



**Islamic Information & Support Centre of Australia  
(IISCA) Inc.**

*In association with Ahlus Sunnah Wal Jama'ah Association*

ABN: 50592 814755

Parliament of Australia  
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Thursday, 14 September 2006

Dear Sir/Madam

Further to our discussions with your office, our organisation would like to submit additional supplementary material to complement the documentation and evidence already given.

Submission No:.....	25
Date Received:.....	25-9-06
Secretary:.....	

**(1) Recommendations**

Our organisation puts forward the following additional recommendations for your consideration: *(appears on page 12, of the original report)*

- Education of children about Islam and Muslims,
- Educating Muslims about their rights in matters concerning the new laws eg. Schools, Mosques, other places frequented by Muslims etc.
- Tougher penalties and establishment of special task forces to investigate the leaking of sensitive information when someone is accused of a terrorist related crime,
- Possible improvement to existing laws covering incitement of hatred covering talkback radio and tabloid media. Consider also to widen of Commonwealth and State Ombudsman powers to investigate and deal with such matters.
- Open public debate with a wider level of expert opinion & legal council together with politicians and Muslims.

Please note, the additional recommendations, above were given in verbal evidence, but omitted in the original documentation.

**(2) Media Bias**

We would like to convey our apologies for any personal insult caused by wording in the report, which inferred the relationship of politicians to talkback hosts especially regarding "abusing, ridiculing and inciting hatred towards Muslims".

The report was attempting to draw attention to the widespread belief within the community and was expressed in a section appropriately titled "Perceptions amongst the community....".

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This assimilation, commonly used by well renowned personalities<sup>1</sup>, appears to have detracted attention away from the real issues mentioned.

During the hearing on 31st July 2006 (page ISEC44) the question of bias was raised by Senator Robert Ray. IISCA agreed to provide additional information on Notice. IISCA confirms there is a widespread perception of the 'free hand in abusing, ridiculing and inciting hatred towards Muslims' by radio talkback hosts and some politicians. We submit the following examples of media statements (attached) to illustrate the point.

**Public discussion of terrorism issues**

- 2002 - Misc Fred Nile.doc
- 2005-2006 - various Bronwyn Bishop articles - Hijab & Muslims.doc
- 2005-2006 - Misc.doc
- 2005-2006 - If you want Sharia law, move - Costello.doc
- 2006 - Danna Vale comments - abortion and the Islamic state.doc
- 20060725 - Population or immigration - Peter Costello issues warning.doc
- 20060801 - Media Watch - Potty Mouth Mayor.doc

**(3) *ASIO powers and secrecy provisions***

Senator Ferguson questioned our suggestion that a person could be 'whisked off the street' (p.28).

For clarification, IISCA confirms its concern that we would not know the whereabouts of a person subject to ASIO questioning. Nor may a person disclose they have been subject to questioning without risking prosecution and possible jail, within 28 days of the event; otherwise both (the person whisked away and the person repeating such information) could be "jailed" for up to 5 years, for discussing/communicating such an arrest.

Moreover, the "person whisked away" cannot discuss any operational information regarding the arrest including questions, location etc. for a period of 2 years after the event, otherwise they and the person communicating the information could be jailed.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to attachment - 20060908 - SMH - link to audio file - Peter manning - Us and Them - Are Australians racist.doc. This video file is from the Sydney Morning Herald, where Author Peter Manning refers to "Shock Jocks, politicians and our own background together, .....beaten up, and in some cases loosing their lives...". This video file became available, just prior to this submission. It was included at the last moment, to encapsulate the point made, by a respected author and member of the community.

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**(4) *Cooperative consultation with the Muslim community***

Senator Byrne suggested a solution (page ISEC41) "would be for some sort of ongoing consultation with organisations such as your own Muslim youth et cetera to explain the intent of the legislation so that it can be discussed within the community before it gets tabled in parliament."

For clarification, IISCA confirms its position that a consultative process, one in which the Muslim community is seen as a partner in the process rather than being dictated to is much more likely to produce tangible benefits for all Australians.

For example, we would not like to see a repeat of how the Muslim Reference Group (MRG) was established and implemented. There was no cooperation or consultation, by the Muslim community in determining the selection criteria or even the process for identifying Muslim representatives. The expectation from the Muslim community was to accept the MRG, their authority and their submissions to the government on their behalf.

A large majority of the Muslim community has not accepted their representation or their authority. The perception of the community at large is the MRG are directly influenced by the government and cannot speak without permission. Our organisation submits the following article, which appeared in the Australian 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006, by Richard Kerbaj as evidence of this.

- 20060901 - Howard stands by Muslim integration.pdf

**(5) *Correction of a misunderstanding***

Whilst giving evidence, a question was raised by Senator Faulkner (*page ISEC46*) regarding whether our organisation provided a separate submission or appearance before Mr Justice Sheller's committee. Mr Kocak advised that our organisation had not appeared before Justice Sheller and his commission.

Our organisation did provide a written submission to Mr Justice Sheller, during the preparation of the "Sheller Report" [a copy can be sent on request].



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**(6) *Supplementary presentation material***

We would also like to submit additional supplementary material. This material was prepared for the verbal presentation given by Mr Kocak, to give the committee members additional information, prudent for our submission.

The document submitted for this purpose is named:

“2006 PJCIS - Submission - additional supplementary material - FINAL.ppt”.

