



ANIC Australian National Imams Council

Uniting the Imams and Community of Australia

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) is the central and peak Islamic body that holds key representation from Australian-based Muslim Imams, scholars and clerics.

Registered as a public company, ANIC was established in 2006 as an umbrella organisation consisting of a Council of Imams, representing each Australian state and territory.



Contents

Introduction	03
Overview of 2024-2025	04
Leadership, Unity and Governance	05
Strengthening Governance	06
Australian Fatwa Council and Religious Leadership	06
Advocacy and Public Representation	07
Public Statements and Media Engagement	07
Political Engagement and Advocacy	08
Submissions and Law Reform	09
National and International Relations	09
Education, Youth and Community Programs	10
Australian Islamic Education Services (AIES)	10
Youth Initiatives	11
National Muslim Community Iftar	11
Training and Wellbeing	12
Programs and Services	13
Digital and Media Presence	14
Preservation of Islamic Identity – A Vision for Generations	14
Global Imams and Scholars Council (GISC)	15
Commitment to the Future	16
Gratitude	17

Providing religious leadership, rulings and services to the Muslim community.

Uniting the Imams in Australia and Preserving the Islamic Identity



The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) is the central and peak Islamic body representing Muslim Imams and scholars from every state and territory in Australia. In addition to providing a common voice, ANIC works to preserve a mainstream understanding of Islam in accordance with the Qur'an and Sunnah and seeks to unite the Councils of Imams nationwide.

Our mandate includes supporting Imams and local Islamic organisations, offering religious guidance, coordinating educational and outreach programs, and fostering positive relations with broader Australian society.

Our Vision

is to be the leading national body representing mainstream Islam in Australia. To achieve this, ANIC draws on the skills and expertise of Imams, scholars and community leaders to contribute to the wellbeing of the Australian Muslim community and the broader Australian society.

Our Mission

is to provide religious leadership, rulings, and services to Muslims in Australia by supporting imams, community leaders, and Islamic organisations, developing educational, social, and outreach programs, and building bridges with other faith communities.

Overview of 2024-2025

This year, ANIC demonstrated growth and resilience amid rising Islamophobia and the genocide in Gaza. Our advocacy efforts intensified, uniting Imams and community leaders, expanding youth and family services, and strengthening representation of the Muslim community.

ANIC also preserved Islamic identity and integrity while deepening engagement nationally and internationally.

ANIC has remained a committed and steadfast voice for Australian Muslims and a bridge between the Muslim community and the wider society.




Leadership, Unity and Governance

Uniting the Imams

ANIC brought Imams and community leaders together through national and state-level meetings. The establishment of the Council of Imams Tasmania ensured all states and territories are now represented.

2.1

Strengthening Governance

ANIC continued to prioritise strong governance, compliance, and accountability to ensure the effective delivery of its mission. Over the past year, the Executive has focused on strengthening internal structures, refining policies, and improving transparency across all levels of the organisation.

This included developing clear roles and responsibilities, enhancing financial oversight, and implementing policies to guide decision-making and operations. These measures ensure ANIC remains a trusted, well-managed body that upholds the highest standards while serving the needs of the Muslim community across Australia.

2.2

Australian Fatwa Council and Religious Leadership

The Australian Fatwa Council's term expired this year, and the council was formally notified. State chairs nominated new members, and a renewed council was successfully established. ANIC also completed a multi-phase initiative to unify Imams on the declaration of the beginning and end of Ramadan and the two Eids.

The National Conference brought together scholars from across Australia to address differences, foster mutual understanding and respect, and prioritise the unity and broader interests of the Muslim community.



3.0

Advocacy and Public Representation

3.1 Public Statements and Media Engagement

Since October 2024, ANIC has issued more than 50 public statements, voicing the concerns of Imams and the wider community. These statements addressed issues such as the genocide in Gaza, condemning and sanctioning Israel, recognising the state of Palestine, the rise of Islamophobia, cemetery reforms, and religious freedom.

ANIC's spokespeople, including senior adviser Br Bilal Rauf, appeared on national media outlets to articulate the Muslim perspective and ensure fair coverage. A recent example of ANIC's public advocacy was Bilal Rauf's commentary on section 93Z, where he cautioned that hate-speech protections focused solely on race leave faith communities vulnerable.

