



Australian National Imams Council (ANIC)
18th Annual General Meeting
2024-2025
Meeting Minutes

Sunday, 12th October 2025
Orion Centre – Campsie - Sydney

Hosted by:
Council of Imams NSW

SESSION ONE – OPENING CEREMONY:

1. Official Opening by MC – Imam Mahmoud Alazhari

The 18th ANIC AGM 2024-2025 commenced with an official opening ceremony at 09:15 a.m., marked by a special and warm welcome from the MC, Imam Mahmoud, 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, ANIC President, thanked all the Imams, Shaykhat and ANIC members for their attendance, particularly the Imams from interstate. He also emphasised how challenging the last two years have been for the Muslim Ummah and the Australian Muslim community, with the ongoing genocide being committed against our brothers and sisters in Palestine and Gaza specifically. For this reason, the Muslim community must be more united than ever, and the importance of the role that ANIC plays in the community is highlighted through guidance and leadership. He reiterated the importance of Unity during these times, despite disagreements we might have. The President thanked the ANIC Executive Committee for their unity and tireless work in supporting the Muslim community, and welcomed the new chair of the newly established Imams Council of Tasmania, Imam Mustafa Seleem.

3. Chairman of the Council of Imams NSW and Hosting State– Imam Ahmed Abdo – Welcoming Speech:

Imam Ahmed Abdo welcomed everyone to the 18th ANIC AGM on behalf of the Council of Imams NSW. He emphasised the importance of the day in relation to reviving the Sunnah of mutual consultation. He highlighted that, as an Ummah, we face enormous challenges and opportunities ahead, but with trust and sincerity, and through gatherings like these, opportunities will arise to discuss the way forward. As Imams, if we are not equipped to address, engage, and invite these controversial questions from our upcoming generations, then we will lose the opportunity to



solidify that. He said Imams need to model unity; if we do so, then our congregations will look to the role models. He asked Allah to bless this day and make it a means of beneficial interactions.

4. Vote of Thanks and Conclusion- Imam Mahmoud Alazhari

Imam Mahmoud 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. He thanked the speakers, Imams, Shaykhat, and general ANIC members for their attendance and ongoing support and concluded with a Dua'a.

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SESSION TWO - REPORTS:

1. At 09.46am, SESSION TWO commenced after a quick reminder of the etiquette of the Meeting and an overview of the AGM's program and agenda by the Chairman of the AGM, Imam Shadi Alsuleiman.
2. Confirmation and approval of the last **17th ANIC Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2023-2024**, held on the 13th of October 2024, in Sydney.
 - 2.1. Motion moved by Imam Sayed Fadlullah Fadel
 - 2.2. Motion seconded by Imam Hamza.
 - 2.3. Unanimously voted to approve the 17th ANIC AGM Meeting Minutes 2023-2024.
[VIEW Meeting Minutes](#)

3. REPORTS

3.1. Executive Committee Reports:

3.1.1. President's Report: By Imam Shadi Alsuleiman: [VIEW REPORT](#)

3.1.2. Secretary's Report: By Imam Majidi Essa: [VIEW REPORT](#)

3.1.3. Treasurer's Report: By Assistant Treasurer, Imam Warsamah Bulhan:
[VIEW REPORT](#)

3.1.3.1. ANIC 2024-2025 Financial report were accepted and approved.

3.1.3.2. Motion moved by Imam Adeed and seconded by Imam Abu Huraira to adopt the ANIC 2024–2025 Financial Report

3.1.3.3. Motion carried unanimously.

3.2. State Imams Councils Reports:

3.2.1. Council of Imams – NSW by Imam Ahmed Abdo.

The new Executive Committee of the Council of Imams NSW has identified three priority areas. To strengthen community relations, particularly between the Council of Imams NSW and the existing communities of Masajid.

Youth forums with three objectives: to identify current youth challenges, to address pressing youth needs from religious and societal perspectives, and to establish a youth advisory committee for the Council of Imams NSW.

