



## **Australian National Imams Council (ANIC)**

*15th Annual General Meeting (AGM)*  
**2021-2022**

*Uniting the Imams in Australia*

# **Meeting Minutes**

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2022

At the ANIC Office In Sydney

**Hosted by:**  
**Council of Imams NSW**

### **ANIC 15th AGM 2021-2022 Opening Ceremony**

#### **1. SESSION ONE – OPENING CEREMONY:**

##### ***Official Opening by MC – Imam Anas Yaghmour***

The 15th ANIC AGM 2021-2022 started with an official opening ceremony at 09.20am with a special welcome by the MC to all the Imams, Shaykhat and participants. Highlighting this AGM is the first AGM post-COVID and it is great to have the Imams meet face to face once again.

**Followed by a recitation from the Holy Quran by Imam Imran Hussain from QLD.**



***President of ANIC – Imam Shadi Alsuleiman – Welcoming Speech:***

This was followed by the official ANIC 15<sup>th</sup> AGM welcoming speech by ANIC President Imam Shadi Alsuleiman on behalf of the Executive Committee and all members, who he had warmly thanked and welcomed each and every participant to the 15th ANIC AGM 2021-2022.

Imam Shadi emphasised on the importance of coordination and unity among the Imams. He also reiterated that Imams and Scholars are the leaders and true guides of the Muslim community and Ummah and mentioned the unique nature and dynamics of the Australian Muslim community. In addition to this, ANIC's role in leading the Muslim community and Ummah and serving it in many ways and forms and the progressive and active nature of ANIC and its members and affiliates. Imam Shadi stressed that ANIC is not just one person or group but about a united and collective coordination and effort. He also emphasised on the importance of communicating freely and openly on any issue or topic and not to hold back in any way.

Imam Shadi also highlighted that now in ANIC there are members who are not only males and Imams but also females and Shaykhas, which marks a milestone for ANIC and the community. Finally, Imam Shadi thanked the ANIC Executive committee for their efforts, unity and confidence in the leadership of the organisation, and hoped for a productive, constructive and fruitful discussion at the AGM.

***Grand Mufti of Australia - Dr. Ibrahim Abu Mohamad – Welcoming Speech:***

Dr Ibrahim commenced by sending praises to Allah and His Messenger, and sought blessings for the AGM and thanked all the participants for their attendance. Dr Ibrahim emphasised the importance of striving for the truth and working in a unified manner. He also mentioned that the member Imams have a great responsibility as well as rewards for being true guardians of the faith and the future of the Ummah locally and worldwide and the work that they do. He also stressed on the importance of everyone coming together and being united on all matters of concerns to the Muslim community. He also prayed for the success of the gathering and the AGM.

Dr Ibrahim also mentioned the importance of remembering the recent passing of one of the world's great contemporary scholars, Sh Yusuf Qardawi, and he also highlighted the importance of Knowledge and the scholars and their role in developing the Ummah and defending Islam.

***Chairman of the Council of Imams NSW – Imam Ahmed Abdo – Welcoming Speech:***

Imam Ahmed welcomed all Imams and participants for their attendance and mentioned the blessings of having the Imams together in person and online. Importantly, Imam Ahmed mentioned that the physical gathering is not only the purpose, but the purpose is also to gather together for the goodness, which is the sunnah. Imam Ahmed also mentioned it is important to come together as true believers and true brothers and sisters. Finally, Imam Ahmed welcomed all the Imams and participants on behalf of the Council of Imams NSW to the 15th ANIC AGM 2021-2022 and hoped for an open discussion, productive day and a united outcome.



## **Meeting Agenda and Resolutions:**

### **2. SESSION TWO - REPORTS:**

- 2.1. At 10.15am, SESSION TWO commenced after a quick reminder of the etiquettes of the Meeting and an overview of the AGM's program and agenda by the Chairman of the AGM, Imam Shadi Alsuleiman.
- 2.2. Confirmation and approval of the [meeting minutes](#) of the last **14<sup>th</sup> ANIC Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2020-2021** which was held on the **10<sup>th</sup> of October 2021**, ONLINE.
  - 2.2.1. Motion Moved to accept the meeting minutes by Imam Abdurahman Zyka and seconded by Imam Saeed Warsama Bulhan.
  - 2.2.2. Unanimously voted to approve the 14<sup>th</sup> ANIC AGM Meeting Minutes 2020-2021.  
[VIEW Meeting Minutes](#)

