



ALLIANCE
OF AUSTRALIAN MUSLIMS

**9TH AAM MUSLIM COMMUNITY LEADERS
SUMMIT 2026**

AAM BOARD REPORT 2026

Sunday, 9 August 2026

REPORT OVERVIEW

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This report presents the main developments, decisions, programs, advocacy priorities and organisational work undertaken during the reporting period.

AAM BOARD REPORT 2026

Assalamu Alaikom Wa Rahmatu Allahe Wa Barakatuh,

During the period from the 8th Alliance of Australian Muslims National Summit on 2 November 2025 to the 9th AAM National Summit on 9 August 2026, the Alliance of Australian Muslims entered an important period of transition and organisational development, while assuming greater responsibility for serving and representing the Australian Muslim community.

The Australian Muslim community continues to face serious challenges. These include rising Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred, anti-Palestinian racism, concerns regarding religious freedom and proposed hate laws, political and media misrepresentation, community safety, and growing challenges to the Islamic identity of Muslim youth and future generations. In the aftermath of the Bondi attacks, Australian Muslims also faced heightened public pressure, collective blame and rhetoric that unfairly targeted Islam, Muslim leaders and Islamic institutions, reinforcing the need for coordinated leadership, responsible public discourse and a strong community response.

During this period, the AAM continued to serve as the national platform for Muslim organisations, community leaders, and Australian Muslims to strengthen unity, coordinate advocacy, improve public representation, build community capacity, and develop sustainable national institutions.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to serve Islam, preserve the Islamic identity, integrity and dignity of Muslims, advocate for the interests and welfare of the Australian Muslim community, and work collectively for the common good, seeking the pleasure of Allah Almighty and following the path of His Messenger Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him.

1 2025–2026 At A Glance

The main developments during the reporting period included:

- The commencement of the new 18-member nationally representative AAM Board for the 2025–2028 term.
- The unanimous election of five office bearers: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Vice Secretary and Treasurer.
- Continued representation of more than 260 grassroots, mainstream Muslim organisations from every Australian state and territory, with further growth in membership.
- The development of director induction and governance materials to strengthen Board accountability and compliance.
- Progress towards establishing an AAM Operations Committee and a Government Relations and Engagement Group.
- Development of formal position statements and advocacy responses on key issues affecting Australian Muslims, including hate laws, religious freedom, expression,

Islamophobia, policing, community safety, media representation, Palestine and other international matters.

- A coordinated response following the Bondi attacks, including unequivocal condemnation of violence, solidarity with victims, rejection of collective blame on Muslims, and challenging rhetoric and reporting that unfairly targeted Islam, Muslim leaders and institutions, while coordinating the community response during a period of heightened concern.
- Advancement of the AAM Political Advocacy Plan and discussion of professional government relations and lobbying support.
- Planning for coordinated federal and state political engagement, including Canberra delegations and preparations for the Victorian and New South Wales elections.
- Engagement of professional media support to strengthen the AAM's media strategy, public messaging and response capacity, including successful intervention in inaccurate reporting and the lodging of formal media complaints where required.
- Continued development of the Muslim Community Fund, including confirmation of its strategic priorities and proposed fundraising methods.
- The successful delivery of the National Muslim Community Iftar 2026–1447H, hosted jointly by AAM and ANIC at Waterview, Homebush, during the blessed month of Ramadan 1447. The gathering brought together Imams, community leaders and distinguished guests in an atmosphere of faith, unity, brotherhood and sisterhood.

2 New Board and National Representation

The 8th AAM National Summit elected a new Board for the 2025–2028 term.

The new Board reflects the national diversity of the Australian Muslim community and includes representation from every Australian state and territory.

The Board consists of 18 positions, comprising 15 state and territory representatives and three independent general members. Representation is allocated as follows:

State / Territory	Representation
New South Wales	four representatives
Victoria	three representatives
Queensland	two representatives
Western Australia	two representatives
South Australia	one representative
Northern Territory	one representative
Tasmania	one representative
Australian Capital Territory	one representative
Independent general members	three representatives elected nationally

This structure was designed to achieve two important objectives. First, it ensures that every state and territory contributes to the national direction of the AAM. Second, it provides a more focused and effective Board that can respond to community issues and provide strategic leadership.

