

الجمعية الإسلامية  
الغربية



# AFIC ACTIVE

SEPTEMBER 2021





Australian Federation  
of Islamic Councils

AFIC National  
Sharia Board



— Australian —  
**Dar Al-Iftaa**

◆ عِيدُ الْأَضْحَى ◆

**EID AL-ADHA**

— MUBARAK —

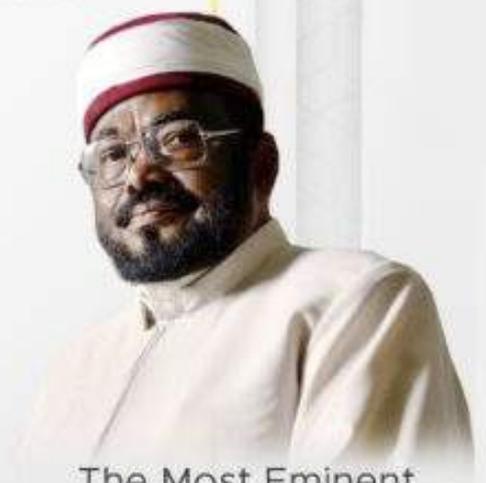
THUL HIJJAH 10<sup>TH</sup> 1442 H

**20·07·2021**

MAY THE BEAUTIFUL  
BLESSINGS OF ALLAH FILL YOUR  
LIFE WITH JOY & PROSPERITY



**Dr Rateb Jneid**  
AFIC President



The Most Eminent  
**Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari**  
National Grand Mufti of Australia

# President Message



"AFIC continues to strive for excellence, regardless of the lockdown and restrictions that have been imposed on Australians. Continuing this effort throughout these unprecedented times reminds us of all the incredible work that AFIC does to serve its community. I am proud to be the President of this organisation".

# National Grand Mufti Message

Since our last edition, Alhamdulillah, we have been blessed with launch of a website for the National Grand Mufti and have convened and participated in a number of important events as outlined in your AFIC Active Magazine



## The office of the National Grand Mufti of Australia welcomes you

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين

My respected brother and sisters, Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu.

On this auspicious occasion of Eid ul Adha Mubarak, I would like to wish you a very happy and blessed Eid Mubarak.

[Read More](#)



Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari achievements



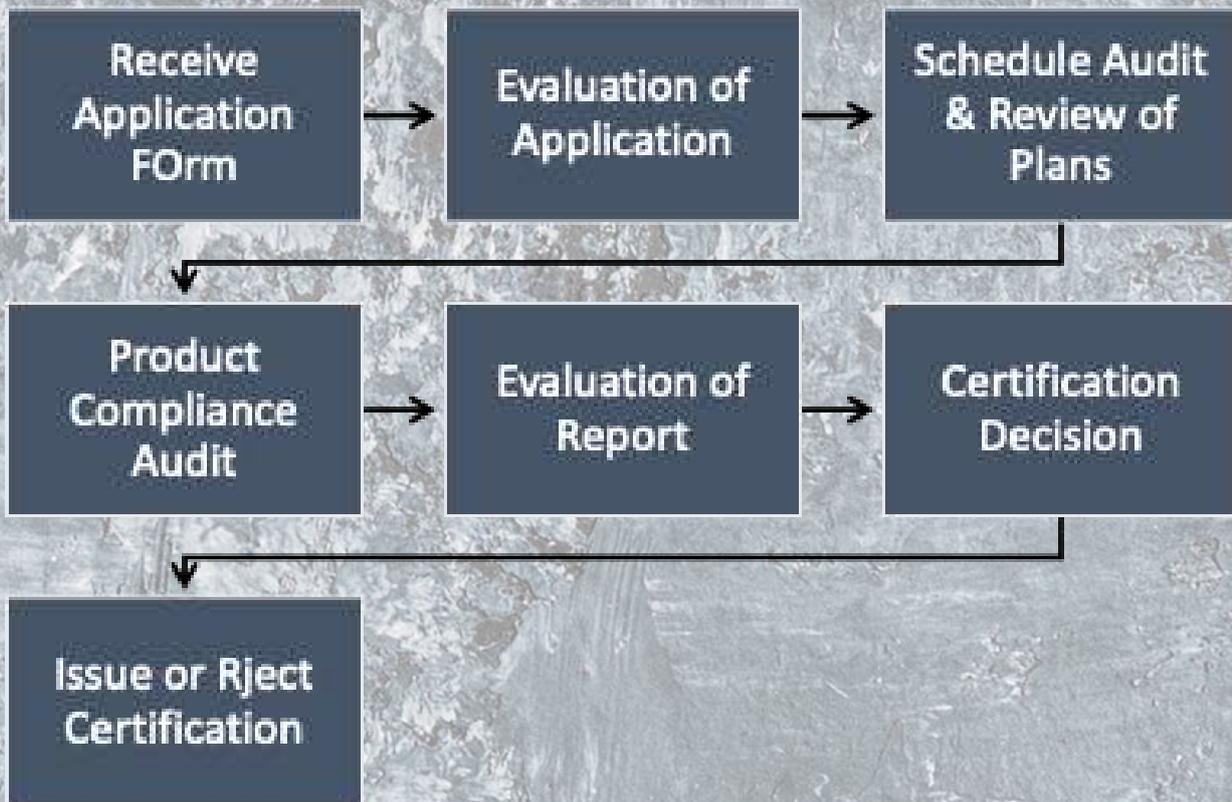
# AFIC HALAL AUTHORITY



## Mission Statement

The AFIC Halal Authority is the first and oldest halal certifying body in Australia. It is a service provided by the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils and operates as part of the AFIC not-for-profit structure. Our aim is to ensure that Muslims in Australia have access to Islamically permissible food and consumer products and to provide means for Australian businesses to have access to Muslim markets locally and overseas.

## Certification Process



# AFIC & SES



The NSW State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based organisation that provides emergency assistance to the community of NSW. On 21 April 2021, AFIC President Dr. Rateb Jneid, CEO Keysar Trad and National Grand Mufti of Australia Sheikh Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari attended the Bass Hill SES Station to thank the volunteers and show their gratitude for their hard work. The SES has always prioritised the needs of the community and for that AFIC appreciates their role.



Australian Federation  
of Islamic Councils

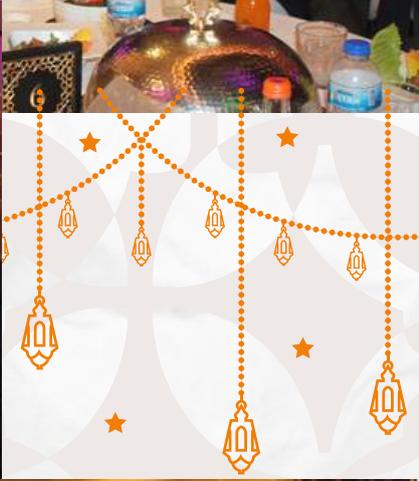


# AFIC HOSTS RAMADAN IFTAR DINNER



**This year's AFIC Iftar was blessed by bringing together representatives of numerous Muslim organisations, Imams, political leaders and volunteers. It was an opportunity to offer thanks while discussing our pertinent issues.**







# THE MONTH OF RAMADAN

Ramadan 2021 brought us back together for Taraweeh and Iftaars around the country.

