



Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) 17th Annual General Meeting 2023-2024

Meeting Minutes

Sunday, 13th October 2024

Emporium Function Centre – Bankstown - Sydney

Hosted by:

Council of Imams NSW

SESSION ONE – OPENING CEREMONY:

1. Official Opening by MC – Imam Rami Sharounah

The 17th ANIC AGM 2023-2024 started with an official opening ceremony at 09:20 a.m., with a special welcome by the MC to all the Imams and participants. This was followed by a recitation from the Holy Quran by Imam Imraan Hussain from Queensland.

2. President of ANIC – Imam Shadi Alsuleiman – Welcoming Speech:

Imam Shadi thanked all the Imams, Shaykhat and ANIC members for their attendance, particularly the Imams from interstate. He also emphasised how challenging the last year has been for the Muslim Ummah and Australian Muslim community, with the ongoing genocide being committed against our brothers and sisters in Palestine and recently in Lebanon; for this reason, the Muslim community must be more united than ever, and the importance of the role that ANIC plays in the community, in guiding it and leading it.

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

The Grand Mufti of Australia reflected in his speech about the legacy of ANIC and the Imams that have come before us and how the responsibility has been passed onto us. He further emphasised the role of Imams in the Australian community and acting as role models in all aspects of life for the Muslim community in Australia. He also extended his gratitude to all Imams and participants for their attendance and support of ANIC and their tireless work supporting the Muslim community.

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

Imam Ahmed Abdo welcomed everyone to the 17th ANIC AGM on behalf of the Council of Imams NSW. He emphasised the roles of Imams on a global and local scale in representing all Muslims worldwide in light of injustice and tyranny and, on a local scale, being able to play an active role in youth development and supporting all levels of society. He thanked all attendees on behalf of the hosting state and the Council of Imams NSW.

5. Vote of Thanks and Conclusion- Imam Rami Sharounah

Imam Rami reiterated the obligation of the Imams in Australia to be people who can listen to and support the Muslims of Australia by whatever means necessary and thanked the speakers and Imams for their attendance.



17th AGM Meeting Agenda

SESSION TWO - REPORTS:

- 1.1. At 09.56am, 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.
- 1.2. Confirmation and approval of the last 16th ANIC Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022-2023, held on the **8th of October 2023**.
 - 1.2.1. The motion was moved to accept the meeting minutes by Imam Sayed and seconded by Imam Nawaaz.
 - 1.2.2. Unanimously voted to approve the 16th ANIC AGM Meeting Minutes 2022-2023. [VIEW Meeting Minutes](#)
- 1.3. **Reports**
 - 1.3.1. **Executive Committee Reports:**
 - 1.3.1.1. **President's Report:** By Imam Shadi Alsuleiman: [VIEW REPORT](#)
 - 1.3.1.2. **Secretary's Report:** By Imam Majidih Essa: [VIEW REPORT](#)
 - 1.3.1.3. **Treasury's Report:** By Imam Jalal Chami: [VIEW REPORT](#)
 - 1.3.1.4. ANIC 2022-2023 Financial reports were accepted and approved.
 - 1.3.1.5. The motion was moved to accept the financial report by Imam Hamza and Imam Fadl.
 - 1.3.1.6. Votes: unanimous.
 - 1.3.2. **State Imams Councils Reports:**
 - 1.3.2.1. **Council of Imams – NSW** by Imam Ahmed Abdo:

Imam Ahmed Abdo highlighted that the Council of Imams NSW has 130+ members, including associate members. Several meetings have been conducted both internally and externally with various government departments in conjunction with ANIC at the federal level, discussing the advocacy regarding the genocide in Palestine, law enforcement engagement following the multiple incidents that have occurred, new cemeteries and burial plots that are coming up and ensuring that Muslims have a voice in it.

The new executive committee of the Council of Imams NSW have identified priorities:
To strengthen community relations, particularly between the Council of Imams NSW and the existing masjid.
Youth affairs and the preservation of the Islamic identity through the creation of youth forums where youth needs are heard and addressed.
The field of knowledge and research is given that the Imam's specialisation is in expertise and utilising that to benefit the wider Muslim community.
 - 1.3.2.2. **Board of Imams – VIC** by Imam Mohamadu Nawaaz:

Imam Nawaaz highlighted that BOIV will be celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. [ATTACH POWERPOINT](#)



1.3.2.3. **Council of Imams – QLD** by Imam Yusuf Peer:

Imam Yusuf Peer highlights the challenges facing the Council of Imams QLD and imams. Imams are involved in various programs: Support for migrants through induction and welcoming them to Australia, Support for Domestic Violence victims, and Scripture program.

Council of Imams QLD also have a new executive committee.

1.3.2.4. **Council of Imams – WA** by Imam Faizel Ghafoor:

Imams are involved in various projects and aspects of the community, such as Islamic schools, which work well under the CARD program. Family domestic violence Seeks to emulate BOIV regarding marital and family conflicts. Council of Imams WA also have a new executive committee in 2024 with many passionate young scholars.

