed school is likely to attract members of the Muslim community identifying with the CMY, there is unlikely to be any impact on the ISC.

In summary, the assessment shows that:

- there is evidence of demand for an additional independent school in Gungahlin, however CMY has not provided sufficient evidence of demographic demand for a second Islamic school in the ACT
- the allocation of land to the proposed school should be limited to 2.0ha with sharing of existing community and educational facilities
- the proposed school would negatively impact the viability of the existing ISC if drawing from the same cohort of students in the ACT and region
- the proposed school is unlikely to negatively impact local public and non-government schools, and
- the proposal is unlikely to relieve enrolment pressure in public schools in Gungahlin.

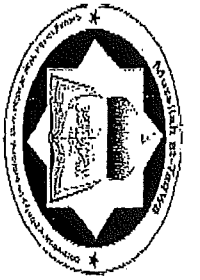
If you require more information on this matter, please email DETSchoolPlanning@act.gov.au or call Robyn Lewis on 6207 5377.

Yours sincerely



Tracy Stewart
Director
Planning and Performance Branch
17 August 2012

Expression of Interest List For New Islamic School



NEW ISLAMIC SCHOOL STUDENTS LIST

Musallah at-Taqwa
مسجد التقوى

4156 DORRIS CRTS | MOUNT ROGERS COMMUNITY CENTER | SPRING ACT
2618

Students Details

[Redacted content]

