

## **Comments – Back Cover**

Dr Abe Ata's book, *Educating Australians about Muslims* confronts the default position that many non-Muslims have of Muslims: that Muslims are all much the same, regardless of ethnicity, social class, nationality, geographical location and political outlook, and regardless of how observant and religiously-oriented they are. In addressing this perception this collection of essays builds an important bridge between Australian Muslims and the wider community. We all have much to learn from this work.

Being culturally aware, digitally savvy and comfortable in the world – are critical competencies for successful lives and careers. While our world has never been larger in terms of the information at our fingertips, it has never been smaller in its ability to seamlessly connect people across the globe. This book explains it all.

**Professor Jane den Hollander** Vice-Chancellor & President Deakin University

At a time when Australian identity is going through another period of major cultural and identity shifts, the planned publication has the potential to make another valuable contribution to our communities' thinking. It is clear that Professor Ata is able to draw on the time and energy of very significant contributors for his work. I commend to you the proposed collection of essays .

**Theo Mackaay**, *General Secretary*, Victorian Council of Churches

Dr Ata is known for his work in building bridges between the Australian Muslim community and the wider community. His work, which includes the two national surveys on Australian attitudes towards Muslims and Muslim attitudes towards Australia, provides important information for both Australian Muslims and the mainstream society.

"Educating Australians about Muslims" provides a valuable opportunity to analyse the issues challenging both Australian Muslims and the wider community. Not only does it explore what it means to be a Muslim in contemporary Australia, but it also presents the thoughts, practices and discourses of social change in Australia.

The numerous contributors will present cases and arguments relating to the recent changes within Australian society, as well as demonstrate ways to educate people about beliefs and practices to affect social cohesion.

**Dr Hass Dellal (AOM), Director**, Australian Multicultural Commission

"A much needed contribution towards understanding between Muslims and people of other faiths in Australia"

**Prof. Abdullah Saeed (AM), AO** Director of the Asia Institute at the University of Melbourne and Director of the National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies