

**30 August 2019****Christmas Eve Part-Day Public Holiday Consultation**

Office of Industrial Relations

GPO Box 69

Brisbane QLD 4001

**Via email:** [publichol@oir.qld.gov.au](mailto:publichol@oir.qld.gov.au)

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Islamic Council of Queensland, I am writing to express support for the proposed introduction of a part-day public holiday on Christmas Eve beginning at 6pm.

We believe this will benefit the community by allowing people to:

- Participate in religious services on Christmas Eve
- Take part in family activities, especially for faith groups who celebrate on Christmas Eve
- Travel long distances for family events on Christmas Day.

Cultural and faith observances are part and parcel of our diverse, multicultural Australian society and foster deeper connections between families and friends. This public holiday would allow those observing to leave earlier, travel more safely, and enjoy more time with their family.

Many of the biggest challenges facing our community stem from a lack of time for family and community. Financial and economic priorities have their place in society but should never be given precedence over opportunities to spend more time with family and community. We would therefore be pleased to see this part-day public holiday approved.

If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me via email or phone 0412 601 152.

Yours sincerely,

Habib Jamal

President – Islamic Council of Queensland