ANIC also expanded its media-monitoring and engagement capacity by hiring a dedicated officer to track reporting and file complaints against biased articles. In addition, the Council made numerous submissions to government bodies and inquiries, addressing issues impacting the Muslim community and safeguarding their interests. Regular meetings were also held with journalists and peak media bodies to promote balanced and accurate portrayals of Muslims.



3.2 Political Engagement and Advocacy

ANIC met with senior political leaders from across the spectrum and with government agencies to advocate on behalf of Australian Muslims. The Muslim Community Delegation to Canberra (September 2025) directly conveyed community concerns to the Prime Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister, and other key leaders.

The delegation highlighted the importance of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination to live in dignity and peace and discussed the way forward following the Australian Government's recognition of Palestine. It called for official recognition of the genocide in Gaza. The delegation also raised concerns about perceived neutrality in the education system, where silence in the face of injustice has resulted in discussions on genocide being labelled as 'controversial.'

Other key issues included imposing sanctions on radical organisations that support the expansion of illegal settlements in occupied Palestine, ending exports of weapon parts that may be used by Israel, and addressing the alarming rise of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate, which threaten social cohesion. This delegation reinforced the Muslim community's unwavering commitment to advocating for justice, peace, and dignity for all.

The Muslim Community Fund board, a joint initiative of ANIC and the Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM), has been finalised and will finance advocacy, media engagement, legal support, and community programs to shift policy and improve representation. ANIC also supported the Islamophobia Special Envoy, Aftab Malek, to help shape targeted recommendations to combat anti-Muslim hate across Australia.



3.3 Submissions and Law Reform

ANIC continued to participate in law-reform consultations. Submissions to the New South Wales Law Reform Commission advocated for recognising religion as a protected attribute in the Anti-Discrimination Act and opposed unfair provisions in the Inciting Racial Hatred Act. Similar submissions were made at the federal level, emphasising that hate-speech protections must extend to religious communities.

3.4 National and International Relations

ANIC played a prominent role in fostering relationships both within the Muslim community and across the broader faith landscape. At the national level, ANIC continued to play a significant role in supporting the Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM), which unites Muslim organisations and leaders from all states and territories. This collaboration focuses on shared values and common interests that all Muslims aspire to achieve.

ANIC also actively participated in the Australian Religious and Faith Communities Network, working alongside other faith groups on matters such as religious freedom in schools and law reform. These partnerships strengthened the collective voice of faith communities and ensured that Muslim concerns were represented in broader coalitions.

On the international stage, ANIC was a founding member of the Global Imams and Scholars Council (GISC), which brings together scholars and Imams from Western and English-speaking countries to collaborate on challenges affecting Muslim minorities worldwide. Through these connections, ANIC continues to strengthen its representation and global partnerships to benefit both the Australian Muslim community and the wider Ummah.

ANIC also **attended and collaborated in international platforms, forums, and conferences, providing an Australian Muslim perspective** on global issues, building alliances, and sharing best practices in religious leadership, advocacy, and community development.

Through these connections and engagements, ANIC continues to **strengthen its representation and global partnerships** to benefit both the Australian Muslim community and the wider Ummah.



Education, Youth and Community Programs

4.1 Australian Islamic Education Services (AIES)

ANIC's AIES program grew significantly, with more scripture teachers trained and allocated to public schools across New South Wales. Expansion also began into the ACT and Queensland. Juma'a prayers and Islamic classes were introduced in new schools, ensuring that Muslim students receive spiritual support and sound religious education. Volunteer appreciation events, such as the AIES Mid-Year Volunteer Dinner and annual luncheons, celebrated the efforts of these teachers.

Further reading: Read ANIC's post about the AIES Mid-Year Volunteer Dinner for a snapshot of how scripture teachers are recognised for their dedication to Islamic education.



Providing religious leadership, rulings and services to the



4.2 Youth Initiatives

Empowering young Muslims remained a central goal. **The Preservation of the Islamic Identity Youth Forum**, hosted by the Council of Imams NSW, gathered youth aged 14–25 to discuss faith, identity and confidence, fostering a rational and relevant approach to Islamic knowledge. In 2025, ANIC held a **Youth Crisis Meeting** in Queensland, a **CIQ Youth Forum** and other youth-focused engagements, giving younger community members a platform to voice concerns and propose solutions.