Expression of Interest List FOR NEW ISLAMIC SCHOOL

At-Tagwa Islamic School

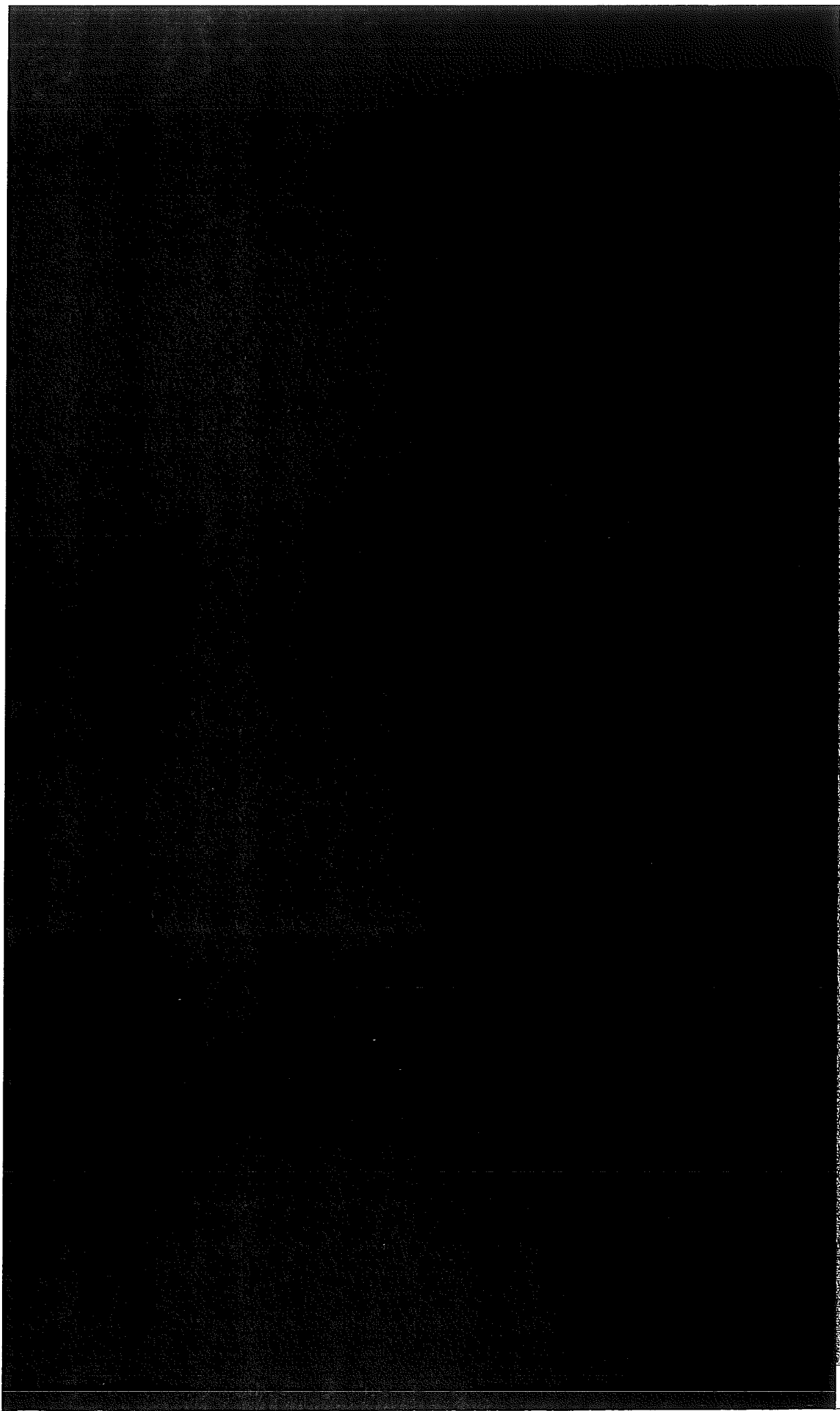


NEW ISLAMIC SCHOOL STUDENTS LIST

Musqilich at-Tagwa

1. The Father and Mother of the child must be present at the time of registration.
2015

2015



Date Received: _____ Received by (see footnote 3)



ACT - 6 FEB 2012
 Non-Government Education
 Education and Training
 DET

**APPLICATION FOR
 IN-PRINCIPLE APPROVAL
 FOR A NEW NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL¹**

Name of proposed school: At Taqwa Islamic School

Proposed location: Gungahlin and Belconnen District

Opening day of proposed school²: 6 February 2014.

PROPOSED educational levels
 Ungraded Special Education - Primary ; Ungraded Special Education - Secondary ;
 Kindergarten ; Year 1 ; Year 2 ; Year 3 ; Year 4 ; Year 5 ; Year 6 ;
 Year 7 ; Year 8 ; Year 9 ; Year 10 ; Year 11 ; Year 12 .

Anticipated number of students (k – year 12) at the school at the proposed opening of the new school: **65**

Is the applicant proposing a staggered introduction of the educational levels at the school proposed in this application? **Yes** **No**

If yes - outline of intended process for the staggered introduction: **Kindy to Year 4 at opening date in 2014, and expansion to other year levels from 2015.**

PRESCHOOL/ EARLY LEARNING YEARS³

Is the applicant currently licensed to operate a pre-school or early learning centre? **Yes** **No**

If yes - number of students currently enrolled - pre-school: _____ early learning centre: _____

Age group enrolled: _____

Location/s of the pre-school/early learning centre: _____

Is the applicant currently applying for a licence for a pre-school and/or early learning centre at the site of the proposed school? **Yes** **No**

If yes - number of students anticipated: pre-school **35** early learning centre **41**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Is the applicant considering further development of the school? **Yes** **No**

If yes – indicate the development being considered:
 Additional campus ;
 Ungraded Special Education - Primary ; Ungraded Special Education - Secondary ;
 Kindergarten ; Year 1 ; Year 2 ; Year 3 ; Year 4 ; Year 5 ; Year 6 ;
 Year 7 ; Year 8 ; Year 9 ; Year 10 ; Year 11 ; Year 12 .

Anticipated maximum number of students once all proposed educational levels/campuses have _____

¹ See Flowchart 1a and 1b

² The proposed opening day of the new campus must be at least two (2) years, but not more than four (4) years after the day this application is made. Changes to the proposed opening day, location or educational levels after lodgement of application may require a new application and consequent prescribed periods. If a staggered commencement of educational levels is proposed, this must meet the requirements for the proposed opening day.

³ Non-government preschools and early learning centres are licensed by Community Services Directorate.

commenced: By 2020 we should have a mature full campus with expected enrolment of 1500 students.

APPLICANTS

Proprietor

Company / organisation: Canberra Muslim Youth Inc (CMY)

ABN: 23806896467

ACN:

Signatory's Role:

Director/ CEO of a recognised school system - Name of system:

Chair of Board of Governance ;

Other (please detail): The named persons on this form will be the signatories until a full school board is in place.

