



# Bilal Rauf to Step Down as Spokesperson for ANIC

Uniting the Imams and Community of Australia

Monday, 28 October 2024

Bilal Rauf was appointed to act as the spokesperson for the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) in February 2019. He has been acting in a volunteer capacity in that role since that time. However, due to his family and work commitments, Bilal has decided to step down from that role effective from today. He will continue assisting ANIC as a Senior Advisor and representing it and the interests of the community as and when he can.

In his time as spokesperson, Bilal has been involved in many initiatives and activities. Some of these include:

- *Assisting with drafting ANIC's Explanatory Note on the Judicial Process and Participation of Muslims and working with the Judicial Commission of NSW to engage on issues of diversity and inclusivity.*
- *Drafting submissions and appearing at parliamentary meetings and consultation processes in relation to various proposed Federal religious discrimination bills.*
- *Promoting the need for Federal religious discrimination laws to protect people of faith.*
- *Appearing at the Joint Select Committee on the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 hearing.*
- *Assisting with the drafting of the vilification provision which is now included in the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW).*
- *Working with representatives from other faith organisations on submissions and initiatives relevant to the faith communities in Australia, including during COVID-19 and guidelines to facilitate access to places of worship.*
- *Engaging with the media to address and respond to issues relating to the Australian Muslim community.*
- *Appearing in interviews and announcements on behalf of ANIC to speak about matters affecting the community.*
- *Engaging with Federal and State government agencies on matters of security following the Christchurch Mosque shootings in March 2019.*
- *Assisting with the process of appointing the Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia.*
- *Engaging with proposed new laws, whether to raise matters of concern or express support. A recent example of this was providing submissions to the Federal Government on proposed vilification criminal laws. Bilal made submissions that such laws should be pursued using civil laws and not criminal laws. Subsequently, the Federal Government did not pursue the proposed bill.*

**The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) is grateful to Bilal for his time and effort over many years in assisting it and the community. It acknowledges the time and effort which is required to undertake the responsibilities of the role. ANIC is also pleased that Bilal will, Insha'Allah (God willing), continue to be involved as a Senior Advisor.**