The field of knowledge and research to discover current gaps in knowledge delivery and awareness.



3.2.2. Board of Imams – VIC by Imam Khalilurahman Hamid and Imam Warsamah Bulhan.

[ATTACH POWERPOINT](#)

3.2.3. Council of Imams – QLD by Imam Akram Baksh

Imam Baksh highlights that CIQ has 60 registered Imams. CIQ Imams have created a strong network and connection with Leadership in the state through collaboration. [VIEW POWERPOINT](#)

3.2.4. Council of Imams – WA by Imam Salman Parkar

In April, we welcomed a new part-time Operations manager who is the driving engine behind state operations. Key achievements include community engagement and events, media & social outreach, organisational strengthening, and internal governance structuring. CIWA's mission is to support Muslim Communities by developing educational, social and outreach programs.

3.2.5. Council of Imams - SA No Report Presented.

3.2.6. Council of Imams- ACT by Imam Hamza Abu Jarboun

Many initiatives, projects, da'wah and increased unity amongst the Imams. New mosques and centres established. Recently, we held a National Quran competition with 400 participants in attendance, marking a significant milestone for the community in ACT.

3.2.7. Council of Imams - TAS by Imam Mustafa Saleem

Went from a single masjid in Tasmania in the last 25 years to four Masaajid in the previous 5 years, with a 5th being finalised. Through the Imam's Council, they have run life support programs and blood support programs. The Launceston House of Guidance offers weekly Islamic lectures and youth programs. The centre collaborates directly with the Tasmanian Migration Centre on a weekly basis. Additionally, they have established the Launceston for Palestine organisation, which is at the forefront of all events in support of Gaza.

3.3. ANIC Committees, Programs and Initiatives Reports:

3.3.1. Australian Fatwa Council (AFC) by Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammed, Chairman and Grand Mufti of Australia.

Dr Ibrahim highlighted the number of meetings held by the Council, the importance of the Fatwa's preconditions, and the research conducted by AFC, and noted that new board members were being nominated.

3.3.2. Centre for Arbitration and Resolution of Disputes (CARD) by Imam Mohammad Kammoun.

Imam Mohammad mentioned that CARD offers a very intimate service to the community. CARD operates within the legal and Islamic frameworks by establishing policies that protect ANIC, Imams, and clients. CARD has streamlined policies and procedures across all states and territories, which will be distributed in late November 2025. An online forum will be convened on November 25 for interested Imams and members working in CARD. He also provided a brief outline of these policies, with an emphasis on record-keeping.



3.3.3. ANIC Halal Authority by Dr Anas Nadwi

ANIC Halal Authority has made significant progress during the years 2024-2025. The ANIC Halal Authority has certified 400 clients across Australia, marking a significant breakthrough, with Coles and Woolworths joining the program. ANIC Halal Authority aims to have the first domestic Halal standards in Australia. Halal Certification approval for ANIC by the Malaysian Halal Authority (JAKIM) and Majlis Ulama Singapore (MUIS). Indonesia has also given verbal Certification approval and will be finalised in the next few months. In the future, the ANIC Halal Authority has plans to appoint Halal supervisors in each state.

[VIEW ANIC HALAL REPORT](#)

3.3.4. Muslim Chaplaincy & Preservation of the Islamic Identity by Imam Ahmed Abdo.

It has been identified in several meetings that addressing the knowledge needs and gaps of our youth is crucial. There have been numerous initiatives across Australia, including workshops, conferences, and seminars. The idea is to consolidate all these efforts on the ground and streamline them through a roadshow across Australia.

Chaplaincy: We have several councils that deliver chaplaincy services. We are here to support and help coordinate Chaplaincy services for those new to this business, such as those in the Christmas & Cocos Islands. The key focus is to empower Imams, educators, and social workers in this area of Chaplaincy through the establishment of a National framework. Ongoing opportunities exist for Imams, especially with the ADF, as ANIC has a seat on a National Committee of other faith Leaders that endorse Religious Leaders to join the ADF.

