



ANIC Condemns Anti-Muslim Attack at Ballarat Ramadan Iftar Gathering

11 March 2026

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) strongly condemns the disturbing incident that occurred at a Ramadan Iftar gathering in Ballarat, VIC, where an individual, reportedly a white supremacist, stormed into a community dinner, threatened children, assaulted attendees and directed hateful anti-Islamic abuse toward those present.

This behaviour is deeply alarming and completely unacceptable. No community in Australia should be subjected to intimidation, threats or racist abuse, particularly during a peaceful religious gathering where families and children are present. Ramadan is a sacred time for Muslims, centred on worship, reflection and community, and it is deeply troubling that such an incident occurred during an Iftar meal where members of the community had gathered to break their fast together.

ANIC expresses its solidarity with the Ballarat Muslim community and all those affected by this incident. We commend those present for ensuring the safety of attendees and responding to the situation. At the same time, we emphasise the importance of a thorough investigation and appropriate accountability to ensure that such conduct is treated with the seriousness it deserves.

Bilal Rauf, Barrister and Senior Advisor with ANIC, stated:

“The incident at Ballarat has been very traumatic and upsetting. It occurs in an environment where hatred of, and contempt towards, Australian Muslims appears to be normalised, in part because we have politicians who can get away with saying that there are no good Muslims in Australia.

This incident is also confronting because no charge was immediately made. This highlights the double standard in how we, as a society, respond to hate depending on the community subjected to it. For some communities, the police and politicians will come down hard without delay. Yet here, there appears to be little immediate response.”

This incident also comes at a time when Islamophobia in Australia is clearly on the rise. Islamic organisations, schools and mosques across the country are facing a disturbing escalation in anti-Muslim hate. This has included graffiti, vandalism, hate mail and threatening social media messages, including chilling references to “Christchurch 2.0”. At the same time, security breaches and alleged plots targeting mosques have deepened fear and anxiety within Muslim communities, particularly during the blessed month of Ramadan.

While the Muslim community must remain vigilant and attentive to safety, we must also continue our daily lives and uphold the sacred rituals of Ramadan with resilience, confidence and steadfastness, refusing to be intimidated or driven into fear.

This incident has occurred as Muslim communities around the world prepare to commemorate March 15, the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, which marks the anniversary of the Christchurch mosque attacks. It is a sobering reminder that anti-Muslim hatred, when left unchecked, can have serious consequences.

ANIC calls on political leaders, law enforcement agencies, media figures and community leaders to act responsibly, reject divisive rhetoric and work together to strengthen social harmony. Australia is strongest when every community feels safe, respected and able to practise their faith without fear.