



NSW Council of Churches MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Muslim ads prompt Christians to share their faith

The NSW Council of Churches has expressed disapproval at the way in which a Muslim group has attempted to spread its message by launching an advertising campaign denigrating Jesus Christ and promoting beliefs offensive to Christians.

According to Christianity, Jesus Christ is the supreme prophet and the incarnation of God, and Christians honour the Bible as the supreme authority for faith and conduct.

“It is in everyone’s interests to promote the peaceful coexistence of different religious traditions in a multicultural society. We encourage constructive dialogue and debate, but we reject tactics that set out to offend religious sentiment and generate publicity through scandal,” NSW Council of Churches spokesperson Rev Rod Benson said.

“We seek to refrain from making incendiary statements about the beliefs and practices of other faiths, and we expect the Muslim community to do the same,” Rev Benson said.

The NSW Council reaffirmed its commitment to presenting a clear Christian voice on public and religious issues, and commended its [2008 statement](#) of guidelines for relations with other religions.

The Muslim advertising campaign had prompted Christians share their faith with Muslims. One example of this was the refutingmypeace.com.au website, which countered claims made on the Muslim ad campaign website and sought to educate Australians on crucial issues about Islam not addressed by the Muslim website.

“Websites like refutingmypeace.com.au provide useful information, but the best way to introduce people to God is to do what Jesus did: reach out beyond your comfort zone, make new friends, and live what you believe. That is much harder but more rewarding than posting provocative slogans on billboards,” Rev Benson said.

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Link to “NSW Council of Churches Guidelines for relations with other religions”:
http://www.nswchurches.org/Resources/Policy/P0802_Relations_with_other_religions.pdf

Media contact Rod Benson 0412 421 678

The NSW Council of Churches – <http://www.nswchurches.org> – a peak body of churches in New South Wales
President: Revd Richard Quadrio ♦ Secretary: Revd Bruce Thornton OAM ♦ Public Affairs Director: Revd Rod Benson