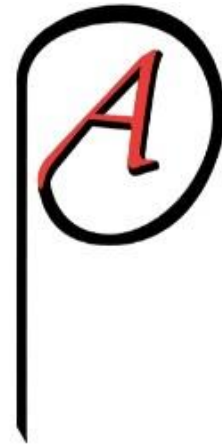


# Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI

*"Your participation is PA's future"*



## March 2016

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

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**Membership Renewal Term 2016:** 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Term 2015:** 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016

**\*\*\* ONLY \$20 Annually \*\*\***

**Purchase Membership Online:**

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

#### **CONTACT PROGRESSIVE ATHEISTS INC.**

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

**Andrew:** 0438 043 050 **Secretary:**

[secretary@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:secretary@progressiveatheists.org) **Website:**

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

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ProgressiveAtheistsInc](https://www.facebook.com/ProgressiveAtheistsInc)

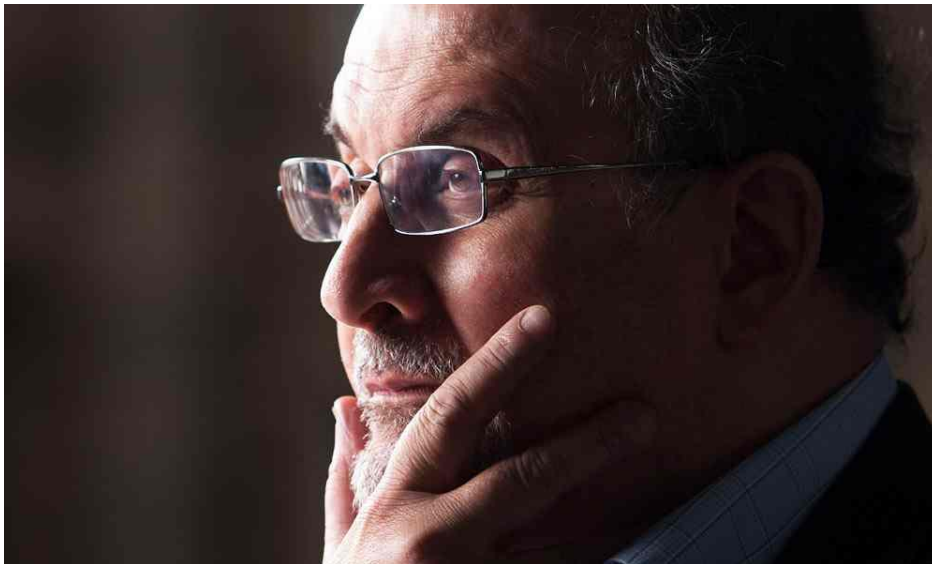
**Twitter:** [twitter.com/ProgAtheistsInc](https://twitter.com/ProgAtheistsInc)

## Progressive Atheist Inc. | Headlines

### **Report:** Salman Rushdie Causes Fatwa Outrage

We are outraged to learn that 40 state-run media outlets in Iran have raised \$600,000 (£420,000) to add as bounty to Ayatollah Khomeini's death fatwa on the writer Salman Rushdie because of his novel [The Satanic Verses](#) ([Report](#), 22 February). We condemn the Iranian regime, its fatwa and the added bounty. We stand with Rushdie and the many Iranian freethinkers and writers languishing in prison, or facing the death penalty, for exercising their right to free expression and thought.

The Iranian regime must face global condemnation for its incitement to murder. Democratic and secular governments should unequivocally condemn the regime's fatwa and bounty, demand their immediate cancellation, prioritise human rights and free expression, and side with freethinkers rather than appeasing a theocratic regime.



MORE: [http://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/feb/25/salman-rushdie-death-iran-fatwa-outrage?CMP=share\\_btn\\_tw](http://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/feb/25/salman-rushdie-death-iran-fatwa-outrage?CMP=share_btn_tw)

## **Petition: Condemn Fatwa**

### To: Secular Governments

Unequivocally condemn the Iranian regime's incitement to murder against writer Salman Rushdie, demand the immediate cancellation of the death fatwa and bounty, prioritise human rights and free expression and side with freethinkers rather than appeasing a theocratic regime.

