



MINARET COLLEGE

Islamic College of Melbourne South and East

7 June 2020

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

To Allah (swt) we belong and to Him we return.

It is with sadness that we share the passing of Mr Mohamed Hassan OAM, the Founding Director of Minaret College. Mr Hassan passed away peacefully on 7 June 2020 surrounded by his family. With over 50 years of service to the Islamic and Australian community, Mr Hassan was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2007, but his greatest legacy was establishing Minaret College, as his long-held dream was to see full-time Islamic Schools in Australia.

In 1967, Mr Hassan and his wife Susie came to Australia seeking a safe and stable home to raise their young family. On arrival, Mr Hassan read about the Afghan Cameleers who had made such a significant contribution to Australian society, however in doing so, lost much of their Islamic identity. The story of the Cameleers had a profound impact on Mr Hassan who subsequently set his mind to guiding his family and Muslim community towards making a positive contribution to society whilst remaining steadfast in their religious belief and practices. Concerned with the identity of later generations, Mr Hassan turned his focus to Muslim youth. He wrote a paper detailing the need for Islamic education in Australia - the next 14 years saw him work towards fulfilling that need.

In 1992, in partnership with the Bosnian and Afghan communities in the South-Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne, the enrolment of 22 students marked a new era for Mr Hassan and the local Muslim Community – Minaret College was established. The following 26 years saw Mr Hassan dedicate his life to build not just an Islamic School, but a community. The vision of the College continues to be inspired by Mr Hassan's initial intention:

"... to produce a healthy Australian Muslim identity which is: connected, conscious, sincere to its traditions and committed to excellence, good citizenship and compassionate service to humanity"

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Now spanning two campuses and preparing to open a third in 2021, Minaret College is in its 28th year and serves approximately 2100 students from ELC to Year 12. The Minaret Family reflects the diverse ethnic make-up of the local Muslim community. Generations of families have benefited from Mr Hassan's efforts and InshaAllah (God willing) this will continue for many years to come.

In the coming days, we will reflect on the life of a man whose sincere intention was uniquely matched by an ability to translate those intentions into action. Mr Hassan dedicated his life in service to Allah (swt) and the Muslim and Australian community. His life and legacy bears testament to the sacrifices he made for current and future generations of Muslim Australians.

Due to public health restrictions, the janaza attendance will be restricted to family and invited friends and community members. We ask that the community make dua for him and his family.

May Allah (swt) forgive Mr Hassan and encompass him with His mercy. May his good deeds weigh heavy on his scale on the day it matters most. We also pray for his family and ask that Allah (swt) strengthen them with patience and faith during this difficult time. Ameen.

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