3.3.5. Media and Communications by Zayd Jenzarli.

To coordinate a unified Muslim voice and to amplify our voices and concerns to those key decision makers and media agencies. Case studies of Islamophobia and discrimination are used to influence policy in the future. He also highlighted the established new relationships with both mainstream and independent news sources.

3.3.6. Security Uplifts for Muslim Communities in Australia Program (SUMCP) by Khalid Mousa.

The federal government has been allocating funds in this space to many communities in the past. ANIC has advocated for funding for the safety and security uplift of the Muslim community. ANIC successfully secured \$25 million for the Muslim community. In summary, the program aims to increase the sense of safety and inclusivity for Muslim Communities in Australia, prevent disruptions to religious education and cultural activities, strengthen community resilience against hate crimes, promote social cohesion, and enhance the safety and security of Islamic centres and mosques.

3.4. General Reports:

3.4.1. Australian Islamic Education Services

ANIC is an approved scripture provider for Islamic Special Religious Education for Muslim students in public schools in NSW, under the Australian Islamic Education Services, and has expanded to other states, starting with the ACT, Tasmania, 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 48 NSW government schools (a total of 4,378 students and 51 teachers), but there are 50,000 Muslims in the state school system in NSW.

3.4.2. Action Against Islamophobia

The program aims to combat Islamophobia and raise awareness. Through the program, laws can be amended, and we can encourage the government to provide resources to protect the community. [VIEW AAI REPORT](#)

3.4.3. ANIC Islamic Finance Advisory by Imam Shadi Alsuleiman.

AIFA aims to certify a wide range of financial products offered by Australian financial institutions by raising awareness of halal investments and Islamic finance. 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.

3.4.4. 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 concerns, feedback, and suggestions of council members regarding what is in the best interest of the broader Muslim community. This included (but is not limited to) surrounding issues and affairs that concern Muslim women in our Australian community. The Council is developing a document on the ideal Australian Muslim family, which will address Islamic values and principles for establishing a family and living an Islamic way of life in Australia.

3.4.5. Global Imams and Scholars Council (GISC) by Imam Shadi Alsuleiman

ANIC is a co-founder of the Global Imams and Scholars Council (GISC) and contributed to its establishment. ANIC plays a significant role in GISC. The GISC is also a registered company in Australia. Seven of the world's leading scholars and Imams' Councils in Western and English-speaking countries have formed the Council to preserve Islamic and Muslim identity in the West and collaborate on the greater good of the Muslim world and the Ummah. Meetings occur once a month online and once a year in person. The next GISC Retreat will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, hosted by the United Ulama Council of South Africa.

4. OPEN DISCUSSION

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 that embeds Islamic tradition and principles at the core of every project and initiative, and has acquired DGR status. Guided by this ethos, we are dedicated to passionately advocating for and addressing the Muslim community's most pressing priorities. A new Board of 8 members, comprising three representatives from ANIC, three from AAM, and two independents, has been appointed.



The Board Members are:

1.	Imam Shadi Alsuleiman	ANIC Representative	NSW	Chair
2.	Dr AbulKhair Jalaluddin,	Independent	NSW	Vice Chair
3.	Yousef Mansuri	AAM Representative	ACT	Secretary
4.	Ali Kadri	AAM Representative	QLD	Treasurer
5.	Imam Majidih Esa,	ANIC Representative	VIC	
6.	Imam Salmaan Parkar,	ANIC Representative	WA	
7.	Khalid Mousa	AAM Representative	NSW	
8.	Ismail Davids	Independent	NSW	

4.2. Determination of the beginning and end of the month of Ramadan Forum by Imam Ahmed Abdo.

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:

Stage 1: Groupings

Stage 2: Dialogue

Stage 3: Conclusion

The first two stages have been conducted; stage 3 will be finalised by the end of the year.

