

## Determination of the Beginning and End of the Month of Ramadan Forum

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) resolved to initiate a forum to determine the beginning and end of the Month of Ramadan. This forum aimed to unify the Imams in declaring and announcing the beginning and end of the Month of Ramadan, foster a good understanding of managing disagreements and differences of opinions amongst them, and unite the Imams and the Muslim community.

#### STAGE ONE (*Grouping*)

To narrow down the differences and disagreements within the Imams that share the same methodology, primarily, Moonsighting and Calculation.



#### STAGE TWO (*Dialogue*)

To coordinate the groups of the different opinions on the determination of the beginning and end of the Month of Ramadan, discuss, dialogue and share a better understanding of the different opinions on this topic.



#### STAGE THREE (*Conclusion*)

To have an agreed methodology in the determination of the beginning and end of the Month of Ramadan, or a mutual and respectful understanding amongst the Imams on this topic.

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STAGE	OVERVIEW	OUTCOMES	COMMENTS	TIMEFRAME
<p><b>STAGE ONE</b></p> <p><b>Grouping</b></p>	<p>To coordinate and group the Imams that share the same methodology on determining the beginning and end of the Month of Ramadan.</p> <p>To narrow down the differences and disagreements within the Imams that share the same methodology, primarily, <b>Moonsighting</b> and <b>Calculation</b>.</p> <p>To foster a good understanding of managing disagreements and differences of opinions among the Imams.</p>	<p>To group the Imams who share the same methodology, in particular, Moonsighting and Calculation and narrow down the disagreements in those two main methodologies.</p> <p>To nominate 3 coordinators and representatives to represent each group.</p> <p>To develop a summarised paper to be presented in stage two on behalf of each group.</p>	<p>A form will be sent to all Imams in Australia to identify the methodology category they follow, promote or are inclined to in the determination of the beginning and end of the Month of Ramadan.</p> <p><b>FORM:</b> <a href="http://www.anic.org.au/ramadan-forum">www.anic.org.au/ramadan-forum</a></p> <p>The Imams of the same methodology will be asked to meet together and nominate 3 coordinators and representatives of this methodology. The group will discuss and endeavour to narrow the disagreement in that methodology, produce a summary paper, and have the coordinators ready to represent this group in stage two.</p> <p>Each group's meetings can be conducted in a hybrid model, onsite or online, but it is highly encouraged to meet onsite.</p> <p>The summary paper must not exceed 5 pages.</p>	<p><b>Commencement:</b> September 2024</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> November 2024</p>

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<p><b>STAGE TWO</b></p> <p><b>Dialogue</b></p>	<p>To coordinate the groups with different opinions on determining the beginning and end of the Month of Ramadan, discuss, debate, dialogue, and share a better understanding of the different opinions on this topic.</p>	<p>To address, debate, and discuss the different methodologies for determining the beginning and end of the Month of Ramadan and endeavour to reach a unified outcome for the Australian Fatwa Council to adopt.</p> <p>To agree on the process of issuing statements and declaration of the beginning and the end of the Month of Ramadan.</p>	<p>The representatives of each group, together with the Australian Fatwa Council members, will form a committee (The Committee) and meet to debate and discuss the different methodologies.</p> <p>Collectively, The Committee, the representatives of the groups and Australian Fatwa Council members, will form a policy for determining the final outcomes of this forum.</p>	<p><b>Commencement:</b> January 2025</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> Mid-February 2025</p>
<p><b>STAGE THREE</b></p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p>	<p>To have an agreed methodology in determining the beginning and end of the Month of Ramadan, or a mutual and respectful understanding amongst the Imams on this topic.</p> <p>To agree on the process of declaring and issuing statements at the beginning and end of the Month of Ramadan.</p> <p>To send a strong and positive message to the community and spread hope and a sense of unity amongst the Imams and the Muslim community.</p>	<p>To have an agreement on the determination of the beginning and end of the Month of Ramadan or develop an understanding of the different opinions by establishing mutual respect amongst the Imams and the Muslim community, this includes the timing, the formula and language of the statement.</p>	<p>All Imams must commit to the final outcome of the forum by signing and agreeing to the terms and conditions of the forum.</p> <p>To agree to review the final outcome every 3-5 years or whatever time agreed upon by the committee.</p>	<p><b>Conclusion:</b> Before Ramadan 2025</p>