Given name: Hassan

Family name: Warsi

Contact address (other than the school): Number:

Suburb:

State/Territory: ACT Postcode: 2615

Phone no. (business hours):

Mobile:

(Signature)

(Date of signature)

Educational advisor

Role:

Principal elect

Educational consultant

Other (please detail)

Name of educational consultant will be supplied within 60 days of submission of application.

Given name:

Family name:

Qualifications:

Contact address (other than the school): Number:

Street:

Suburb:

State/Territory:

Postcode:

Phone no. (business hours):

Mobile:

Email:

(Signature)

(Date of signature)

Address for correspondence relating to application

Post Office Box: 183

OR Number

Street:

Suburb: GUNGAHLIN

State/Territory: ACT Postcode: 2913

⁴ Applicants should read the Education Act 2004 regarding registration of non-government schools in the ACT; this may be accessed at <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2004-17/default.asp>.

Required supporting documentation⁵

Scope of proposal

- 1) Objectives and scope of the proposal:
 - a) Outline the services to be provided by the proposal, including number of streams per educational / year level, and number of students per stream;
 - b) Outline the intended contribution (including specific educational programs) to the community;
 - c) Provide the timeline for the proposal. Include a schedule of milestones in the development / construction; and
 - d) Plans for the governance structure of the proposed school.
- 2) Partnerships (including financial) and collaborations:
 - a) Provide contact details of all parties related to
this proposal; and
 - b) Provide a summary of the proprietor's previous
experience in providing educational services.

Community demand and Impact on existing schools.

- 3) General site information:
 - a) Detail the location and size of the proposed site, the capacity for this site to house the proposed educational levels and student numbers and reasons for the location; and
 - b) List the accommodation and facilities to be provided on the school grounds, and those that will be shared with other educational /community groups or located / accessed offsite through business arrangements.
- 4) Evidence of community support:
 - a) Detail the interest shown by the community for the proposed school and method for obtaining this evidence;
 - b) Analyse the community support in terms of the need for the development of the proposal;
 - c) Provide letters of support⁶ from community leaders, community organisations, church or religious affiliations, (NB evidence of support from parents et al. will be sought in a separate process); and
 - d) Provide a summary of the current schools and year levels of identified prospective students.
- 5) Consultation:
 - a) Provide a list of government, community and stakeholder consultation undertaken to date and a description of planned consultation; and
 - b) Provide a list of issues arising from consultation, differentiating those issues already addressed and by what means from those to be addressed.
- 6) Enrolment projections⁷ and population trends (ACT and NSW) are to be provided for a ten year period:
 - a) Detail the main catchment areas by district and analyse school aged children for each catchment district;
 - b) Analyse the target enrolment audience by district and the anticipated percentage seeking enrolment; and
 - c) Analyse the projected enrolment for each year level including peak capacity and long term capacity of the campus.

LODGEMENT OF APPLICATION⁸ FOR IPA FOR A NEW NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

1. Return Application Form 1 and supporting documentation to:
Manager, Liaison Unit ETD⁹

⁵ Supporting documentation should be labelled / numbered / arranged according to the structure above.

⁶ Letters of support must be original (not photo copies), must bear the signature of the author together with full contact details (including telephone contacts) of the author.

⁷ Enrolment projections must be submitted in a 'live' excel spreadsheet.

⁸ Applications are deemed submitted once all materials have been received by the Manager Liaison Unit in both hardcopy format AND electronic format.

⁹ Under section 83 of the *Education Act* a copy of an application for in-principle approval will be made available for inspection by members of the public. For further information please contact the Manager, Liaison Unit on (02) 6205 9301.