Key events for AFIC and ANSAB during Ramadan:

1. The National Grand Mufti of Australia Sheikh Abdul Quddoos Al-Azhari led Taraweeh at Dar Al-'uloom Mosque in Brisbane reciting 1.25 juz (25pages) per night.
2. The President of AFIC Dr Rateb Jneid co-hosted many Iftar dinners for community leaders and Sheikhs around the country. The President also attended the Annual Iftar dinner hosted by NSW Premier The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian. The Annual Dinner is a time for the Community to come together, promoting goodwill and interfaith relations.
3. AFIC CEO Keysar Trad assisted in leading Taraweeh at Zetland Mosque and delivered a lecture series on Tafsir Surah Al Fatihah and the beginning of Surah Al Baqarah.
4. ANSB Founding Member Sheikh Riad El-Rifai led Taraweeh in his Mosque in Adelaide and gave us a very powerful reminder on why fasting is compulsory (a copy of the video can be found on our Facebook page).
5. ANSB live-streamed a Ramadan Q&A.





1. ANSB Founding Member Sheikh Khaled Taleb led Taraweeh at Masjid Al-Salam in Guildford and gave daily talks.

2. ANSB Founding Member Imam Hamza Kafrawi Co-hosted an Iftar dinner for political and community leaders and Imams. Imam Hamzah also gave us some powerful reminders of the importance of giving charity.

AFIC Da'wa and Iftaa Manager Sheikh Mohammad Trad assisted in leading Taraweeh at Zetland Mosque, at Fitya Centre and at Darul Iman mosque where he also gave talks on important topics such as Family ties, repentance and how to get closer to Allah Subhanhu wa ta'ala.



Zetland Masjid gave nightly Iftaars funded by worshippers from the mosque.



# Eid Festival



AFIC President Rateb Jneid welcomed political and Community leaders to the Islamic Council of Tasmania Eid Festival.

"The Eid-festival of breaking the fast has proved to us that we can put spirit over body and we can focus on our devotion to God and our love to humanity as we shared the feeling of hunger and thirst with those who have little access".



In Attendance was Attorney-General of Tasmania Hon. Elise Archer MP MP, Hon. Mayor of the City of Hobart Mayor Anna Reynolds , Ella Haddad MP and the Deputy Mayor of Hobart City Council Cr Helen Burnett.



## Eid At Our Al Ameen College, WA



An estimated 2000 parents, children and friends attended our Eid Event at our Al Ameen College in WA



# AFIC MEETS WITH NEWLY APPOINTED MULTICULTURAL MINISTER THE HON. NATALIE WARD MLC

In her first engagement with the Muslim Community, Minister Natalie Ward MLC tells the community that she has taken the post to serve all her multicultural constituency and that she has resigned from "Parliamentary Friends of Israel."

During the meeting, AFIC raised important issues facing the community, including Palestine and the treatment of multicultural inmates.



Pictured: AFIC CEO  
Keysar Trad, the  
HON. Natalie Ward  
MLC Minister for  
Sport,  
Multiculturalism,  
Seniors and  
Veterans and AFIC's  
Legal Support  
Officer Sister  
Maymouna  
Dennaoui

# Global News



AFIC grieves and prays for Canadian Afzal Family who were murdered by a right-wing terrorist. AFIC has called on the Australia Government and all governments globally to clampdown on right-wing extremists and calls for a balanced reporting on the events in the Middle East.



AFIC lauds Home Affairs Secretary Michael Pazzullo's Anzac Day message on China's aggression. AFIC supports the rights of the Uyghur people and all minorities in China.

AFIC also stands with the people of Kashmir, the people of Palestine, the Rohingya and all victims of state sponsored oppression



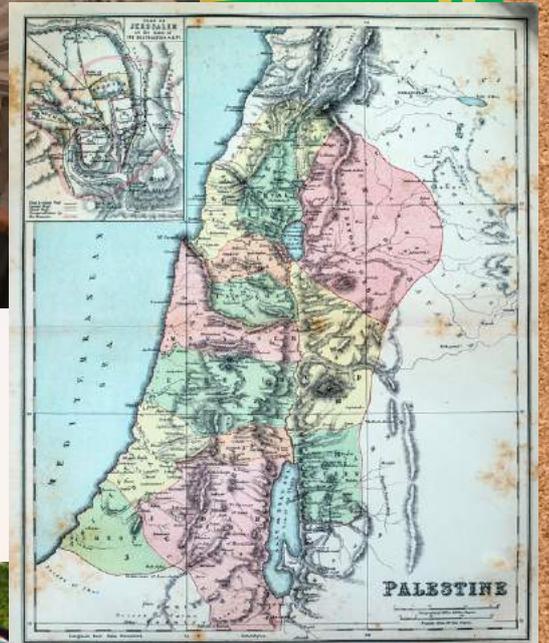
Fires ravaged North Lebanon and the Southern Coast of Turkey destroying forests and encroaching on villages and tourist destinations forcing people to evacuate their homes. We pray to Allah for the safety and protection of the families affected by the fires.



This period saw the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan. AFIC supports the right of all peoples to self-determination. AFIC was encouraged by the statement from the Taliban declaring a general amnesty to all political opponents and for guaranteeing ongoing education for the all the men and women of Afghanistan.

# Palestine

AFIC continues to condemn attacks by Israeli Settlers and authorities on Palestinians. AFIC continues to demand a cessation of Israeli hostilities and calls on the Australian government to support the rights of the Palestinian people.

