



Muslim Women Australia

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Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Muslim Women Australia: Continuing to Pave the Way

MWA has been a pioneer in serving the Australian Muslim community, and women generally, for nearly four decades. The cornerstone of MWA's success and impact on communities is its ability to acknowledge and thank those that have paved the way for current generations.

When you celebrate those sacrifices that were made by others, then the way in which you serve the organisation is out of humility and gratitude rather than ego, and is clearly aligned with a greater purpose. This is gracefully embodied by Hajeh Maha Krayem Abdo OAM.

As CEO of MWA, Hajeh Maha's leadership has seen MWA grow into a national organisation supporting, empowering, and nurturing women to own their identity and be confident in who they are. She has nurtured an environment of trust and authenticity, while creating a safe space for young leaders to attain greater heights with each experience and lesson they encounter.

Today, we announce that Hajeh Maha will be reducing her direct involvement as CEO of MWA, and taking personal leave to give back to other parts of her life, while supporting the future leadership of the organisation.

The position of Acting CEO of MWA will be undertaken by Nemat Kharboutli, who brings her own strengths and experiences to this role. Nemat has been involved with MWA in different ways; in governance, as a staff member and as a young girl attending MWA youth programs and leadership camps. All of this makes Nemat best placed to lead this organisation into the future - and provide her a holistic approach to leadership.

I welcome Nemat as Acting CEO and affirm that she has the full support of the Board. I thank Hajeh Maha for her authentic leadership, in words and action, and for her commitment to supporting young women for over 30 years. We look forward to continuing to pave the way at MWA for women of all backgrounds, in a sincere and authentic way.

Yours sincerely,

Shaza Rifi  
President, MWA

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