



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ANIC President's Report 2025-2026:

Imam Shadi Alsuleiman

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

Assalamu Alaikom Wa Rahmatu Allahe Barakatuh,,

Alhamdulillah, the 2025–2026 year has been another significant year for the Australian National Imams Council and the Australian Muslim community. It has been a year of major challenges, important institutional development and a clearer understanding of the long-term responsibility carried by ANIC, our Imams and our Islamic institutions.

Australian Muslims have continued to face increasing Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred, threats against mosques and Islamic institutions, complex political and legislative developments, and growing challenges relating to faith, identity and belonging. At the same time, our community continues to carry deep pain and concern regarding the ongoing genocide, occupation and suffering of the Palestinian people and the suffering of oppressed communities throughout the wider Muslim Ummah.

Despite these challenges, we have witnessed strength, unity, maturity and resilience within our community. ANIC has continued to strengthen its national religious leadership, State Imams Councils, programs, governance, advocacy, community safety initiatives and relationships with Australian and international stakeholders.

Most importantly, this year has reinforced one fundamental responsibility: preserving Islam and Islamic identity for generations to come.

This responsibility is reflected in our theme: Preserving Islam Without Compromise, Living as Muslims With Confidence and Building Leadership for Generations to Come.

We want our children and generations to come to remain proud of their faith, proud of their Islamic identity and proud of their Muslim community, preserving and carrying Islam forward with strength, dignity and without compromise. This requires strong leaders and Imams, qualified scholars, strong Islamic education, strong Muslim families, confident young Muslims and credible, sustainable Islamic institutions.



Key Highlights 2025–2026

ANIC continued to grow and strengthen its national reach, with more than 370 Imams and Islamic religious leaders connected through ANIC nationally, 21 Imams serving within the Federal Executive Committee, State Imams Council structures operating across Australia, and 15 members serving on the Australian Fatwa Council. Every State Imams Council was represented at the 2026 Annual National Coordination Meeting. The report also records ANIC's growing national program and service footprint across religious leadership, education, community safety, advocacy and organisational development.

Other important developments included progressing the \$25 million Security Uplifts for Muslim Communities in Australia Program, strengthening Action Against Islamophobia, expanding ANIC Halal Authority, developing Imam professional standards and future leadership pathways, expanding Islamic education services and strengthening national coordination across ANIC's programs and departments.

Unity and National Religious Leadership

Strengthening unity and brotherhood among Australia's Imams remained a central priority and importance.

The ANIC Annual National Coordination Meeting held on 8 August 2026 brought together representatives of ANIC, every State Imams Council and the Australian Fatwa Council. The meeting strengthened national consultation and coordination around unity, professional standards, Imam capacity building, Islamic identity, youth and succession, community safety, media and government engagement, crisis coordination and national programs.

ANIC reaffirmed that its Federal and State structures constitute a single and one national body. Whether an Imam serves at the Federal or State level, each carries a shared responsibility to serve the interests of the Muslim community and strengthen Islamic religious leadership in Australia.

We are particularly proud of the brotherhood and commitment demonstrated by our Imams across Australia. Many of our Imams sacrifice significant time, resources and personal commitments to serve their communities, often undertaking important work that is unseen but has a profound impact on the Muslim community and the wider community.

We also placed greater emphasis on professional development, well-being, mentoring, employment standards, and the future development of Australian Imams. The role of the Imam continues to expand, requiring greater training in religious leadership, youth engagement, counselling, family matters, public communication, governance and community leadership.

Preserving Islam and Islamic Identity





The preservation of Islam, mainstream and traditional Islamic teachings and understanding, and Islamic identity for current and future generations was reaffirmed as a core national objective and priority during the year.

Our responsibility is not merely to address today's immediate challenges. We must build the people, the community, the institutions, and the leadership that will preserve our faith over the coming decades.

This includes strengthening Islamic education, Muslim families, mosques and Islamic centres, youth mentoring, credible scholarship and future religious leadership.