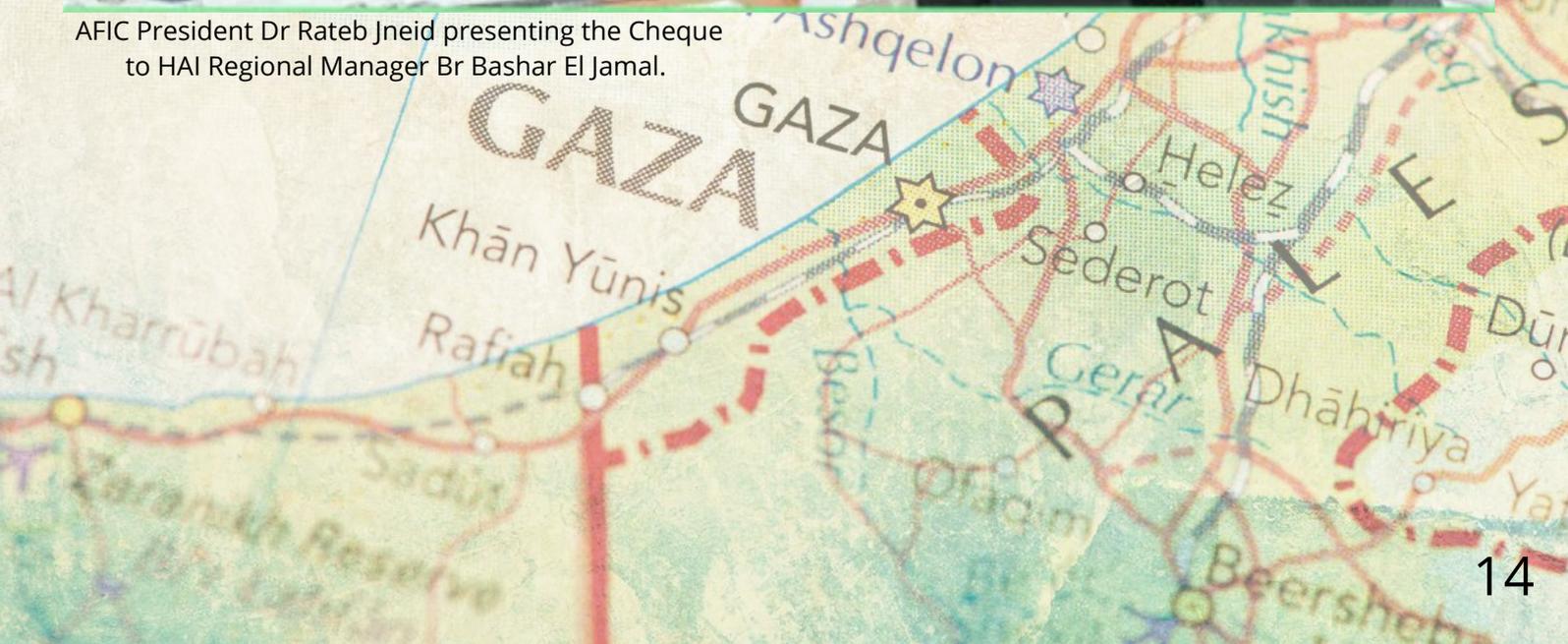


# RAISING MONEY FOR GAZA

AFIC President Dr Rateb Jneid presented to Human Appeal International 3-week-Zetland mosque collections for Gaza.



AFIC President Dr Rateb Jneid presenting the Cheque to HAI Regional Manager Br Bashar El Jamal.





## AFIC National Sharia Board



MAZ ISLAMIC EDUCATION CENTRE

مركز التربية الإسلامية

AFIC National Sharia Board (ANSB) member Imam Soner Coruhlu was a special speaker at the Opening Ceremony of the Maz Islamic Education Centre in Queenstown New Zealand.

The opening of the Education Centre is a great initiative for the Muslim community in the heart of a popular tourist city.

Imam Soner runs Sacred Outreach, an educational initiative that includes a variety of Islamic talks activities.



Pictured is Sister Maz, Philip and Imam Soner Corhlu



Australian Federation  
of Islamic Councils



# *Happy New Hijri Year 1443*

As we pray for a safe and prosperous new lunar year, we acknowledge our collective hearthbreak over strict COVID lockdowns and the devastation COVID and its variants have brought to humanity.

The Hijra (Migration) from Mecca to Medina was chosen to mark the start of the Islamic calendar due to the tremendous significance of the Migration of the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him, and the community of believers from a city where they were an oppressed faith-minority to the welcoming city of Medina where they could practice their faith freely.

We beseech Allah, through His attribute of Ash-Shafi (The Healer) to give us healing and to help us through these difficult times.

We wish everyone a happy, safe and prosperous new Hijra year.



**Dr Rateb Jneid**  
AFIC President

**The Most Eminent  
Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari**  
National Grand Mufti of Australia



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**NATIONAL GRAND MUFTI OF AUSTRALIA  
WEBSITE LAUNCH  
&  
Da'waa Event**

**Date: 10 July 2021  
Time: 5:00 - 8:00 pm  
Location: 6 Agnes Street  
Buranda QLD 4102**

*Maghrib great  
'Ilm event*

On the 10 July 2021, the President of AFIC, Dr Rateb Jneid and the Most Eminent National Grand Mufti of Australia, Imam Abdul Quddos Al Azhari launched the National Grant Mufti of Australia Website and Da'waa Program., chaired by Brother Keysar Trad.

The event was an evening of Da'wa and sharing knowledge from Australia's most accomplished Imams and Du'at. The speakers included

- Shiekh Riad Rifai
- Imam Hamzah Kafrawi
- Sheik Khaled Taleb
- Sistier Miriam Ghood
- Imam Mohammad Trad
- Imam Ahmad Azhari
- Sheikh Mohamad Abou Eid
- Imam Bekim Hasani
- Imam Mohammad Azhari

In the Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful



THE NATIONAL GRAND MUFTI OF AUSTRALIA



# COMMEMORATING AL HIJRA

## الهجرة

Online Da'waa Event Program

Date: Saturday, 14 August 2021

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

www.grandmufti.com.au - livestream. Live Streaming between 6:00 - 8:00pm

LIVE STREAMED  
AT:



1 - Sheikh  
Khaled Taleb



2 - President  
Dr Rateb Jneid



3- Imam  
Soner Coruhlu



MC  
Br Keysar Trad



4 - Dr Rashid Raashed



5 - Imam  
Dr Bekim Hasani



6 - Mohamed Rifai



11 - National  
Grand Mufti  
of Australia,  
His Eminence  
Imam Abdul  
Quddos Al Azhari



7 -Imam Mohamed  
Ferdous Alam



8 - Sheikh  
Riad El Rifai



9 - Imam  
Mohamad Trad



10 - Moulana  
Muhamad Aslam

To Commemorate the new Al Hijra year, the National Grand Mufti of Australia, His Eminence Imam Abdul Quddos Al Azhari live streamed an Online Da'waa Event. This event was attended by Sheikh's and Imam's of AFIC, Faith leaders and Members of the Public. You can view the recording of the event and the topics raised and discussed on the AFIC Facebook page.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING YOUR TIES OF KINSHIP

The messenger of Allah (saw) said: "verily amongst the most complete believers in faith are those with good character and those who are kind and gentle to their family members."

إِنَّ مِنْ أَكْمَلِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِيمَانًا أَحْسَنُهُمْ خُلُقًا وَالْأَطْفَهُمْ بِأَهْلِيهِ

The messenger of Allah (saw) also said: "whoever loves that Allah extends his provision (rizk) and bless him in his progeny/family ,then let him join his ties of kinship.

In both of the above Ahadith the Prophet (saw) commended kindness, generosity and maintaining ties with kin. Family is the unit upon which communities and nations are built. If the individual families are not prosperous, the community or nation will never progress.

I would like to stress the following points:

1. We have been commanded by the Prophet Muhammad (saw) to be kind and generous with family members and an to show them respect, love and care.
2. We should frequently check on the well-being of our relatives so that they do not feel neglected. We should visit them wherever possible and if we aren't able to visit, we should try and contact them and speak to them.
3. We should remember that we have a responsibility to our relatives who are poor and in need and we should extend our help to them from time to time in the form of gifts and also in the form of du'a.

Let us take a lesson from the guidance of our Prohpet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him, and fulfil the rights we owe to our relatives.

Let us pray to Allah Subhanahu wa ta'la to help us discharge this important duty and responsibility faithfully.



