

2021-2022

Australian National Imams Council (ANIC)



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AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL (ANIC)

UNITING THE IMAMS IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) is the central and peak Islamic body that holds key representation from Australian-based Muslim Imams and scholars.

ANIC aims to preserve mainstream understanding and teachings of Islam in accordance with the Quran and Sunnah, and the traditional understanding of the Muslim scholars, both past and present. Also, it seeks to unite the Councils of Imams of the various Australian states and territories by streamlining their activities and those of other respected scholars and Imams.



OUR VISION

Is to be a leading national body representing mainstream Islam in Australia. ANIC aims to utilise the skills, qualifications and expertise of Imams, Islamic scholars and prominent community members to promote and contribute to the betterment of the Australian Muslim community and the wider Australian society at large.

OUR MISSION

Is to provide religious leadership, rulings and services to the Muslim community in Australia by supporting local Islamic organisations, developing educational, social and outreach programs and fostering good relations with other faith communities and the wider Australian society in an effort to promote harmony and cooperation.

ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT

2021-2022

IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS ANIC HAS ACHIEVED NUMEROUS MILESTONES AND CONTINUES TO ADVANCE AND PROSPER IN GROWING AND SERVING THE COMMUNITY.

IN SUMMARY:



1. Imams Network: ANIC has constantly communicated with all Imams in Australia; to maintain the bond, and brotherhood and provides regular ANIC's updates and progress. We worked tirelessly to ensure the Imams are always updated and included in major ANIC matters and kept an open forum for the Imams to communicate, give their feedback and suggestions freely and openly.



2. Local Community Engagements: ANIC was constantly engaging with key stakeholders of the Muslim community, in particular, with Imams, Dua'at, Islamic organisations and centres. We exert all efforts to include community leaders in discussions pertaining to the Muslim community and its future and affairs.



3. Media and Public Statements: ANIC issued over 30 public statements in 2021-2022 reflecting the views of ANIC, Imams and the Muslim community. The multiple statements issued varied in taking a strong stance on many religious, human rights and political issues concerning to the Muslim community. ANIC has also preserved the Islamic and Muslim integrity in Australia and globally, reinforcing their position at the forefront and its leadership of the Muslim community.

ANIC had also contributed towards the establishment of the MUSLIM MEDIA WATCH (<http://www.muslimwatch.com.au/>) and monitoring the media on all relevant mentioning of topics on Islam and Muslims, including the engagement with media monitoring companies and entities.



4. Public and Media Spokesperson: ANIC senior advisor and spokesperson, Br Bilal Rauf made numerous public and media statements on behalf of ANIC. Significantly, Br Bilal has situated ANIC and the Australian Muslim community in a strong position in the media space with a professional and eloquent approach and manner.

ANIC had made a positive shift in the media towards Islam and Muslims; with more to be done, ANIC will continue striving towards a more dignified, positive and respectful approach by the media towards Islam and Muslims.



5. ANIC Halal Authority has been working determinedly in gaining credibility in the Halal Certification market, whether in the domestic or international market. ANIC has engaged with local and international authorities and has interacted with major groups in the industry.

ANIC aspires to regulate the Halal certification market and working on standardising the local Halal certification industry.



6. Political Engagements: ANIC has and continues to meet and engage with Australian senior political leaders from all political parties in particular in the last May 2022 Federal election. ANIC was at the forefront in engaging and networking with other Muslim organisations and leaders in advocating the interests of the Muslim community.



The engagement also includes major Government agencies and multifaith and religious organisations to advocate and raise Muslim community issues and concerns. ANIC has established a solid and healthy relationship through their presence in major Government and Non-Government forums in order to raise and address the community's concerns.



7. Australian Religious and Faith Communities Network: ANIC has a significant leading role in the Australian Religious and Faith Communities Network in collaborating with all major religious and faith groups in Australia. We contributed positively to the network in preserving faith and bridging the gap with other faith groups and communities in the country and preserving faith and freedom of faith in Australia. This includes ANIC's contribution towards the first established Religious Advisory Council in the state of NSW where faith has a voice in Government.



8. Policies and Procedures: ANIC Executive Committee has and continues to focus on developing many policies and procedures in various areas including but not limited to; complaint handling policies, grievance policies, chaplaincy services policies, executive committee members and meeting policies. The ANIC Executive Committee has ensured that this is an institution for all and for many generations to come.