**(7) *Minor transcript changes***

To confirm the above corrections to the transcripts, please refer to the attached documentation. The corrections to the original document are highlighted in red.

Our organisation on behalf of the Australian Muslim community, would like to thank all committee members for this opportunity to represent our concerns. We would be grateful, if the Parliamentary Secretary could extend our sincere appreciation to all the individual committee members, as we are delighted to serve our country and community.

We appreciate the efforts of the PJCIS, welcoming further involvement in matters that can assist the Muslim community. Our organisation will contact you in the near future to confirm our ability to send representatives to attend the scheduled committee hearings, later this month.

Yours Sincerely

Sheikh Mohammed Omran  
Secretary General  
Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'ah Association of Australia

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# Nile sends Muslims into uproar

Thursday 21 November 2002, 06:45AM

Islamic leaders have condemned a call by a NSW MP to ban Muslim women from wearing their traditional dress for fear it could conceal "both weapons and explosives".

Christian Democrat MLC, Reverend Fred Nile, sparked an uproar in parliament after urging the government to consider banning the wearing of the hijab in public places.

Citing the recent Moscow theatre siege as an example of how the dress could be used to stage a terrorist attack, Rev Nile said the recent terrorist threat on Australia was reason to ban it.

"Is it fact that such a total body covering completely conceals a person's identity and even whether they are male or female, which is a perfect disguise for terrorists as it conceals both weapons and explosives?"

"Will the government, in view of the new terrorist threat as part of our new Australian security precautions, consider a prohibition on the wearing of the chador in public places, especially at railway stations, city streets and shopping centres?"

The question drew condemnation from other MPs who accused Rev Nile of religious intolerance.

Responding to the call, NSW Police Minister Michael Costa swiftly rejected the request.

The Lebanese-Muslim Association accused Rev Nile of trying to score political points.

"The scarf is about modesty, not about violence and there is not an incident in history of a woman in Australia engaging in violence while wearing the scarf," said association spokesman, Keysar Trad.

"He's riding on the fear that exists out there and exploiting it for possible political gain.

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## Outrage over Fred Nile's chador ban call

November 21 2002

A call by a Christian NSW MP to ban Muslim women from wearing full body coverings in public has drawn an angry response from religious, political and community groups across the nation.

The wave of condemnation followed Reverend Fred Nile's call for a ban on the public wearing of chadors - the traditional dress for some Muslim women - because of the fear bombs and weapons could be concealed under the folds of fabric.

"It is not a fairy tale, it just occurred in Moscow where six women wearing chador coverings also were carrying explosives and were prepared to blow up the theatre and kill seven or eight hundred people" Rev Nile said, referring to the siege involving Chechen Muslim rebels.

Prime Minister John Howard said he understood what Fred Nile was getting at but stopped short of supporting the controversial MP, more famous for his attacks on Sydney's Gay Mardi Gras.

"Generally speaking I'm in favour of respecting people's religious beliefs, or indeed people's lack of religious beliefs," Mr Howard said.

"I understand what he's getting at, but I also stop short of agreeing with him because I've got to frankly myself have a better understanding of just how fundamental that is."

But he said it was important Muslims did not feel they were being singled out.

Mr Howard later issued a statement ruling out any support for a ban, after critics said he had failed to clearly condemn Rev Nile's proposal.

Federal Greens Senator Kerry Nettle earlier said Mr Howard had "again displayed a frightening willingness to flirt with clearly racist and divisive ideas".

NSW Premier Bob Carr said Rev Nile's comments risked creating a fertile breeding ground for extremism.

"The danger we face, frankly, is a car bomb," he said.

"We've got a lot of loyal Australians ... who happen to be of the Islamic faith, and there should be no finger-pointing or vilification or stereotyping of them as we go through this difficult period."

NSW opposition leader John Brogden said the Christian Democrat MP was ill-informed.

"As the leader of the only religious party in the parliament, Reverend Nile should be promoting inclusiveness, not the politics of division," Mr Brogden said.

The federal Opposition's immigration spokesman Kevin Rudd denounced the call for a ban on chadors as "wild and inflammatory".

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils chief executive officer Amjad Mehboob said Muslim women were already being singled out for harassment on streets.

"I can understand his (Rev Nile's) concerns and we all are concerned about issues of terrorism and security but I guess people can hide weapons in many things - in bags and briefcases - there are many ways of dealing with that so I think that's totally irrelevant," he said.

Frisking people with electronic metal detectors was not a problem, so long as Muslims weren't being targeted and bodily contact was not made, Mr Mehboob said.

Islamic Council of Victoria president Yasser Soliman said weapons could as easily be hidden in briefcases.

"Are you going to ban briefcases?"

The Anglican Church in Sydney moved to distance itself from Rev Nile's call.

Bishop of South Sydney Robert Forsyth said such over-the-top demands pushed measured and constructive religious discourse out of the public sphere.

"It is very disappointing that a Christian Minister elected to NSW parliament and claiming to represent the Christian community would make such comments", Bishop Forsyth said.

Acting federal Race Discrimination Commissioner Dr William Jonas said the remarks were offensive and an abuse of the institution of parliament.

Dr Jonas said the remarks effectively branded all Muslim women potential terrorists.

"His comments are plainly ludicrous," said Dr Jonas.