### **2.3. Reports**

#### **2.4. Executive Committee Reports:**

- 2.4.1. **President's Report: By Imam Shadi Alsuleiman: [VIEW REPORT](#)**
- 2.4.2. **Secretary's Report: By Imam Majidih Essa: [VIEW REPORT](#)**
- 2.4.3. **Treasury's Report: By Imam Jalal Chami: [VIEW REPORT](#)**
  - 2.4.3.1. ANIC 2021-2022 Financial reports were accepted and approved.
    - 2.4.3.1.1. Motion Moved to accept the financial report and agreed by all the attendees.
    - 2.4.3.1.2. Votes: unanimous.
  - 2.4.3.2. **Comments:**
    - 2.4.3.2.1. Imam Shadi Alsuleiman encouraged the member Imams to contribute by devoting one Friday a year to donate to ANIC.
    - 2.4.3.2.2. It was noted that ANIC aspires to be independent and self-sufficient, and less reliant on donations.
    - 2.4.3.2.3. To allocate Friday **21<sup>st</sup> of October 2022**, as a week of Friday collections in support of ANIC.



- 2.4.3.2.4. It was suggested to produce a feasibility report and campaign for the community to support ANIC.
- 2.4.3.2.5. Imam Shadi proposed the project of the **Muslim Community Fund** to collect funds from the Muslim community in support of general projects and initiatives that benefit the whole Muslim community. This project was welcomed and supported by the participants. Imam Shadi will share a proposal and seek feedback from the Imams.
- 2.4.3.2.6. Dr Ibrahim mentioned the importance of coordinating financial resources across Muslim organisations and investing in local projects.

## 2.5. State Imams Councils Reports:

### 2.5.1. Council of Imams of NSW by Imam Ahmad Abdo (Chairman of the Council):

- 2.5.1.1. Imam Ahmed spoke about the current activities of the Council of Imams NSW and focused on the ongoing respect and brotherhood amongst the Imams.
- 2.5.1.2. He also noted that Currently, there are 104 Members of the Council from diverse centres and backgrounds.

### 2.5.2. Board of Imams VIC by Imam Khalil Hamed (Board Member):

- 2.5.2.1. Imam Khalil spoke about the different activities of the BOIV, including the Youth Programs, Sister Programs, Chaplaincy programs, CISP, CFAM (Arbitration), Ramadan Iftar dinner, and the Purchase of two sites in two different locations for the BOIV.

### 2.5.3. Council of Imams QLD by Imam Yusuf Peer (Chairman of the Council):

- 2.5.3.1. Imam Yusuf mentioned that there are several positive initiatives taking place.
- 2.5.3.2. The Council's primary focus is to work diligently with the rest of the Imams and ANIC.
- 2.5.3.3. Have set several discussions that are challenging the community.
- 2.5.3.4. The activities of CARD and its progress in QLD.
- 2.5.3.5. The Halal issues, Migrations Settlement, and other issues were raised and are to be looked into in the future.

### 2.5.4. Council of Imams WA by Imam Faizal Ghafoor (Chairman of the Council):

- 2.5.4.1. Currently, the Imams Council in WA has 35 members and still growing.
- 2.5.4.2. Council's meetings have been productive and emphasised the unity of all.
- 2.5.4.3. Working on Establishing CARD in WA and engaging with other states to develop the program.



2.5.4.4. Halal supervision on behalf of ANIC.

**2.5.5. Council of Imams ACT by Ustadh Mohammad Imtiyaz (Council Member):**

2.5.5.1. The number of member Imams and members has increased.

2.5.5.2. Imams are facing several challenges in the local community and working on resolving them.

2.5.5.3. The Council intends to connect more robustly with ANIC as well.

2.5.5.4. More efforts are being made to unify the Imams and the community and to have regular meetings.

2.5.5.5. Also, in coordination with AIES, the Council had established Scripture programs for local public schools under ANIC.

**2.5.6. Update on Annual General Meeting with all state Imams councils executive committee members by Imam Shadi Alsuleiman:**

2.5.6.1. This Meeting was resolved at the last ANIC AGM 2021, to meet with all the State Imams Councils executive committees.