To sign, visit: <https://community.avaaz.org/petitions/condemn-fatwa-and-bounty-against-salman-rushdie>

## **Review: Australia's Future Tax System**

We welcome the opportunity to comment on Treasury Discussion Paper, "Architecture of Australia's Tax and Transfer System", that was released on 6 August 2008. Accordingly, we would like to draw your attention to our concerns regarding the tax regime that applies to religious organisations in Australia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO READ AND DOWNLOAD THE SUBMISSION: <http://progressiveatheists.org/campaigns-projects/secularism/>

## **Review: Health and Welfare Services**

Progressive Atheists are currently conducting a project to ascertain the options for people who might not be catered for adequately enough by government funded religious organisations with regards to any sort of health care or welfare service provisions.

Progressive Atheists are currently arranging meetings with those knowledgeable in different fields in order to gather qualitative research for this project.

If you have valuable experience in this area and are able to meet with us, attend future group meetings or would prefer to simply correspond further via email please let us know: [contact@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:contact@progressiveatheists.org)



### **Areas of experience:**

- do you have work experience in the field of health care or welfare service provision?
- do you currently or have you in the past been a receiver of health care or welfare services?

## Religious Freedom Roundtable – 2015 / 2016

Friday 27 November 2015

At the commencement of his term, the Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson conducted a national consultation on rights and responsibilities. A central theme to the consultation was the importance of religious freedom. The outcomes from this consultation are outlined in the Rights and Responsibilities Consultation Report 2015, which is available at <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/rights-and-freedoms/publications/rights-responsibilities-consultation-report>.

After Tim Wilson's resignation Friday, 12 February 2016,  
**the following roundtables were cancelled.**

Thursday 18 February 2016: meeting of non-faith organisations hosted at the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission in Melbourne.

Friday 19 February 2016: meeting of LGBTI organisations hosted at the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission in Melbourne.

Progressive Atheists Inc. submission to the Religious Freedom Roundtable

18 February 2016 – ReligiousFreedomRoundtableSubmission

## **Report: Victorian Government Multicultural Policy Consultation**

*4 February 2016*

The Hon Robin Scott MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, invited views on a new multicultural policy statement being developed by the Victorian Government. The Victorian Multicultural Commission sent out invitations to join a public consultation on Wednesday 3 February 2016.

Progressive Atheists Inc. attended the consultation and later responded to an invitation from the Hon Robin Scott MP for submissions.



Progressive Atheists Inc. submission:

[VictorianGovernmentMulticulturalPolicyConsultation](#)

## **Report: If there was a god perhaps he'd jog your memory?**

Having listened to Cardinal George Pell's evidence to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse during his appearance via videolink from Rome, we at the Atheist Foundation of Australia (AFA) are both disappointed and saddened.

Disappointed that the most predictable and dominant feature of Cardinal Pell's testimony is... the lack of it:

- He doesn't remember.
- He can't recall.
- He wasn't privy to those matters.
- No-one told him.
- Everyone around him deceived him.
- Those documents weren't brought to his attention.
- The allegations and complaints weren't raised with him.
- It wasn't seen as that serious/extensive back then.
- It was all a long time ago.
- He had no reason to turn his mind to it, it wasn't of much interest to him.



CONTINUE READING HERE: [atheistfoundation.org.au/media-release/if-there-really-was-a-god-perhaps-hed-jog-your-memory/](https://atheistfoundation.org.au/media-release/if-there-really-was-a-god-perhaps-hed-jog-your-memory/)

# Progressive Atheists Inc.

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## Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting

Our next Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting will be held on Open Meeting at 12 pm, Saturday, **26<sup>th</sup> March 2016** Melbourne Unitarian Hall, 110 Grey St, East Melbourne VIC 3002. All who support our purpose are welcome.

<http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/224846868/>

Reminder for April Open Meeting: **Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

## 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 2015 – 30 June 2016

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](mailto: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](mailto:sales@progressiveatheists.org)