



# MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

ABN: 41003 864 891

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP

[www.mfis.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mfis.nsw.edu.au)

## INFORMATION UPDATE

### FROM THE BOARD OF MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

Wednesday, 19 February 2020

Assalamualaikum

#### The new school year

It is pleasing to see all students and staff settling into the new school year.

This year is shaping up to be an exciting one for the School with many positive and exciting changes and events planned, including hosting the annual national Islamic Education Conference coordinated by the Centre for Islamic Studies of the University of South Australia in early July.

Last year Mr Rixon and the staff implemented many enhancements to the curriculum, our welfare programs, our buildings and facilities and our technology infrastructure.

This year you will also see many other things that are in our Strategic Plan implemented in ways that will further enhance and enrich the educational experiences of students at MFIS.

In reflecting on 2019 the Board has recognised that it needs to maintain clear and effective communication with all members of the school community.

#### Change to Board

Dr John Edwards, who joined the Board in December 2016, has announced his resignation from the Board. He has many other commitments outside of the School but during his time on the Board he made a major contribution to the School and its future. For much of his time on the Board he was the Deputy Chair and Chair of the Finance Committee. His input and wise advice will be sorely missed.

In his letter of resignation, he said:

*For me the association with MFIS over the last three years or so has been a wonderful experience. I have learned all sorts of things about Australia and the way it works, which I would never otherwise have known. I have learned more about the Muslim community in Australia, about schools - and particularly about the great school that is Malek Fahd.*

*I thank you all for welcome, your many kindnesses and your collegiality. It is a fine, lively and selfless Board, a highly professional teaching and administrative staff, which I shall much miss. I wish you all the best.*

At its meeting on Friday the Board, appointed Dr Fariha Dib to replace Dr Edwards.

Dr Dib undertook the important role of President of the Parents Advisory Committee (PAC) from early 2016 to the end of 2018. Throughout these very difficult times she provided great leadership of the PAC as it supported the Board in its crucial tasks to protect the future of the school.

Dr Dib will be a great addition to the Board.

**The NCAT Appeal**

In the final Board *Update* of 2019, I advised you that we were awaiting a decision on our appeal to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

That decision was handed down on Thursday 6 February and, I am pleased to say, was in our favour. The earlier decision was set aside and a new order made.

While the School still needs to provide evidence to convince the Minister that it is completely compliant with all governance requirements, we believe that we are in an excellent position to do this.

This was the last remaining court proceeding that needed to be finalised. We will keep you informed of any developments with the Minister or Department of Education arising from this judgment.

**Online petition**

The Board's review and consideration of claims and allegations in last year's online petition is nearing completion. We will keep you informed.

Jazakallah Khairan for your ongoing support.

Wassalam

**DR JOHN BENNETT**

Chair