The Most Eminent Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari  
National Grand Mufti of Australia

## Letter to Political Community & Faith Leaders

On the 20 May 2021, Grand Mufti Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari sent out a letter to political, community and faith leaders asking them to turn to Allah Subhanahu wa ta'la with humble and sincere prayers and plead to Allah (swt) to help us find an unbiased solution that will ensure everlasting peace, mutual respect and understanding for all.

The letter was sent as a response to the horrific killing and wounding of thousands of innocent people in the Holy Land of Palestine where the indigenous Palestinian population is subject to a brutal and murderous occupation.

The Mufti stated in his letter that *"These mass murders, violence and ethnic cleansing are not the avenue for any solution. They are only destroying sacred human lives, they are also causing suffering, leaving irredeemable scars, and sowing the seeds for further violence in multiple folds that could potentially damage the fabric of communities, societies and perhaps the entire region"*.

*"I call upon all peace-loving people in the world to work together to achieve an immediate stop to this aggression. This madness of violence and bloodshed must be stopped."*



19 August 2021

## Statement from the National Grand Mufti of Australia The Most Eminent Sheikh Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari

In the name of Allah the beneficent the merciful

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the universe, peace and blessings of Allah upon our beloved Nabi, Muhammed (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasalam)

I have been asked many times: “Why should there be two Grand Muftis in Australia?”

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) is the original owner and appointer of this position. I reluctantly agreed to take this post earlier this year because I want to give additional support to the community through AFIC. I believe that the whole community should be supporting and cooperating with AFIC.

To set the record straight, I would like to confirm that Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammad, the Grand Mufti at ANIC, is a learned scholar and my respected and valued good friend for more than 25 years.

I also would like to confirm that Sheikh Shadi Al Suleiman, the President of ANIC, was close from a young age and I care for him just like any of my sons and the thousands of youth in Australia, Fiji, Malaysia, India, many Arab countries and other communities around the world, whom I have had the pleasure to serve over the years.

I also would like to confirm that my door as the National Grand Mufti of Australia will always be open for bringing unity and inclusion for all hard-working people of the community in Australia.

May Allah bless us and guide us all to work sincerely for the betterment of the community and for the betterment of Australia.

**Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari**  
National Grand Mufti of Australia

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

بيان هام من المفتي العام للقارة الأسترالية سماحة الإمام عبد القدوس الأزهرى

10 محرم 1443، الموافق 19 آب 2021

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين

لقد وردني العديد من التساؤلات من أبناء الجالية الكرام عن تعيين مفتي عام ثاني للقارة الأسترالية.

للتوضيح، إن أول من بادر إلى إقامة منصب المفتي في استراليا هو الإتحاد الفدرالي الأسترالي للمجالس الإسلامية في عام 1989.

وقد وافقت على هذا التعيين وقبلت المنصب بعد أصرار الأخوة الغيورين على مصلحة الجالية الإسلامية ووفق وضعي كأحد الأعضاء المؤسسين للهيئة الشرعية للإتحاد الفدرالي للمجالس الإسلامية في استراليا لأنني على يقين بأنه من أهم واجباتنا أن ندعم ونرفع بهذه الفدرالية العريقة (الأفيك) التي تسهر على مصالح المسلمين على مدار أكثر من سبعة وخمسين سنة.

وللتوضيح، أؤكد أن فضيلة الدكتور سماحة المفتي إبراهيم أبو محمد المَعِين مع مجلس أئمة الأنبيك، هو عالم جليل وصديق عزيز منذ أكثر من خمس وعشرين سنة وأكّن لسماحته كامل الاحترام والمحبة.

كما أن فضيلة الشيخ شادي سليمان رئيس الأنبيك ابن عزيز وأنا أعرفه منذ شبابه وأكّن له كامل المحبة والاحترام، فهو نشيط وعنصر فعال في جاليتنا الكريمة.

أؤكد هنا أنّ أبوابي مفتوحة على مصراعيها وستبقى لخدمة ووحدة أمتنا وجمع شمل الناشطين الغيورين على وحدة ومصلحة أمتنا والمجتمع الأسترالي الكريم.

كما أدعوا المولى عز وجل أن يوفقنا جميعا لما يحب ويرضى.

الإمام عبد القدوس الأزهرى

المفتي الوطني العام للقارة الأسترالية

# بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## Prayers and Condolences

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

AFIC offers its most sincere condolences with respect to the passing of our dear teacher and great scholar **Sheikh Khalil Almayss**, the Mufti of Zahle and Bekaa, founder of the Al Azhar Chancellery of Bekaa. We pray to Allah to grant this great paradise, he has left behind a great legacy that has benefited teachers and students in Lebanon and outside.

AFIC offers its most sincere condolences with respect to the passing of the great Kashmiri leader **Syed Ali Shah Geelani**, the chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference who has strived and struggled in pursuit of self-determination of the people of Kashmir who are repressed under a brutal and barbaric Indian Occupation and oppressive lockdowns.

AFIC offers its most sincere condolences to the Australian Muslim community, the Arabic Community and the Palestinian Community on the passing of one of our great pioneers, the former president of Parramatta Mosque, brother **Hajj Nail Kadomi**.

We ask Allah to embrace him with his compassion and grant him Paradise. To Allah we belong and to Him we return.



AFIC National  
Sharia Board



Australian  
Dar Al-Iftaa



Australian Federation  
of Islamic Councils

# FASTING AASHURA

The Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him, said:

“And the fasting of Aashura: I hope that Allah will expiate all the errors/sins of the preceding year.

(وَصِيَامُ يَوْمِ عَاشُورَاءَ، أَحْتَسِبُ عَلَى اللَّهِ أَنْ يُكَفِّرَ السَّنَةَ الَّتِي قَبْلَهُ).

Iban Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said: the prophet, peace and blessings upon him, arrived to Medina and saw that the Jews were fasting Aashura. He asked: what is this? They said: this is a great day, this is the day when Allah saved the Israelites from their enemy, so Musa fasted it. He (the prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him) said: I am closer to Musa than you are, he fasted it and ordered the Muslims to fast it too.”

روى البخاري عن عبد الله بن عباس -رضي الله عنه- أنه قال: (قَدِمَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ الْمَدِينَةَ فَرَأَى الْيَهُودَ تَصُومُ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءَ، فَقَالَ: مَا هَذَا؟، قَالُوا: هَذَا يَوْمٌ صَالِحٌ هَذَا يَوْمٌ نَجَّى اللَّهُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنْ عَدُوِّهِمْ، فَصَامَهُ مُوسَى، قَالَ: فَأَنَا أَحَقُّ بِمُوسَى (مِنْكُمْ، فَصَامَهُ، وَأَمَرَ بِصِيَامِهِ).



# AFIC SUPPORTS THE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT (RELIGIOUS VILIFICATION) BILL 2021

The focus of the amendment is to protect persons from being racially vilified on the grounds that they are of a specific religious belief or affiliation.

Given recent events that have occurred both nationally and internationally, the bill will provide safeguards for individuals and families from being targeted based on their faith.

The Religious Vilification Bill will accord diverse Australian communities much needed protection and better access. It protects the fundamental rights of people to maintain their faith affiliation and practice without the risk of suffering hatred or abuse.