Application Form

In person: 220 Northbourne Avenue Braddon ACT *By mail:* GPO Box 158 CANBERRA ACT 2601

2. **Email** a scanned copy of the application form, the supporting documentation and the projection spreadsheet to: det.ngso@act.gov.au with subject line: *IPA - [name of proposed school]*

Application for In-Principle Approval of At-Taqwa Educational Services

Scope of proposal

- 1) Objectives and scope of the proposal:
 - a) Outline the services to be provided by the proposal, including number of streams per educational / year level, and number of students per stream;
 - b) Outline the intended contribution (including specific educational programs) to the community;
 - c) Provide the timeline for the proposal. Include a schedule of milestones in the development / construction; and
 - d) Plans for the governance structure of the proposed school.

a) Services to be provided

At-Taqwa Educational Services is committed to providing high quality educational opportunities including Islamic education whilst adhering to the requirements of the Australian school curriculum for Canberra children. We will provide:

- i. A conducive environment for children to excel, through quality teaching facilities that motivates and enhance learning via modern techniques adapted by teachers to make teaching easy.
- ii. Learning based on Australian curriculum, cross-curriculum priorities- with emphasis on social skills, developmental skills, science and environmental studies, Quran and Islamic knowledge. At year 10 students should be able to develop a coherent discussion anchored on scientific research; evidence based on Quran/Hadith and Community norms.
- iii. The school will address the contemporary issues students face. Attention will be given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia, and build the capacities for thinking and acting that are necessary to create a more sustainable future. The cross-curriculum priorities will be embedded in learning areas as appropriate.
- iv. Social environment that foster community spirits and sense of belonging. Members of our community, parents and citizens will feel the power of belongings and will volunteer their time in supporting the school through fund raising and school organised events.
- v. Provide a centre of excellence and academic opportunities for students and the community at large to actively participate through dialogue on issues of interest particular those related to Islam.
- vi. Provide sport facilities including soccer, swimming, basketball, volleyball, cricket, rugby, athletics and hockey. We intend to develop an intensive sporting program and utilize the opportunities at Australian Institute of Sports (AIS) to advance the sporting skills of students as a career. This will be achieved through planned and systematically monitored teaching procedures, cutting-edge technology, quality teaching materials and other possible avenues designed to assist students to achieve a higher level of success in school and community service.

b) Intended Contribution to the Community

- i. Provide educational literacy for parents particularly mothers of children enrolled in the school to enhance their English language skills, and members of the general community who want to learn languages such as Arabic, Hindi, Urdu, Hausa, Swahili, and Bengali.
- ii. Induction classes for migrant families to familiarise them with Australian culture and inform them of various opportunities available in the ACT.
- iii. Provide educational facilities to Canberra residents of non-English speaking background.
- iv. Refugee support to augment what is been provided by both federal and Territory Governments.
- v. Assist international students and their families during their stay in Canberra.
- vi. Improve life quality and living conditions of students by providing faith-based Australian education opportunities and motivate our children to go beyond mere labour-hands. Our school will endeavour to mentor children beyond classroom and workplaces.
- vii. In addition, the school will provide a grass root Islamic training where peace and harmony in our community will be the hallmark for students. In doing so the school will provide students with the necessary skills to fully participate in Islamic worship and eventually give them an opportunity to undertake advanced Islamic studies.
- viii. Provide aspirational academic focus by fostering children's capabilities to meet the needs of the community through work and service.

c) Timeline for Our Proposal

Table 1.1 Proposal Time line

Plan	2014	2015	2016	2017
Initial Application	KG-Y4			
Expansion		Y5-Y6		
Application			Y7-Y8	
Expansion				Y9-Y10

- The initial application will be for Kindergarten (KG) to year 4 (Y4).
- When in-principle approval is granted we will apply in 2013 for registration to commence KG to Y4 classes in 2014.
- We intend to progressively apply for in-principle approval to expand:
 - a. To Y5 and Y6 in 2013.
 - b. Y7 and Y8 in 2014, and
 - c. Y9 and Y10 in 2015.

Should the enrolment suggest a more conservative expansion timeline that would improve the financial viability of the school, we would propose the following alternative:

Table 1.2 Alternative Time line

Plan	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Initial Application	KG-Y2				
Expansion		Y3-Y4			
Expansion			Y5-Y6		
Expansion				Y7-Y8	
Expansion					Y9-10

- The initial application will be for KG to Y2.
- When in-principle approval is granted we will apply in 2013 for registration to commence KG to Y2 classes in 2014.
- We intend to progressively apply for in-principle approval:

- a. In 2013 to expand to include years 3 and 4 commencing in 2015.
- b. In 2014 to expand to include years 5 and 6 commencing in 2016.
- c. In 2015 to expand to include years 7 and 8 commencing in 2017.
- d. In 2016 to expand to include years 9 and 10 commencing in 2018.

