

MEDIA RELEASE
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For immediate release

Muslim Women's Leadership Initiative

Leadership Victoria and the Islamic Council of Victoria are proud to announce the *Muslim Women's Leadership Initiative*.

The Muslim Women's Leadership Initiative offers a package of programs and activities designed to foster leadership in Muslim women in Victoria through building connections with people currently exercising leadership, and to establish connections and understanding within and between faith, ethnic and other demographic communities in Victoria.

The aim through offering these programs and activities, is to empower Muslim women to develop their capability and confidence, represent those within their faith, and to challenge the stereotypes for Muslim women. Participants will build networks and connections to drive broader systematic and cultural change, and to contribute to making progress on complex social, economic and environmental issues facing Victoria, Australia and the world.

To launch the initiative, Muslim women are invited to apply for a 2018 Williamson Scholarship. Funded by the Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV) and the LV Foundation, the recipient will participate in the 2018 Williamson program, one of Australia's most sought-after leadership development experiences.

Entering into its 29th year, Williamson provides a unique year of leadership progress. The program is a deep-dive into leadership character, an eclectic and challenging advancement of leadership strategy, and an exploration of the vital issues facing your organisation and all Australians.

Leadership Victoria's CEO, Richard Dent commented "*We are pleased to make our world-leading Williamson program available to individuals who may otherwise not have the opportunity to contribute their leadership to Victoria, Australia and the world. Muslim Women are often stereotyped as being oppressed, and can receive negative press and negative attention in their daily lives. By working with them we will be able to help them make progress and to build social cohesion and understanding ... part of creating a better world!*"

ICV Executive Director Nail Aykan says "*ICV are excited to be in partnership with Leadership Victoria and initiating the first ever Muslim Women's Scholarship for members of our community. The 2018 Williamson Scholarship forms the beginning of many great initiatives*".

ICV board member Nada Kalam said "*we are actively developing more leadership training opportunities for Victorian-Muslim communities. We commend Leadership Victoria for working with women to strengthen diversity amongst Victorian leaders*"

2018 Williamson Scholarship
Program runs from February to November 2018
Applications open Wednesday 19 July, 2017
Applications close by Thursday 24 August, 2017

For more information please contact Genelle Richardson on genelle@leadershipvictoria.org