9. ANIC launched the first document and guidelines on the Islamic position on foster care, adoption, and guardianship. The document serves as a guide for the Muslim community in Australia. (<https://www.anic.org.au/foster-care/>)



10. ANIC has been approved as a scripture provider for Islamic Special Religious for Muslim students in public schools in NSW, under the Australian Islamic Education Services and planning to expand to different states. We intend to reach out to all public schools that have Muslim students and provide Islamic education. This also includes introducing the Friday Juma'a prayers at these schools.



11. ANIC held the first ANIC and State Councils of Imams Executive committees to collaborate and coordinate the efforts amongst the states; this includes a national strategic planning meeting, addressing the current challenges facing ANIC and the Muslim community and ways to resolve them.



13. Submissions: ANIC have made a diverse range of submissions to the Australian Federal and State Governments raising concerns on matters pertaining to the Muslim community, primarily focused on Anti-Discrimination Bills; vilification laws, Religious Freedom, the proscription of Right-Wing White Supremacy on the Terror List in Australia, and the recognition of Palestine.

14. ANIC participated in the first and the largest National Muslim community Iftaar last Ramadan 1443H, with Imams, Community leaders, political leaders, Government officials and other guests with a turnout of over 600 guests.



15. ANIC played a vital role in forming and contributing to the Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM), uniting the Muslim community and organisations from all states and territories, and bring together the Muslim community on the common denominators and interests that all Muslims agree to and aspire to achieve.



16. ANIC had partnered with My Foster Family AUS to support Muslim children in finding exceptional foster carers who can provide stability, support and love to a child.

17. Advocacy and Activism: ANIC has been at the forefront in advocating and addressing the Muslim community's interests and concerns.

Some of these activities include:



a) The danger of Islamophobia on many fronts and aiming to ban Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim sentiment in Australia.



b) ANIC launched the Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim register to encourage the Muslim community to report any incident, where these reports will be assessed, followed up and then take the necessary action. (<https://reportislamophobia.com.au/>)



c) Raising awareness on the Christchurch Massacre and the danger of Islamophobia.

d) ANIC endorsed the "Uluru Statement: From the Heart", in support of the Indigenous community and First Nation people. ANIC supported and attended a constitutionally recognised voice for First Nations people event in Sydney.



The Uluru statement was drafted in 2017 and has consensus support from the Aboriginal community.

e) Conveyed a strong voice in support of our brothers and sisters abroad and foreign affairs, in particular, Palestine, East Turkistan, Sri-Lanka and others.



f) Promoting the importance of Clean Up Australia Day and the Islamic position on purification.

g) ANIC continues to work closely with faith leaders and all parties to address climate change and its impact on the environment and future generations.

h) ANIC urged the Muslim Community to donate generously to their fellow Australians who have been severely affected by the recent floods and rains in particular in QLD and NSW.

i) ANIC participated In the I4GIVE WEEK 2022, raising awareness on Forgiveness and Pardon from an Islamic perspective, and inspired by the noble character of our beloved Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

j) ANIC strongly encouraged Australian Muslims to enrol with the Australian Electoral Commission and exercise their civil right to vote in the last May Federal election 2022.



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL

PUBLIC STATEMENT

Three Year Anniversary of the Christchurch Massacre

13 March 2022

Today, 13 March 2022, is a day which marked 333 the collective grief of Muslims around the world. It is a date on which 51 men, women and children were murdered and many more injured at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. It was a massacre against a people living because of their religious belief and activity. The men, women and children were praying at the time in the mosque.

In New Zealand and around the globe, including in Australia, people continue to gather and mourn the victims and call their requests to the heavens in commemoration of this tragedy.

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) continues to care and address the legacy of this tragedy. We remain committed to the ANIC's mission and vision of providing a platform for the Muslim community in Australia to voice their concerns. We remain committed to the ANIC's mission and vision of providing a platform for the Muslim community in Australia to voice their concerns. We remain committed to the ANIC's mission and vision of providing a platform for the Muslim community in Australia to voice their concerns.

Ramisa Akiba Sultan, ANIC Community Relations Advisor, states: "13 March 2019 is a constant reminder that Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiment is real. Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiment are not just words, they are actions that can be taken against Muslims. We remain committed to the ANIC's mission and vision of providing a platform for the Muslim community in Australia to voice their concerns. We remain committed to the ANIC's mission and vision of providing a platform for the Muslim community in Australia to voice their concerns. We remain committed to the ANIC's mission and vision of providing a platform for the Muslim community in Australia to voice their concerns."

