



Date: 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2018

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ANIC 11th GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ELECTION OF THE NEW MUFTI OF AUSTRALIA**

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

All praise is due to Allah and peace and blessings be upon the Prophet Muhammad.

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) convened this day, Sunday the 18th of March 2018, its 11th General Assembly. ANIC is the peak Islamic religious and legal authority, representing Muslims in Australia. It comprises more than two-hundred Imams and Muslim scholars of different backgrounds and schools of thought across all states in Australia.

The General Assembly was held at ANIC's headquarters in Chullora, Sydney, with the participation of many distinguished Imams from various states.

The General Assembly discussed the following items:

- Annual Reports of ANIC's Executive Committee
- State Imams Councils
- Centre for Arbitration and Resolution Disputes.
- ANIC Halal Authority
- Signing of the ANIC Imams Code of Honour which affirms the unity of the Imams in Australia, their mutual respect for one another and their commitment to standing united against any target towards Islam and Muslims.

In addition to these items, the election for the position of Mufti of Australia was held. The election followed the completion of the maximum constitutionally permitted period of six years, i.e., two consecutive three year terms, by the outgoing Mufti, His Eminence Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohamad. Dr Abu Mohamad served the Muslim community in Australia well and provided unprecedented and invaluable service, for which he was warmly thanked. The community owes Dr Abu Mohamad a great deal of gratitude.



The ANIC Executive Committee, consisting of eighteen eminent member Imams, were charged with electing the new Mufti, which they did at the General Assembly.

The Australian National Imams Council is therefore proud to announce that **Imam ABDEL AZIEM AL-AFIFI** was elected as the new Mufti of Australia for the next three years.

ANIC congratulates **Imam ABDEL AZIEM AL-AFIFI** and wishes him all the success in the new position.

ANIC is confident that the new Mufti of Australia will be warmly welcomed by the community. With the community's support, the Mufti of Australia will be able to perform his duties and dedicate himself to the service of all in this country.

ANIC would like to reiterate that it is the peak Islamic religious authority in Australia recognised by the Imams, the Muslim community and the authorities. ANIC is the sole body charged with electing the Mufti of Australia. Any claim to the title of "Mufti of Australia" by other individuals is false and incorrect. This especially includes the false claim by Mustafa Rashed, who is not a member of ANIC, not an Imam at any Mosque in Australia and is not known nor recognised by the Muslims in Australia and any media agency that promotes him and introduces him as the Mufti of Australia had contributed to this deception and fraud.

We ask Allah, the Almighty to guide, protect and keep us united.

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