2.5.6.2. Two meetings were held in the last year, attended by the Imams from all state Imams Councils.

2.5.6.3. The meetings focused on the future of ANIC and the collaboration between the state councils.

2.5.6.4. Another meeting took place with strategic planning and discussion.

2.5.6.5. The aim is to have a minimum of two meetings with all state Imams councils executive committee members.

**2.6. ANIC Sub-Committee Reports:**

**2.6.1. Australian Fatwa Council (AFC) by Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammed (Chairman):**

2.6.1.1. The Council met several times in the past year.

2.6.1.2. Topics varied from the beginning of Ramadan, Hajj season, Covid-related issues, HECS and other topics in current discussions.

2.6.1.3. Dr Ibrahim requested to open new nominations for Imams to join AFC.

**2.6.2. ANIC Halal Authority by Dr Anas Nadwi (General Manager):**

2.6.2.1. It is a challenging and unregulated market with a lot of competition.

2.6.2.2. ANIC Halal Authority currently has Singapore and Malaysian recognition.

2.6.2.3. ANIC has been approached by a number of Halal certification bodies to provide Halal approval.



**2.6.2.4.** Imam Shadi has updated the Imams on the situation of the Poultry CAS - Gas stunning – and the concerns around this area. There are final matters to be resolved and an online national meeting will be held with all Imams for an update and discussion.

**2.6.3. Australian Islamic Education Service by Mazen Fahme (Coordinator):**

**2.6.3.1.** Mazen gave a brief report on the current scripture program NSW and the plan to expand to different states.

**2.6.3.2.** Special Religious Education (SRE), is a NSW-based program for scripture learning in NSW public schools.

**2.6.3.3.** Roughly, there are 45,000 Muslim students in the public system in NSW.

**2.6.3.4.** ANIC is playing a vital role with other faith communities and the importance of teaching religious education in the public system.

**2.6.3.5.** The challenge with the scripture program is the lack of Muslim volunteer teachers and recourses.

**2.6.3.6.** It is important that the Imams come on board and encourage their followers in their Masjids to volunteer for this program, particularly in areas where Islamic centres are located.

**2.6.4. Muslim Chaplaincy by Imam Ahmed Abdo:**

**2.6.4.1.** Imam Ahmed updated the participants on the Australian Defence Force (ADF) chaplaincy services, primarily services towards the Muslims in the force.

**2.6.4.2.** It was noted the progress and the presence of the service to the Muslims after it was initiated by ANIC few years ago, and the importance of the presence of such services for the Muslim community.

**2.6.4.3.** The ADF had developed a charter for all faiths, including Islam.

**2.6.4.4.** This service also benefited Muslim soldiers from Muslim countries who travelled to Australia and required religious and Islamic services.

**2.6.4.5.** Including having a copy of the Quran in all chapels in the ADF bases around Australia.

**2.6.4.6.** There are two full-time Muslim chaplains in ADF, one in the Navy and the other in the airforce and more to come in the future.

**2.6.4.7.** Imam Ahmed urged the imams who are interested, to apply for a chaplaincy position in the ADF and to engage with him.



**2.6.5. ANIC Islamic Finance Authority (AIFA) by Imam Shadi Alsuleiman:**

- 2.6.5.1. ANIC established ANIC Islamic Finance Authority (AIFA).
- 2.6.5.2. The purpose of AIFA is to support the Islamic financial services industry in Australia. It offers services on Shariah compliance certificate, accreditation, industry standardisation and advice.
- 2.6.5.3. It also provides advocacy and research to promote Islamic finance for fulfilling the financial and banking needs of Australian Muslims.
- 2.6.5.4. AIFA is informed and guided by the Shariah principles, Australian Fatwa Council and global industry standards. A group of subject matter experts from finance, law and accounting professions will assist the Shariah scholars in their certification and accreditation activities. This will ensure the delivery of contemporary advice, the highest standards of service, ethics, transparency and professionalism to consumers.
- 2.6.5.5. AIFA will certify financial products issued by entities which are duly licensed by the relevant Australian regulatory authorities for the relevant products offered or duly delegated by a licensed operator.
- 2.6.5.6. AIFA is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC), the peak body of Imams and Muslim scholars in Australia.
- 2.6.5.7. AIFA will be launched in the near future.