Development and Construction Time Line

Our Facilities Committee have begun discussions with private estate providers, Land Development Authority (LDA) and ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA). We anticipate our development time table is as follows:

- Discuss and negotiate a site with Government in 2012. This is a work in progress.
- Tender and contract of construction in early 2013.
- Landscape in December 2013/January 2014.

Alternatively, if there is an existing building structure for sale that is suitable for school, Canberra Muslim Youth (CMY) will provide funding and other necessary means to procure it to run the school.

Plans to operate a pre-school and/or early learning Centre.

CMY has contacted various entities in ACT Government in relation to setting up a pre-school. We are undertaking assessment of the existing structure and available space at the Mount Rogers Community Centre in Spence to see if it meets the requirements of establishing a pre-school. The assessment is expected to finish by February 2012.

In the event that the existing structure meets the requirements, the pre-school is expected to be up and running by August 2012. Otherwise a building facility for the pre-school is expected to be leased by December 2012 if not earlier. The pre-school will be up and running by February 2013 in that case.

d) Plans for the governance structure

Our proposed governance model will mirror Associations of Independent Schools (AIS) school board policy.

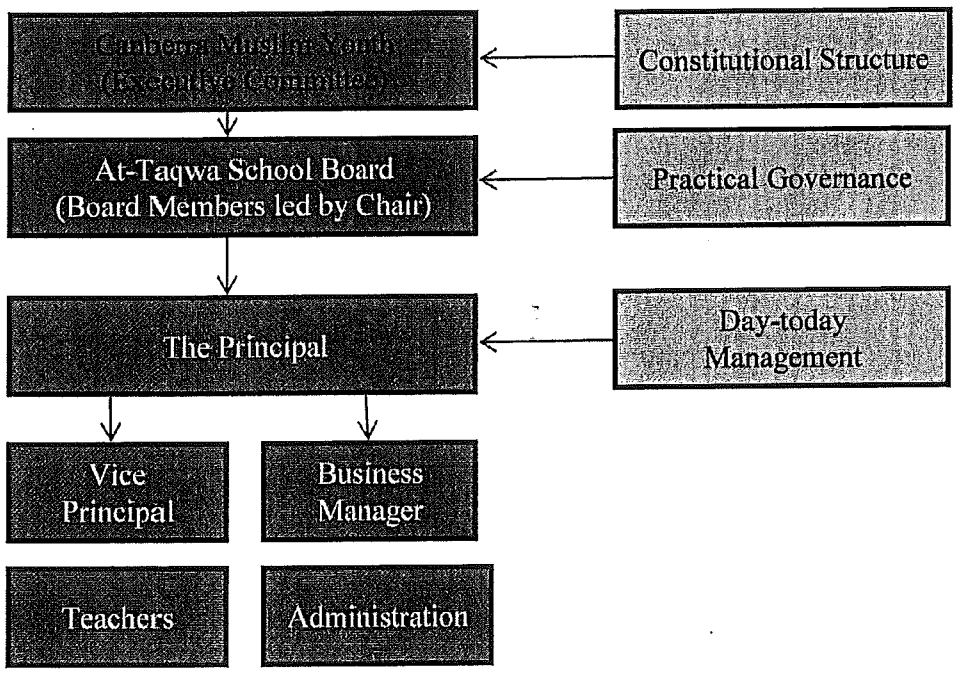


Figure 1 – At-Taqwa Educational Services Governance Structure

The School Board will provide strategic guidance for the School and effectively oversee and review the School's management.

The role and responsibility of the school board will be to:

- Adapt to the distinctive characteristics of an academic environment and act so as to exemplify and reinforce the institution's core values and ethos
- Oversee all aspects of the School, including its control and accountability systems, and approve the expenditure and capital budgets
- Appoint, review and remove the Principal and provide ongoing support and supervision
- Develop and maintain healthy relationships with key stakeholders and develop effective communication channels
- Ensure a strategic approach to the school's future by setting major goals, policy frameworks and strategies
- Set the tone and the ethical standards of the school and monitor adherence to them
- Review plans and budgets established by school management
- Approve all material expenditure outside the budget
- Anticipate problems as much as possible and act to diffuse issues
- Be attentive to the matter of succession
- Establish committees where appropriate
- Review and monitor adherence to systems of risk management, governance compliance and legal compliance
- Monitor organisational performance
- Conduct an annual review of the Board's own performance (i.e. Board Appraisal)
- Conduct an annual review of the School's progress in meeting its objectives.

