

Media and Community Statement

25 November 2021

The Islamic Society of Darwin (ISD) calls on the community to ignore Covid conspiracies and ignore anonymously distributed messages

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن جَاءَكُمْ فَاسِقٌ بِنَبَأٍ فَتَبَيَّنُوا أَن تُصِيبُوا قَوْمًا
بِجَهْلَةٍ فَتُصِحُّوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلْتُمْ نَادِمِينَ ﴿٦﴾

O you who believe! If some transgressor brings you news (that requires taking action), verify it carefully (before you believe and act upon it), lest you harm a people in ignorance and then become regretful for what you have done (Qur'an 49.6)

In this case, an anonymous person is circulating a redacted letter from Racing, Gaming and Licensing to the Islamic Society of Darwin (ISD), and ISD would like to clarify the following points:

1. All registered religious bodies and charities are registered with the Department of Racing, Gaming and Licensing, see <https://nt.gov.au/industry/gambling/gambling/lotteries-community-gambling/become-an-approved-association>. These organisations do not have to have anything to do with "Racing" or Gaming". The afore-mentioned Department will notify of the success of all the Community Benefit fund awards to each registered organisation as a common practice.
2. ISD has been very upfront from the start of COVID that we take AFIC's position of supporting preventative measures, including vaccines. We respect individual choices and would not force any person in their choice. However, we do encourage preventative vaccinations.
3. From the first day, ISD has relied heavily on external funding to provide its services to the community. We are grateful to AFIC for their ongoing financial support, including the subsidy to the Imam salaries and their support of our multicultural and mosque open days. We also rely on government funding because our community is too small to fund our services. Our members are taxpaying Australians, and we are entitled to apply and receive financial support from the government like every other law-abiding, taxpaying community. It is the government's prerogative to include conditions with every funding approval, and it is our prerogative to agree or disagree.

The letter's circulation in such an anonymous manner appears to be calculated to misinform, inflame sentiments, destabilise ISD and undermine our good work. We ask our community to go back to the Qur'an and verify all information and ignore potentially inflammatory anonymous messages. If any of you knows who is behind the anonymous distribution of this letter, we urge you to tell them to remember Allah and to stop this incendiary and un-Islamic behaviour.

Authorised by:

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The Most Eminent Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari
National Grand Mufti of Australia



Islamic Society of Darwin



Islamic Council of Northern Territory Inc



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils