



Australian Muslim Community Leaders Summit 2024

10 am to 12 pm
Sunday, 3rd of Nov 2024
Online via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

1. Opening of the Australian Muslim Community Leaders Summit 2024.

- 1.1. Imam Shadi Alsuleiman officially opened the Australian Muslim Community Leaders Summit 2024 by praising Allah (SWT), thanking the participants for attending the Summit, followed by a reminder of the importance of unity and working together on the common good, interest and denominators that benefit everyone, particularly during these difficult times, the affliction that the Muslims Ummah is going through, and the ongoing suffering of our brothers and sisters in Gaza – Palestine.
- 1.2. He also highlighted the fruits of the Alliance of Australian Muslims, the collaboration amongst the organisations, and some of its tangible achievements in the past years, and how the AAM succeeded in bridging the gap between Muslim organisations in Australia and other communities.

2. Quran Recitation.

- 2.1. Sheikh Akram recited some verses from **Surah Ale-Imran 102-108**.

3. Welcoming and Introduction.

- 3.1. Imam Shadi once again welcomed all attendees to the Australian Muslim Community Leaders Summit 2024, praising Allah SWT for our unity, and spoke about the challenges that the Community and the Ummah are facing with the Israeli occupation's aggression and attacks on our brothers and sisters in Gaza, and emphasised the importance of working together during these times. There are no times when the Muslim community is in dire need of unity.
- 3.2. Imam Shadi also mentioned the positive impacts of the AAM on the Muslim Community, thanking participants for their contribution and support in achieving this and the AAM Board for their dedication and commitment.
- 3.3. He also expressed his gratitude to all attendees for their leadership and efforts in the community and for their cooperation.

4. Reminder of the Etiquettes and Reminder for the Summit and Meeting

- 4.1. Br Khalid – AAM Secretary – reminded the summit of the etiquette of the Summit, especially as it is online, with the following housekeeping:
 - 4.1.1. Stick to the allocated time
 - 4.1.2. Any questions to be placed in the chat
 - 4.1.3. Please stay on mute unless you are presenting

4.1.4. Agree with me, disagree with me, just do it respectfully

5. This is a reminder of the AAM Summit's importance, Goals, Objectives, community achievements, initiatives, and challenges.

- 5.1. The AAM's first goal was to bring the Community together under the agreed common denominators to collaborate, engage, discuss, brainstorm and take action on topics that affect all Muslims across Australia.
- 5.2. With the common denominators defined, the second phase of the AAM was to learn to work together, given the different backgrounds and community experiences of all the members across the country. This level of collaboration is unprecedented within the Muslim Community in Australia.
- 5.3. The Australian Muslim Community Leaders Summit 2024 was convened because of the need of the Muslim community to come together during these difficult times and unite as a community in serving the best interest of the Australian Muslim community and the Palestinian cause, while the Israeli occupying force is oppressing our brothers and sisters.
- 5.4. To identify areas in serving these causes and what the Muslim community leadership can do and implement to achieve them.
- 5.5. The importance of preserving the mainstream understanding of Islam and empowering this understanding in all forums and platforms.
- 5.6. Despite the challenges it has faced, the Muslim community is in a better position than in previous years; its collaboration and connection with one another, including the efforts of AAM, have contributed to this, and much more is needed to progress and improve.
- 5.7. The Muslim community has reached significant milestones and must strategise for the future to keep progress sustainable and achievable. Therefore, it is important to identify areas that the community's leadership can work on and employ staff to cover these areas rather than always depending on volunteers. For this reason, the Muslim Community Fund will be launched at the summit.

6. 2023 Summit Minutes

- 6.1. The minutes of the previous meeting, 26th November 2023, were confirmed and approved.
- 6.2. Motion to accept the minutes by Br. Tarek Nashar
- 6.3. Seconded by Br Abdullah Khan
- 6.4. Vote: unanimously.

7. AAM Board Report 2024

- 7.1. Br Khalid presented the AAM Board Report for 2024. The key items presented:
 - 7.1.1. New members, over 250 Organisations
 - 7.1.2. Growing presence in Social Media
 - 7.1.3. Issuing several press releases and co-signing letters to the government
 - 7.1.4. 1445 National Ramadan Iftar
 - 7.1.5. Muslim Community Leaders Summit May 2024
 - 7.1.6. Facilitated several community crises and emergency meetings
 - 7.1.7. UK (and in the future US) networking to develop a global network with lessons learnt & shared
 - 7.1.8. Christchurch and Srebrenica commemorations

- 7.1.9. Established a New Muslims Network, focusing on enhancing services for new Muslims
- 7.1.10. Launching of Muslim Community Fund
- 7.1.11. Launching of Muslim Central – online community directory of services & facilities
- 7.1.12. Recruitment of Part-Time General Manager for AAM and Muslim Community Fund
- 7.1.13. Resources: Media Officer and Graphic Designer
- 7.2. Br Khalid also presented the outlook for the next 12 months, noting the following items:
 - 7.2.1. State-based community events – Forums, surveys, working groups, etc
 - 7.2.2. Muslim Community Fund established
 - 7.2.3. Media & Political monitoring, engagement and representation
 - 7.2.4. Community awareness of AAM - social media
 - 7.2.5. Community & Family based programs
- 7.3. Br Khalid presented a draft structure to be presented at the 2025 summit, which would be structured as follows:
 - 7.3.1. AAM Board - Representative members, Develop Strategic Goals and Objectives
 - 7.3.2. AAM Operations Committee - Day-to-Day Running of AAM and Muslim Community Fund
 - 7.3.3. Sub-committees – As required, Focused teams, e.g. Political Advocacy, Media Monitoring, New Muslims, etc.