Further reading: **The Council of Imams QLD Youth Forum** post highlights the enthusiasm and honesty of young participants who gathered to discuss challenges facing the Muslim community [5].



4.3 National Muslim Community Iftar

Together with the Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM), ANIC hosted the **National Muslim Community Iftar 2025 (1446H)** at Waterview in Homebush. This landmark event **brought together Imams and Muslim community leaders from across Australia**, providing a rare opportunity to gather, break their fast, and strengthen bonds of unity, brotherhood, and sisterhood. It served as a powerful demonstration of the Muslim community's collective strength and commitment to standing together during challenging times. While Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection and joy, this year was marked by deep sorrow as the **Israeli Occupation** continued its relentless assault on Gaza, committing genocide, killing innocent Palestinians, expanding illegal settlements, and violating international laws and **UN resolutions**, even during this sacred month.



4.4 Training and Wellbeing

ANIC organised a wide range of training and wellbeing programs throughout the year to support Imams, community leaders, and the broader Muslim community. These include:

Khateeb Training Workshop

Enhanced khutbah delivery skills.

Mental Health Workshops

Addressed trauma caused by the Gaza crisis.

Islamophobia Awareness Workshops

Rights and reporting mechanisms.

Cybersecurity Workshops

Protected organisations against digital threats.



These programs demonstrate ANIC's proactive role in building community resilience, empowering leaders, and ensuring the Muslim community remains informed, protected, and well-supported.



5.0

Programs and Services

ANIC operates a suite of departments and services:



Halal Authority

Providing credible Halal certification and engaging with local and international markets.



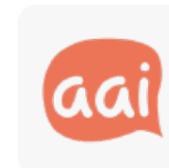
Australian Fatwa Council

focuses on Issuing Fatwas (Islamic Verdicts) and research on contemporary Issues and matters pertaining to Australian Muslims, spiritual guidance and preservation of the Islamic Identity.



Centre for Arbitration and Resolution of Disputes (CARD)

providing mediation services and being standardised nationwide.



Action Against Islamophobia (AAI)

offering confidential support to victims of hate and running forums to raise awareness; the program secured additional funding from Multicultural NSW.



Women's Advisory Council (AWAC) (Experts in Industry)

Women's Advisory Council (AWAC)

comprising 22 prominent Muslim women who advise ANIC on issues affecting Muslim women and families and are drafting a document on the ideal Muslim family.



Islamic Finance Advisory (AIFA) (Experts in Industry)

Islamic Finance Advisory (AIFA)

certifies Shariah-compliant financial products; this year, AIFA appointed a qualified Shariah adviser and approved products from major providers.



6.0

Digital and Media Presence

ANIC's reach expanded online. The Council's social-media following surpassed 80,000, and regular video messages, interviews and explanatory posts kept the community informed of advocacy efforts, events and religious guidance. The AAI video series highlighted personal experiences of Islamophobia and encouraged community solidarity.



7.0

Preservation of Islamic Identity – A Vision for Generations

Preserving the Islamic identity of the Muslim community is at the heart of ANIC's mission. Our vision extends beyond the present: we aim to protect Islam and Muslims for generations to come by safeguarding our faith, values, and traditions in an ever-changing society.

ANIC works to preserve a mainstream and traditional understanding of Islam, rooted in the Qur'an and the Sunnah, ensuring that the beliefs and practices of Australian Muslims remain authentic and aligned with the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Central to this mission is ANIC's ongoing effort to unite the Councils of Imams nationwide, fostering collaboration, mutual respect, and shared leadership across all states and territories.

To achieve these long-term goals, ANIC:

- **Empowers youth** through forums, mentorship programs, and leadership initiatives, equipping the next generation with the knowledge, confidence, and skills needed to uphold their faith and contribute positively to society.
- **Supports families** by developing resources and guidance on building strong Muslim households, ensuring Islamic values and principles shape homes across Australia. These efforts also extend to strengthening communities, fostering unity, and promoting the wellbeing of individuals in every aspect of life.
- **Strengthens community** unity by providing platforms for education, dialogue, and collective action, protecting the community's rights while promoting understanding and respect within wider Australian society.

