



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ANIC Secretary's Report 2024-2025:

Imam Majidih Essa

All praise is due to Allah, and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah.

Assalamu Alaikom Wa Rahmatu Allahe Barakatuh,,

Serving as Secretary of the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) this past year has been an honour and a responsibility. Together with our Executive Committee, State Imams Councils, and member Imams across the country, we navigated one of the most challenging periods for our Ummah, particularly with the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Despite these hardships, we remained united, strengthened our governance, grew our membership, and advanced the interests of Australian Muslims.

Executive Committee Engagement and Communications

- **Regular meetings:** The Executive Committee met five times this year, including three online and two in-person meetings. This regular cadence, along with daily communication via phone, email and online platforms, ensured that urgent matters were addressed promptly and transparently.
- **National Coordination Meeting – State Imams Councils:** ANIC held its first National Coordination Meeting in May, bringing together Imams and Executive Committee members from State Imams Councils. The meeting aimed to strengthen collaboration, improve alignment, and address key issues affecting the Muslim community by fostering cooperation, sharing updates, and developing collective solutions.
- **Open communication:** OneDrive access was provided for executive policies and procedures, and members were reminded that policies are live documents open to amendment. This transparency allowed members to give feedback freely and ensured that decisions were made collectively.

Membership and State Councils

- **Growing membership:** ANIC's membership now includes **over 350** registered Imams nationwide, reflecting a significant expansion from the previous year.



- **90 day processing target:** At the National Coordination Meeting, it was reaffirmed that State Imams Councils are responsible for processing membership applications and must finalise them within **90 days** of submission.
- **Responsibilities of state councils:** The state Councils manage membership applications. Once approved, the Secretary is notified to update the ANIC register, database, mailing list, and website. Renewal of marriage celebrant licences is also handled at the state level.
- **New Council of Imams Tasmania:** The Council of Imams Tasmania was formally established. Its chair will sit on the ANIC Executive as an observer until the next ANIC election in 2027.

Marriage Celebrants and National Marriage Course

- **New celebrants:** Over the past year, **over 50** new Imams across Australia were registered as marriage celebrants.
- **Standardised marriage training:** A national marriage course for Imams is being developed. This course will provide consistent training and resources to equip Imams to conduct marriages effectively.

Financial Governance and Policies

- **Financial Policy:** The Executive Committee agreed on Financial Roles, Management and Authorisation Policy. This policy introduces an internal auditor, sets annual budgets, and allows State Councils to establish and administer their own budgets.
- **Transparency and reporting:** The Treasurer emphasised the importance of a transparent process, ensuring that members can question financial matters at any time. New bank accounts were opened at NAB, with a transition period away from CBA.

Governance and Policy Framework

- **Policies and Procedures:** ANIC enhanced its governance by formulating and implementing essential policies and procedures, including those related to finance and recruitment. Well-defined procedures were established for regulatory compliance, strengthening transparency, accountability and sustainable development, while ensuring that the Executive Committee functions with integrity and maintains robust community trust.
- **Policy library:** All executive policies are shared with committee members. They can be discussed, reviewed and amended collectively.
- **Safety & Security Grants:** National grants were secured for Muslim community safety. An operations committee with assessment and technical subcommittees will oversee distribution.
- **Multicultural NSW funding:** Funding was secured to expand **Action Against Islamophobia (AAI)** educational projects.
- **ANIC Charity Trust:** ANIC registered a Charity Trust with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status to support charitable projects.





Establishing Strong Internal and External Governance

- **Internal systems:** ANIC prioritises clarity and accountability in its operations. Regular policy sharing, joint decision-making on financial matters, an open feedback culture, strengthened trust and transparency.
- **External governance:** ANIC upheld strong governance by maintaining transparent processes for membership applications, marriage celebrant licensing, and state council responsibilities, while demonstrating compliance initiatives that reflect a commitment to best practice governance and accountability.

Department Updates

- **Centre for Arbitration and Resolution of Disputes (CARD):** CARD now has full-time administration and is being standardised across all states.
- **Australian Islamic Education Services (AIES):** Volunteer scripture teachers increased this year, with expansion into the ACT, Queensland and Western Australia. State Imams Councils continue to support Islamic education and Juma'a prayer programs in public schools.
- **Action Against Islamophobia (AAI):** The program expanded its reach and is developing a confidential reporting and referral system.
- **ANIC Islamic Finance Advisory (AIFA):** AIFA continues to certify Sharia-compliant financial products.
- **ANIC Halal Authority:** ANIC Halal Authority has reported steady growth and is functioning professionally.

Community Engagement and Public Statements

- **Public statements:** ANIC issued over **50 public statements** this year on key issues ranging from the Gaza genocide to domestic policy, hate speech, and community concerns.
- **Social media presence:** At the induction meeting in October 2024, it was noted that ANIC's social media presence exceeded **80,000 followers**, reflecting strong community engagement.
- **National Iftar and events:** Major events included the National Muslim Community Iftar, a youth forum, workshops on mental health and Islamophobia, and participation in global retreats.

Challenges and Priorities Ahead

- **Ongoing War on Gaza:** Our advocacy for Palestine remains central and will continue.
- **Rise of Islamophobia:** Rising hate calls for new educational and legal strategies and policies.
- **Youth and regional engagement:** We must reach more regional communities and empower Muslim youth.
- **Security:** Ensuring the safety of our mosques and Islamic centres is an ongoing priority.
- **Unity:** Strengthening cooperation between ANIC, State Councils, ANIC members, community leaders, and organisations remains essential.





Acknowledgements and Thanks

I extend my deepest thanks to:

- **The ANIC Executive Committee**, whose dedication and leadership made these achievements possible.
- **State Imams Councils**, for their efforts, groundwork and collaboration.
- **Our member Imams**, volunteers, and community partners, whose support and feedback keep us grounded and accountable.
- **Our advisors and consultants**, for guiding us through new policies and structures.

May Allah continue to guide us, keep us united, and use us to serve His religion and the Australian Muslim community.

Imam Majidih Essa

Secretary

Australian National Imams Council

Date: 12 October 2025

