



Media Release

Wednesday, 25 March 2009

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS IN THE SPECTRUM OF ISLAMIC FAITH AND SHARI'A LAW

In their quest to enhance understanding of cultural practices, values and principles around family relationships, as applied to followers of the Islamic faith according to the Islamic Shari'a law, Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre (SMRC) is jointly hosting a Breakfast Seminar and a Public Seminar on Wednesday 8th April, for legal professionals, as well as community service providers.

The two seminars "Family Relationships in the Islamic Shari'a law" are designed for different audiences and being conducted by the Broadmeadows Family Relationship Centre (FRC), which is a joint initiative of SMRC, MacKillop Family Services and Relationships Australia. While the **Breakfast Seminar** targets professionals and legal personnel who are working in the family relationships & family law sectors, as well as senior managers of FRCs, the **Public Seminar** aims to bring together professionals who work in the family relationship services sector, social workers as well as community workers and community representatives who work with families from diverse cultures, including followers of the Islamic faith.

"These seminars are the first of their kind in Victoria and probably in Australia. Understanding the cultural practices, values and principles as well as addressing the needs of families from diverse cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds are considered to be of prime importance in the work of the Broadmeadows FRC. According to the 2006 Census, Muslims represent around 15% of the Hume population - it is important that existing services are accessible by families from diverse cultures, to provide the culturally appropriate and responsive service to our clients, and these Seminars aim is to ensure a culturally responsive service delivery," explained **Broadmeadows FRC Senior Cultural Advisor, Dr Khairy Majeed**.

The Broadmeadows FRC, which has been operating since July 2008, provides information and referrals for families at any stage of their relationships, as well as individual interviews, group and joint sessions (including family dispute resolution) for separating or separated families. The Centre also provides advice on parenting after separation and helps parents focus on the needs of their children. The Centre is run by a consortium of agencies: MacKillop Family Services, Relationships Australia, and Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre.

This is a free event but registration is required. To register, call Dr Khairy Majeed on 9351 3705 or email khairy.majeed@mackillop.org.au

EVENT DETAILS & PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:

EVENT: "Family Relationships in the Islamic Shari'a law" Breakfast & Public Seminar

DATE & TIME: Wednesday 8th April 2009 - Breakfast Seminar from 8 to 10am & Public Seminar from 2 to 4pm;

VENUE: Hume Global Learning Centre, 1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows Community leaders are available for interview.

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