



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**The Hon Andrew Robb AO MP**

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Immigration  
and Multicultural Affairs

**012/06**

**Monday, 20 March**

### **Mosque tour to mark Tasmanian Harmony Day celebrations**

The Governor of Tasmania, His Excellency The Honourable William Cox AC RFD ED, will join about 120 school children at a welcome to the Hobart Mosque on Tuesday as part of Tasmania's Harmony Day celebrations, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Andrew Robb, said today.

More than 150 people, including teachers and parents from the four primary schools – Landsdowne Crescent, St Therese's, Friends Junior School and Campbell Street – will meet Muslim community members. School choirs will perform songs of harmony and the children will be taken on a special tour of the Mosque.

Imam of the Hobart Mosque, Sabri Samson, who is also Chair of the Islamic Council of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Muslim Association, will host the event.

About 120 Harmony Day events will take place in Tasmania on March 21, including a citizenship ceremony at Kingsborough Council, a multicultural morning tea at Burnie Institute of TAFE, and the weaving by students of Albuera Street School of designs to decorate a special Harmony Day Wall.

Mr Robb said Harmony Day was a time to focus on the values that unite Australians rather than on the distractions that so often grabbed newspaper headlines.

"It is a day to celebrate the many steps Australia has taken to free itself from discrimination and racial hatred, but also a day to reflect on the challenges that remain and to renew our commitment to overcoming them," Mr Robb said.

"These values include respect for the rights of the individual, tolerance of differences, a commitment to the country's laws, the equality of men and women and the 'fair go' attitude that is about acceptance, fair play and compassion for those in need.

"These values have served us well and have helped us to successfully settle more than 6.1 million people from some 200 countries since 1945.

"By coming to Australia people commit to Australian values and in return Australia makes a commitment to help people by providing, among other things, educational opportunities that lead to employment so they have a stake in the country's future."

Now in its eighth year, Harmony Day has become Australia's most significant multicultural event and falls on the same day as the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. More than 300 000 Australians of all backgrounds and beliefs will celebrate Harmony Day at 5000 events across the nation.

"I encourage all Australians to join in the Harmony Day festivities and to build on our achievements as a prosperous and peaceful nation," Mr Robb said.

For more information of Harmony Day go to [www.harmony.gov.au](http://www.harmony.gov.au)

**Living in Harmony contact: Bob Crawshaw 0401 063 387**  
**Parliamentary Secretary's contact: Ann Duffield 0409 842 069**