



MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

ABN: 41003 864 891

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP

www.mfis.nsw.edu.au

INFORMATION UPDATE

FROM THE BOARD OF MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

Assalamualiakum

Wednesday 14 June 2017

It has been several weeks since the Board last provided an Information Update from the Board.

Our Principal, Bruce Rixon, provides regular newsletters covering important operational and day-to-day matters. This *Information Update* from the Board will touch on matters that are the responsibility of the Board.

Commonwealth funding

The Board is disappointed to advise that the Commonwealth Government has decided to delay its funding of our School. This is incredibly frustrating and please be assured that the Board is working hard to rectify this situation as soon as possible.

The Board has written to the Department to advise that unless funding is restored the school cannot open in term three. Without Commonwealth funding, we have no other choice except closure.

A key factor in the Commonwealth's decision to delay funding is its longstanding concern with the above-market rents for our three school campuses, despite the fact that no money is paid to AFIC.

As you know, this is a legacy of the former MFIS Board and is at the heart of our legal action against AFIC.

The Board has considered carefully its position in relation to this issue. You will be aware, we are committed to achieving lease agreements that satisfy the Government's requirements. As such, we are making changes to the way we deal with this matter.

We have advised the Commonwealth of this decision and sought its support.

We have again drawn the Department's attention to all the work that has been done to ensure the School is compliant with all relevant legislation and reiterated our commitment to ensuring the School operates in accordance with the law.

We have also again highlighted the excellent academic achievements of our 2,342 students and of our contribution to the local community.

We are confident this will assist in our efforts to have our funding released ahead of term three. We will keep you updated as our discussions continue.

State funding

The NSW Department of Education has also advised the School that it has determined that the School was operating for profit in 2014 and 2015.

As a result, it has decided to recommend to the Minister that NSW Government funding be suspended. It has invited the School to request an internal review of this decision. We will do this.

Once again, we are hopeful of a satisfactory outcome.

Board changes

Miriam Silva has, because of personal health issues, stepped down as Chair. Miriam will, however, continue to be a member of the MFIS Board. Dr John Bennett has assumed the role of Chair.

The Board is most grateful to Miriam for her unstinting commitment and leadership as Chair during a difficult time for the School.

Parents Advisory Committee (PAC)

As always please do not hesitate to contact the Parents Advisory Committee (PAC) with your feedback and suggestions. The PAC has a dedicated email address for direct communication from parents, students and others. It is pac@mfis.nsw.edu.au

The Board is grateful for its excellent relationships with the School management, parents and the School community. As such, I would be happy to attend meetings of parents and staff to further explain these issues if suitable arrangements can be made.

We can assure you that the Board will do whatever it can to serve the best interests of our wonderful School and comply with all the requirements necessary to continue to receive funding.

Jazakallah Khairan for your ongoing support.

Wassalam

Dr John Bennett

Chair