



**Office of Hon Chris Carter**

**MP for Te Atatu**

Minister of Education

Minister for Ethnic Affairs

Minister Responsible for the Education Review Office

8 September 2008

Ann Pala QSM  
President, Waitakere Ethnic Board  
PO Box 15 765  
New Lynn  
WAITAKERE CITY

Eid Mubarak Ann

Thank you for inviting my Office of Ethnic Affairs officials and I to the Waitakere Ethnic Board's celebration of Eid. I particularly enjoyed the presentation about the meaning of Eid, which I know opened minds and hearts in that room.

As you know our government recognises that Muslims have been an integral part of our society since first appearing in the census from 1874. We are committed to a society where religious diversity is understood to be a strength and asset to our country. That's why I'm such a strong supporter of your Board, and why I make every effort to attend all of your meetings.

Ann, your commitment to our diverse communities is so admirable. I will always appreciate the friendship and support you have shown to me for so many years. I know we will see each other again very soon.

If in the meantime issues come up that you think I could assist with, do not hesitate to make contact with me through my Private Secretary, Peter Graczer, on 04 470 6887 or email [peter.graczer@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:peter.graczer@parliament.govt.nz).

Kind regards

**Hon Chris Carter MP**  
**Minister for Ethnic Affairs**