The Chair of the Board will be responsible for leadership of the Board and for the efficient organisation and conduct of the Board's functioning. The Chair will facilitate the effective contribution of all directors and promote constructive and respectful relations between board members and between board and management.

The Principal will be responsible for the management and day-to-day operations and business of the school. The authority to exercise managerial powers will be delegated from the Board, which retains responsibility for the overall governance of the School. The Principal will oversee the educational programs and developments in the school (and in the broader educational community) and must keep Board Members abreast of these issues. It is critical that the Principal and the Board have confidence in one another.

School board will be represented by members with a diverse range of skills and professionals. It is envisaged that 9 members will represent the board in the beginning.

- 2) Partnerships (including financial) and collaborations:
 - a) Provide contact details of all parties related to this proposal; and
 - b) Provide a summary of the proprietor's previous experience in providing educational services.
- a) Parties related to the Proposals
 - i. Organisational

The CMY is in partnership with the Islamic Society of Belconnen (ISB) in developing this proposal. The Islamic Societies of the ACT (ISACT) that manages Yarralumla Mosques and Canberra Islamic Centre (CIC) in Monash have given their unflinching support to this application. We have discussed this proposal at

the ACT Muslim Advisory Council (ACTMAC) and Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) both expressed a very favourable desire to see it through. The Imam Council of the ACT have strongly supported the application.

Table 2.1 Contact Details

Organisation	Point of Contact (POC)	Contacts
ISACT		
CIC		
OMA		
Saudi Embassy		
Australian Muslim Voice (AMV) Inc.		
Muslim Women Network		

ii. Individual

CMY is in process of building a core group of education consultants with expertise in the development, implementation and review of education policy, classroom management, and student welfare and discipline policies. We are also in contact with a staff member of the University of Canberra (UC), a school teacher at the Hawker College and the Australian National University (ANU) to be a mentor for us over the next 6 to 24 months whilst the school is being established. Their names and contact details can be provided upon confirmation of their commitment towards assisting CMY in establishing the school.

The Presidents of Muslim organisations, parents, and the Imams have assisted in the development of this application.

CMY and the Islamic Society of Belconnen have been running regular weekly after hour classes to teach Arabic language and Islamic studies for primary school aged children for the past three years. We also manage weekend classes, adult's language classes and ladies study group.

CMY has contacted ACT Community Services Directorate and is in the process of setting up a Pre School.

Community Demand and the Impact on Existing Schools.

3) General site information:

- a) Detail the location and size of the proposed site, the capacity for this site to house the proposed educational levels and student numbers and reasons for the location; and
- b) List the accommodation and facilities to be provided on the school grounds, and those that will be shared with other educational /community groups or located / accessed offsite through business arrangements.

a) Location and Size

The proposed site is in the Gungahlin or Belconnen District. However, Gungahlin is our first preference due to the increasing Muslim residents and the size of young couples in the locality. In particular new residential areas in Forde or Crace are the localities we intend going into negotiations with LDA/ACTPLA.

Based on the census of ACT school, we envisage the school to start with approximately 60+ students in 2014 and expand to approximately 800 students by year 2022 if not earlier. Our Committee on infrastructure and facilities is currently determining the block size of the proposed school. This information will be made available when consultation with LDA/ACTPLA is completed.

b) Accommodation and Facilities

For 2014, we envisage classrooms for KG – Y4, toilet facilities for male and female, an administration area, first aid area, teachers resource room, coffee room, a meeting room and a small library as a minimum. Additionally, a covered and open play area at least half the size of a soccer field would be required for children sports.

CMY will strive to deliver teaching and learning in convenient and comfortable surroundings, offering our students facilities and services which ensure an enjoyable learning experience.

- i. Classrooms and library will be situated on premises for easy access for teachers and students. The school will also make good use of district library in Gungahlin to widen the horizon of students through library studies and research.
- ii. Sports oval and soccer/cricket/rugby fields will be shared from the community infrastructure.
- iii. Swimming facilities in Belconnen, Gungahlin, Forde and Gold creek will be used for swimming lessons and other water sports activities.