# AFIC STANDS WITH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN PROTECTING THEIR RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS, OFFERS SOLUTIONS TO STOP BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

AFIC respects the right of all established faiths to have their religious observances respected and will always defend the rights of faith-adherents to the unhindered practice of their faith-teachings where these practices do not cause violence against others. In this regards AFIC issued a statement supporting Sikh youth in wearing their religious symbols.

AFIC continues to hold the view that all schools should have strong mechanisms that allow pupils to learn in an environment that is free from bullying.

Bullying is an epidemic that must be directly addressed.

The public system is not sufficiently funded/equipped to deal adequately with such matters, suspension and expulsions are not a solution to bullying.

Reflection classes, cooling off classes and remedial classes have proved to be an effective treatment for bullying and other undesirable student behaviour. Children allocated to such classes are given different break times to the remaining student population and are kept in these classes for two weeks or slightly longer subject to the assessment of the supervising teacher.

AFIC officers have seen the tremendous success of such programs in helping our Australian youth appreciate and respect the rights of others and their own ability to address their personal issues.

#HATE

#BULLY



**BULLYING IS NOT ALWAYS PHYSICAL!**

### 4 Types of BULLYING

PHYSICAL Bullying	VERBAL Bullying	SOCIAL Bullying	CYBER Bullying
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hitting, kicking, slapping, pinching</li> <li>Spitting</li> <li>Tripping, pushing</li> <li>Stealing or destroying someone's possessions</li> <li>Making mean or rude hand gestures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name calling</li> <li>Insults</li> <li>Teasing</li> <li>Intimidation</li> <li>Homophobic or racist remarks</li> <li>Inappropriate sexual comments</li> <li>Taunting</li> <li>Threatening to cause harm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lying &amp; spreading rumors</li> <li>Leaving someone out on purpose</li> <li>Telling others not to be friends with someone</li> <li>Embarrassing someone in public</li> <li>Damaging someone's social reputation or relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Posting/sending hurtful texts, emails or posts, images or videos</li> <li>Making online threats</li> <li>Imitating others online or using their log-in</li> <li>Deliberately excluding others online</li> <li>Spreading nasty gossip or rumors</li> </ul>

safety magnets | 2018 Safety Magnet Plus | ©2018 Safety Magnet Plus

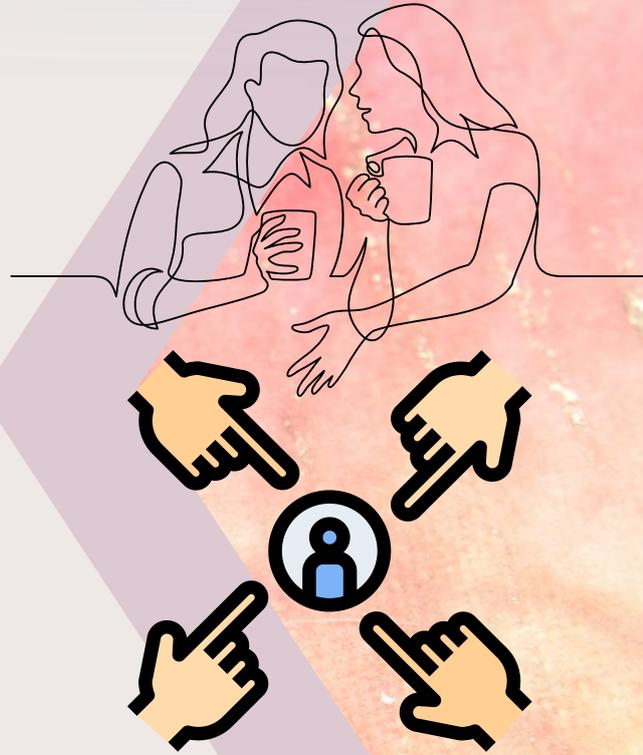
# Article Releases

## Backbiting & Slandering

AFIC President Dr Rateb Jneid explains that backbiting & slandering are amongst some of the major destructive sins forbidden by Allah (swt). These two sins plant enmity, evils and discord among people. Allah, Ta'ala, says in the Holy Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الظَّنِّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ إِثْمٌ وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا يَغْتَب بَّعْضُكُم بَعْضًا أَيُحِبُّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرِهْتُمُوهُ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ رَّحِيمٌ

"O you who believe! Avoid much suspicion: Indeed some suspicions are sins. And spy not neither backbite one another. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You would hate it (so hate backbiting). And fear Allah, verily, Allah is the one who accepts repentance, Most Merciful"



## Looking after your Spiritual, Mental & Physical Wellbeing During Lockdown

AFIC Dawa and Iftaa Manager, Sheikh Mohammad Trad emphasises the risks that are associated with extended lockdowns and the strategies we can implement to ensure we are minimising the damage from the lockdown.

Sheikh Mohammad explains that the 3 domains of spirit, mind and body are interrelated and that a deficiency in one will cause a person to struggle in maintaining the other two.

Strategies we can implement to maintain the 3 domains include:

- Engaging in regular dhikr (words of remembrance such as subhan Allah, Alhamdu lillaah, Allahu Akbar).
- Regularly make Du'a (supplication to Allah)
- Stay connect with others, including through phone conversations and online.
- Spend time outdoors
- Maintain a balanced diet.



# Article Releases



## Mini-Series: Why Muslims Believe

Sheikh Mohammad Trad has released a mini series titled 'Why Muslims Believe'. It is a series of logical arguments on how Muslims have come to the conclusion that there are none worthy of worship other than Allah (God/ the Creator), and that Muhammad (peace and blessings upon him) is the final messenger of Allah.

The first part of the series looks at Truth-seekers. Sheikh Mohammad states that "normally, a seeker is looking for something they don't have. In the case of the Truth seeker, there is an additional consideration. They remain open to the idea that they do not have complete understanding of a matter. They are open to the idea that there may be something new for them to learn; something that may challenge what they currently know.

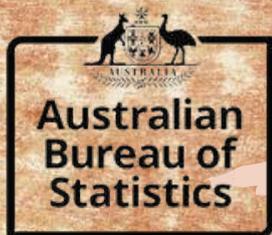
## Connecting the Young with the Community

Sheikh Mohammad Trad addresses the need to connect young people with the community particularly those in the 20-30 year age category. He highlights in his article how this demographic are underrepresented in a cross-section of today's community organisations and their events.

The needs of the community are to a large extent represented by the needs of the young. The inclusion of the young was exemplified by the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him. It is important for organisations to actively and regularly explore ways to include the young at the receiving end of a service, at the delivery end and even at the developmental end. They look to opening paths for themselves to progress through life.

Sheikh Mohammad Trad recommends that organisations budget for up-skilling opportunities for all people involved in community organisations so that the organisation is at peak performance in its service of the community.





# CENSUS 2021

On Tuesday 10 August 2021, Australians completed the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census.

The Census collates and tabulates information in a meaningful way that many of service providers refer to to better target their services to society.

It is an important resource particularly for the multicultural, multi-faith and multilingual community. It also gives the opportunity for the Muslim population to be counted so we can obtain accurate information on which we can develop future services for the community.

## REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCES



The Edmund Rice Center has released a report that investigates the employment struggles Refugees face when looking for work in the Australian labour market. The report deals with these struggles as well as strategies and solutions that can be implemented to help support refugees.

It is important to note that most refugees come to Australia after fleeing a war torn country, they come here to build a safer and better life free from persecution. Many were once teachers, professors, CEO's and business executives. Many have a wealth of knowledge and experience. However, substandard English skills and a lack of local experience make it very difficult for them to find work in their fields in the Australian Market.

A link to the copy of the report can be found on the AFIC Facebook page.



# AFIC LIVESTREAMS JUM'A KHUTBA DURING LOCKDOWN

LIVE STREAMING



The restrictions imposed on Sydney residents have been tough for everyone. Small businesses, Mosques and Schools have had to shut their doors in compliance with the public health orders. As a result many have had to find alternative methods to minister to the community. In these unprecedented times, AFIC has led the way in providing livestreamed Jum'a Khutab every Friday..

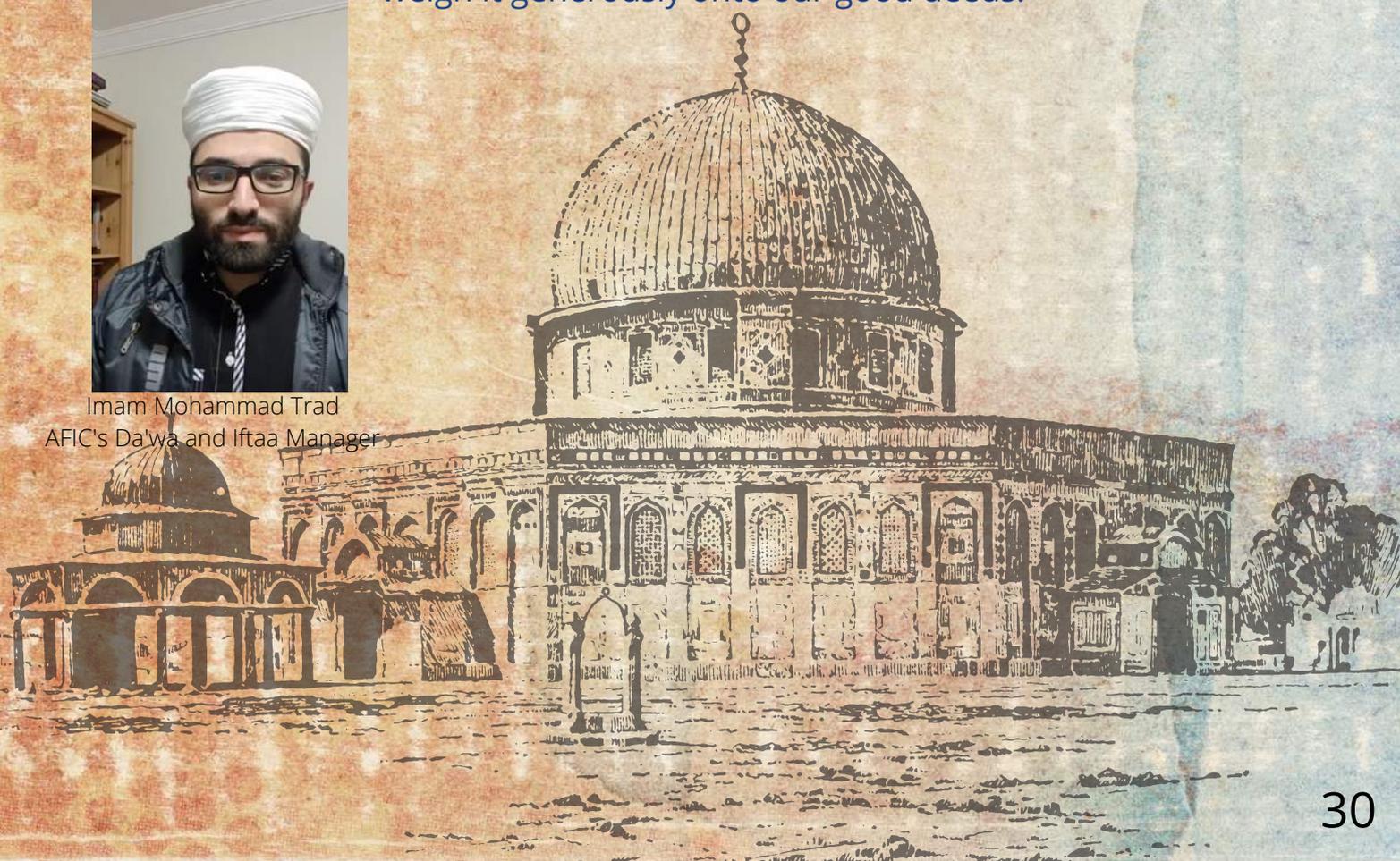
Mosques have shut their doors, however that does not mean that we cannot come together, it just means that we have to think outside of the box. AFIC has used this time to be innovative, live streaming Jum'a Khutab from Imams homes. You can view every Jum'a khutba since the start of the lockdown on AFIC's Facebook page.

The Jum'a Khutab will be continue to be livestreamed via Facebook until the restrictions are lifted and communal prayers are permitted.

We Pray to Allah subhanahu wa ta'la to bless us all through this service and to weigh it generously onto our good deeds.



Imam Mohammad Trad  
AFIC's Da'wa and Iftaa Manager

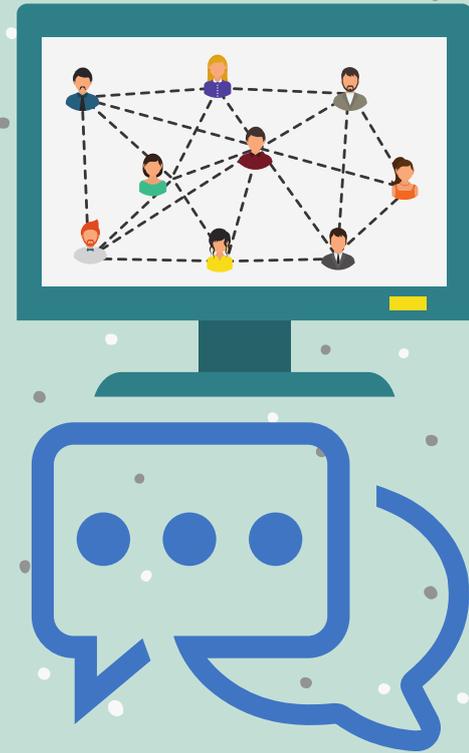


# ONLINE EVENTS

AFIC President Dr. Rateb Jneid and Legal Support Officer Maymouna Dennaoui have attended multiple roundtable events via Zoom with senior government ministers including Minister for Immigration, the Hon. Alex Hawke MP. Discussions at these events included the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed as well as issues surrounding citizenships and the importance of social cohesion.

The AFIC President also attended a Roundtable meeting with the Prime Minister Scott Morrison which provided an update on the Government's support to communities during the COVID-19 outbreak, the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine and the National Plan to Transition Australia's COVID-19 response.