8. Key Agenda Items

8.1. War in Palestine & Gaza

- 8.1.1. Dr Jamal presented his firsthand experiences from travelling to Gaza as part of a doctor's mission as part of the Palestinian Australian New Zealand Medical Association (PANZMA).
- 8.1.2. Dr Jamal described the deteriorating situation and challenging environment for civilians and medical staff.

8.2. Preservation of Islamic Identity

- 8.2.1. Sh. Ahmed Abdo presented on the impact of Islamic identity on today's youth and announced a summit on this topic.
- 8.2.2. The work aims to explain how to respond to theories and arguments presented by atheists and agnostics.
- 8.2.3. The intention is to publish and distribute the works in written and video forms for social media.
- 8.2.4. Council of Imams NSW established a new department called Youth Pulse to engage youth and involve them in the decision-making process.

8.3. Political Advocacy

- 8.3.1. Br Yusuf and Br Ali presented on the topic of political advocacy, given the recent state elections in the ACT and QLD.



- 8.3.2. Br Yusuf discussed the efforts in the ACT election, where a group was formed to engage the three major parties on key topics, and an opportunity to respond, and later presented in a town hall meeting and summarised into a scorecard of the information presented.
- 8.3.3. There are time and resource challenges in educating the Muslim Community broadly, and this effort needs a long-term strategy and education programs on the voting process.
- 8.3.4. Sh Shadi reminded the summit that AAM and ANIC do not side with or endorse any particular party and leave that to the discretion of the local community organisations.
- 8.3.5. Br Ali presented his observations of the QLD state election and needs strategic discussions on how we Muslims can engage effectively in elections.
- 8.3.6. Given the expected federal election in 2025, a number of discussion points were raised. Further meetings and discussions are required on this topic.

8.4. Action against Islamophobia

- 8.4.1. Sr Mariam presented her work on the first stage of Action Against Islamophobia (AAI).
- 8.4.2. AAI's pillars are Justice seeking, empowerment and advocacy.
- 8.4.3. Sr Mariam discussed the examples of each element and focus for each area to encourage more proactive engagement on these topics rather than retrospective engagement, for example, advocacy in the workplace and education institutions.
- 8.4.4. Sr Mariam presented on work to date, including rebranding the previous work by ANIC—workshops and survey with the federal and state Imams council.
- 8.4.5. Sr Mariam mentioned the new website, CRM, hotline, and media reporting tool for biased articles.
- 8.4.6. Sr Mariam discussed future activities, including engagement with government agencies and research on islamophobia and online faith-based hate.

8.5. Media Representation & Monitoring

- 8.5.1. Sr Aisha Hassan, who recently commenced as the media officer within ANIC, presented her work to date in collating and engaging the media on topics of interest to the Muslim Community.
- 8.5.2. Sr Aisha presented on tools and processes for media monitoring and engaged media agencies several times to discuss and correct bias within the media on reporting on topics of interest to Muslims.
- 8.5.3. Sr Aisha mentioned her engagement with government agencies and work in parallel to Action Against Islamophobia.
- 8.5.4. Sr Aisha is looking to engage Muslim journalists to form a network and better understand how the media works and how the Muslim Community can effectively engage.
- 8.5.5. Sr Aisha also discussed future initiatives, such as developing a media tool kit and framework for Australian media outlets.

9. General Business

9.1. Muslim Community Fund

- 9.1.1. Sheikh Shadi presented on the Muslim Community Fund's purpose and importance in supporting the work of the AAM and ANIC.

9.2. Mosque Open Day

- 9.2.1. Sheikh Shadi informed the group that plans were being made for a Mosque open day after Ramadan in 2025.

9.3. Muslim Central - Muslim Community Directory

- 9.3.1. Br Khalid presented an updated website for Muslim Central, which aims to provide a Muslim Community Directory of Services provided by its members.
- 9.3.2. The website also hopes to be an outlet for key articles from the Media officer's work.

9.4. Summit Statement

- 9.4.1. **Attached**

10. Final Words & Vote of Thanks:

- 10.1. Imam Shadi reiterated that today's Summit is another momentous moment for the Australian Muslim Community, in particular during this challenging time and the witnessing suffering of our brothers and sisters in Gaza - Palestine.
- 10.2. Imam Shadi stressed the importance of working together and being united as a community during these times, and more than ever.
- 10.3. He also expressed his appreciation for and commended the Muslim community's leadership, tireless efforts and wisdom in dealing with challenges, and the importance of supporting one another.
- 10.4. A special thanks to all the panellists for the outstanding presentation and their time, and to the AAM Board for their tireless efforts and hard work in serving the Muslim Community and for their exceptional leadership during this time of crisis.
- 10.5. All attendees were greatly thanked for their attendance and contribution to the success of the Australian Muslim Community Leaders Summit. The community's unity and support, activism, and solidarity with the brothers and sisters in Palestine are noticeable and appreciated.
- 10.6. The Summit concluded with a Dua'a by **Imam Tahar Michroui** at **1.30 pm**.

11. Next AAM National Summit:

- 11.1. The next **Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM) Nation Summit 2025** will be held on Sunday, the **2nd of November 2025**, with the location to be confirmed.

JAZAKOM ALLAHU KHAIRAN FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION & SUPPORT

PLEASE SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK ON THE SUMMIT