

مجلس الأمة الفدرالية الأسترالية

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL



11th of March 2019

ANIC Encourages the Australian Muslim Community to Enrol and Vote in the Upcoming NSW State and Federal Elections

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC), including the Grand Mufti of Australia, his Eminence, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammed, strongly encourage eligible Australian Muslims to enrol with the Australian Electoral Commission and exercise their civil right to vote in the upcoming NSW State and Federal elections.

According to the Australian Electoral Commission website; *"It is compulsory by law for all eligible Australian citizens to enrol and vote in federal elections, by-elections and referendums."*

Voting is an important opportunity whereby you can have your voice heard. Therefore, it is important to cast a valid vote. Doing so is also consistent with our duty to give political and representative leaders advice, and support those persons who show themselves to be trustworthy and of benefit to the State, Country and Australian people. This may require voting to remove those public officers who bring harm to our society, for instance, by promoting xenophobia, inequity, racism and marginalisation of any community.

According to the Grand Mufti, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammed, *"Bringing Islamic values to political life supports such universal ideals as strong families, protection of the weak, and equity for all. Our faith compels us to act in ways that benefit all people. Australian Muslims can, and should, contribute to significant positive change by voting responsibly and make their voice and concerns heard."*

ANIC urges everyone to check the candidates in their electorate on a State and Federal level and carefully consider their positions. Attention should be paid to the following matters, by way of example, when reviewing the different policy positions: employment opportunities, health, education, law enforcement, immigration, foreign policies, safeguarding against religious discrimination, infrastructure, promotion of diversity and so on.



ANIC Spokesperson, Bilal Rauf, said *“Voting is an important aspect of our citizenship. We need to engage with the processes of our country to help with ensuring its betterment and the improvement of the lives of all of its citizens. Recent official census shows that Muslims in Australia have a strong presence in over 35 Federal electorates and 17 electorates in NSW. This demonstrates that Australian Muslims can have an important say as to the direction and political landscape of our country. We should not waste this opportunity or disregard it.”*

You should also encourage your family and friends to vote. If you are bilingual, please consider assisting those who need help in understanding the voting processes.

The NSW State Election will be on the **23rd of March 2019** and the Federal Election will likely be held in May 2019.

For more information, on the Australian Electoral Commission visit <https://www.aec.gov.au>, and to enrol, visit <https://www.aec.gov.au/enrol/>

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