It also means ensuring Australian Muslims have the confidence and integrity to maintain their Islamic identity, recognise themselves as an integral part of Australia and contribute positively to the country we call home without compromising their faith or being marginalised.

Strengthening the Australian Fatwa Council

The Australian Fatwa Council entered an important period of institutional development. ANIC brought the newly appointed Council, chaired by the Grand Mufti of Australia, into structured engagement with the Executive Committee and commenced a significant review of its Terms of Reference, governance, decision-making, scholarly processes and future priorities.

This work is intended to strengthen the Council's ability to provide credible Islamic scholarship, religious guidance, and fatawa on contemporary issues relevant to Australian Muslims, while ensuring strong governance, accountability, and long-term sustainability.

The Council remains central to strengthening credible Islamic scholarship, collective scholarly consultation and religious guidance for Australian Muslims.

Advocacy, Religious Freedom and Public Engagement

ANIC continued to speak confidently on religious, moral and community matters affecting Australian Muslims.

During the year, ANIC further clarified its complementary relationship with the Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM). ANIC remains the national religious authority responsible for Islamic guidance, religious rulings, and the representation of Imams and religious leaders, while AAM continues to strengthen its public-facing capacity in political advocacy, government engagement, and media representation.

This relationship allows ANIC to maintain its religious independence and integrity while ensuring that the concerns, interests and rights of Australian Muslims are represented effectively.

Religious freedom remained a major concern throughout the year. ANIC continued advocating for stronger and more consistent protections against religious hatred, vilification and





discrimination, while defending the right of Australians to practise, teach, preach and uphold their religious beliefs.

On 18 May 2026, ANIC lodged a detailed submission to the Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion. ANIC representatives also appeared before the Royal Commission and gave evidence regarding the experiences and concerns of Australian Muslims, Islamophobia and the treatment of Muslim communities in Australia.

Our position remains that social cohesion requires fairness, consistency and equal treatment and protection for all Australian communities.

ANIC also continued engaging with government representatives, policymakers, media organisations, faith communities, community leaders and the wider Australian public. Our objective has been to ensure that Islam, Australian Muslims and the concerns of our community are represented clearly, professionally and confidently.

Palestine and International Justice

The Palestinian cause remained a major religious, moral and humanitarian concern and priority for ANIC.

ANIC continued to condemn the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza, the unlawful occupation of Palestinian lands, the killing and displacement of civilians and the destruction of homes and essential infrastructure, and called upon the Australian Government and the international community to take stronger and meaningful action to end the genocide, protect civilians, ensure unimpeded humanitarian assistance, uphold international law and support the Palestinian people's rights to freedom, dignity and self-determination.

Our concern also extends to oppressed communities throughout the world, including our brothers and sisters and the people of Sudan, Kashmir, the Rohingya, Uyghur Muslims and others facing persecution, violence, displacement and injustice.

ANIC will continue to stand with oppressed peoples and remain connected to the concerns and well-being of the wider Muslim Ummah.

Combating Islamophobia and Protecting Our Community

Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred remain among the most serious challenges confronting Australian Muslims.

ANIC's initiative, Action Against Islamophobia, continued to develop as a national support, reporting, awareness and education initiative. During the reporting period, more than 300 cases were reviewed, followed up and supported, together with national victim support, a dedicated support line, school workshops, seminars and community awareness activities.

ANIC also secured \$25 million in Commonwealth program funding to manage and deliver the Security Uplifts for Muslim Communities in Australia Program. Approximately 200 Expressions





of Interest had been received by the end of April 2026, with assessment and professional security work progressing.

Protecting mosques, Islamic centres, schools and community institutions is not simply a security matter. These institutions are essential to our faith, our community, our families, our identity and our future generations.

National Community Collaboration

ANIC continued strengthening its partnership with AAM and its relationships with Muslim organisations and leaders across Australia.

