



United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia



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Forward

General Update

Aak dear USMAA Members,

Post the Management Committee (MC) meeting last Monday, I thought of keeping the membership informed of a few agenda items that we discussed.

When can USMAA physically meet next?

The MC decided to take a 'better safe than sorry approach' across USMAA and its subcommittees, when it comes to physical meetings and events. Fear not as this is only until most of our seniors have been administered with the Coronavirus vaccine, which is not too far away.

USMAA comprises of a fairly active senior population who are of the high-risk category for the virus. Hosting a physical event could result in a potential cluster which may result in fatalities and also have adverse reputational impacts not only to USMAA but also to the Muslim community. This is not a risk the USMAA MC is willing to take and the media will most definitely savour this, as history has shown us.

“Ask not what USMAA can do for you but what you can do for USMAA”

Slightly amended famous saying by John F K. Alhamdulillah last year USMAA collected over \$7K in membership subscriptions and it showed promise that IA if we ever get our 'Dreamland', the USMAA Centre, we would be able to sustain it with membership fees. This year, be it due to the economic downturn as a result of the Coronavirus or due to the lack of physical events, we have only received a little over \$3k in subscription collections. Unfortunately, it is virtually impossible to run this organisation and keep up with its ambitions with this collection (as USMAA has a set of fixed costs e.g. Auditor fees, website subscription fee, insurance, etc.). Hence, I implore the membership to contribute towards USMAA's existence by being a continued financial member.

In light of this, the MC has approved a once-off reduction in membership fees down to \$50 for families and \$25 for singles for this financial year only (FY 20/21). This may seem unfair to all those who paid the full subscription but I would like to remind that this is not a hobby club but an organisation that Allah will reward you for being part of. A portion of your subscription goes to charity work. As it stands now, almost three fourths (75%) of the USMAA Membership are not current financial members. Discounting the membership fee during these unprecedented times will assist in generating much needed income for the continued survival of this organisation. So please pay this discounted amount at least and let this organisation live up to its full potential.

Founding of the 'USMAA Matrimonial Service Subcommittee'

The MC has created this new subcommittee (SC) to manage the USMAA matrimonial service so that we have continuity in its management, given that an MC can change from year to year. I am proud to say that Sis Nizra Hanifa and the present Secretary, Sis Ruzna Shums are its inaugural members. The ratification of this SC will be included as an agenda item at the forthcoming AGM in IA.

Founding of the 'Community and Sri Lankan Affairs Advisory Group'

This subcommittee has been formed to tackle any local community and Sri Lankan issues that the MC does not have the time to engage in or does not have the expertise to deal with. The present MC has created this as an 'on call' SC and IA at the AGM in July 2021, the SC will also be formally ratified by the House. More details to follow so please stay tuned.

SL forced cremation issue

The latest update is that USMAA is IA scheduled to meet with MP Julian Hill, Shadow Minister Andrew Giles and Senator Janet Rice in the coming weeks to press on with this matter. We are attending on an invitation extended by AAGGSL.

Reintroducing the MC feedback form

I thought it would be about time to reiterate to the members the existence of the anonymous feedback form as the practice of coming to the MC through Trustees seem to be ingrained in to certain **members** and continues to this day. This is very infuriating. We, the MC, take the members very seriously so please come to us directly and if you wish to be anonymous we will respect that. I am happy to call out bad behaviour as unfortunately this is what the membership wanted from me as a President, to be the 'necessary evil' and build the correct culture for USMAA, thereby ensure its long term existence.

The feedback form is available on the USMAA website and can be accessed as follows:

USMAA > Contact us > Lodge Complaint (<https://usmaa.org.au/usmaa-complaints-form/>)

If members have any questions with regards to any matter pertaining to USMAA, I am always available for a chat or please reach out to any of our Relationship Managers/MC.

Jzk,..Falih S



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