



# Australian Muslim Community Leaders Summit 2024

Hosted by the Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM)

## Key areas and discussion points at the Summit

### 1. Working together during difficult times

The Muslim community has worked closely and united in the past years. With all the challenges that the community had faced, the community had always shown resilience and strong faith and always emerged from these challenges stronger, wiser, and united.

The Muslim community leaders have always believed in and advocated for unity because of the fruits, great benefits, and outcomes of working together and being united.

There are no times when there is a dire need for the community to be united than this time.

Unity does not imply that the community leaders, organisations or members need to change their school of thought, organisation structures or names or to have their organisations and centres under one organisation or name. Unity implies that community leaders, organisations, and members are required to identify the common and greater denominators, benefits, interests and concerns of the community and work together to achieve them collectively, united with one voice.

#### **Key points to discuss and identify at the summit:**

1. Define what unity is in the Muslim community.
2. Define what 'the Community' implies.
3. Identify areas that unite the community to achieve.
4. Identify areas that will disunite the community to avoid.
5. Establish a charter of understanding and working relationships among the Muslim Community.

### 2. Framework for Political Engagement and Advocacy

The Australian Muslim community is part and parcel of the Australian fabric; in a country like Australia, all Australians have an equal right to voice and advocate their opinion and change of policy. The Australian Muslim community has an equal stake



and shared interest in policy changes of government and decision-makers and the future and direction of the country.

The Australian Muslim community must strategise and work towards influencing key decision-makers in government, media, and civil society on matters of most concern to Muslims in Australia to protect and advance the welfare of the diverse Muslim community. It is important to raise political awareness and engagement within the Muslim community, including grassroots campaigning and involvement with political parties.

**Key points to discuss and identify at the summit:**

1. Common areas of interest and concerns to raise and achieve in:
  - a. *Short term 12 months*
  - b. *Medium term 3 years*
  - c. *Long term 10 years*
2. The political alignment and mobilising the Muslim community during future elections at local, state and federal levels to magnify the Muslim voice.
3. How to raise political awareness and understanding in the Muslim Community.
4. Evaluate the recent events, in particular, the war on Gaza and the Palestinian cause and plight.
5. The rise of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiment and how to counter them.
6. Establish a think tank comprising Muslims and experts in this field to define goals, objectives, and intended outcomes. Collaborate with both paid and voluntary experts to ensure a comprehensive approach towards achieving the intended results.

### **3. Role of Media & Social Media**

Media plays a crucial role in influencing perceptions, policies, and the nation's future direction. Regrettably, mainstream media often exhibit bias and unfairness in their portrayal of Islam and Muslims. This biased reporting fosters negative perceptions and misunderstandings, increasing the hostility towards Islam as a religion and Muslims as a community. Such bias poses obstacles and challenges to the advancement of Islam, Muslims and their interests and institutions.

It's imperative for the Muslim community to adopt a unified strategy in engaging with the media to counter negative portrayals and promote a positive image of Islam and Muslims.

**Key points to discuss and identify at the summit:**

1. How to coordinate a unified Muslim voice and collaborative representation in the Australian media.
2. How to coordinate effective engagement with mainstream Australian media agencies.
3. To monitor and follow up on the MUSLIM MEDIA WATCH.
4. How to coordinate educational workshops for Muslim organisations to better engage with the media.



5. Establish a think tank comprising Muslims and experts in this field to define goals, objectives, and intended outcomes. Collaborate with both paid and voluntary experts to ensure a comprehensive approach towards achieving the intended results.

#### **4. Launch of the Muslim Community Fund (MCF)**

There is a strong need for human and financial resources to achieve the objectives and outcomes that the Muslim community collectively strives to achieve. Financial resource challenges can be resolved through a fund that is owned by the community and managed by the community.

The Muslim Community Fund (MCF) is a fund that will focus on raising funds, donations, and contributions for the benefit and the greater good of the general interests of the Australian Muslim community in all states and territories.

MCF Will be a fund established by the Australian Muslim community and owned by the Australian Muslim community and no specific organisation or individuals.

MCF aims to preserve the Islamic identity and maintain the integrity of Australian Muslims in the present and in generations to come, and it also aims to advocate on all fronts and levels for the best interest of the Australian Muslim community.

The objective of the fund is to support services, programs, and initiatives in which the benefit of those services goes back to the entire community without targeting any specific ethnicity, cultural background, or people.