**AAP**

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Fred in the NSW Handsard: 20/11/2002

### **MUSLIM WOMEN CHADOR PROHIBITION**

Page: 7058

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: I ask the Minister for Police a question without notice in view of the terrorist alert yesterday given to the whole of Australia. Is it a fact that the Islamic female terrorists in Hamburg, Germany, and in the recent Muslim terrorist attack in Moscow, Russia, wore the black chador body covering of Iran and Saudi Arabia? Is it a fact that such total body covering completely conceals a person's identity, even whether the wearer is male or female—which is a perfect disguise for terrorists as it conceals both weapons and explosives, as occurred in the recent Moscow theatre attack when female Muslim terrorists carried explosives strapped to their bodies? Is it a fact that many Muslim women in Turkey, Egypt, Indonesia, et cetera, only wear discreet, Western-style clothing and not the chador? In view of the new terrorist threat and as part of our new Australian security precautions, will the Government consider a prohibition on the wearing of the chador in public places, especially railway stations, city streets and shopping centres?

The Hon. MICHAEL COSTA: No.

31/10/2002

### **MUSLIM SCHOOLCHILDREN HIJAB PROHIBITION**

Page: 6298

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: I direct my question without notice to the Treasurer, representing the Premier. Is it a fact that various Governments, such as the French and Singaporean governments, have now prohibited the wearing of Muslim veils by female students in state or government schools to discourage divisiveness and promote unity and tolerance? Will the Government investigate the impact of Muslim female students wearing veils in New South Wales

infant, primary and high schools? If the results are negative, will the Government adopt the same policy as that implemented by the French and Singaporean governments?

The Hon. MICHAEL EGAN: I normally do not try to answer questions directed to me in my capacity as a Minister representing Ministers in another place. However, I will answer this one because I am sure the Premier would have the same view that I have—that is, to reject any such suggestion. Given what happened in Bali, we are all obliged to do what we can to enhance harmony in the community. All honourable members should remind second, third, fourth and fifth-generation Australians that there are cultural differences in our community and that they are not to be derided—they should be recognised and honoured.

Muslim women who strictly observe their religion wear a garb that is unfamiliar to many other Australians. However, it was not long ago that women of my own religion—that is, nuns who taught me—wore a very similar outfit. The Mercy nuns, the Good Samaritan nuns all wore similar garments. For very good reasons, they no longer wear them, but that is not the point. There are cultural differences and no-one should try to hide them. As I said, they should be recognised and honoured. I do not think the New South Wales Government will be following the lead of Singapore or France. I was going to say something disparaging about the French Government, but I will not. One need only observe what it is doing with agricultural subsidies and industries to get a clear idea of—I will not say what I was going to say.

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: I have a supplementary question. The question related to students in schools, not adult Muslim women wearing veils. That is a completely different issue.

The Hon. MICHAEL EGAN: I make the same point. When I went to school I wore a uniform that clearly distinguished me as a rock chopper, and I had no problems with that. But that was at a time when we had religious divisions in our community. The way to overcome that was not to prevent me wearing my school uniform, and it was not to prevent me putting ash on my forehead on Ash Wednesday. So I do not think that is a solution at all.



Date: 24/9/05  
From: <http://www.iwitness.co.uk/foreign/0905f-09.htm>

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## **No hijab ban in Australia just now – but if you like Sharia, “get out”**

**YUSRA KHREEGI**

Australia has joined the list of countries where the right of Muslim women to choose their dress is coming under threat.

Liberal MP Bronwyn Bishop has supported fellow MP Sophie Panopoulos' call for banning Muslim girls from wearing headscarves at public schools, describing the wearing of the hijab as “an iconic act of defiance”.

These calls have met with widespread condemnation from school groups, Muslim leaders and groups. Muslim Women's Association president Maha Krayem Abdo said such a ban was dangerous, and that girls should be free to follow their religious beliefs at any Australian school.

Ms Bishop, defended her push for banning the hijab, which according to her “has become the icon, the symbol of the clash of cultures, and it runs much deeper than a piece of cloth.

“The fact of the matter is we've got people in our country who are advocating - and I'm talking about extremist Islamist leaders - the overturning of our laws which guarantee freedom.

“In an ideal society you don't ban anything. But this has really been forced on us because what we're really seeing in our country is a clash of cultures and indeed, the headscarf is being used as a sort of iconic item of defiance”, Bishop said.

Ms Bishop said she had no problem with members of other faiths adorning themselves with religious symbols, such as Christians wearing a cross or Orthodox Jews a yarmulke.

She also said that she is calling for a ban in state schools only, “I'm talking about in state schools. If people are in Islamic schools and that's their uniform, that's fine. In private life, that's fine.”

The call met with criticism from other Australian politicians. Democrats leader Senator Lyn Allison labeled Ms Bishop's comments as “deliberately divisive” and warned that they encouraged religious and cultural separation.

“I think BB is being deliberately divisive. I think that it is insensitive that young women for religious reasons who chose to wear a headscarf are somehow provoking a response from others,” she said.

“It seems to me that by saying that young people who go to state schools wish to wear a head scarf they can't but they can wear a head scarf if they go to a religious school.

“What that says is that we want to be separated. It doesn't say we want integration and that we want to improve relations between cultural groups and religious groups.

Labour education spokeswoman Jenny Macklin also said a headscarves ban would be extreme, and that the Prime Minister should tell the two MPs that the comments are unsuitable.

“These are very extreme statements from Bronwyn Bishop and Sophie Panopoulos and if John Howard has the respect that he espouses for recognising the difference of religious beliefs and customs in this country

then he'd pull these two into line," she said.

Reassuringly, Federal Education Minister Brendan Nelson said that he did not support a ban on headscarves.

"As far as the Government is concerned, we defend the rights of all Australian children to be able to go to schools which their parents think best meet the needs of their own children and, in doing so, to wear the symbols of their own religious conviction and affiliation, so long as they are consistent with broader school's uniform policies," he said.

#### **Muslims who want Shariah told to "get out"**

However, Nelson's other comments that Muslims who want to live under Islamic Sharia law should get out of Australia caused great offence and uproar. Dr Nelson made the comment ahead of meetings with Islamic schools about the teaching of Australian values.

Labour accused Dr Nelson of going "over the top" by suggesting that Muslims who do not support Australian values should "clear off".

Labour education spokeswoman Jenny Macklin agreed with the Federal Government's push to make school funding conditional on the teaching of Australian values. However, Macklin said that Dr Nelson has gone too far "in suggesting that if people don't do particular things they just 'clear off', what Labour's about is not those over-the-top sort of statements," she said.

"What we put forward were practical ways in which we can make sure that young people learn to understand each other's beliefs and values."

Such offensive comments were not new. Treasurer Peter Costello had expressed similar views, saying on national TV that Australia was a secular state and its laws were made by parliament, and that those who had different values could leave.

"If those are not your values, if you want a country which has Sharia law or a theocratic state, then Australia is not for you," said Costello, who is seen as heir-apparent to Prime Minister John Howard.

"If you can't agree with parliamentary law, independent courts, democracy, and would prefer Sharia law and have the opportunity to go to another country which practices it, perhaps, then, that's a better option," Costello said.

## **PM blocks headscarf ban- HERALD SUN**

PRIME Minister John Howard yesterday ruled out banning the wearing of Muslim head scarfs at state schools.

The ban was first suggested by Victorian Liberal Sophie Panopoulos and taken up enthusiastically by federal backbencher Bronwyn Bishop.

The proposal, which came less than a week after Mr Howard talked to moderate Muslims about countering extremist clerics, was slammed as dangerous and divisive by Islamic groups.

Mr Howard yesterday tried to quell the debate.

"I don't think it's practical to bring in such a prohibition," he said.

"If you ban a headscarf you might, for consistency's sake, have to ban a . . . turban.

"It does become rather difficult and rather impractical."

Mr Howard said while he did not believe extreme forms of dress, such as full coverage of the face, was desirable, the headscarf was a practice of many Islamic women and he did not support a ban.

Ms Bishop sparked an outcry by comparing Australian Muslim women wearing headscarfs with the freedom Nazis enjoyed in Nazi Germany.

"A Muslim woman said to me that as a Muslim woman she felt free," she said.

"Well a Nazi in Nazi Germany felt free because the laws of that country made him feel free, but a little bit of slavery for me is not the sort of test I want in my country."

Ms Bishop said that her call for a hijab ban in public schools did not extend to skull caps or crucifixes.

The Liberal MP offended Muslim and Jewish groups with the bizarre comment.

Islamic Council of Victoria president Malcolm Thomas said the comments of the burqa-bashing backbenchers had caused angst in the Muslim community.

"We don't consider ourselves like Germans in Nazi Germany," Mr Thomas said.

"Little 12-year-old girls who wear the hijab (to state schools) aren't about making political statements."

Mr Thomas said Muslim girls at state schools could face more playground sledging as a result of the debate.

But outspoken Nationals senator Barnaby Joyce yesterday backed Ms Bishop.

"You have to acknowledge you're going to a secular school where you have to comply with the uniform, not a particular religion," Senator Joyce said.

Ms Panopoulos had said she was worried about Muslim women not showing their faces when posing for photographic identification.

But the Australian Passport Information Service yesterday said religious headwear was allowed in passport photographs only if the full face was visible from the bottom of the chin to the top of the forehead.

Acting Premier John Thwaites said calls to ban Muslim headwear in schools were ridiculous and ruled out a ban in Victorian state schools.

"This is just some people who are suffering from a bit of media deprivation and seeking to get a headline," Mr Thwaites said yesterday.

"It is totally inconsistent with our country and the values we hold.

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## **EFFORTS TO BAN MUSLIM ATTIRE BLASTED**

By Tim Martin

Education Reporter, THE MERCURY Tuesday August 30 2005, page 11

Moves to ban Muslim headscarves in public schools will only serve to further divide the community, said a Hobart Muslim leader.

Imam of the Hobart Mosque Sabri Samson said recent comments by Liberal backbenchers Bronwyn Bishop and Sophie Panopoulos will only make life harder for the Islamic community.

Mrs Panopoulos raised concerns that the headscarves, or hijab, worn by Muslim women obscured their faces in identification photographs.

Ms Bishop went a step further by calling for the hijab to be banned in public schools, as girls were wearing them as an act of defiance against Australian values.

Mr Samson rejected the idea that girls wore the hijab out of defiance and he called the comments very unfair.

"It is part of the religion for women to cover their heads, it is a sign of self respect, not defiance," he said.

"It is not worn because they want to look different, it is because they do not want to expose themselves."

Prime Minister John Howard stepped into the debate when he ruled out such a ban.