1.3.2.5. **Councils of Imams - SA** by Imam Mohamad Sayed:

The Imams in SA have been very active in bridging the gap in the community by providing youth engagement, marriage counselling, and knowledge and courses.

1.3.2.6. **Councils of Imams- ACT** by Imam Adam Konda:

Youth programs, Qur'an classes, two Islamic schools and the number of Muslims in Canberra is increasing.

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

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

Chairman and Grand Mufti of Australia, highlighting the number of meetings held by the Council and the research conducted by them.

1.3.3.2. **Centre for Arbitration and Resolution of Disputes (CARD)** State: NSW – VIC – Other States.

Imam Abu Adnan will streamline policies and procedures for the CARD for all states and territories. The aim is to have this completed by February 2025.

1.3.3.3. **ANIC Halal Authority** by Dr. Anas Nadwi & Br. Nagi Taleb:

ANIC Halal Authority has made significant progress from its beginnings in 2022. The authority has certified 400 clients across Australia with a significant breakthrough, and Coles and Woolworths have also joined the program. ANIC Halal Authority aims to have the first domestic Halal standards in Australia.

[VIEW ANIC HALAL REPORT](#)

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

On a national level, there are currently 4 Muslim chaplains in the Australian Defence Force. At the state level, work is underway to develop a Muslim chaplaincy course locally to support Muslims in all fields (schools, hospitals, prisons, airports).

1.3.3.5. **Australian Islamic Education Services** by Br. Mazen Fahmi:

ANIC is an approved scripture provider for Islamic Special Religious for Muslim students in public schools in NSW under the Australian Islamic Education Services and has expanded to different states, starting with the ACT and QLD. AIES has held



several workshops for its volunteers and has increased its teacher volunteer base. AIES intends to reach out to all public schools with Muslim students and provide Islamic education. This includes initiating the Friday Juma'a prayers at different schools. Scripture or SRE (Special Religious Education) program: The program is running in 36 NSW government schools (a total of 3,121 students and 51 teachers), but there are 50,000 Muslims in the state school system in NSW. Areas of strength: Consistency has been maintained in the last 12 months. It was noted that there is a need to be aware of the legislation that students are entitled to one religious education lesson per week. Spread awareness of the Scripture program, actively respond to teachers' requests in your local area, use platforms to promote the Scripture program, and develop a better curriculum:

1.3.3.6. ANIC Islamic Finance Advisory by Dr. AbulKhair Jalaluddin:

AIFA want to certify a wide range of financial products offered by Australian financial industries. These products include Managing investment, Cash, Islamic Income funds, Home financing, Vehicle financing, Trusts, Superannuation, Islamic pensions, and National and International shares.

AIFA want to enhance the capabilities of Islamic financial services in Australia.

[VIEW AIFA REPORT](#)

1.3.3.7. ANIC Women Advisory Council by Imam Shadi Alsuleiman:

The Council has 22 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 council members' concerns, feedback, and suggestions regarding 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. The Council is working on developing a document on the ideal Australian Muslim family that will address the Islamic values and principles of establishing a family and living an Islamic way of life in Australia. AWAC held its first-morning tea, inviting over 40 prominent Muslim sisters and leaders to engage, network and have an open and robust discussion addressing the affairs of the Muslim community, particularly matters pertaining to Muslim women and their role in the Muslim community.

1.3.3.8. Global Imams and Scholars Network by Imam Shadi Alsuleiman:

ANIC is a co-founder and contributed to establishing The Global Imams and Scholars Council (GISC). Seven of the world's leading scholars and Imams Councils in Western and English-speaking countries have formed the Council to preserve the Islamic and Muslim identity in the West and collaborate on the greater good of the Muslim world and Ummah. ANIC attended the first retreat held by the GISC in Istanbul - Turkey, to connect with their fellow brothers and Imams from around the world and engage and share experiences with other like-minded organisations, councils and countries. This year, the Council of Imams in Japan joined the GISC, and many other Imams councils worldwide expressed interest in joining.

1.4. OPEN DISCUSSION

1.4.1. **Muslim Community Fund** by Imam Shadi Alsuleiman:

The Muslim Community Fund was launched with the support and establishment of the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) and the Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM). Its primary purpose is to serve the community's most pressing needs and interests while supporting programs, organisations, initiatives, and other Muslim-run projects. The Muslim Community Fund is a values-driven organisation, embedding Islamic tradition and principles at the core of every project and initiative. Guided by this ethos, we are dedicated to passionately advocating for and addressing the Muslim community's most pressing priorities by:

- Building a brighter, united future for Australian Muslims
- Building a solid and united Muslim community with a shared vision
- Elevating our community at a local and government level

The Muslim Community Fund aims to support programs, organisations and initiatives that serve the diverse needs of our local Muslim community, primarily:

1. Preserving the Islamic Identity
2. Media engagement & lobbying
3. Community outreach programs
4. Political engagement
5. Advocacy and legal support

1.4.2. **Determination of the beginning and end of the month of Ramadan Forum** by Imam Taher Mechraoui:

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) resolved to initiate a forum to determine the beginning and end of the Month of Ramadan. This forum aims 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 opinion amongst them, and unite the Imams and the Muslim community. The forum will have three stages:

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

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

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.

