



## **Memorandum of Understanding between Omar bin Al Kattab Mosque and Darebin City Council**

### **Purpose and Scope**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) serves as an agreement between the Omar bin Al Kattab Mosque (Mosque) and the Darebin City Council (Council) to formalise a working relationship which ensures mutual respect, community harmony and effective solutions to issues that may arise. The purpose of the arrangement is to guide the partnership and the nature of the collaboration.

The MOU should not impact on areas where Council as the responsible authority is required to comply with legislation.

The MOU:

- Articulates a shared vision, values, and commitment in relation to promoting a respectful and constructive relationship between the Mosque and Council;
- Formally acknowledges the commitment of the Mosque and Council to respond strategically to issues that may arise in terms of neighbourhood relations, the Mosque's integration into the life of the community and impact minimisation of special religious events;
- Provides a foundation for collaborative partnerships to address the needs and issues of the wider community;
- Does not limit the rights of signatories to participate in any other activities or relationships; and
- Has no legal binding.

### **Parties to the MOU**

This MOU is between the Omar bin Al Kattab Mosque and the Darebin City Council.

### **Vision**

To maintain positive relations between the Mosque and Council in a spirit of respectful co-existence, interaction and cooperation for the wellbeing of Muslims and non-Muslim communities.

# APPENDIX A

## Principles

The working partnership between the Mosque and the Council will embody the following principles:

- A respectful, collaborative and robust relationship;
- Commitment to open dialogue for effective problem solving;
- Obligation to community integration and positive neighbourhood relations; and
- Dedication to responding to the needs and issues of the Mosque, Council and the wider community.

## Obligations of the Parties

By signing this MOU, all parties agree to:

- Commit in principle to consult with each other on matters of mutual interest including, community projects, festivals and events;
- Share knowledge, expertise, skills and services on matters relating to interactions between the Mosque and the wider community to facilitate more effective outcomes;
- Allocate appropriate human and/or financial resources to achieve the purpose and scope of the MOU; and
- Review and monitor progress annually to ensure the partnership remains sustainable.

## Specific Initiatives

The MOU will ensure that the following actions and activities are jointly planned, managed, implemented and evaluated:

- Muslim festivals and events, with the formalisation of compliance arrangements with regards to Ramadan, Eid, El Fitr and Eid El Adha;
- Mosque community orientation: open days, women's morning tea sessions, interfaith tours;
- Neighbourhood relations initiatives and community consultations;
- Information sessions for Council staff on Islam including the beliefs and practices of Muslim communities in Darebin;
- Information sessions about Council services for new migrants, particularly those from Islamic backgrounds;
- Emergency management policies and procedures;
- Interfaith dialogue, forums and events;
- Youth leadership, mentoring and awareness raising programs; and
- Projects of mutual benefit.

# APPENDIX A

## Meetings

The coordination and implementation of the MOU between the Mosque and the Council will be the role of the Mosque and Council Committee. The Committee will comprise representatives from the Mosque, Council and other external agencies as is appropriate and meet on a regular basis.

Secretariat functions will be undertaken by Darebin City Council.

## Date

This MOU will be reviewed in 2018

## Contact Person

Each party must have at all times one nominated person who is the key contact person and the person accountable for the implementation of the MOU. Any changes need to be advised immediately to the other party.

<b>Omar bin Al Kattab Mosque</b> Name: Position: Phone: Email:	<b>Darebin City Council</b> Name: Cesar Diaz Position: Multicultural Affairs Officer Phone: 8470 8589 Email: cesar.diaz@darebin.vic.gov.au
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## Signatories

**President, Omar bin Al Kattab Mosque**

**CEO, Darebin City Council**

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**Ahmed Allouch**

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**Rasiah Dev**

**Dated:**

**Dated:**