Through these initiatives, ANIC seeks to build a resilient, united Muslim community firmly grounded in faith, ready to face future challenges while staying true to the enduring principles of Islam.

8.0

Global Imams and Scholars Council (GISC)



ANIC played a pivotal role in the founding and establishing the Global Imams and Scholars Council (GISC), a landmark initiative bringing together prominent scholars and Imams from Western and English-speaking countries. The Council comprises seven leading national bodies representing Muslim communities across the globe, including the UK, North America, South Africa, New Zealand, and, most recently, Japan.

The mission of GISC is to uphold and promote Islamic and Muslim identity in Western contexts, while fostering collaboration and unity to serve the collective benefit of the Muslim world and the wider Ummah. By working together, the Council seeks to address shared challenges, strengthen religious leadership, and provide guidance on issues affecting Muslims globally.

GISC Member Bodies:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The British Board of Scholars & Imams (BBSI) | 5. United Ulama Council of South Africa (UUCSA) |
| 2. Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) | 6. Ulama Council of New Zealand (UCNZ) |
| 3. Canadian Council of Imams (CCI) | 7. Council of Imams in Japan (CIJ) |
| 4. North American Imams Fellow (NAIF) | |

ANIC remains committed to staying **connected and engaged with fellow scholars, Imams, and organisations worldwide**, fostering strong relationships with like-minded councils and countries to promote unity, share knowledge, and address the needs of Muslim communities both locally and internationally.



Commitment to the Future

As we enter a new year, ANIC reaffirms its unwavering commitment to serving, representing, and protecting the Muslim community across Australia with integrity, dignity, and respect. This commitment drives every aspect of our work as we look to the future with a clear vision and a strong sense of purpose.

In the year ahead, our focus will be on strengthening unity among Imams and community leaders, fostering collaboration and a shared vision across all states and territories. ANIC will continue to advocate for justice, with a particular emphasis on the Palestinian cause and the urgent need to end the ongoing genocide in Gaza. We will push for sanctions and accountability, ensuring Israel is held responsible and accountable for its actions, while working tirelessly to make sure the voices of Australian Muslims are heard at the highest levels, both nationally and internationally.

ANIC will also expand educational and youth programs, equipping the next generation with knowledge, leadership skills, and strong Islamic values. We will continue to strengthen governance structures, ensuring transparency, accountability, and compliance across every level of our organisation.

Key initiatives for the coming year include the growth of the Muslim Community Fund, the launch of the National Marriage Course, and the renewal of the Australian Fatwa Council, which will provide clear, unified religious guidance and leadership for the community.

Above all, ANIC remains steadfast in its mission to preserve Islamic identity and represent the Muslim community with dignity and respect. Through these efforts, we aim to safeguard the faith, rights, integrity and wellbeing of Australian Muslims, ensuring a strong, united, and thriving future for generations to come.



Council of Imams WA



Council of Imams QLD

Gratitude

ANIC expresses heartfelt gratitude to the Imams, ANIC members, Executive Committee members, State Councils, advisory committee members, and volunteers whose dedication made this year's achievements possible. We also thank the broader Muslim community for its trust and support, and value our partnerships with other faith groups and government agencies.



Board of Imams VIC



Leadership, Unity and Governance

Uniting the Imams



Uniting the Imams and Community of Australia



ANIC Head Office Sydney

P: 1300 765 940
E: info@anic.org.au
W: anic.org.au
A: Building 3, Level 2, 20 Worth St,
Chullora NSW 2190 Australia
PO BOX: 5062 Chullora NSW 2190 Australia



Action Against Islamophobia

P: (02) 8377 4199
E: info@actionagainstislamophobia.org.au
W: actionagainstislamophobia.org.au



ANIC Halal Authority

P: (02) 8377 4190
E: info@anichalal.org.au
W: anichalal.org.au



CARD

P: (02) 8377 4177
E: info@card.org.au
W: card.org.au



Muslim Community Fund

P: 1300 765 940
E: info@muslimfund.org.au
W: www.muslimfund.org.au



Australian Islamic Education Services

P: (02) 8377 4180
E: info@islamiceducation.org.au
W: islamiceducation.org.au