

Media Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 2017



Older Muslims focus of new Resource Kit

Older Muslim people and their families are set to benefit from a Muslim Resources Kit developed by ACH Group.

Minister for Aged Care Ken Wyatt AM launched the resources at a celebration event at ACH Group's ViTA, Daw Park, today.

ACH Group CEO Ray Creen said the range of resources was developed as part of the two-year Department of Health-funded Muslim Communities project.

The project was led by Mahjabeen Ahmad who was recognised earlier this year with a Governor's Multicultural Award (most outstanding individual achievement in aged care).

Partnering with the Islamic Society of SA and the Islamic Arabic Centre, Mahjabeen worked to build knowledge to help ACH Group design services that recognise and respect Muslim beliefs and practices, as well as building the capacity for ACH Group staff to deliver culturally appropriate services.

"This project sought to build connections and the confidence of older Muslims and their families to consider the option of aged care support," Mr Creen said. "This is not usual practice for most older Muslims who have traditionally relied on family supports.

"It is our desire to continue to work with older people of all faiths and cultures to help them to be as healthy as they can be and to live their best lives. Work continues to ensure we understand the unique needs of people from diverse backgrounds to ensure they receive a tailored response from ACH Group."

The suite of printed and video resources support front line staff and aged care service planners deliver culturally and spiritually responsive care. It includes four fact sheets, a pocket guide for support workers and four videos, all available online.

"I congratulate ACH Group and I extend a special thank you to the Islamic Society of South Australia and the Islamic Arab Society," Minister Wyatt said.

"Your advice and cooperation during this process has been a huge part of this project's ultimate success.

"We live in the most successful multicultural nation on the planet, and an important aspect of maintaining this success is providing well-rounded support to all people in old age.

"Staying connected to your heritage, and being cared for by someone who understands your background, can make all the difference to a happier, healthier and more fulfilling life."

* End Media Release*

About ACH Group

ACH Group is a not-for-profit aged care organisation that has been offering services to support good lives for older people in South Australia since 1952. As well as accommodation options across Adelaide, the Fleurieu Peninsula and East Melbourne, the group offers a range of health, wellbeing, respite and support services, help at home and social activities.

Our 1700 specialist staff and hundreds of volunteers share the belief that older people should be valued and respected, connected to their communities and in control of their lives.

For further information or comment, please contact Anna Randell on (08) 8159 3632, 0417 856 361 or ARandell@ach.org.au.

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