



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ANIC Secretary's Report 2025-2026:

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 during 2025–2026 has again been an honour and an important responsibility. This year has involved significant organisational development across ANIC's Federal structure, State Imams Councils, Australian Fatwa Council, departments and national programs. While our community continued facing major challenges, including Islamophobia, security concerns and international humanitarian crises, ANIC continued strengthening its governance, coordination, programs and capacity to serve Australian Muslims.

National Structure and Membership

ANIC's national network now connects more than 360 Imams and Islamic religious leaders across Australia. The Federal Executive Committee comprises 21 Imams representing Australian states and territories, while State Imams Council structures operate across New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania. The Australian Fatwa Council comprises 15 members and continues to play an important role in national Islamic scholarship and religious guidance.

Executive Committee Engagement and Communications

The ANIC Executive Committee met five times during the reporting period, including three in-person meetings and two online meetings. These meetings provided an important forum for reviewing national priorities, governance, programs, financial matters, emerging community issues, and key decisions, while regular communication between meetings through phone, email, and online platforms helped ensure that urgent matters were addressed promptly, collectively, and transparently.

National Coordination Meeting

The Annual National Coordination Meeting, held on Saturday, 8 August 2026, brought together the ANIC Executive Committee, all State Imams Councils, and the Australian Fatwa Council.



The meeting strengthened coordination around State Council responsibilities, Imam capacity building, professional standards, community safety, youth and succession, Islamic identity, national crisis coordination, media and government engagement and national programs. ANIC intends for this meeting to continue as an annual national gathering and an important mechanism for strengthening cooperation between Federal and State religious leadership.

Membership applications

ANIC received more than 50 new membership applications from Imams across Australia during the reporting period, with approximately 80 per cent processed to date. This has increased ANIC's membership to more than 370 Imams and Islamic religious leaders nationally, reflecting the continued growth of ANIC's national network.

Marriage Celebrants

More than 30 new Imams across Australia were registered as authorised marriage celebrants during the reporting period, strengthening access to marriage services across the Muslim community.

Australian Fatwa Council

A major organisational focus during the year was strengthening the Australian Fatwa Council. The newly appointed Council entered structured engagement with the ANIC Executive Committee, and work commenced on reviewing its Terms of Reference, governance, membership responsibilities, decision-making processes, scholarly disagreement, confidentiality, conflicts of interest and accountability. This work will support a stronger and more sustainable national framework for Islamic scholarship, research, fatawa and religious guidance.

Governance and Organisational Development

ANIC continued strengthening its internal governance and administrative systems. Key areas of development included clearer meeting processes, structured minutes, action registers, departmental reporting, policy review, Australian Fatwa Council governance, State Council accountability, financial oversight and improved records and document management. ANIC also continued ensuring that its structures, policies and operations remain consistent with Islamic principles and comply with applicable Australian laws, regulatory requirements and ACNC obligations. An increased focus was placed on implementation and follow-up. Action registers, assigned responsibilities, and stronger reporting mechanisms were increasingly incorporated into ANIC meetings to ensure decisions translate into practical outcomes.

Financial Oversight

ANIC continued to strengthen its financial position, financial management and organisational capability. The organisation's growing financial capacity has enabled it to support a wider range of programs, services, staff, and community initiatives, while continuing to provide regular financial reporting to strengthen transparency and accountability. The audited financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 will be presented separately to ANIC members.





Community Safety and Security Uplifts

Implementation of the Security Uplifts for Muslim Communities in Australia Program was a major operational priority. ANIC secured \$25 million in Commonwealth program funding to manage and deliver the program, which is designed to strengthen security and resilience at Muslim places of worship, educational institutions and community facilities. Approximately 200 Expressions of Interest had been received by the end of April 2026, with assessments and professional security reviews progressing. ANIC also continued developing plans for stronger national crisis communication and coordination to ensure clearer responsibilities, verified information, authorised spokespersons and stronger Federal and State coordination during major incidents.

Department and Program Updates

- **Action Against Islamophobia** continued to expand its national activities. More than 300 cases were reviewed, followed up and supported, alongside victim support, a dedicated support line, school workshops, seminars and community awareness activities.
- **Australian Islamic Education Services** continued supporting Islamic education programs across more than 60 public schools, while strengthening volunteer teacher development, curriculum resources and Friday Jumu'ah programs.
- **ANIC Halal Authority** continued to grow nationally and internationally while reviewing certification policies, expanding services and progressing international recognition.
- ANIC Islamic Finance Advisory continued providing Shariah review, certification, governance, research and advisory services to a growing number of Islamic financial institutions and service providers.
- **The Centre for Arbitration and Resolution of Disputes** continued developing national mediation and dispute-resolution procedures, while Muslim chaplaincy continued expanding coordination and professional pathways across institutional settings.

Community Engagement and Communications

- ANIC maintained active relationships with government representatives, policymakers, Muslim organisations, faith communities, media organisations and the wider Australian community.
- The National Muslim Community Iftar, jointly hosted with AAM, brought together more than 400 guests, and ANIC actively participated in the 9th Australian Muslim Community Leaders Summit.
- Public statements: ANIC issued more than 50 public statements during the year on major issues, including Islamophobia, religious freedom, hate speech, community safety and domestic policy. ANIC also addressed significant international matters, including the Gaza genocide, Palestine and solidarity with oppressed peoples globally. These statements provided clear public leadership, represented the concerns of Australian Muslims and responded to emerging national and international issues.
- ANIC also significantly strengthened its digital communications, with its social media network growing to more than 100,000 followers and generating hundreds of thousands of views, clicks and engagements each month.





Acknowledgements and Thanks

I extend my sincere appreciation to all ANIC Executive Committee members for their cooperation, dedication, and commitment, and to all Imams and ANIC members, the Australian Fatwa Council, and State Imams Councils for their continued service, collaboration, and contribution to ANIC and the Australian Muslim community. I also thank ANIC staff, department managers, advisers, volunteers, supporters and community partners whose work continues to strengthen ANIC and its national programs.

May Allah Almighty accept our efforts, forgive our shortcomings, keep us united, preserve our faith, strengthen our institutions and allow us to continue serving Islam, the Australian Muslim community and the wider Muslim Ummah.

Ameen.

Imam Majidih Essa

Secretary

Australian National Imams Council

Date: 11 October 2026

