

## Contact Us

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## How to Help

If you would like to help sponsor MoH projects, please contact us. If you would like to donate to MoH, our account details are:

Commonwealth Bank of Australia  
Mission of Hope  
BSB: 062-191  
ACC: 10300318

We greatly appreciate your assistance.



# mission of hope

# Positive Muslims Australia

An awareness raising and support  
group for muslims living with HIV/AIDS



Muslim Community Solutions for Health and Well-Being

## About Us

Positive Muslims Australia is a group modelled on Positive Muslims founded in South Africa in June 2000. We are committed to raising awareness about AIDS and offering support to Muslims living with HIV/AIDS.

## Our Philosophy

We are committed to developing a theology of compassion: a way of reading the Holy Qur'an and understanding the Hadith of Muhammad (May the Peace of Allah be Upon Him) that focuses on Allah who cares deeply about all creation, Who according to a Hadith said at the time of creation "Indeed, My Mercy overcomes My Anger".

## Our Understanding

While there is no known cure for HIV/AIDS at the moment, it is but an illness among other illnesses. In other words, it is not a peculiar disease for which a particular group that has been singled out by Allah.

Those in our community who are living with HIV/AIDS are not 'victims' to be pitied, avoided or despised. They laugh, cry, watch TV, argue, perform salah, are sometimes too lazy to perform salah, some having jobs while others are unemployed. They are of us and we are of them.

We believe that a non-judgmental approach should be adopted when dealing with people who are HIV+. Our concerns are not related to how one became infected, instead we believe that those who are HIV+ must be accepted as they are.

Our primary focus is to provide support for those who have already been affected and to educate our communities so as to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Our approach to prevention includes, but is not limited to abstinence from sex outside marriage, faithfulness during a relationship and the use of condoms in appropriate circumstances.

The Holy Qur'an warns us against despair: "And do

not despair of the Mercy of Allah; for Allah is the Most Compassionate of those who show compassion". There is a light at the end of the tunnel. However, we, through caring, solidarity and humanness are required now to remove the fog in order that light may become visible.

## Our Plans

We want to create and deepen awareness among Muslims about the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in all communities including ours. We want to educate our community about what HIV/AIDS is, the ways in which it is contracted, ways of avoiding it and the fact that no-one is 'above' acquiring it. We want to find and implement ways of supporting Muslims living with HIV/AIDS in personally meaningful ways. This will involve counselling, helping access to affordable treatment, providing a 'buddy' (a one-on-one friend who will be around on an ongoing basis) and offering spiritual support.

We want to lobby all the relevant structures both in governments and in civil society, particularly our own religious leadership, for greater support for people with HIV/AIDS and a deeper awareness of the need for openness and non-judgmental support. While our own work is primarily among Muslims, we are committed to working with all the other progressive groups working on HIV/AIDS.

## Running Positive Muslims

We want to conduct our affairs in a spirit of accountability (muhasabah), transparency, and collective decision-making (shura).

We want our own gatherings to be safe spaces for all our members to be spiritually inspired and to feel personally supported.

We want to at all times uphold the integrity of those who come to us for support and maintain