



# MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

405 Waterloo Road, Greenacre, NSW

Postal Address: P.O. Box 5548, Chullora, NSW, Australia 2190

Telephone: (02) 8732 7800

Facsimile: (02) 9642 5479

Email: [admin@mfis.nsw.edu.au](mailto:admin@mfis.nsw.edu.au)

**Thursday, 17 March 2016**

Dear Parent / Caregiver

Assalamualiakum

Thank you for the support that you have given the Interim Board of Malek Fahd Islamic School since our appointment last week.

At our first meeting on Monday this week, I was elected Chairman. We are here to serve the entire School community and our School's future... we cannot do it without your support and confidence.

We write for two reasons to:

1. Invite you to a meeting of all Malek Fahd parents and carers with the Interim Board
2. Update everyone on progress to assure the future of our wonderful School

The parents' and carer's meeting will be from **5.30pm to 7.30pm on Thursday 24 March** in the School Hall in Greenacre. All are welcome. We want to meet everyone face-to-face to brief you and to answer questions. This is a most difficult and challenging period. We are under no allusions... much is to be done and you need to be kept informed.

We expect many questions. We will do our level best to answer each and all of them. We invite anyone with questions to email them to the School at [principal@mfis.nsw.edu.au](mailto:principal@mfis.nsw.edu.au). This will enable us to provide answers at the meeting.

You will need to RSVP if you are attending the meeting. Please use the same email address, [principal@mfis.nsw.edu.au](mailto:principal@mfis.nsw.edu.au).

Now let us turn to progress in our work to enable the Federal Government to uphold the School's appeal to reinstate our Commonwealth funding that was revoked on 2 March.

We are pleased to confirm that Malek Fahd is now independent from the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC). Actions to date include:

- The resignation of the previous Board of Malek Fahd
- The appointment of an Interim Board without any AFIC members



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- The amended constitution of the independent Malek Fahd School has been lodged with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC)
- Separate banking accounts and arrangements are being set up
- We will soon advertise to appoint a business manager for the School
- We will soon go to tender for the appointment of independent auditors

**There will be no appointments to, or expenditure at, Malek Fahd without proper process and governance.**

Much of this necessary work is protracted... there often is much to undo before we can institute reform. It is painstaking and not always evident to the public but we will do it by the book and we will put in place efficient and effective mechanisms for the independent governance of Malek Fahd.

We also are preparing alternatives to enable Malek Fahd to carry on in the event that the Government does not uphold our appeal and reinstate our Commonwealth funding.

Again, on behalf of the Interim Board, we thank you, your families and the entire Malek Fahd community for your warm welcome and messages of support. We have not yet had the opportunity but will this week also circulate more information to introduce the each of the Interim Board members to you.

We commend you for staying loyal to this great School. We look forward to continuing to serve you and the School that you love so much.

Jazakallah Khairan for your ongoing support. We appreciate it and will continue to do all we can.

Wassalam

Yours sincerely

**MIRIAM SILVA**

Chairman, Interim Board

**SHAMSHER ALI**

Principal and a Director of the Interim Board



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## Interim Board Directors in profile...

Here are short profiles to introduce our new external directors appointed to the Interim Board of Directors of Malek Fahd Islamic School. The fourth Director is Principal Shamsher Ali.

### MIRIAM SILVA (CHAIR)

Miriam has more than 20 years' experience managing large and geographically diverse teams across multiple industries including pharmaceuticals, banking and agriculture. She has held a number of senior business roles, including acting Chief Executive of TAFE SA, Chief Operating Officer at FleetPartners, General Manager of Commercial Operations at Elders and various roles at ANZ including two years in Hong Kong.

Miriam has a diverse current board portfolio including TAFE SA Board, University of SA Council, SA Film Corporation Board, Premier's Council for Women (SA), Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, Islamic Museum Board and Wilderness School Council. Miriam is State President for CEDA (Committee for Economic Development in Australia) in SA and sits on the National CEDA Board. She was in November, last year, appointed Chair of the Islamic College of SA. She volunteers with a number of organisations, including the Muslim Women's Association of SA Inc., International Women's Day Committee (SA) and Rotary.

Miriam is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, South Australian Women's Honour Roll 2011, one of the inaugural 100 Women of Influence winners, winner of the Governor's Multicultural Award for the Private Sector 2012 and is the Multicultural Patron for the SA Police Academy.





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## **MARTYN BAWDEN**

Martyn is an experienced senior professional teacher and leader committed to improving public education in NSW during the past 37 years.

He began his career in 1976 as a science teacher at Northmead High School after completing a Bachelor of Science and Diploma of Education at Sydney University. In 1994, Martyn was appointed Deputy Principal at Bankstown Senior College. He was the Principal of Condell Park High School from 1998 until 2003 and then Principal of Kingsgrove High School from 2004 until he retired in 2013.

In his personal and professional practice, Martyn is committed to openness and accountability to ensure that schools are both viable and student-focussed.



## **GEOFF DORNAN**

Geoff brings a wealth of experience from an extensive career in school management and governance.

He was Bursar and Clerk to the Council of The King's School Parramatta from 2001 until he retired last year. During that time, Geoff served on the School's boards and committees as well as having functional control of finance, property, information and communications technology (ICT), new building projects and oversight of risk management and governance.

During his time at King's, Geoff served on the board of the peak body of school administration in Australia and New Zealand - the Association of School Business Administrators, and was recently awarded life membership.

He holds an MBA from the University of New England, is a Chartered Secretary, Fellow of the Institute of Public Accountants and Associate of the Governance Institute of Australia.

