



Dear Parents and Community of New Madinah College,

We would like the opportunity to address the concerns raised against our college and our principal, Sheikh Abdulghani, and to provide clarity on the situation.

Sheikh Abdulghani has consistently met all the necessary criteria for his position, including holding a valid Working with Children Check and maintaining a clear police record. He has an exemplary track record, having worked in schools for over 15 years, and has been a valued member of the Young community for the past 10 years.

The post referenced in the *Daily Telegraph*, ABC, and Channel 7 was made nearly a year prior to his employment at our college and does not reflect his current professional conduct or values. Since joining our institution, Sheikh Abdulghani has demonstrated professionalism, respect, and a commitment to creating a positive environment for both students and staff. He has shown no signs of racism or hatred.

Sheikh Abdulghani has collaborated with local schools in and around Young, including other faith-based schools, for events and other curricular activities. He has also worked with a local Indigenous artist to create our school mascots, which reflect both cultural and Islamic values.

Additionally, Sheikh Abdulghani has actively engaged with representatives from NESAs and participated in the most recent audit, which affirmed his adherence to all required standards. His performance has been consistently competent and in line with our expectations, always ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students.

As a college, we categorically reject all forms of anti-Semitism, racism, discrimination, or any actions or views that undermine the values of mutual respect and inclusivity. The board of New Madinah College does not take any political stands and ensures that our institution and its surroundings remain free from such associations.

Sheikh Abdulghani's comments, made nearly a year before his employment, should be understood in the context of his personal life prior to joining us. He has now been employed at the college for six months, and we believe it is not appropriate to hold him accountable for actions or statements made prior to his employment. Furthermore, as an institution, we respect the personal freedoms of our staff, including their freedom of speech, and are not positioned to dictate their private views.

We continue to have full confidence in Sheikh Abdulghani's ability to fulfil his responsibilities and maintain a safe and supportive environment for our students. The Young Muslim Association stands firmly behind Sheikh Abdulghani as our principal, both now and in the future. We are committed to offering any necessary support to him and his family during this challenging time.

We look forward to the year ahead and remain optimistic that the current situation, largely influenced by media coverage, will resolve. This will allow us to refocus on what truly matters—the education and development of our students.

Sincerely,

Mohammed Barghachoun
Chair of the board young Muslim Association