- 4) Evidence of community support:
- a) Detail the interest shown by the community for the proposed school and method for obtaining this evidence;
 - b) Analyse the community support in terms of the need for the development of the proposal;
 - c) Provide letters of support from community leaders, community organisations, church or religious affiliations, (NB evidence of support from parents et al. will be sought in a separate process); and
 - d) Provide a summary of the current schools and year levels of identified prospective students.

a) The community support is significant both at the organisational and individual level. Meeting with our community to discuss the need for an Islamic School in north Canberra has been ongoing since 2009. Prospective parents and the Executive Committee called for expression of interest which registered approximately 180 children upto the age of primary school years (**Attachment A**).

b) The need for an Islamic School in the North Canberra has been recognised by the ACT Government through the provision of a land for a mosque in Gungahlin, due to growth of Muslims in the Belconnen and Gungahlin Districts. The number of Muslims who require Islamic faith-based education in the North far outweighs the current Islamic education provided at Weston. Currently no public or private education providers in the North offer Islamic studies.

c) Letters of Support
 We have requested all supporting letters to be emailed to det.ngso@act.gov.au.

d) Table 4.1 Lists of Prospective Students

School	Prospective Students for 2014				
	K	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Amaroo Primary School					
Aranda Primary School					
Charnwood Primary School					
Evatt Primary School					
Florey Primary School					
Fraser Primary School					
Giralang Primary School					
Gold Creek School					
Harrison Primary School					
Hawker Primary School					
Kaleen Primary School					
Kingsford Smith Primary School					
Latham Primary School					
Lyneham Primary School					
Macgregor Primary School					
Melba Primary School					
Mount Rogers Primary School					
Ngunnawal Primary School					
Palmerston Primary School					
Weetangera Primary School					
Total	13	18	23	28	34

The above figures are based on one child per family in the school – the data is collected from www.abs.gov.au. 2006 census count of persons attending an educational institution at the infant and primary level is 2,246 in North Canberra. Our enrolments projection 16.7% of the infant/primary aged children in the North Canberra. Please note that none of the proposed children are currently enrolled at Islamic School of Canberra. The above data shows that At-Taqwa Educational Services will not have a negative financial impact on the existing schools in the ACT.

5) Consultation:

- a) Provide a list of government, community and stakeholder consultation undertaken to date and a description of planned consultation; and
- b) Provide a list of issues arising from consultation, differentiating those issues already addressed and by what means from those to be addressed.

- a) Consultation has been held with the following organisation – ACT Muslim Advisory Council (ACTMAC), Islamic Society of ACT (ISACT), Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), Islamic School of Canberra (ISC), Canberra Islamic Centre (CIC) and other independent schools and ACT government bodies.

CMY is seeking collaboration with other independent schools and contributions of experts from the various organisations during the establishment of the school. The challenge raised so far is the question of infrastructure and how we as a community are going to overcome it. We have formed Infrastructure and Facilities Committee to look into how to set up all accommodation and classroom infrastructure required by 2014. The Committee has consulted a commercial Estate Agency - L J Hooker and Australian Builders Association as key experts to guide their work.

Another challenge is the curriculum development. We are seeking collaboration with interstate Islamic school with Australian curriculum as a guide to the development of our own curriculum.

b) Table 5.1 List of Consultations

Organisation	Acronym	Description of Consultation
Islamic Society of the ACT	ISACT	Discussion with ISACT Management Committee
Islamic Society of Belconnen	ISB	2010-2011 AGM discussion and meeting outcome
Canberra Muslim Youth	CMY	2010-2011 AGM discussion and meeting outcome
Muslim Women Network	MWN	Conversation with executives, online discussion and mass email to inform members
ACT Muslim Advisory Council	ACTMAC	Information session at Dec 2011 and Jan 2012 ACTMAC meetings
Office of Multicultural Affairs	OMA	Discussion with the Director of OMA
Canberra Islamic Centre	CIC	Meeting with the Imam and EC member
ACT Council of Imams	ACTCI	An information session
Parents and Community members		Sermon and consultation after prayers and information session after Friday prayers