The new board members for the term 2025-2028

	Full Name	State
1.	Imam Shadi Alsuleiman	NSW
2.	Khalid Mousa	NSW
3.	Mariam Ardati	NSW
4.	Mona Shindy	NSW
5.	Usaid Khalil	NSW
6.	Tarek Khodr	VIC
7.	Imam Moustapha Sarakibi	VIC
8.	Imam Burhaan Mehtar	WA
9.	Abdullah Khan	WA
10.	Binil Kattiparambil	QLD
11.	Habib Jamal	QLD
12.	Ali Kadri	QLD
13.	Mohammed Hassan	SA
14.	Yusuf Mansuri	ACT
15.	Hajrah Kamran	NT
16.	Dr. Mustafa Seleem	TAS

The new Board brings together a broad range of community, religious, professional, governance and organisational experience.

At the first meeting of the new Board on 7 December 2025, the following office bearers were elected unanimously:

Chairperson	Imam Shadi Alsuleiman
Vice Chairperson	Tareq Khodr
Secretary	Khalid Mousa
Vice Secretary	Mona Shindy
Treasurer	Yusuf Mansuri

The Board expressed its sincere appreciation to the outgoing Board members for their dedication, leadership and service to the AAM and the wider Australian Muslim community.

The new Board also reaffirmed the original purpose of the AAM: to bring Muslim organisations together around shared values, common interests and agreed national priorities while respecting differences in background, experience and opinion.

3 Board Activity and Decision-Making

The Board held formal meetings on 7 December 2025, 15 February 2026 and 17 May 2026.

Board discussions focused on:

- Political advocacy and government engagement
- Media strategy and public representation
- Governance and directors' responsibilities
- Membership and community engagement
- The Muslim Community Fund
- Community safety and Islamophobia
- The National Muslim Community Iftar
- Preparations for upcoming state elections
- Strengthening the operational capacity of the AAM

The Board also reviewed feedback from the 8th AAM National Summit. The Summit was widely regarded as one of the strongest Muslim community leadership events of the year.

4 Governance and Organisational Development

Strengthening governance, accountability, and organisational effectiveness has been a central priority for the new Board.

A structured Director Induction presentation and Governance Checklist were developed to strengthen the Board's understanding of its roles, responsibilities and governance obligations.

The governance materials addressed:

- Directors' legal and governance responsibilities
- Decision-making and accountability
- Board participation and conduct
- Organisational policies and procedures
- Conflict of interest obligations
- Compliance and record keeping
- Strategic oversight
- Communication and confidentiality

Dedicated communication channels were established to improve coordination between Board members. The Board also worked to update member contact details and strengthen communication with organisations across the states and territories.

Work towards establishing an Operations Committee remains a priority. The Committee is intended to:

- Implement the Board's approved goals and decisions
- Coordinate the day-to-day work of the AAM

- Support national programs and events
- Track action items and responsibilities
- Improve operational accountability
- Report progress to the Board

5 Membership and Community Engagement

The AAM continues to represent more than 260 grassroots, mainstream Muslim organisations from every Australian state and territory.

The strength and legitimacy of the AAM depend on the active participation and trust of its member organisations. The AAM remains committed to bringing Muslim organisations together around shared principles, common interests and collective priorities while respecting the diversity of the Australian Muslim community.

The Board also proposed a national survey of Muslim organisations and associations.

The purpose of the survey is to identify the main needs and challenges affecting community organisations and to guide future AAM programs in areas such as:

- Governance and compliance
- Leadership development
- Media training
- Political advocacy
- Community safety
- Financial sustainability
- Youth and women's participation
- Organisational capacity building
- Access to national resources and support

The AAM must continue to strengthen its engagement with organisations outside the major cities, including smaller, regional, remote and emerging Muslim communities.

State and territory representatives have an important responsibility to communicate with organisations in their jurisdictions, raise local concerns at the national level and report AAM developments back to their communities.