The National Muslim Community Iftar, hosted jointly by ANIC and AAM, brought together more than 400 guests, while the 9th Australian Muslim Community Leaders Summit strengthened national discussion around Islamic identity, advocacy, media, religious freedom, Islamophobia, governance, leadership and community safety.

ANIC also supported the Muslim Community Fund as a long-term initiative designed to strengthen the independence, financial sustainability and capacity of national Muslim community initiatives.

Strong relationships between Imams, scholars, Muslim organisations and community leaders remain essential if we are to address common challenges effectively and build a stronger future together.

National and International Islamic Relationships

ANIC continued its active involvement in the Global Imams and Scholars Council and contributed to planning for its next annual retreat to be hosted in Australia.

We also strengthened relationships with international Islamic scholars, organisations and institutions, particularly in our neighbouring countries and across Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. These engagements continue to open opportunities for stronger scholarly cooperation, institutional partnerships and greater coordination on matters of shared religious and community concern.

These relationships strengthen scholarly cooperation, allow Australian Imams to exchange knowledge and experiences with religious leadership bodies internationally, and ensure Australian Muslims remain connected with the wider Muslim Ummah.

Strategic Growth and Governance

Strong religious institutions require strong governance.

ANIC continued strengthening transparency, accountability, meeting processes, structured minutes, action registers, departmental reporting, Fatwa Council governance, State Council accountability, financial oversight and records management.





ANIC also strengthened its financial position and organisational capability, enabling greater investment in staff, programs, community initiatives and long-term institutional development.

Our next stage of development must focus on further institutionalising ANIC's work through stronger professional staffing, sustainable funding, effective systems and long-term organisational planning.

We must continue building an organisation that is not dependent solely on individuals or short-term initiatives, but one that has the structures, resources and leadership required to serve Australian Muslims for generations to come.

Future Vision and Priorities

Our responsibility extends far beyond the present year.

The decisions we make today will shape the faith, identity, leadership and future of Australian Muslims for generations to come.

Our priorities remain clear:

- Preserve Islam, mainstream and traditional Islamic teachings, and Islamic identity through the Qur'an and Sunnah, Islamic education, strong families, youth, mosques and Islamic institutions.
- Strengthen Australia's Imams and Islamic religious leadership through unity, professional development, wellbeing, mentoring, succession planning and pathways for future Imams and scholars.
- Protect the Muslim community, mosques and Islamic institutions from Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate and discrimination, threats and attacks, while defending religious freedom.
- Strengthen national representation and coordination through ANIC, State Imams Councils and constructive engagement with faith communities and wider society.
- Build strong, sustainable and accountable Islamic institutions through sound governance, professional capacity, financial sustainability and long-term planning.

These priorities must remain at the centre of our work as we prepare for the opportunities and challenges facing the next generation of Australian Muslims.

Acknowledgements and Gratitude

I extend my sincere appreciation to all ANIC Executive Committee members for their cooperation, dedication, commitment, confidence and continued support throughout the year.

I also express my sincere appreciation to all Imams and ANIC members, in particular the Grand Mufti of Australia, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohamad, as well as the members of the Australian Fatwa Council and State Imams Councils across Australia, for their dedication, cooperation and continued service to Islam, ANIC and the Australian Muslim community.





I thank ANIC staff, department managers, advisers, volunteers, supporters, community organisations and leaders for their cooperation, trust and contribution.

I also extend my deep appreciation to the Australian Muslim community for its resilience, generosity, patience and enduring commitment to Islam, the Australian Muslim community and the wider Muslim Ummah.

Above all, we thank Allah Almighty for giving us the opportunity and trust to serve His religion and our community.

May Allah Almighty accept our efforts, forgive our shortcomings, preserve our faith, strengthen our unity, protect our community and the wider Muslim Ummah, grant continued success to Australian Muslims and Muslims around the world, and protect Australia, the country we call home.

Ameen.

Imam Shadi Alsuleiman

President

Australian National Imams Council

Date: 11 October 2026

