

# MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

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## INFORMATION UPDATE

### FROM THE INTERIM BOARD OF MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

**Wednesday 6 April 2016**

Assalamualiakum

Malek Fahd Islamic School today applied to the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal to seek continuation of public funding.

We decided to appeal because it offers the opportunity of a path to an assured future for Malek Fahd and serves the best interests of students.

The Interim Board assures the entire school community of three things:

1. We are as committed as ever to achieve the success that we all want and need
2. We carefully considered the reasons why the Commonwealth dismissed the first appeal. We are more than confident – indeed, we know – that we ultimately will address and satisfy every Commonwealth concern and requirement to comply with its public funding criteria
3. Our decisions continue to be governed by the single priority of what is best for the students of Malek Fahd

In its decision on Monday, the Commonwealth acknowledged progress over the three weeks since the appointment of the Interim Board. Among its conclusions:

- Interim Board members possess the experience and expertise to administer a school and provide education at a school
- School banking practices and governance are now compliant with the Act
- There is progress – but not yet finality – on the removal of AFIC to ensure that the School is not financially controlled by another entity. Governance changes are acknowledged but are not yet sufficient to assure compliance with the Act for the administration of public funding

It identified areas in which more work is required by the Interim Board:

- Despite the Interim Board having demonstrated that it has begun the process of compliance for funding approval, the Commonwealth needs to see further progress to confirm that it is not for profit
- Despite work by the Interim Board to adopt new lease arrangements with the owner of the school campuses (AFIC) that are consistent with the Act, these are not finalized

- The Interim Board needs to complete more work to provide required clarity around the reasons for and status of a loan from MFIS to AFIC several years ago

These and other similar requirements are fair and reasonable and must be fulfilled. In its appeal submission, the Interim Board made clear to the Commonwealth that it is committed to achieving all of its requirements but would not be able to complete the work within the appeal deadline. The Commonwealth decision is, therefore, harsh in that it does not provide reasonable latitude and time for the Interim Board – which was appointed just three weeks ago – to achieve these acknowledged objectives.

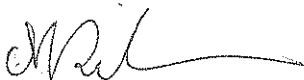
The Interim Board will meet on Thursday evening (7 April) to review progress on the appeal and our continuing dialogue with the Commonwealth.

We will provide to the school community on Friday morning a statement on the future of Malek Fahd. We will do this to enable everyone to make decisions that serve their best interests... students, teachers, staff and families of the School.

In other news, the Interim Board has agreed to liaise with and take feedback from an Interim Parents and Friends group of about five or six parents. This is being established by the Crisis Committee, which will conduct a meeting for parents at MFIS Greenacre tomorrow at 7.30pm (Thursday 7 April).

If, in the meantime, you have any questions, please email them to [interimboard@mfis.nsw.edu.au](mailto:interimboard@mfis.nsw.edu.au).

Wassalam



**MIRIAM SILVA**  
Chairman, Interim Board