



PUBLIC STATEMENT



18 July 2026

AAM and ANIC Welcome the Australian Government's Response to the Special Envoy's Report on Islamophobia

The Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM) and the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) welcome the Australian Government's response to the report of the Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, Mr Aftab Malik.

This is an unprecedented and important step in the right direction towards recognising and addressing the serious impact of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate in Australia. We acknowledge the Government's commitment to responding to the concerns and recommendations raised in the report.

While this response is welcome, much more remains to be done. It must be followed by meaningful and timely action, supported by clear commitments, appropriate resources and strong accountability. This should include practical enhancements that lead to lasting systemic and structural improvements across government policy, education, legislation, community safety, public institutions and other areas identified in the Special Envoy's report. AAM and ANIC are committed to working constructively with the Australian Government and the Office of the Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia to navigate the complexities and existing hurdles associated with progressing the recommendations that have not yet received a formal response.

Australian Muslims must be able to see and experience real improvements in their safety, protection, inclusion and ability to participate fully in Australian society without fear of discrimination or hostility.

We recognise and commend the significant work of the Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, Mr Aftab Malik. His engagement with Muslim communities, and his efforts to bring their experiences, concerns and recommendations to the attention of the Government, have been deeply valued. We express our strong support for his continued work in addressing Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate across Australia.

Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate are real, dangerous and deeply harmful. For far too long, Australian Muslims have lived with fear, discrimination, abuse, threats and, in some cases, physical attacks. Muslim women, particularly those who are visibly identifiable by their faith, continue to face harassment and intimidation in public places. Families are concerned for the safety of their children, while mosques, schools and community institutions have also been subjected to threats and hostility.

No Australian should feel unsafe or unwelcome because of their faith. Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate must be confronted with the same seriousness, urgency and determination as every other form of hatred, racism and religious discrimination. Achieving this will require clear commitments, adequate resources, effective accountability and the timely implementation of measures that deliver real and lasting change.

Combating Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate requires a whole-of-society effort. Government, political leaders, educators, media organisations, faith communities, civil society, and every Australian all have a role to play in rejecting hatred, challenging harmful stereotypes, and fostering a culture of dignity, respect, and belonging.

For media inquiries, please contact: 02 8377 4185 or media@australianmuslims.org.au