Participation applications are open and will close after the extension on **30 October 2024**.

[MORE DETAILS OF THE FORUM](#)

1.4.3. **Reinforcement of the ANIC Imams Code of Honor.**

It outlines our relationships as Imams, the importance of mutual respect, and the importance of unity in the Muslim Ummah.

Preserving the Islamic identity and the importance of maintaining the mainstream view of Islam. Attach document



[VIEW DOCUMENT](#)

1.4.4. Moving Motions on the Following:

- 1.4.4.1. Imams are to promote and advocate ANIC, its principles, vision, and mission.
- 1.4.4.2. ANIC calls upon Imams to uphold the mainstream understanding of Islam, embedded in the Quran, Sunnah, and the teachings of esteemed scholars, past and present. We urge Muslims not to compromise on the core values and principles of this understanding, ensuring the preservation of our religion's integrity and authenticity.
- 1.4.4.3. ANIC unequivocally stands with all Muslims oppressed around the world, particularly the Palestinian people, advocating for their rights, dignity, and self-determination. We condemn all acts of oppression, occupation, and violence by the Israeli Occupation.
- 1.4.4.4. ANIC strongly condemns Israel's genocide and daily massacres against Palestinians. ANIC calls upon all citizens and elected representatives to stand against oppression and advocate for and support their brethren in Palestine, Lebanon and other lands where people are oppressed. We reiterate that standing by and supporting our oppressed brothers and sisters worldwide is a non-negotiable principle in our Islamic faith.
- 1.4.4.5. ANIC and its member Imams stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Lebanon and strongly condemn the aggressive actions and invasion by the Israeli occupation.
- 1.4.4.6. To explore the option of increasing the representation of the other State Imam Council to include the President, Secretary and Treasurer on the ANIC Executive Committee,
- 1.4.4.7. Explore the option of a two-day ANIC AGM and retreat in 2025,

1.4.5. Resolution on the Next ANIC Annual General Meeting for 2024-2025

- 1.4.5.1. ***Sunday, 12th of October 2025, in Sydney, Australia.***

1.4.6. ANNOUNCING AND ENDORSING THE NEW ANIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE TERM OF – 2024-2027 (3 years)

- 1.4.6.1. Returning offices were elected from the floor, Imam Yusuf Peer and Imam Mohamadu Nawas.
- 1.4.6.2. Office bearers positions opened and nominated.
- 1.4.6.3. Imam Shadi requested to note and minute that he has proudly served as ANIC President for 3 terms and strongly supports any Imam to raise their hand and nominate for the presidency position, with his unconditional commitment to supporting and standing with the new president. He reiterated that his loyalty and service to ANIC will not change regardless of the position he undertakes, or the responsibility given to him.
- 1.4.6.4. **Newly elected executive committee** for the term 2024 to 2027.

	Member Imam	State	Position
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1.	Imam Shadi Alsuleiman	NSW	President
2.	Imam Ahmed Abdo	NSW	Vice President
3.	Imam Majidih Issa	VIC	Secretary
4.	Imam Moustapha Sarakibi	VIC	Assistant Secretary
5.	Imam Tahar Mechraoui	NSW	Treasurer
6.	Imam Warsamah Bulhan	VIC	Assistant Treasurer
7.	Imam Youssef Hassan	NSW	Committee Member
8.	Imam Jalal Chami	NSW	Committee Member
9.	Imam Mahmoud Al-Azhari	NSW	Committee Member
10.	Imam Fawaz Kamaz	NSW	Committee Member
11.	Imam Abdulla Hawari	VIC	Committee Member
12.	Imam Imraan Hussain	QLD	Committee Member
13.	Imam Abdulsalam Alim	SA	Committee Member
14.	Imam Faizal Ghafoor	WA	Committee Member
15.	Imam Khalilurrahman Hamid	VIC	Chairman of the Board of Imams VIC & Committee Member
16.	Imam Akram Baksh	QLD	Chairman of the Council of Imams QLD & Committee Member
17.	Imam Amin Abu Samaha	SA	Chairman of the Council of Imams SA & Committee Member
18.	Imam Salmaan Parker	WA	Chairman of the Council of Imams WA & Committee Member
19.	Imam Adama Kinda	ACT	Chairman of the Council of Imams ACT & Committee Member

1.4.7. Australian Fatwa Council

- 1.4.7.1. The first action item for the ANIC Executive Committee is to reestablish the Fatwa Council by inviting qualified member Imams who meet the required criteria to join. The committee will facilitate the formation of the council and organise an election to appoint the Chair of the Fatwa Council and the Mufti of Australia.

1.4.8. Conclusion of the 17th ANIC AGM 2023-2024.

- 1.4.8.1. The 17th ANIC AGM concluded with a vote of thanks to all Imams, Shaykas, ANIC members and attendees for their participation, constructive and open discussion, and confidence in ANIC and its leadership.
- 1.4.8.2. The Imams were commended for their service to Islam and the Muslim community and for their ongoing support and solidarity with one another.

The 17th ANIC AGM ended with a Dua'a.

END OF THE 17th ANIC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023-2024

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