6 Responding to Major National Challenges

The reporting period included serious national developments that required strategic Muslim community leadership and coordinated engagement.

The Board discussed concerns relating to proposed hate laws, religious freedom, lawful expression, police conduct at protests and the broader relationship between the Muslim community and government institutions.

The Board agreed that political disengagement was not the appropriate response.

The AAM must continue to engage more strategically, consistently and professionally so that the concerns, policy positions and recommendations of the Muslim community are heard.

The Board also recognised that events of national significance require the Muslim community to improve its capacity to respond quickly and effectively.

Following the Bondi attacks, the AAM responded to the heightened pressure placed upon Islam, Australian Muslims and Muslim community organisations. The AAM unequivocally condemned the attacks and expressed its solidarity with the victims, their families and all those affected.

At the same time, the AAM raised serious concerns about attempts to associate the actions of individuals with Islam or to impose collective blame upon the wider Australian Muslim community. Australian Muslims should not be expected to justify their faith, prove their loyalty or accept responsibility for criminal acts they did not commit and do not support.

The AAM also recognised the difficult position faced by Muslim leaders during major national incidents. Muslim organisations are often required to respond immediately, condemn acts before all facts are established, address public fear, correct misinformation, protect their communities and engage with governments, police and the media at the same time.

These developments were treated as a reminder that the AAM must strengthen:

- Government relations
- Policy development
- Media engagement
- Crisis response
- Community consultation
- Legal and political advocacy
- Coordination between national and state organisations

The AAM remains committed to protecting social harmony and community safety while firmly representing the legitimate concerns, rights and interests of Australian Muslims.

7 Political Advocacy and Government Engagement

Political advocacy and government engagement became one of the most important areas of AAM's work during the reporting period.

Following a Political Advocacy and Government Relations meeting held on 9 January 2026, the Board reviewed the AAM Political Advocacy Plan and discussed the future strategic positioning of the AAM and ANIC.

It was reaffirmed that:

AAM	AAM should take the leading public-facing role in political advocacy, policy representation and government engagement.
ANIC	ANIC should remain the national religious authority responsible for Islamic guidance, religious rulings and the representation of Imams and religious leaders.

The transition of political advocacy from ANIC to AAM remains in progress. In urgent national situations, both organisations will continue to coordinate their responses according to their respective responsibilities and the needs of the community.

The Board discussed establishing a Government Relations and Engagement Group to coordinate:

- Meetings with political representatives
- Government relations and lobbying
- Policy development
- Parliamentary submissions
- Community consultation
- Election engagement and awareness
- Follow-up and accountability
- Coordination between federal and state advocacy

The AAM also sought proposals from agencies able to provide professional political advocacy, lobbying and government relations services.

Planning was undertaken for advocacy visits to Canberra during parliamentary sitting periods. The Board agreed that future delegations should be:

- Smaller and focused
- Properly briefed
- Representative of different states and community sectors
- Inclusive of women wherever possible
- Supported by clear policy positions and written materials
- Followed by structured communication and accountability

Previous engagement in Canberra was regarded as highly successful, and the Board agreed that similar delegations should occur regularly at both federal and state levels.

The AAM identified the need to develop clear and evidence-based positions on major issues affecting Australian Muslims, including:

- Religious freedom
- Religious vilification and anti-discrimination protections
- Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred

- Civil liberties and freedom of expression
- Policing and community relations
- Community safety and security
- Media and political representation
- Palestine and international justice
- Government inquiries and Royal Commissions affecting Muslim communities

The Board also recognised the importance of preparing early for the Victorian election in late 2026 and the New South Wales election in early 2027.

The AAM and its member organisations should engage with representatives and candidates well before election periods, identify community priorities, request clear policy commitments and educate Australian Muslims about political systems, rights and civic responsibilities.

The AAM remains politically neutral and does not formally endorse any political party or candidate. It must engage professionally and constructively with all political parties, elected representatives, candidates, government departments and decision-makers, advocate for the interests of the Australian Muslim community, and provide information that enables community members to make informed decisions.

