

# Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI



## Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting | 28<sup>th</sup> June 2014

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Our next Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting will be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2014, 12 pm – 4 pm for lunch and discussion at Clover & Rye Café: 410 Bridge Road, Richmond, VIC. All who support our purpose are welcome.

<http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/mission-purpose/>

## Melbourne Atheist MeetUp Group | Event Calendar

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Keep in touch with atheists around Melbourne via the Melbourne MeetUp:

<http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/calendar/>

## Membership Renewal Term 2015: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015

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Progressive Atheists Membership is \$20 per annum – 1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> June

If you renew in the month of June you will receive an Early Bird discount membership renewal of \$15.

Renew NOW online: <http://progressiveatheists.org/>

## Event: Ageing Atheists – what are your plans? | La Notte | 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014

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On Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> September the Progressive Atheists will be hosting a workshop considering options for ageing atheists. Issues of concern being aged care, home help services, palliative care, voluntary euthanasia and more.

## Please Join the Ageing Atheists Facebook Event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/719973601358911/>

## Progressive Atheists Inc. 'Proudly Atheist' T-shirts & Badges

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T-shirts ONLY \$15 for members!

Badges \$2.50 each ~ 2 designs / 3 colours

Order your t-shirt or badge on our website:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/products-for-sale/>

Sales Rep. Elida Radig: [sales@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:sales@progressiveatheists.org)

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*"Your participation is PA's future"*

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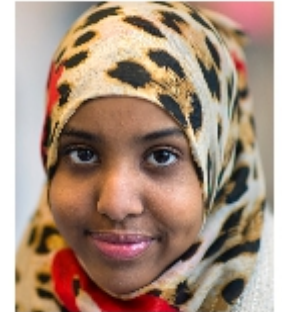
## June 2014

### Headlines

- ✓ **Campaign:** Combating Religious Persecution
- ✓ **Campaign:** National School Chaplaincy Program
- ✓ **News:** Same-Sex Couples Adoption in Victoria

### BackPage

- ✓ Progressive Atheists Inc. **Open Meeting**
- ✓ Melbourne **Atheist MeetUp** Group
- ✓ Membership **Renewal** Term 2015
- ✓ Event: **Ageing Atheists** – what are your plans?
- ✓ Progressive Atheists Inc. 'Proudly Atheist'  
**T-shirts & Badges**



**Fahma Mohamed**  
FGM Campaigner

## Membership Renewals

Great value [Early Bird](#) discount for renewals this June

Ask for a membership form at your local [MeetUp](#)

Or send us an email:

[membership@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:membership@progressiveatheists.org)

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## CONTACT

President: [president@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:president@progressiveatheists.org)

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Website: [progressiveatheists.org](http://progressiveatheists.org)

Twitter: [twitter.com/ProgAtheistsInc](https://twitter.com/ProgAtheistsInc)

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# Progressive Atheists Headlines

## **Campaign:** Combating Religious Persecution

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### **Female Genital Mutilation – UK**

Source: *The Guardian* | 29 May 2014

Awareness and action on female genital mutilation is on the rise. Fahma Mohamed, based in the UK, has campaigned [for FGM education](#) and gain great success. British Education Secretary Michael Gove has agreed to write to schools over female genital mutilation before the next summer holidays. Fahma's Guardian-backed petition attracted nearly 250,000 signatures.

Read more: <http://www.theguardian.com/end-fgm>

### **Female Genital Mutilation – NSW**

Source: *Sydney Morning Herald* | 23 May 2014

Meanwhile in Sydney, the first three people ever charged with female genital mutilation in NSW were committed to stand trial at a Sydney court on Friday. A mother, a retired nurse and a sheikh have been accused of circumcising two girls, aged six and seven, at a Sydney home in 2012.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/female-genital-mutilation-three-charged-with-circumcising-girls-committed-to-stand-trial-20140523-zrm6i.html>

### **Ex-Muslims call for Islamic education charity to be classified as a “hate group”**

Source: *National Secular Society (UK)* | 23 May 2014

A report published by the Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain (CEMB) has accused the Islamic Education and Research Academy (iERA) of being a "soft Islamist" group, and has called for its charitable status to be withdrawn.

The report details specific examples of hate speech practised by iERA preachers and calls for the group to be classified as a hate group because of its persistent promotion of Islamists who preach hate against non-Muslims, women, gays, progressive Muslims and ex-Muslims.

Read more: <http://www.secularism.org.uk/news/2014/05/ex-muslims-call-for-islamic-education-charity-to-be-classified-as-hate-group>

### **Recognize “The International Day Against State Religion”**

Petition by G. M. Lakho | Karachi, Pakistan | *Petitioning The Secretary-General, United Nations*

The life of non-Muslims and non-believers of Pakistan is as good as hell thanks to the “State Religion” of Pakistan. Thus, the need of the time is to declare that the “State Religion” is hit by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**See & Sign the Petition:** <http://www.change.org/petitions/the-secretary-general-United-nations-recognize-the-international-day-against-state-religion-5>

## **Campaign:** National School Chaplaincy Program

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### **SECOA opposes 2014 federal budget’s sectarian policy on school chaplaincy**

May 23, 2014 | Jaye Christie

Read more: <http://secoa.org/national-school-chaplaincy-program-media-release/>

### **Brisbane school chaplain being investigated for proselytising after claiming his mission is to disciple school children and their families**

TANYA CHILCOTT THE COURIER-MAIL MAY 18, 2014

Read more: <http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/brisbane-school-chaplain-being-investigated-for-proselytising-after-claiming-his-mission-is-to-disciple-school-children-and-their-families/story-fnihsrf2-1226921396868>

### **Our Schools don't need more Chaplains. They need mental health professionals.**

Meredith Peace | Sunday 25 May 2014

Read more: <http://www.mamamia.com.au/australian-politics/chaplains-in-australian-schools/>

### **CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM TO FUND GROUPS WITH LINKS TO HOMOPHOBIA**

MONDAY, 26 MAY 2014 | James Findlay | Rachel Cook

Read more: <http://gaynewsnetwork.com.au/news/national/chaplaincy-program-to-fund-groups-with-links-to-homophobia-13835.html>

### **Anti Gay Religious Groups Monopolising School Chaplaincy Program**

The Australian government just released the Federal Budget with \$245 million to send chaplains from anti-gay religious groups, such as ACCESS Ministries and Your Dream Incorporated, to schools where lesbian, gay, bi and trans students are already bullied and harassed.

See & Sign Petition: <https://www.allout.org/en/actions/australia-budget>

### **High Court Challenge on School Chaplaincy Funding**

Christopher Pyne JJJ Hack program 22 May 2014:

*"We want to return the chaplaincy program to its original intention, which is one that involves the religious element."*

Donate: <http://highcourtchallenge.com/>

## **Same-Sex Couples Adoption in Victoria** | May 25, 2014 | Henrietta Cook & Farrah Tomazin

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Premier Denis Napthine says he is not opposed to same-sex couples adopting children in Victoria, but is waiting for some "proper science" before the government decides whether to change the law.

Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/napthine-open-to-allowing-gay-adoption-20140524-38vsf.html>