"I don't think it's practical to bring in such a prohibition," Mr Howard said.

Mr. Samson said it was only an issue because of the reaction to the London bombings and banning the hijab from public schools - as has been done in France - would only cause further resentment.

Education Minister Paula Wreidt said the State Government would not support a ban on headscarves in schools and that her department encouraged cultural diversity.

Tasmania's Liberal senators were cautious in responding to the remarks of their Federal colleagues. Senator Eric Abetz declined comment and Senator

Paul Calvert said though he did not support a ban as advocated by Ms Bishop, it remained a matter for the State Education Department to decide. Senator Guy Barnett said he did not support a ban on headdress at schools but he did support the deportation of extremists who supported terrorism and overtly opposed Australian values.

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## **Bishop backs ban on Muslim headscarves**

August 28, 2005 - 2:39PM

Liberal backbencher Bronwyn Bishop has backed a push to ban Muslim girls from wearing headscarves at public schools, describing their use as an iconic act of defiance.

Ms Bishop backed the view of outspoken Liberal MP Sophie Panopoulos, who last week said she was concerned about Muslim women not showing their faces when they posed for photographic identification.

Ms Bishop on Sunday said the issue had been forced upon Australia, which was experiencing a clash of cultures.

"In an ideal society you don't ban anything," she told the Seven Network.

"But this has really been forced on us because what we're really seeing in our country is a clash of cultures and indeed, the headscarf is being used as a sort of iconic item of defiance," she told Channel Seven.

"I'm talking about in state schools. If people are in Islamic schools and that's their uniform, that's fine. In private life, that's fine."

But Muslim Women's Association president Maha Krayem Abdo said such a ban was dangerous, and that girls should be free to follow their religious beliefs at any Australian school.

AdvertisementAdvertisement

She agreed that in an ideal society nothing would be banned and said Australia had a leadership role to play on such issues.

"I think it's so dangerous to go down that path if we think ... that in an ideal society we would not ban anything," she said.

"And I think Australia takes on a leadership role in the world, that it is a fair-go society.

"I don't see anything contravening that fair go and equality that Australia strives for - so the hijab, no way would it in any shape or form, contravene that."

Ms Krayem Abdo said she found it difficult to comprehend the government's stated support for the freedom of Iraq, yet Ms Bishop's proposition was to prevent Australian Muslims from exercising freedom of religious rights.

Last year France's parliament voted overwhelmingly to outlaw the wearing of Islamic headscarves in state schools, although concerns remain over whether that decision merely deepened divisions within French society.

Education Minister Brendan Nelson said last week that he did not support a ban on headscarves.

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## **Bishop accused of keeping bomb in skirt**

September 6, 2005 - 6:24PM

Liberal MP Bronwyn Bishop attacked a Muslim lawyer in parliament after he said she could be hiding a bomb under her dress.

Mrs Bishop said Irfan Yusuf's claims were scurrilous but that "as he has not resorted to bomb throwing I guess we can handle his accusations".

Mrs Bishop and fellow Liberal backbencher Sophie Panopoulos have been pushing to have the Muslim headscarf banned in public schools.

In an online article, Mr Yusuf said their campaign was less about national security and more about discouraging rebelliousness and ensuring cultural diversity in schools is kept to a minimum.

"How do we know that these women aren't hiding bombs under their dress?" he asked.

Mr Yusuf said Mrs Bishop's attempts to "marginalise a key faith-sector of mainstream Australia were most helpful to Osama bin Laden".

Mrs Bishop told parliament that she totally refuted his allegations.

"It has come to my attention today that an opinion piece has been authored and distributed by a Muslim activist known for his offensive behaviour to women and in fact named Mr Irfan Yusuf where he has made a number of scurrilous, ridiculous and inaccurate statements concerning myself," she said.

"For the record I totally refute his statements.

"But as he has not resorted to bomb throwing I guess we can handle his accusations."

When Ms Panopoulos stood to ask a question during Question Time, Labor frontbenchers yelled to ask her where her hijab was.

"Never in your life mate," she replied.

# Howard stands by Muslim integration

Richard Kerbaj  
September 01, 2006

**JOHN Howard says he has no need to apologise for telling Muslims they need to embrace Australian values.**

Mr Howard sparked controversy yesterday after singling out Muslim migrants for refusing to embrace Australian values and urged them to fully integrate by treating women as equals and learning to speak English.

The call for a shift in attitude among some Muslims infuriated community leaders and comes as *The Australian* revealed the Prime Minister's own Islamic advisers have already accused Mr Howard and senior ministers of fuelling hatred and mistrust by using "inflammatory and derogatory" language.

But Mr Howard today stood by his comments. "I don't apologise," he told reporters. "I think they are missing the point and the point is that I don't care and the Australian people don't care where people come from.

"There's a small section of the Islamic population which is unwilling to integrate and I have said generally all migrants ... they have to integrate."

Mr Howard said during a talkback radio discussion yesterday: "There is a section, a small section of the Islamic population, and I say a small section ... which is very resistant to integration.

"Fully integrating means accepting Australian values, it means learning as rapidly as you can the English language if you don't already speak it.

"And it means understanding that in certain areas, such as the equality of men and women ... people who come from societies where women are treated in an inferior fashion have got to learn very quickly that that is not the case in Australia."