Funding remains essential for effective political advocacy. Professional government relations, policy research, submissions, political education and sustained engagement cannot rely solely on volunteers. Securing initial seed funding for political advocacy was therefore identified as a priority.

8 Media Engagement and Public Representation

The AAM continued to strengthen its media engagement and public representation.

A professional media and communications agency was engaged to assist with media strategy, public messaging and engagement with journalists and media organisations.

The Board recognised that political advocacy and media engagement must operate together. Effective advocacy requires clear messaging, credible representatives and the capacity to respond quickly to inaccurate or harmful reporting.

A significant example occurred when a false story concerning a supposed mosque in Fairfield and a fabricated letter was circulated publicly.

The AAM acted quickly and contacted the relevant media organisations. As a result:

- Channel Seven did not proceed with the story.
- The Daily Telegraph amended its reporting.
- Sky News removed its story.

This response demonstrated the value of timely, coordinated and professional media engagement.

It also sent an important message that inaccurate reporting about Muslims will be challenged and that Muslim organisations are increasingly capable of responding effectively.

The AAM also lodged a formal complaint regarding an opinion article published by The Australian that negatively distorted Islamic beliefs and practices.

The AAM maintained that Muslims should not be treated as an easy target for sensationalist or ratings-driven reporting.

The AAM also engaged SafeWork New South Wales following concerns arising from a report concerning antisemitism at the University of Sydney. This engagement provided an opportunity to raise the Muslim community's concerns, clarify its position, address Islamophobia and anti-Muslim discrimination, and develop a constructive relationship with the Commissioner and relevant staff.

The Board continued planning for:

- Basic media training for Muslim organisations
- Online media engagement webinars
- A national register of trained Muslim spokespeople
- Coordinated responses to major public issues
- Stronger relationships with journalists and media bodies
- Monitoring and challenging inaccurate reporting
- Promoting positive Muslim community contributions
- Improving communication during crises and elections

A stronger national media strategy will help the AAM move from responding only after harmful reporting occurs to proactively contributing to public discussion and promoting accurate and dignified representation of Islam and Muslims.

9 National Programs and Community Initiatives

The AAM continued to develop national programs and initiatives that strengthen community cooperation, advocacy and institutional capacity.

National Muslim Community Iftar 2026

The Board planned and coordinated the National Muslim Community Iftar, held jointly with ANIC at Waterview, Homebush, on Tuesday, 24 February 2026.

The National Muslim Community Iftar brings together Imams, community leaders and key stakeholders to strengthen relationships, promote unity and support engagement and cooperation.

The National Muslim Community Iftar 2026–1447H brought together Imams, community leaders and distinguished guests during the blessed month of Ramadan.

It was a warm and meaningful evening of Eman, brotherhood and sisterhood. Attendees shared a meal, exchanged greetings and reflected on the values that Ramadan renews each year, including compassion, service, patience and gratitude.

The strong sense of unity in the room was especially encouraging and demonstrated that the Australian Muslim community remains united and committed to its faith, to serving its community and to contributing positively to wider Australian society.

National Community Tools

The AAM remains committed to strengthening national community tools and platforms, including:

- The AAM Campaigns Tool, enabling community members to contact decision-makers on important issues.
- The New Muslims Network, connecting organisations that support new Muslims and improving referrals and resource sharing.
- The Muslim Central Directory, providing information about Muslim organisations, programs, services, classes and facilities across Australia.

10 Partnership with ANIC and Complementary Mandates

The AAM and the Australian National Imams Council continue to work closely within their respective mandates.

ANIC serves as the national religious authority, providing religious leadership, Islamic rulings, spiritual guidance and religious education, and uniting Imams and religious leaders across Australia.

AAM serves as the national platform for political advocacy, government engagement, media representation, organisational development, training and community capacity building.

The Board reaffirmed, with the agreement of ANIC's leadership and Board, that political and media advocacy should increasingly be led publicly by the AAM, while ANIC maintains its role as the religious authority.

This partnership allows the two organisations to complement one another and provide clearer, more coordinated and effective national leadership in serving the interests of the Australian Muslim community.

11 Muslim Community Fund

The Muslim Community Fund, a joint initiative of the AAM and ANIC, continued to progress during the reporting period.

For many years, essential national functions in political advocacy, media engagement, Islamic education, community development and institutional support have depended heavily on volunteers.

While volunteers remain essential, national advocacy and community development require sustainable funding and professional staff.

The Muslim Community Fund was established to address this need.

The Fund's Board confirmed its vision, mission, values and initial strategic priorities.

Three core strategic areas were identified:

- Political and media advocacy, supported through the AAM.
- Community engagement and institutional development.
- Preservation of Islamic identity, supported through ANIC.

The Fund's proposed initiatives include:

- Increasing political and government engagement
- Strengthening media advocacy and public representation
- Supporting Islamic education and religious leadership
- Preserving Islamic identity
- Expanding community outreach and mentorship
- Supporting Muslim organisations and institutions
- Improving safety and security advocacy
- Developing sustainable professional community services

Three meetings of the Muslim Community Fund Board had been held, and the Fund's governance and strategic priorities continued to be developed.

The Board considered the following proposed fundraising strategies:

- Annual contributions from AAM member organisations
- A corporate funding campaign targeting major partners
- A community fundraising dinner
- A public crowdfunding campaign during Ramadan
- Broader institutional and community fundraising

The next stage requires finalising these proposed strategies and converting the approved measures into active fundraising campaigns.

A separate detailed financial report will be presented to the Summit. However, it is important to acknowledge that limited staffing, limited income and continuing reliance on voluntary work remain significant constraints on AAM's ability to deliver its full national agenda.

12

Combating Islamophobia and Strengthening Community Safety

Islamophobia, anti-Muslim hatred and anti-Palestinian racism remain serious concerns for the Australian Muslim community.

The AAM continued to challenge false narratives, respond to inaccurate reporting and raise concerns with government and media institutions.

The Board recognised the need for the community to respond strategically, confidently and in a coordinated manner to discrimination, hate speech and unfair treatment.

The AAM remains committed to advocating for:

- Stronger protections against religious vilification
- Fair and consistent anti-discrimination laws
- Protection of religious freedom
- Protection of lawful expression and advocacy
- Proper reporting and documentation of anti-Muslim incidents
- Accountability for attacks or threats against Muslim institutions

The AAM also continued to support national safety and security initiatives for mosques, Islamic schools, community centres and other Muslim institutions.

The AAM assisted in distributing information about the Safety and Security Uplift Grants allocated by the federal government to all its members and Muslim organisations across Australia. It also supported eligible organisations in accessing the grants and obtaining funding and assistance suited to their safety and security needs.

Muslims must be able to worship, study, gather and serve their communities safely and confidently.

Community safety also requires constructive engagement with police, government agencies and relevant authorities. Where concerns arise regarding policing or government conduct, the AAM will continue to advocate firmly while maintaining open and professional channels of communication.

13 Preserving Islamic Identity

Preserving Islamic identity remains central to the mission of the AAM.

Australian Muslims, particularly young Muslims, continue to face social, intellectual and cultural pressures that may weaken their connection to faith, family and community.

This includes:

- Supporting families and parents
- Strengthening Islamic education
- Developing youth mentoring and leadership programs
- Providing meaningful opportunities for women and young people
- Promoting the authentic and mainstream understanding of Islam based on the Quran and Sunnah
- Strengthening Muslim organisations through governance and capacity-building support

Working closely with ANIC, the AAM's long-term vision is to safeguard Islamic faith, values and identity for future generations.

14 Building Community Capacity

The AAM also recognises that strong communities require strong institutions.

Muslim organisations must be supported to improve:

- Governance and Compliance
- Leadership
- Strategic planning
- Financial sustainability
- Communication
- Risk management
- Service delivery

Capacity building should therefore remain a major component of the AAM's future national work. This will enable Muslim organisations to operate more professionally, sustainably and effectively in serving the Australian Muslim community.