c) Table 5.2 List of issues arising from the consultation

Organisation	Acronym	issues arising from consultation
Islamic Society of the ACT	ISACT	How the project can be undertaken to serve the needs of Canberra Muslims
Islamic Society of Belconnen	ISB	How much funding is required to execute the project
Canberra Muslim Youth	CMY	How much funding is required to execute the project
Muslim Women Network	MWN	Role of sisters in the development and running of the school
ACT Muslim Advisory Council	ACTMAC	Unity of Muslims and the running/management of two Islamic schools in Canberra
Office of Multicultural Affairs	OMA	The need to be inclusive and engage all and sundry
Canberra Islamic Centre	CIC	Distance from South Canberra & reliable transport for parents in the South who wish to send their children to the proposed school
ACT Council of Imams	ACTCI	Need to employ qualified teachers who understand and respect cultural diversity and ethnicity.

The resolutions to these issues are ongoing through continued discussions within the community.

- 6) Enrolment projections and population trends (ACT and NSW) are to be provided for a ten year period:
- a) Detail the main catchment areas by district and analyse school aged children for each catchment district;
 - b) Analyse the target enrolment audience by district and the anticipated percentage seeking enrolment; and
 - c) Analyse the projected enrolment for each year level including peak capacity and long term capacity of the campus.

a) Table 6.1 Enrolment Projections by District

Year	2014					2015		2016		2017		Total
	KG	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	
Gungahlin	5	7	9	11	13	15	17	19	21	23	25	165
Belconnen	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	176
Central Canberra	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	77
Tuggeranong /Queanbeyan	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	28
Total	13	18	23	28	34	40	46	52	58	64	64	446

The above data for year 2014 is based on table 3.1. The projection for 2015 onwards is based on the same analysis as that of table 3.1 – the data is collected from www.abs.gov.au website. The school enrolments will maximize catchment area to gain capacity. The northern suburbs will primarily be the coverage area. As the school evolves and matures, parents living in South Canberra may choose to continue with us or consider putting their children in alternative public/privates schools. This will impact on enrolments from South

Canberra. We will endeavor to build a constructive relationship with the ISC particularly for the progression of At-Taqwa Educational Services students into Y11 and Y12.

b) Table 6.2 Enrolment Projections by District-Anticipated Seeking Enrolment

District	2014					2015		2016		2017		Total
	KG	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	
Gungahlin	38%	39%	39%	39%	38%	38%	37%	37%	36%	36%	39%	37%
Belconnen	46%	44%	43%	43%	41%	40%	39%	38%	38%	38%	41%	40%
Central Canberra	15%	17%	17%	18%	18%	18%	17%	17%	17%	17%	19%	17%
Tuggeranong & Queanbeyan	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	5%	7%	8%	9%	9%	11%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

2006 Australian census count of persons attending an educational institution at the infant and primary level is 2,246 in North Canberra. Our enrolments projection 16.7% of the infant/primary aged children in the North Canberra.

Based on the analysis drawn on the data collected from 2006 Australian census - www.abs.gov.au website, we envisage primary aged children seeking enrolment will be 37% in Gungahlin District, 40% in Belconnen District, 17% in Central Canberra, and 6% in the Southern Districts.

Table 6.3 Enrolment Projections for each Year Level

Year	2014					2015		2016		2017		Total
	K	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	
2014	13	18	23	28	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	116
2015	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	0	0	0	0	210
2016	18	23	28	33	38	43	48	53	58	0	0	342
2017	21	26	31	36	41	46	51	56	61	66	0	435
2018	24	29	34	39	44	49	54	59	64	69	74	539
2019	27	32	37	42	47	52	57	62	67	72	77	572
2020	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	605
Total	148	183	218	253	289	325	361	397	433	469	231	

The population of Muslims in Canberra is on steady rise due to the influx of migrants, international students, and relocation of Muslims within Australia. Majority of these people are young families who require faith based education for their children.

This projection is based on 2006 Australian census and information of international student enrolment from UC and ANU.

Attachment A: Expression of interest from parents.

To be submitted

Attachment B: Enrolment Projections spreadsheet.

Sent via email to Lynda.tooth@act.gov.au