The comments prompted a fierce reaction from young female Islamic leader Iktimal Hage-Ali, a member of the Prime Minister's advisory group. She accused Mr Howard of threatening to further marginalise Muslims. "There's no value in pointing out the minority of the Muslim group," she said.

"There's a whole lot of other ethnic communities whose parents, whose grandparents don't speak the English language, and it's never a problem in the mainstream Australian community for them to go on living their everyday life without speaking the language.

"Yet as soon as it's a person of Arab descent or a Muslim person ... politicians feel like they need to bring it to mainstream attention as the only group, like marginalising us even more than we already feel marginalised today."

As Mr Howard's Muslim reference group prepares to hand over its long-awaited report on how to tackle extremism and other problems in the community, *The Australian* can also reveal that the

Islamic leaders the Prime Minister asked to advise him were actually gagged when they raised concerns about Government remarks demeaning the community.

According to a draft of the final report of the Prime Minister's Muslim Reference Group - to be handed to Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs Andrew Robb later this month - among the problems identified by the community are isolation and radicalisation of converts and the treatment of women and young people.

But in the report, produced as part of the Government's \$35million Muslim strategy, the group criticises "government leaders" for public comments fanning conflict and says the issue has grown worse in the context of the Israel-Hezbollah war in southern Lebanon.

While the yet-to-be-released report does not identify the Government figures, The Australian has obtained a letter the reference group wanted to release in March attacking a speech by Peter Costello, in which he said many Australian Muslims had divided loyalties.

But the group, led by academic Ameer Ali and made up of clerics and community leaders, was stopped by the Government from publishing the letter. It is understood the letter, which also refers to remarks made by Mr Howard, Attorney-General Philip Ruddock and backbenchers Bronwyn Bishop and Danna Vale, was sent to the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs for release, but never went past Mr Robb's office.

The advisory group was furious about the Costello remarks and the furore that focused on Muslims when Ms Bishop called for traditional Muslim dress to be banned in schools and Ms Vale said Australia was in danger of aborting itself "almost out of existence" and becoming a Muslim nation.

They were also upset that Mr Howard singled out Muslims when he told The Australian in February: "You can't find any equivalent in Italian, or Greek, or Lebanese (Christian), or Chinese or Baltic immigration to Australia. There is no equivalent of raving on about jihad, but that is the major problem."

The gagged letter says Mr Howard and the other MPs were "just a few" politicians who had made remarks against "Islam and Muslims".

"All we ask is that when Mr Costello, or any parliamentarian, wishes to have the debate about the citizenship of Australia or the 'mushy, misguided multiculturalism', they do so with the engagement of all Australians, rather than alienating any one community group," it says.

Yasmin Khan, a member of the reference body's seven sub-groups, said last night she wrote the letter on behalf of the group and sent it to a Department of Immigration employee who said she would have to send it to Mr Robb's office.

"She said ... 'We've got to release it through his (Mr Robb's) office' ... so we left it at that and I waited and waited and waited."

A spokesman for Mr Robb last night told The Australian that the Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs, who is responsible for the reference board, had not received the letter. DIMA spokesman Sandi Logan said the department had received the letter and sent it back to members of the reference group.



Despite the dispute, the federal Government - which through DIMA has worked closely with the reference group on the final report - has already agreed to a raft of proposals.

Under the \$35 million strategy, the Government has agreed to a series of programs ranging from a university for imams to issuing police with a detailed booklet explaining Islam.

In a section titled "Addressing isolation and marginalisation", the group says society must be more inclusive to keep young Muslims away from radicalism.

"A more inclusive Australian society is a key issue in making rigid thinking and possible involvement in terrorism less attractive to those at risk," the 26-page report says.

Among other proposals from the group, set up in the wake of the London Tube bombings last year, research will be conducted by University of Western Australia and the West Australian Government into why young Muslims turn to militant Islam through extreme literature.

"The project aims to develop an understanding of the pathways whereby second- and third-generation Muslim youth in Western liberal democracies move to a position of militant Islamic identity," the report says.

*With agencies*

<http://media.smh.com.au/?sy=smh&category=bulletin&rid=21744&source=undefined&t=7V8TGP&player=wm6&rate=141&flash=0&ie=0>

## **Peter manning – Us and Them - Are Australians racist?**

**8 September 2006**

**Duration 01:57**

Many Australians are still shocked by images seen during the Cronulla riots earlier this year. Shannon Jones meets an author who says we should still be concerned about racism.

Shannon Jones reporting.

August 26, 2005

Get out if you want Sharia law, Australia tells Muslims

The Daily Times:

CANBERRA: Muslims who want to live under Islamic Sharia law were told on Wednesday to get out of Australia, as the government targeted radicals in a bid to head off potential terror attacks.

A day after a group of mainstream Muslim leaders pledged loyalty to Australia at a special meeting with Prime Minister John Howard, he and his ministers made it clear that extremists would face a crackdown.

Treasurer Peter Costello, seen as heir apparent to Howard, hinted that some radical clerics could be asked to leave the country if they did not accept that Australia was a secular state and its laws were made by parliament.

"If those are not your values, if you want a country which has Sharia law or a theocratic state, then Australia is not for you," he said on national television. "I'd be saying to clerics who are teaching that there are two laws governing people in Australia, one the Australian law and another the Islamic law, that that is false. If you can't agree with parliamentary law, independent courts, democracy, and would prefer Sharia law and have the opportunity to go to another country which practises it, perhaps, then, that's a better option," Costello said.