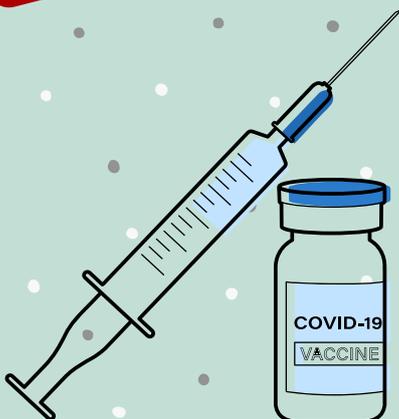
Attending these forums has allowed us to raise issues and concerns affecting the community at large and be the voice of the Muslim community during these difficult times.



## COVID-19 CONVERSATION - THE ROLE OF LEADERS

Sheikh Mohammad Trad discusses in his article "The Coronavirus Conversation: The Role of Leaders" that it is appropriate for religious leaders to advise people on staying safe and ensuring the safety of others rather than forcing their choice of vaccine. The article highlights some of the challenges that our community is facing including:

- **Intrapersonal challenges:** considerations for the physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing which needs to be an ongoing focus for the religious leader.
- **Livelihood:** challenges surrounding people whose work relies on movement such as those in the construction industry and tradespeople.
- **Uncertainty:** since the outbreak in March 2019, there seems to be no reassuring voice during this crisis but rather rhetoric that increases fear, anxiety and uncertainty.



*A copy of the full article can be found on the AFIC website*



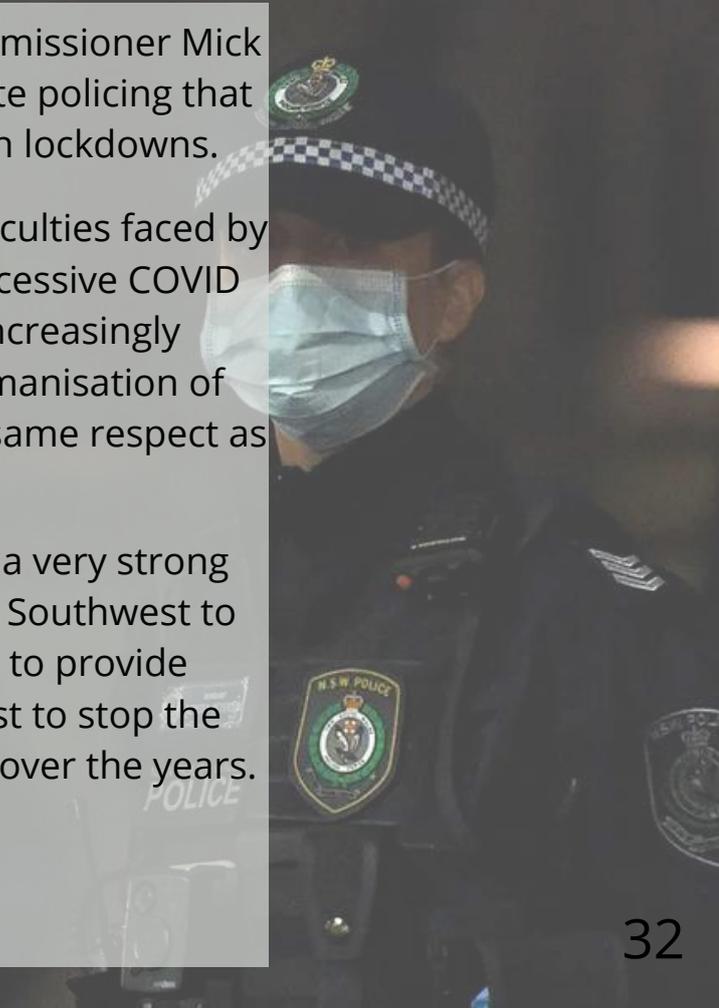
## Commemoration for Australians Involved in Afghanistan and the Middle East Area of Operation

AFIC has sent a letter to General Angus J. Campbell Chief of Defence Australia concerning the proposal to nominate a day for the Commemoration for Australians involved in the Middle East Area of Operation.

Whilst AFIC acknowledges the sacrifices that the Australian troops have made. These specific operations were very controversial, their consequences were disastrous for the people of those regions and numerous complaints have been tabled regarding the conduct of coalition troops. The proposed commemoration does not serve Australia's interests and will result in avoidable criticism..

The letter raised issues about the participation in large scale killings, destruction and displacement of tens of millions of people and the widespread anti-muslim sentiments and Islamophobia.

## Disproportionate Policing in Sydney's Southwest during current Lockdowns



AFIC has raised concerns with NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller surrounding the current disproportionate policing that has unraveled in NSW following current hatsh lockdowns.

Whilst we acknowledge and appreciate the difficulties faced by law enforcement during the lockdown, the excessive COVID related over policing of the Southwest is increasingly perceived as a selective experiment in dehumanisation of minorities who deserve to be treated with the same respect as all other citizens.

We have urged Commissioner Fuller to issue a very strong directive to all officers, especially those in the Southwest to stop these overzealous recriminations and to provide adequate training to officers in the Southwest to stop the harm to the good relations that had been built over the years.

# A RESECTFUL CONVERSATION

Full program coverage at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jb6SUrPCsAs&t=17s>

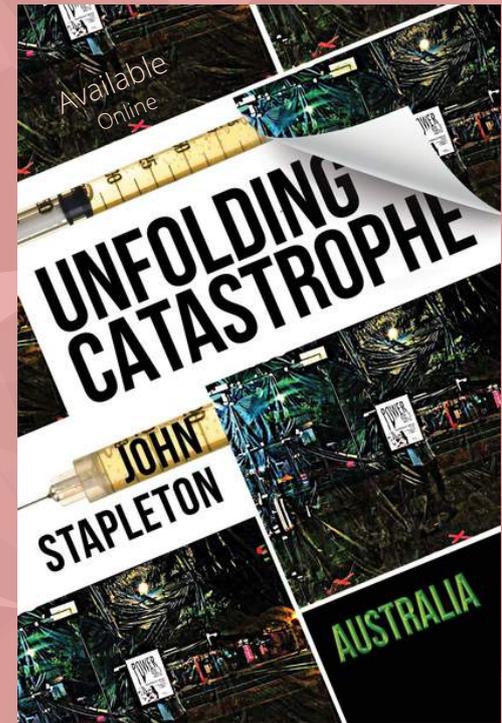
**CORONAVIRUS**  
A CONVERSATION BEYOND THE HYPE AND FEAR

ADDRESSING CONCERNS ABOUT CORONA VIRUS, VACCINES & LOCKDOWNS | SATURDAY 28 | AUG | 21 TIME: 06:15 PM

This event is being Streamed via this link  
[www.facebook.com/AFICOfficial](http://www.facebook.com/AFICOfficial)

**SPEAKERS**

- Dr Rabeab Jneid, AFIC President
- The Hon Ezzamel Imran Al-Zuhairi, Ouddoos Al Azhari, Member of the House of Representatives
- Sheikh Hassan Zeidan, Australian Imam
- Jason Wood MP, Australian Member of Parliament, Community Safety and Wellbeing Affairs
- Dr Jim Chalmers, Health Minister
- Dr Archana Koirala, Health Minister and Minister of Health Services
- Mr John Stapleton, Federal Minister, Trade, Investment and Trade
- Imam Muhammad Taib, AFIC's Darul Uloom Manager



## News Flash



### Your Voice Matters

The Australian Government Plans to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Occupying State of Israel. Write to your Federal Minister for Trade and your local Federal member and say: **"No FTA with Apartheid Israel"**



## Hindutva Islamophobia returns to Australia

### Hindu Council of Australia (HCA) conference speaker attacks Islam

On 5 September 2021, the Hindu Council of Australia (HCA) Australian Hindu Conference featured 'academic' Sarah Louise Gates. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oz06G72J0E>)

Ms Gates' YouTube video others, dehumanises and justifies violence against the Indian Sikh, Muslim and Dalit communities.

