

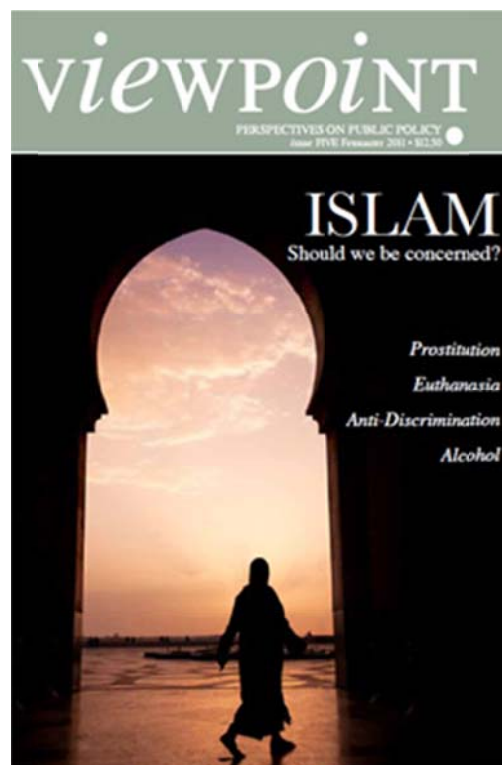
Viewpoint Magazine Consolidated Questions

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Islam

Several recent incidents have put the Islamic faith in the news. These include the murder of two Christians accused of blasphemy in Pakistan, the conviction of Asia Bibi for blasphemy in the same country, and the proposed stoning of an Iranian Muslim woman, Sakineh Ashtiani, accused of adultery. The wearing of Islamic clothing by women has also made the news in recent times.

- What are the core tenants of Islam, in particular its views on women, homosexuality, same-sex marriage and family?
- Should non-Muslim Australians fear Islam?
- What is the objective of Islam in Australia?
- Does Islam have a political objective, including the introduction of Islamic laws?
- What is Islam's view of non-believers?
- Is Islam able to tolerate debate on its values and beliefs, including the prophet Muhammad?



Anti-Discrimination

Australia is a diverse multicultural society which has a large number of schools, clubs, and organisations that are based upon a shared religious, ethnic or cultural identity. Yet increasingly, anti-discrimination laws place prohibitions on employment practices that would permit such organisations to retain their faith-based character or cultural identity by preferring to employ people who share that faith or identity. How do you think that the rights of religious and cultural minorities, which are meant to be protected by provisions such as Articles 18, 19 and 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, can best be protected, given a general commitment to equal opportunity in employment?

Euthanasia

Do you think it's a good thing to legalise voluntary euthanasia? Why or why not?

Prostitution

A recent NSW report showing the explosive growth in both legal and illegal brothels has again raised questions about sex trafficking of women and children to meet the increasing demand for sex workers. Sweden addressed the problem by making it a criminal offence for clients to solicit for the purposes of prostitution. Under the Swedish model, only clients are charged, thus limiting demand.

- Is prostitution in Australia out-of-control?
- Has decriminalising and regulating prostitution kept out organised crime and protected the safety and health of sex workers?
- How do regulators including Governments, councils, police and immigration service prevent sex trafficking and use of children in prostitution?
- What are the merits and impacts of the Swedish model for Australia?