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Accept Our Law or Leave: Costello

AAP, Nov. 10

Treasurer Peter Costello said radical Muslims would not be allowed to turn Australia into an Islamic state.

Mr Costello said Muslims who wanted to live in a country governed by sharia law, which imposes strict limitations on freedoms, would be better off living elsewhere.

"If you are somebody who wants to live in an Islamic state governed by sharia law you are not going to be happy in Australia, because Australia is not an Islamic state, will never be an Islamic state and will never be governed by sharia law," Mr Costello said.

"We are a secular state under our constitution, our law is made by parliament elected in democratic elections.

"We do not derive our laws from religious instruction."

Mr Costello said anyone who was alienated by Australia's form of government, judicial system and civil rights and wanted something else "might be better advised to find the 'something else' somewhere else".

"There are Islamic states around the world that practise sharia law and if that's your object you may well be much more at home in such a country than trying to turn Australia into one of those countries, because it's not going to happen," he said.

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**If you want sharia law, move: Costello**

February 23, 2006 - 6:49PM

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/Nation...670199148.html>

Anyone who believes Islamic sharia law can co-exist with Australian law should move to a country where they feel more comfortable, Treasurer Peter Costello says.

All Australian citizens must adhere to the framework in society which maintains tolerance and protects the rights and liberties of all, he said.

It is a pre-condition for citizenship of Australia.

Mr Costello was giving a speech on the meaning of Australian citizenship to the Sydney Institute.

"There is one law we are all expected to abide by," Mr Costello said.

"It is the law enacted by the parliament under the Australian constitution.

"If you can't accept that, then you don't accept the fundamentals of what Australia is and what it stands for."

Mr Costello, the son of a Methodist lay preacher and who was raised a Baptist, emphasised that Australia is a secular state under which the freedom of all religions is protected.

"But there is not a separate stream of law derived from religious sources that competes with or supplants Australian law in governing our civil society," he said.

"The source of our law is the democratically elected legislature.

"There are countries that apply religious or sharia law - Saudi Arabia and Iran come to mind.

"If a person wants to live under sharia law these are countries where they might feel at ease.

"But not Australia."

Mr Costello said there were some beliefs and values which were so central to Australian society that those who refused to accept them refused to accept the nature of Australian society.

"If someone cannot honestly make the citizenship pledge, they cannot honestly take out citizenship," he said.

"If they have taken it out already they should not be able to keep it where they have citizenship in some other country."

It was more difficult for those born in Australia or who had no dual citizenship, Mr Costello said.

"In these cases, we have on our hands citizens who are apparently so alienated that they do not

support what their country stands for," he said.

"Such alienation could become a threat to the rights and liberties of others.

"And so it is important to explain our values, explain why they are important and engage leadership they respect to assist us in this process.

"Ultimately, however, it is important that they know that there is only one law and it is going to be enforced whether they acknowledge its legitimacy or not."

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Danna Vale defends Muslim comments  
February 16, 2006 - 7:34PM

A federal Liberal MP has defended her controversial comments on Australia becoming a Muslim nation as being about population figures.

Sydney MP Danna Vale was criticised after saying this week that Australia was aborting itself out of existence and could become a Muslim nation.

Mrs Vale told parliament she believed she been defamed in a newspaper report. She said the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader had reported criticism of her by Labor senator Michael Forshaw. The article said: "Sutherland Shire-based NSW ALP senator Michael Forshaw's described Mrs Vale's comments as disgraceful and offensive."

Senator Forshaw was quoted as saying: "It is irresponsible and inflammatory conduct by member of parliament to peddle these spurious, bigoted falsehoods, particularly given the racially motivated violence that occurred in Cronulla and other parts of Sydney last December." Mrs Vale said she denied Senator Forshaw's allegations against her. "I have made no statements that could be described as spurious, bigoted falsehoods or disgraceful or offensive," she told parliament. "The comments I made ... were based on demographics only. "And I consider these allegations and comments to be offensive. "I totally reject them and I consider them to be defamatory." Opposition manager of business Julia Gillard queried whether Mrs Vale was claiming to be misrepresented. "Mr Speaker, could you clarify for the benefit of members that the rule regarding misrepresentation is about clarifying untruths not stupidity?" Ms Gillard said.

Parliamentary secretary for trade De-Anne Kelly said Labor was trying to intimidate her colleague. "Is it appropriate, when members are seeking to clarify a misrepresentation against them, for others in the house to claim stupidity? It is intimidation," she said. Speaker David Hawker warned all MPs to respect each other.

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### 'Dopey' Danna given dressing down



The other four women MPs - Louise Markus (2nd L), Jackie Kelly (C), De-Anne Kelly (2nd R), Trish Draper (R) - present at yesterday's news conference have distanced themselves from Danna Vale's (L) comments.

Photo: *Chris Lane*

February 14, 2006 - 1:11PM

Liberal backbencher Danna Vale has received a withering dressing-down after saying Australia is in danger of aborting itself "almost out of existence" and becoming a Muslim nation.

Mrs Vale yesterday backed moves for parliament to retain power of approval over the controversial abortion-inducing drug RU486.

"I've actually read in *The Daily Telegraph* where a certain imam from the Lakemba mosque actually said that Australia's going to be a Muslim nation in 50 years' time," she told reporters.