15 Challenges and Lessons

The reporting period demonstrated significant progress, but it also highlighted several ongoing challenges.

LIMITED RESOURCES

The AAM continues to operate with limited staffing and financial resources. Many important functions remain dependent on Board members, community leaders and volunteers. This limits the organisation's ability to respond rapidly, conduct research, maintain sustained political engagement and deliver national programs.

TRANSITION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The movement of political advocacy and public-facing engagement from ANIC to AAM remains in progress. Clearer operational arrangements, staffing, funding and communication are needed to support this transition.

CRISIS RESPONSE

Recent national events showed that the Muslim community requires a more structured crisis response model involving political engagement, media communication, legal advice and community coordination.

16 Priorities for 2026–2027

In the coming year, the AAM will prioritise:

Governance and Operations

- Establishing the Operations Committee and employing full-time staff.
- Strengthening action tracking and reporting.
- Improving coordination, communication and accountability between the AAM Board, its committees and member organisations.

Political Advocacy

- Establishing the Government Relations and Engagement Group.
- Implementing the AAM Political Advocacy Plan.
- Engaging professional government relations support.
- Conducting regular federal and state political delegations.
- Developing evidence-based policy positions and submissions.
- Preparing for the Victorian and New South Wales elections.

Media and Public Representation

- Expanding media monitoring and rapid response.
- Delivering media training for organisations and community leaders.
- Establishing a national Muslim spokesperson register.
- Strengthening relationships with journalists, media organisations and relevant industry bodies.
- Promoting positive Muslim contributions and stories to the wider Australian community.

Membership and National Coordination

- Completing the national community needs survey.
- Strengthening communication with state and territory organisations.
- Improving engagement with smaller, regional and emerging communities.

Financial Sustainability

- Expanding the Muslim Community Fund.
- Implementing member contribution and corporate funding strategies.
- Planning community fundraising activities.
- Securing funding for professional political, media and policy functions.

Leadership and Capacity Building

- Supporting youth and women's leadership.
- Strengthening organisational governance and compliance.
- Developing training and mentoring programs.
- Supporting new Muslims and community service organisations.

Islamic Identity and Community Protection

- Protecting religious freedom and lawful expression.
- Combating Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred.
- Supporting the safety and security of Muslim institutions.

Gratitude and Closing

We extend our sincere appreciation to the AAM Board members, member organisations, Imams and scholars, community leaders, professionals, youth and women's representatives, volunteers and supporters across Australia for their commitment, time and service throughout the year.

The progress recorded in this report is the result of the collective efforts of the AAM's member organisations, community partners, and supporters. Every meeting attended, submission prepared, community concern raised, media issue challenged, program delivered, and relationship strengthened has contributed to building a more united, organised and effective national platform for Australian Muslims.

We are especially grateful to the organisations and individuals who continue to contribute their expertise and resources, often voluntarily and behind the scenes. Their service has enabled the AAM to respond to major community concerns, strengthen national coordination and represent the interests of Australian Muslims with professionalism and integrity.

At the same time, the work ahead requires greater participation, sustainable funding, professional resources and shared responsibility. Strong and effective national representation requires the active involvement of member organisations, community leaders, professionals, young people, women and supporters from every state and territory.

We therefore encourage all member organisations to remain engaged, contribute to national initiatives, support the Muslim Community Fund, participate in consultations and advocacy, and assist in implementing the priorities adopted by the AAM Board and National Summit.

The coming period will require sincerity, unity, courage, wisdom and consistent action. We must continue to protect the rights and dignity of Australian Muslims, preserve Islamic identity, and strengthen our institutions.

The Alliance of Australian Muslims is committed to serving Islam, uniting the Australian Muslim community, preserving Islamic identity and integrity, defending religious freedom, combating Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate, advocating for justice and building strong and sustainable institutions for generations to come.

We ask Allah Almighty to accept the efforts of everyone who has contributed to this work, to keep us united, and to guide us to act with sincerity, wisdom and responsibility.

Thank you, and Jazakom Allahu Khairan

The AAM Board

9 August 2026