In particular, Ms Gates justifies violence against Muslims and Sikhs in the US on the basis that they are 'terrorists' (@14:15), trivialises the rape and violence against Indian Ambedkarites (@16:15). The video others and portrays Indian Muslims as invaders (@24:09). The video justifies the atrocities against Indian minorities and Dalits (16:17) on the basis that Australia was also involved in such atrocities against our indigenous people. These narratives are deeply offensive to Australian Indians of Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Ambedkarite and Christian heritage.

Readers might recall that earlier this year, AFIC met with representatives of the Hindu Council to address similarly offensive material raised during their webinars between Thursday 18 and Friday 19. Despite AFIC's intervention, the present leadership of the Hindu Council did not formally express regret for their action.

In a statement received by AFIC, Hindus for Human Rights - Australia and New Zealand (HfHR- ANZ) said: "that such Hindutva hatred spread under the guise of Hinduism is contrary to human rights rooted in the values of the Hindu faith: shanti (peace), nyaya (justice) and satya (truth)." They added: "We are deeply concerned that these hate campaigns by the Hindutva organisations malign Hinduism, foster fear, promote Hinduphobia, and impact on the resilience of our community"

# Islamic Guidance on Dress

Sheikh Mohammad Trad has raised the topic regarding the appropriate Islamic dress, a matter in which Islam has provided guidance for men and women.

The article explores cultural and religious dress. It makes reference to the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him, stating that he did not invent a new line of clothing in the faith, but rather the Muslims wore what was available to everyone at the time. The aim of the article is to discuss these issues in a balanced and productive manner.



The full version can be found on the AFIC Website under the Articles banner.

## China and Islam

AFIC president Dr Rateb Jneid, was invited to speak at a Webinar on "China's Cooperation with the Muslim World". AFIC has on numerous occasions condemned China's persecution and oppression of religious minorities.

AFIC felt that it was crucial to present our message at any forum that seeks to discuss the People's Republic of China (PRC).

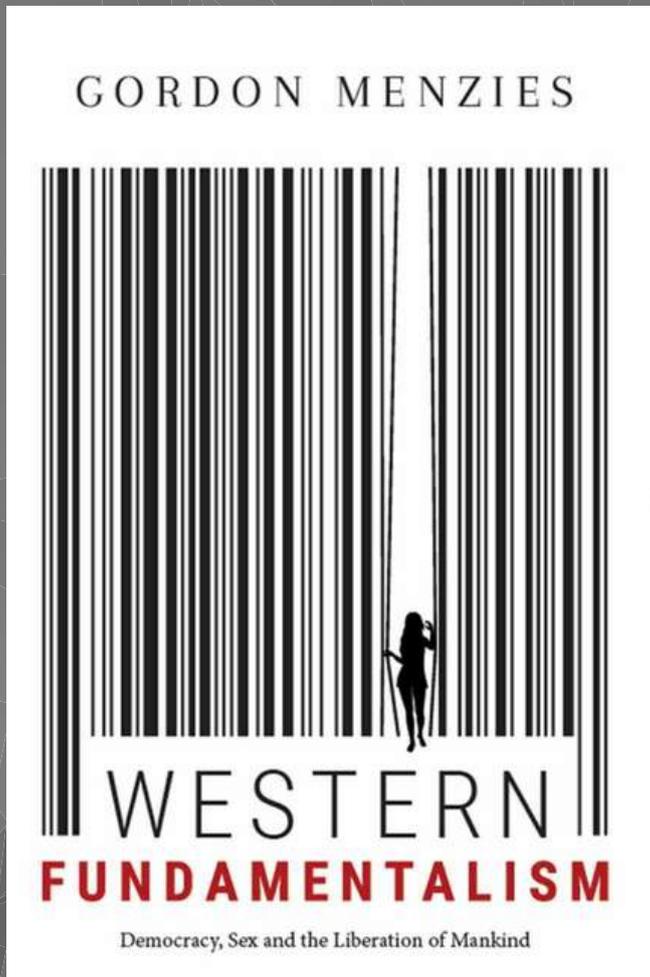
This event was cancelled after AFIC indicated its intention to address human rights at this forum.

Below is a short extract from the speech. The full speech can be found on the AFIC website and Facebook page.

*"Whilst some might excuse the sacrifice of the few for the perceived short-lived well-being of the many, such an approach is strongly condemned in Islam as Islam looks for the well-being of all in a fair egalitarian manner.*

*China's persecution of minorities, the Uyghur, the Falun Dafa, Christians and other minorities cannot be whitewashed by a few articles from friendly sources. ... ."*

# Western Fundamentalism



AFIC President Dr Rateb Jneid, CEO Keysar Trad and Legal Support Officer Maymouna Dennaoui interviewed Dr Gordon Menzies on his new book "Western Fundamentalism".

The interview raised many questions regarding the book such as issues of democracy, European powers, and even issues surrounding the world today, such as coerced vaccination.

The interview is available on the AFIC Facebook page. Dr Gordon Menzies' book is available at Amazon.com.



# A New Agenda for the Future

## Our Vision

AFIC will serve and inspire the Australian Muslim community to build a society that is free of discrimination where all people are empowered to fulfill their potential and where Islam enriches the community.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to advocate for the oppressed and weak; build pathways and opportunities for young Muslims to succeed; provide services that meet the needs of our diverse community and educate Muslims and non-Muslims on the true beauty of Islam.

## Our Values

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Trust
- Respect
- Justice
- Mercy
- Sincerity



Australian Federation  
of Islamic Councils

## OUR OFFICES

### Sydney:

932 Bourke Street,  
Zetland NSW 2017

PO Box 7185, Alexandria BH NSW 2015

Ph: 02 9319 6733

Fax: 02 9319 0159

admin@afic.com.au

### Melbourne:

66-68 Jeffcott Street

West Melbourne VIC 3003

PO Box 14094 Melbourne 8001

Ph: 03 9329 1228

Fax: 03 9329 1677

melb@afic.com.au

### Canberra:

Unit 21/41 Liardet Street

Weston ACT 2611

M: 0421 231 290

canberra@afic.com.au

### Perth:

17 Mercantile Way

Malaga WA 6090



[www.afic.com.au](http://www.afic.com.au)



@OfficalAFIC



@AFICOfficial