ANIC calls upon the Australian Government to acknowledge Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiment as being a real threat and danger to its society. We call that Islamophobia and bigotry be addressed on a legislative level so that minority communities can be better protected.

ANIC extends its prayers and support to the bereaved and those affected by the Christchurch tragedy and extends its support and prayers to the people and organisations who continue to commemorate the tragedy and show their support.

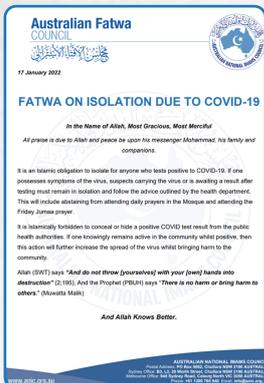
You may contact ANIC's spokesperson, Bilal Riaz in relation to this statement on: (02) 9377 4178 or publicstatement@anic.org.au

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- j) ANIC engaged with the Saudi Embassy and Consulate and raised the concerns of the community on the recent Hajj regulations changes and new portal and followed up on the concerns and is hopeful for some positive changes.



18. The Australian Fatwa Council (AFC)

AFC issued numerous Fatwas on topics concerning the Muslim community and contemporary issues. This includes:

- a) FATWA ON ISOLATION DUE TO COVID-19
 - b) FATWA on the Higher Education Contribution Scheme known as HECS
- AFC will be researching and issuing Fatwas and Islamic verdicts on contemporary issues and matters affecting the Muslim community.

18. ANIC National Khutbah (Sermon):

ANIC has been encouraging Imams, Khateeb and Islamic organisations to address pressing issues on Friday Khutbah.

Topics that were addressed in the past year:

- a) Islam, Purification and Clean Up Australia Day
- b) Foster Care in Islam
- c) In support of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)
- d) Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month.
- e) In support of Palestine
- f) Islam Denounces Violence against Women
- g) Forgiveness in Islam
- h) Stand for Uyghurs Campaigns across the country.

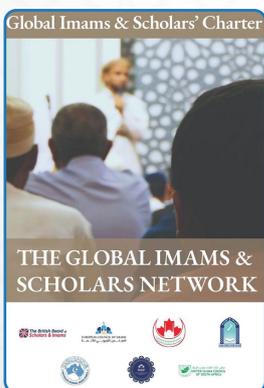


19. ANIC is a co-founder

and contributed to the establishment of The Global Scholars and Imams Network. Seven of the world's leading scholars and Imams Councils and boards have developed a historic charter for Imams and scholars living in western and English speaking countries.

The following Scholars and Imams organisations are part of this global network:

1. The British Board of Scholars & Imams (BBSI)
2. Australian National Imams Council (ANIC)
3. European Council of Imams (ECI)
4. Canadian Council of Imams (CCI)
5. North American Imams Federation (NAIF)
6. Ulama Council of New Zealand
7. United Ulama Council of South Africa



All the above scholars and Imams councils and boards have come together to collaborate on mutually beneficial work.



The Global Scholars and Imams Network aims to share knowledge and promote traditional and orthodox principles and the message of Islam and preserve the Islamic identity for Muslims living in the west.

ANIC contributed to the Global Scholars and Imams Network Charter, which are general principles the network seeks to inculcate within their work and encourage other imams and scholars to adopt.

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) is proud to be a founding member and part of The Global Scholars and Imams Network, and looks forward to contributing to the success of the network and working together with the other international scholars and Imams councils.

Charter: <https://www.anic.org.au/Global-Imams-Scholars-Network>

20. ANIC launched the first ANIC Women's Advisory Council, with 20 prominent Muslim women from different states and territories. The Council strives to maintain a stronger connection with the Australian Muslim Women leaders and prominent community members. The objective of this advisory Council is to proactively hear the concerns, feedback, and suggestions from the council members for what is in the best interest of the wider Muslim community. This included, (but is not limited to), surrounding issues and affairs that concern Muslim women in our Australian community.

A special thanks to the entire ANIC Executive Committee Members, Advisory Committee and all ANIC members for their commitment and dedication in serving the Muslim community.

A special thanks to everyone who supported ANIC and its members.

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) will continue to tirelessly strive towards preserving the Islamic identity and the interest of the Australian Muslim community.

The Future Moving Forward

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) strives to preserve the mainstream Islamic identity, the Muslim's integrity and to represent the interests of the Muslim community in all ways.





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