

Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI



Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting | 27 December 2014

Our next Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting will be held on Saturday 27 December 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.

Progressive Atheists Purpose Statement:

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

Melbourne Atheists MeetUp Group | Event Calendar

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

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

Membership Term 2015 | 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

Progressive Atheists Membership is \$20 per annum / \$10 concession.

JOIN US | Purchase New Membership Online:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/membership/application/>

For other methods to renew and join please see our website:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/membership/>

Email our Membership Officer:

membership@progressiveatheists.org

OR ASK the person who gave you this bulletin

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

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

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"Your participation is PA's future"

December 2014

... we seek to go beyond divisive racial, religious, tribal, and sectarian constructs, and instead, contribute to a universal humanity.

Headlines

- ✓ **Report:** Victorian State Election
- ✓ **Report:** Halal Labelling & Terrorism
- ✓ **Campaign:** Animal Welfare Concerns on Religious Slaughter of Animals
- ✓ **Interview:** CEO Halal Australia – Dr. Muhammad M Khan, Ph.D.

BackPage

- ✓ **Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting:** 27 December 2014
 - ✓ **Melbourne Atheists MeetUp Group:** Event Calendar
 - ✓ **Membership Renewal Term 2015:** 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015
 - ✓ Progressive Atheists Inc. **'Proudly Atheist' T-shirts & Badges**
-

MEMBERSHIP

Term 2015: 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

*** ONLY \$20 Annually ***

Purchase Membership Online:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/product-category/membership/>

CONTACT PROGRESSIVE ATHEISTS INC.

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Vice President – Andrew: 0438 043 050

Secretary: secretary@progressiveatheists.org

Website: progressiveatheists.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ProgressiveAtheistsInc

Twitter: twitter.com/ProgAtheistsInc

Progressive Atheist Inc. | Headlines

Report: Victorian State Election – Saturday, 29 November 2014

The Progressive Atheists conducted a 10 Question Survey of all candidates standing in the Victorian State Election on 29 November 2014.

The survey measured opposition to religion in schools, maintaining current abortion laws, giving us a right to choice in death, removing religious exemptions in law, establishing marriage equality and taking action on domestic violence and climate change.

The parties who scored highest in those areas were the Greens, Socialist Alliance, Basic Rock 'n' Roll, Save the Planet, Sex Party and a few Independents. Following close behind were the Voluntary Euthanasia Party and Labor, giving more mixed answers or answering with 'other'. Liberal Party candidates did not respond to the survey. The most conservative party was Rise Up Australia followed by Australian Christians.

A small poll (72 votes) in Melbourne Atheists FB group showed that 40% voted Green, 35% voted Sex party, 17% Labor, 4% Liberal, 3% Independents and 1% Democratic Labor.

Overall the Victorian state election seems to be a step in the right direction in terms of secularism. We all need to keep in touch with our local representative MPs and make sure that they are kept aware of our wishes to promote secularism in Australia for the benefit of all Australians.

<http://progressiveatheists.org/campaigns-projects/victorian-state-election-campaign-2014/>

Report: Halal Labelling & Terrorism

George Christensen, Liberal National Party of Queensland and Federal member for Dawson, wants Halal certifiers to open their books, presumably to show the public how Halal certification fees are used.

The Australian intelligence agency that investigates the financing of terrorism (AUSTRAC) says that it "does not have any information that indicates there are links to terrorism financing from Halal certification fees".

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-21/mps-claim-islamic-food-production-may-fund/5911042>

Campaign: RSPCA Animal Welfare Concerns on Religious Slaughter of Animals

The vast majority of halal meat products sold in Australia are from animals that have been stunned PRIOR to slaughter, just as all other meat products are. Stunning the animal prior to slaughter is vital to ensure the best animal welfare practice. The time to regain consciousness following a reversible stun may vary depending on the intensity of the stun.

At Australian abattoirs, the aim is to ensure that reversible stunning is done in a way that depth of unconsciousness is sufficient to allow for the animal to bleed out and die before there is a chance of regaining consciousness. Halal slaughter in Australia requires the animal to be stunned prior to bleeding out to ensure it is insensible to pain.

The exemption that some abattoirs have, which is given by state governments, applies to all kosher products and some halal products (in other words, an exemption not to stun at all or to stun after the throat is cut). It is this exemption that the RSPCA wishes to see abolished – all animals should be stunned / unconscious before they are subjected to slaughter.

The RSPCA is strongly opposed to all forms of slaughter that do not involve prior stunning of the animal and continues to promote this view to governments and the public. Read more about religious slaughter of animals in Australia on the RSPCA website: http://kb.rspca.org.au/What-is-halal-slaughter-in-Australia_116.html

Interview: CEO Halal Australia – Dr. Muhammad M Khan, Ph.D.

Objection to Halal Certification in Australia has been prominent in the news recently with groups such as Halal Choices (1), Boycott Halal in Australia (2) and The Pickering Post (3) all encouraging consumers to boycott Halal certified foods.

Halal Australia (4), is one of the 21 Halal Certifiers in Australia (5). CEO Dr. Muhammad M Khan calls for tolerance to people of different beliefs. Dr Khan stated that Islamophobia has no basis in Australian society and that it is based in a cultural baggage of racism. He stated that Australia is a multicultural society and that we should all be doing the best for everyone based on universal moral and ethical conduct for present and future generations in Australia.

1. <http://www.halalchoices.com.au/>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/BH.Australia>
3. <http://pickeringpost.com/story/halal-ujah-/4180>
4. <http://www.halal-australia.com.au/clarifying-misconceptions-about-halal/>
5. <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/export/meat/elmer-3/list-islamic-halal-certification>