

[The Centre for the Study of Contemporary Muslim Societies presents:](#)

**‘New Zealand Muslims: Islam, Multiculturalism and Religious Diversity’**

**Professor Paul Morris, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ**

*Date: Tuesday 5 October 2010*

*Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm*

*Venue: [Bankstown Campus](#) Building 1 Level 1 Room 117*

**ABSTRACT**

The 2006 New Zealand Census reported a rapidly growing Muslim ‘community’ that numbered more than 35,000. This lecture begins by asking where they have come from and why, settlement patterns, communal organisation and leadership. The second section explores a number of public issues which have highlighted the community since 2001 including 9/11, the ‘cartoon controversy’, the ‘burqa trial’, and the hijab affair. The third segment will look at the ways in which Muslim communities have responded and how they have positioned themselves in an increasingly multicultural and multi-religious New Zealand. Finally, a number of contemporary issues will be addressed including religion in schools, religion in the workplace, and religion and media, with concluding remarks contrasting the place and role of Muslims and Islam in Australia and New Zealand.

**SPEAKER**

Professor Paul Morris is UNESCO Chair of Inter-Religious Understanding and Relations in New Zealand and the Pacific at Victoria University of Wellington. Professor Morris is the author of the *New Zealand Statement on Religious Diversity* (2007, 2009); *Religion in New Zealand Schools* (2009); and a range of books and articles on religion in New Zealand, religion and democracy, religious diversity, religion in the Pacific, and religion and politics. Current research projects include religious change in the Pacific island nations; the globalisation of God; and, a monograph provisionally entitled, *Democracy, Diversity and Dialogue*.

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to [A.Possamai@uws.edu.au](mailto:A.Possamai@uws.edu.au) by 01/10/2010.