



Sydney, NSW, Monday 28 November 2016

Arab Council holds its AGM and pledges its support to the *Racism. It Stops With Me* Campaign

Today at its Annual General Meeting, Arab Council Australia with the Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Ed Santow as Guest Speaker, launched its pledge to become part of the *Racism. It Stops With Me* campaign.

"We are proud to join forces with some of Australia's leading businesses, sporting bodies and NGOs to support the *Racism. It Stops With Me* campaign," said Randa Kattan, Chief Executive Officer of Arab Council Australia.

"The campaign invites all Australians to reflect on what they can do to counter racism wherever it happens. Our organisation has committed to preventing racism by pledging to undertake activities in support of the campaign."

"One in seven Australians say they experienced discrimination because of their colour or background and this figure has been increasing steadily in recent years," said Ms Kattan. "People in our community know all too well the impact of racism and frankly it makes us sick. By us joining the campaign, we are proclaiming publicly that we will not tolerate racism wherever it happens and we will take action in our everyday lives and encourage others to do the same to make it a thing of the past."

"Our Council's commitment to this initiative is an extension of our stance and involvement against all forms of discrimination in all communities," concluded Ms Kattan.

The national *Racism. It Stops With Me* campaign, which is being led by the Australian Human Rights Commission, has been developed by a partnership of government and non-government agencies.

For more information about the campaign go to:
<http://itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au/> Or follow the campaign on Twitter @ItStopsWithMe.

The AGM was attended by members and guests including His Excellency, Dr Hussain Al-Ameri the Ambassador of Iraq, Ms Julia Finn, MP and Mr Shaoquett Moselmani MLC. The AGM was chaired by Ms Astrid Perry from Settlement Services International. The Pathologist and Microbiologist, Dr Imad Berro acted as the Returning Officer who oversaw the election of the Board. A list of the new Board is attached and a copy of the 2016 Annual Report can be found on www.arabcouncil.org.au

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Media Enquiries

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media release