



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

INFORMATION UPDATE

FROM THE INTERIM BOARD OF MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

Assalamualiakum

Tuesday 14th June 2016

We need to inform you of a serious threat to our School, explain to you how your Interim Board is handling it and suggest how you can help us to resolve it.

You will recall that on 28 April the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal set aside the Federal Government's decision to cease public funding for Malek Fahd. This meant that funding would continue while the Tribunal hears our appeal against the Federal Government's decision of 4 April to revoke public funding.

As *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported on 28th April 2016:

The tribunal ordered the department to return funding to the school from the first week in May while the school appeals the decision. Students have been back in class running on reserve funds since Tuesday [26 April] ... A spokesman for the Minister for Education and Training, Simon Birmingham, said the department would continue to work through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal's process. In a statement, the Department of Education advised that it would give effect to the Tribunal's decision: "As a result, Malek Fahd will continue to be approved to receive Commonwealth funding under the Act during the external review process."

The School has complied with all conditions of the Tribunal ruling that required it to provide detailed financial and governance information monthly to the Commonwealth Department of Education. To date, we have provided 2 reports to the Department. As you would know, further evidence of our successful reform progress is the positive feedback after last week's inspection by the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW.

We are seeking more detailed information from the Department regarding further information that they require from our School to ensure that we continue to comply with the Education Act and can get the funding paid. Despite the Administrative Appeals Tribunal ruling and our full compliance, the resumption of Federal public funding to our School continues to be delayed. The Department has advised that they will make the next decision regarding paying funding to the school on 21st June 2016.

The Federal Minister for Education and Training cannot intervene with the Department or the public service because the government is in caretaker mode for the Federal election. Obviously, this must be resolved as a matter of urgency. Malek Fahd cannot survive without public funding. We only have sufficient funds to continue to the end of the second term at the end of this month (June).

Your Interim Board has, therefore, instructed the School's legal counsel to go to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Federal Court to have the Department immediately resume payment of public funding. If this impasse isn't resolved in the next three weeks, it threatens our wonderful School and will hurt thousands of students, teachers and staff who are the heart and soul of Malek Fahd. The Interim Board will back you to the hilt. We will continue to do everything that we can to resolve this situation.

Your Board will discuss with staff, their union and the Interim Parents and Friends Committee about what else we can do. We all need to do as we have done so well over the past few months... work together and support each other. I will keep you informed as soon as there are any significant developments. All updates are posted on the School website (click on the Interim Board button).

Remember, if you have any questions of an operational nature; please contact the office of the acting Executive Principal. For any matters that require the attention of the Interim Board, please email interimboard@mfis.nsw.edu.au.

Wassalam

MIRIAM SILVA

Chairman, Interim Board