4.3. Reinforcement of the ANIC Imams' Code of Honour.

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.

[VIEW DOCUMENT](#)

5. Motions – ANIC AGM 2024–2025

Unity and Preservation of Identity

Motion 1: Preservation of Islamic Identity

ANIC reaffirms its commitment to preserving the Islamic identity of Muslims in Australia by upholding the mainstream understanding of Islam, rooted in the Qur'an, Sunnah, and the scholarly tradition. We call upon all Imams, Islamic organisations, and community leaders to work collectively in safeguarding the integrity and authenticity of our religion for current and future generations.

Motion 2: Unity and Solidarity Among Imams

ANIC reaffirms that unity and solidarity among Australian Imams and scholars are essential to the preservation of the Muslim community. We call upon all State Imams Councils and leaders to strengthen collaboration, foster mutual respect, and ensure that differences do not undermine the collective interests of the Ummah.



Motion 3: Unity and Standing Firm in Times of Trial

ANIC emphasises that unity and solidarity among Muslims in Australia must remain a central priority, particularly during these challenging times of global injustice, the rise of Islamophobia, and genocide committed in Gaza. We call on all Imams, organisations, and community leaders to put aside differences, collaborate for the common good, and maintain optimism in Allah's support and victory.

Palestine and Global Advocacy

Motion 4: Advocacy for Palestine and Recognition of Statehood

ANIC calls upon the Australian Government to publicly condemn Israel's actions, impose sanctions on the Israeli regime, and adopt broader measures of accountability to ensure justice and uphold international law. We welcome the overdue recognition of the State of Palestine as a positive and historic step and urge further diplomatic and humanitarian action to support the Palestinian people. ANIC unequivocally stands with the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom, dignity, and justice, and strongly condemns Israel's genocide, daily massacres, and continued occupation.

Motion 5: Advocacy for Oppressed Peoples Worldwide

ANIC stands in solidarity with all oppressed peoples around the world and strongly condemns the aggression, injustice, and violations committed against them. We reaffirm that supporting oppressed Muslims worldwide, in Palestine, East Turkistan, India, and beyond, is a fundamental principle of our Islamic faith and a moral obligation for justice.

Religious Freedom and Rights

Motion 6: Advocacy for Religious Freedom

ANIC reaffirms its commitment to defending religious freedom as a fundamental right for all Australians. We call on federal and state governments to strengthen legal protections for religious beliefs and practices, including amendments to anti-discrimination and hate-speech laws, to ensure faith communities are fully protected. ANIC also pledges to continue working with other faith groups to promote values-based education and religious freedom in schools.

Motion 7: Freedom of Protest and Advocacy

ANIC supports the right of all Australians, particularly Palestinian advocates, to protest, demonstrate, and hold political representatives accountable through peaceful means. We reject any restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, or chanting in support of Palestine, and call upon governments to safeguard these democratic rights across all states and territories.

Motion 8: Upholding Religious Freedom in Schools and Institutions

ANIC upholds and supports the right of all faith communities to freely practice, promote, and teach their beliefs in schools, institutions, and community centres. We oppose any legislative or policy changes that restrict religious freedom and condemn all forms of intimidation or harassment of communities or leaders for upholding their sacred scriptures and religious values.

Motion 9: Protection of Muslim Leaders and Advocates

ANIC stands in solidarity with Muslim leaders, scholars, and advocates who defend the rights and freedoms of oppressed peoples and uphold justice. We condemn attempts to smear, discredit, or



silence religious and community leaders for speaking out against genocide, Islamophobia, or oppression, as such actions threaten the principles of freedom of religion and speech in Australia.

