



Islamic Council of Victoria  
Living in Harmony: Neighbourhood Harmony

## Challenging the Crisis

Workshop 1:

# *The Australian Legal System and Government*

Monday 22 November 2004



Islamic Council of Victoria

Living in Harmony: Neighbourhood Harmony

- **Overview of the Australian Legal System**
  - Presented by Brian Walters SC
- **Introduction to Australian Government**
  - Presented by Dr Michalis Michael
- **Organise work groups –**
  - Local Government, Councils & Mosques
  - Schools, Education & State Government
  - Immigration & Federal Government
  - Law, Civil Rights & Anti-terrorism
  - Health, Aged Care & Community Services
- **Break – 8.10-8.30pm**
- **Workshop sessions, followed by Summary with Q&A**
  - Dr Michalis Michael



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- **Brian Walters SC –**
  - Barrister (Senior Counsel)
  - PRESIDENT of LIBERTY VICTORIA – Victorian Council for Civil Liberties
  - Vice President of Free Speech Victoria
  - Author of *Slapping on the Writs: Defamation, Developers and Community Activism*, examining the use of defamation law to silence community groups
  - Co-founder and consultant to *Wild* magazine, Australia's bushwalking, ski touring, canoeing and climbing periodical.



## ■ The Australian Legal System

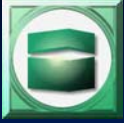
### ■ System of Courts

- State
- Federal
- High Court

### ■ Legal Access and Support Mechanisms

- Legal Aid in Victoria <http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/>
- Other support groups
  - **Community Law website**, an initiative of the Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic.) Inc.  
<http://www.communitylaw.org.au/>

### ■ Law Reform



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- **Australian Government – The 3 Tiers (levels)**
  - Access website - <http://www.australia.gov.au/>
  - Federal Parliament - <http://www.aph.gov.au/>
    - The House of Representatives
    - The Senate
    - The Commonwealth Public Service
  - State
    - Victorian Government - <http://www.vic.gov.au/>  
<http://www.information.vic.gov.au/>
    - Victorian Parliament - <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/>
      - The Legislative Assembly
      - The Legislative Council
  - Local (Municipal)



- **Workshop groups:**

- Address your discussion with the following questions in mind:

- What services or other needs are required for the Muslim community in the area being discussed?
    - What is the experience so far of mechanisms that are available?
    - How well does the Muslim community understand this area and the support mechanisms available in Australia?
    - What initiatives could better prepare Muslims for dealing with these matters?

- Your objective of discussion:

- Each discussion group prepare a **single question or proposal** to be considered by Dr Michael, in the closing summary session.