**2.6.6. ANIC Advisory Committee by Imam Shadi Alsuleiman:**

- 2.6.6.1. Imam Shadi acknowledged the outstanding work of the advisory committee, the time and effort they put towards ANIC and serving the Muslim community, and the value that they had added to ANIC and changed the image of the Muslim community.
- 2.6.6.2. There is a gap in coordination and unity in dealing with issues facing the entire Muslim community, and the ANIC advisory committee focuses on overcoming these gaps and challenges.
- 2.6.6.3. The advisory committee is composed of a professional, multi-tasked team of brothers and sisters with a dynamic nature and diverse expertise.
- 2.6.6.4. Imam Shadi offered special thanks to the Advisory Committee for their outstanding work and tireless effort.

**2.6.7. ANIC Women's Advisory Council (AWAC) by Imam Shadi Alsuleiman:**

- 2.6.7.1. ANIC Women's Advisory Council strives to maintain a stronger connection with the peak body Australian National Imams Council (ANIC), its member Imams and Australian Muslim Women leaders and prominent Muslim community members.





- 2.6.7.2. The objective of the 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 Australian Muslim community. This includes (not limited to) surrounding issues and affairs that concern Muslim women in the Australian community.
- 2.6.7.3. The Council met for the first time in September and is scheduled to meet in November.
- 2.6.7.4. It is encouraged to nominate more prominent Muslim women from other states who meet the criteria.  
[VIEW MORE DETAILS: ANIC Women's Advisory Council \(AWAC\)](#)

### **3. SESSION THREE - OPEN DISCUSSION**

- 3.1. **Reinforcing the [ANIC Imam's Code of Honor](#)**
  - 3.1.1. The general members unanimously reinforced and agreed to the ANIC Code of Honor.
- 3.2. **Reviewing and endorsing the new Amendments to the ANIC Constitution.**
  - 3.2.1. The new proposed amendments to the constitution were read, discussed and unanimously passed by all attendees.  
[PROPOSED AMENDMENTS](#)
  - 3.2.2. The participants raised some recommendations and considerations for some of the proposed changes. The ANIC constitution review committee will review and consider these recommendations.
  - 3.2.3. The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) adopted the new constitution.  
[NEW ANIC CONSTITUTION](#)
- 3.3. **ANIC Muslim Youth Convention by Imam Ibrahim Dadoun:**
  - 3.3.1. The convention's primary objective is to give the youth a voice to raise their concerns and work with ANIC to solve problems that we face in the Muslim community.
  - 3.3.2. The audience will be youth as a person between 20 - 35 years, and Muslim Youth who don't see ANIC as a representative body for the Muslim community.
  - 3.3.3. Youth who are active in the Muslim community but can share critical ideas to resolve issues in the Muslim community.
  - 3.3.4. A personal invitation will be extended to members of the public to join the Youth convention.
  - 3.3.5. There will be a public call out to register interest in attending the convention.





- 3.3.6. Imam Ibrahim will be engaging the state Imams Councils to organise the convention in different states and aiming to hold these conventions in NSW, VIC and QLD in February 2023.

**3.4. Motions Moved:**

- 3.4.1. To support the general principles and objectives of Climate change.  
3.4.1.1. Imam Saeed to develop a national proposal on climate change.  
3.4.2. All Imams to promote and advocate the objectives of ANIC, the unity of Imams and the common interests of the Muslim community.  
3.4.3. The ANIC general members endorse and support the [Global Imams and Scholars Network](#).

**4. Resolution on the next 16<sup>th</sup> ANIC Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2022-2023.**

- 4.1. 16<sup>th</sup> ANIC AGM 2022-2023**  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2023,**  
**At the BOIV in Melbourne.**

**5. Conclusion of the 15<sup>th</sup> ANIC AGM 2021-2022.**

- 5.1. The 15<sup>th</sup> ANIC AGM concluded with a vote of thanks to all Imams, Shaykas and attendees for their participation and constructive and open discussion and their confidence in ANIC and its leadership.  
5.2. The Imams were commended for their service to Islam and the Muslim community and for their ongoing support and solidarity with one another.  
5.3. The 15<sup>th</sup> ANIC AGM ended with a Dua'a.

***END OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANIC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021-2022***

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"سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ وَبِحَمْدِكَ، نَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ نَسْتَغْفِرُكَ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْكَ"

***We thank all the member Imams for attending, for their sacrifice and cooperation.***