Motion 10: Rejection of the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

ANIC rejects the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, as it conflates legitimate criticism of the Israeli occupation and Zionism with antisemitism and restricts freedom of speech. We call on the Australian Government, universities, and all institutions not to adopt this definition, as it risks silencing critical discourse on human rights, justice, and the Palestinian cause. Islamophobia, Community Safety, and Wellbeing

Motion 11: Combating Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Hate

ANIC commits to intensifying efforts to combat Islamophobia, anti-Muslim hate, and hate speech through the Action Against Islamophobia (AAI) initiative. We call upon governments, media bodies, and civil society to adopt stronger measures to protect Muslim communities, while also endorsing the recommendations of the Islamophobia Envoy to tackle systemic prejudice across the nation.

Family, Leadership, and the Future

Motion 12: Imam Welfare and Training

ANIC recognises the vital role of Imams in guiding and serving the Muslim community. We commit to enhancing their welfare, training, and professional development through regular workshops, wellbeing programs, and leadership training, ensuring they are well-equipped to fulfil their religious, social, and community leadership responsibilities.

Motion 13: Commitment to the Muslim Family Unit and Islamic Values

ANIC reaffirms its commitment to strengthening the Muslim family unit as the cornerstone of the community. We emphasise the importance of upholding Islamic values and principles in marriage, parenting, and family life, affirming that marriage in Islam is between a man and a woman. We pledge to develop programs such as the National Marriage Course and the Islamic Wills Service that provide guidance rooted in the Qur'an and Sunnah. These initiatives aim to protect the integrity of the Muslim household, nurture resilience, and ensure that families remain firmly grounded in faith within the Australian context.

Motion 14: Commitment to the Future

ANIC reaffirms its mission to unite Imams and community leaders to serve the Muslim community and preserve Islamic identity with dignity, integrity, and respect. We commit to expanding initiatives such as youth leadership programs and advocacy campaigns to ensure a strong, united, and resilient Muslim presence in Australia for generations to come.

6. Confirmation of the Date, Host State and Location of the 19th ANIC Annual General Meeting 2026

6.1. *Sunday, 11th of October 2026, in Queensland, Australia, hosted by the Council of Imams QLD.*



7. ANNOUNCEMENT AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE NEW APPOINTMENT OF AUSTRALIAN FATWA COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE TERM OF 2025-2028 (3 years)

1.	Imam	Dr. Ibrahim AbuMuhammed	Council of Imams	NSW
2.	Imam	Dr. Shabbir Ahmed	Council of Imams	NSW
3.	Imam	Abdulsalam Zoud	Council of Imams	NSW
4.	Imam	Dr. Loay Abdulbaqi	Council of Imams	NSW
5.	Imam	Dr. Amin Hady	Council of Imams	NSW
6.	Imam	Mohamad Khamis	Council of Imams	NSW
7.	Imam	Dr. Abdulrahman Asaroglu	Council of Imams	NSW
8.	Imam	Sayed Abdulalim	Council of Imams	NSW
9.	Imam	Sayed Ahmad Ashrafi	Board of Imams	VIC
10.	Imam	Dr. Sayed Fadlullah Fadel	Board of Imams	VIC
11.	Imam	Omran Al Olabi	Board of Imams	VIC
12.	Imam	Abdallah Hawari	Board of Imams	VIC
13.	Imam	Ismet Purdic	Board of Imams	VIC
14.	Imam	Dr. Atallah Khawaldi	Board of Imams	VIC
15.	Imam	Abdulnoor Wali	Board of Imams	VIC

8. Conclusion of the 18th ANIC AGM 2024-2025.

- 8.1. The 18th ANIC AGM concluded with a vote of thanks by the ANIC President, Imam Shadi, to all Imams, Shaykas, ANIC members and attendees for their participation, constructive and open discussion, and confidence in ANIC and its leadership.
- 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, and for their strong advocacy and stance in supporting the oppressed, in particular their brothers and sisters in Palestine.

The 18th ANIC AGM Concluded with a Dua'a.

END OF THE 18th ANIC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024-2025

We thank all the member Imams, Shaykhat, and ANIC Members for their attendance and efforts, as well as their cooperation.