"I didn't believe him at the time, but you know when you actually look at the birth rates and when you look at the fact that we are aborting ourselves almost out of existence by 100,000 abortions every year - and that's on a guesstimate."

Mrs Vale's coalition colleagues have distanced themselves from her views, while senior government minister Amanda Vanstone openly criticised her fellow Liberal.

Senator Vanstone, who voted in the Senate last week in support of a private members' bill to lift the effective ban on RU486, said Mrs Vale had no understanding of Australia's immigration program.

"I think I'll invite Danna around for a cup of morning tea and perhaps a cucumber sandwich where I'll be able to point out to her that our intake at the moment, our source countries, are very much from the United Kingdom, New Zealand, China, India, South Africa and the Philippines," she told ABC radio.

"Apart from them being completely ill-founded, that's just a complete misunderstanding of how our migration program works and where our source countries are," she said.

Other MPs have labelled Mrs Vale's comments "dopey" and "offensive" and called for Prime Minister John Howard to force her to apologise to the Australian people.

Muslim leaders described the comments as irresponsible and racist.

Meanwhile the private members' bill seeking to strip Health Minister Tony Abbott of his exclusive power over access to RU486 has been thrown into doubt.

Liberal backbencher Andrew Laming has proposed a major change ahead of debate on the bill in the lower house this week.

The bill, which has already passed the Senate, would hand that power to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) instead, making it consistent with the treatment of other drugs.

Mr Laming's proposal would give parliament the last word on the issue by allowing it to overturn a decision by the TGA.

Although Mr Laming said he would support the bill in its current form if the amendment failed, support for his suggestion appears to be gaining momentum.

Democrats leader Lyn Allison, who co-sponsored the private members' bill seeking to hand control over the pill to health professionals, says she is alarmed it could be voted down.

Government MPs trying to placate Mr Abbott would turn a medical issue into a debate about abortion every time the TGA granted access to the drug, she said.

"It's loopy.

"My concern is that there are many who are saying this is a compromise," Senator Allison told AAP.



Population or immigration: Costello issues warning

Misha Schubert, Canberra  
July 25, 2006

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/nation...593271730.html>

PETER Costello has warned Australians to breed more or run the risk of a population transformed by immigration.

Raising the spectre of the social disruption and violence of some European nations with low birth rates and high immigration, the Treasurer yesterday warned that immigrants might not be absorbed successfully if the Australian-born population dwindled.

The comments, in a speech to launch the national census, provoked an outcry from ethnic and Muslim leaders, who condemned the arguments as "culturally paranoid", "prehistoric" and designed to incite "false panic".

Mr Costello made a similarly controversial speech to the Sydney Institute in February, where he attacked "mushy, misguided multiculturalism", and called for radical Muslims to adopt Australian values or go somewhere else.

Yesterday he stepped up his long-running campaign to encourage women to have more children — by linking the issue to immigration levels.

If fertility rates continued to run below replacement level, the composition of the population would change, he said.

"There are some European countries with low birth rates and high immigration which have moved into this situation," he said.

"It has caused a lot of social division ... social disruption and violence."

While immigration had provided "profound benefits", he warned that in the past it was easier to keep the balance in population because immigrants were absorbed into a growing population led by fertility.

"Increasing immigration to cover natural population decline will change the composition of our population and raise concerns about social dislocation," he said.

The president of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, Phong Nguyen, said the comments were "irresponsible" and "out of touch".

Waleed Aly, of the Islamic Council of Victoria, said the Treasurer appeared to be developing a social theory designed to exclude migrants, and particularly non-Anglo migrants.

"It encourages a cultural paranoia — 'the migrants are coming'," he said. "That's not helpful to migrants and may create a false panic within the broader community."

Keysar Trad, founder of the Islamic Friendship Association of Australia, likened it to the statements

of the Liberal MP Danna Vale, who warned earlier this year that Australia could become a Muslim nation within 50 years because "we are aborting ourselves almost out of existence".

"These constant implications that people from overseas are somehow inferior do not befit a prime ministerial aspirant," Mr Trad said.

Mr Costello also rejected the idea of a "guest worker" scheme for Australia, saying our concept of an immigrant society was that all arrivals were offered the opportunity to become "full, first-class citizens".

And he called on employers to create more flexible work conditions to support more women to have children, including expanding opportunities to work from home. He urged fathers to pull their weight more at home.

#### CENSUS AT A GLANCE

- Census of the Australian population is taken every five years.
- This year's will be on August 8.
- People will be able to complete forms online after getting a PIN from a census collector.
- Nearly 13 million forms will be delivered to homes by 30,000 collectors and supervisors.
- All data is treated anonymously. Personal information will not be made public.
- Results will be published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and are free.
- [www.abs.gov.au/census](http://www.abs.gov.au/census)

**Potty Mouth Mayor (courtesy of Media Watch)**

<http://www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/transcripts/s1708582.htm>

It's two days later and I've just been beaten up. You want to start talking about recycled water? I'll just give you a lump of 3 by 2 and you can belt the hell out of me...It's like being raped by a thousand Arabs, you bastards."

— *Toowoomba Mayor, Di Thorley , 1st August, 2006*

That was Toowoomba's Di Thorley - the town's leading advocate for recycled water - but did she really say that about those reporters?

"... It's like being raped by a thousand Arabs, you bastards."

— *Toowoomba Mayor, Di Thorley , 1st August, 2006*

Yes - she did.