

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | Minutes

23 October 2022

## TO ICV MEMBER SOCIETIES

Assalaamu Alaikum wrb

**DATE:** Sunday 23 October 22

**TIME:** 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

**WHERE:** Islamic Council of Victoria, 66-68 Jeffcott Street, Melbourne Victoria 3003

## Minutes

1. Meeting called to order
2. Dua by Sh Alaa Elzokm
3. Apologies – Mohamed Mohideen (Monash Mosque/USMAA/ICV)
4. Welcome by the President

Br Adel Salman acknowledged the First Nations people and welcomed all the attendees and introduced the board.

5. Minutes from 2021 AGM – Sunday 24 October 2021

The minutes have been passed as true.

Proposed: Br Manzoor (Arrarat Mosque)

Seconded: Milon Islam (Al-Hassan Centre)

6. Matters arising

There has been no matters arising.

7. President's Address

The ICV has been doing a lot of work despite the challenging financial situation. We have done many projects including the renovation of the mosque. Adel took the opportunity to thank the volunteers, Br Zakaria as the General Manager and the board. The board has

been working harmoniously and has taken on key portfolio responsibilities as a working board.

The ICV has deepened its relationships with the member societies. The ICV conducted a series of member forums to hear from the members directly. The ICV held a series of forums during the COVID pandemic, providing essential information and providing the community with the opportunity to hear directly from government and health experts. We held a number of online panels and webinars to discuss important topics. The ICV has enhanced its social media presence and use of social media to communicate with the members and the broader community. We are always looking for feedback on how to improve.

The ICV is somewhat unique in that it performs advocacy as a peak umbrella body as well as provide welfare and other services. The ICV has advocated on a number of important issues on behalf of the Muslim community. It is fair to say that the ICV wasn't always as pronounced with their advocacy. The board and the organisation has stepped up the advocacy work which in itself poses an issue when we take strong positions which can upset the governments in power. We do this because it is the right thing to do despite the risk of upsetting government.

The ICV has very limited financial resources despite the perception that it has access to substantial funding. Adel said that the ICV is trying to diversify its funding sources to become less reliant on grants, but it needs the community's financial support. Sh Alaa asked what is the best way to get support and participation from the community? Adel outlined the ICV's efforts to secure sponsorship from community organisations and Muslim businesses. Br Azzam added that when it comes to big decisions such as the state government where it would be good to have the member societies consulted prior to the big decisions being made. Adel advised that we are currently working on setting up community forums with Labor and Liberal.

The ICV has been working hard to focus on the Muslim youth and sisters. The ICV has intentionally sought to become more relevant to the youth by highlighting the issues that they care about. We will be holding a youth parliament later in the year to provide them a platform to speak out. We have also intentionally focused on better understanding the issues and concerns of our sisters, led by the 3 sister on our Board which provides us with deeper insight into issues they face. Adel said we are blessed to have Muslim sisters on the Board and encourages all Member Societies to do their best with sister representation.

In terms of advocacy we have been working on a number of important issues including Islamophobia, strengthening anti-vilification protections, and the extreme online hate and dehumanisation of Muslims. The ICV produced a report called "Islamophobia in the Digital Age" which highlighted the extent of anti-Muslim content on social media platform Twitter. Similar findings can be assumed with other social media platforms such as Facebook. The Digital Age report has been shared widely with government, media, and academic institutions, and has been quoted and referred by international media organisations.

The ICV has been supporting the campaign to return the Australian women and children held in northern Syrian camps. The MyVoteMatters platform has produced video content to support the campaign. There are around 60 or so individuals detained in appalling and sometimes dangerous conditions. This has been a collective effort by the organisations.

The pervasive CT laws have targeted Muslims and Muslim youth in particular, and have deprived them of their legal and civil rights in some cases. The ICV has raised argued against use of terms such as "Islamic / Islamist terrorism" and "religiously motivated terrorism". There is nothing Islamic about terrorism. CVE is the soft end of CT, and CVE programs have stigmatised and marginalised the entire community. Muslims are viewed by the authorities through a securitised lens and every type of misbehaviour or criminal activity is viewed as potentially linked to terrorism. Sh Alaa Elzokm added that the organisations that participate in the CVE programs should be held accountable to the rest of the community.

The MyVoteMatters platform conducted a significant campaign in the lead-up to the Federal Election, and will be doing similar campaign for the November State Election. Sh Alaa asked about the recent Liberal party statement regarding religious freedom, and asked whether we should vote Liberal. Adel responded that the ICV will not tell the community who to vote for but will assess the parties on their policies on key issues of importance, and it will be up to people to vote in line with their priorities.

The online panel on Palestine held last week in partnership with APAN was successful with very good attendance. A key point made during the discussion is that you can be a strong critic of Israeli policies and not be anti-Semitic. In fact, many Jews are highly critical of Israel and are strong supporters of Palestine.

Protecting religious freedom is a major concern for not only the Muslim community, but other faith communities as well. By "religious freedom" we are talking about the right of people of faith to publicly live by their values and to raise and teach their children according to those faith values. We have been working with Islamic Schools and other faith groups particularly the Christian groups.

In terms of the ICV's longer term goals we have made progress on the city community hub project with the proposal submitted to various levels of government.

In terms of financial sustainability, our reliance on government grants has caused us to have issues as they are cyclic and can impede long term planning. The ICV continues to work on activating alternative funding sources.

#### 8. General Manager's Annual Report of ICV 2021/2022

Zakaria gave an update on the organisation which is focused on the advocacy and welfare of the community. The ICV has changed and improved our communication channels including the social media presence and websites. During the last two years the advocacy work, led by Adel and with a team of young volunteers, has increased the ICV's advocacy profile. The work that they do is critical not just for current situation, but future proofing the Muslims rights so as our freedoms are upheld. The ICV's role during the Covid pandemic has been well received by the community, including where the ICV has held the government accountable for their restrictions on places of worship.

The mosque has gone through renovations that had to be done. Sis Rozzana Raheem asked if there are more renovations to be done? Zakaria advised that the bulk of the work has been completed but more renovations are required for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor especially.

The Halal Food Hamper program which has been running for over 10 years proved to be critical during COVID supporting families in need including those unable to leave their homes. Likewise the NILS (No Interest Loan Scheme) which provides financial relief to those in acute need. The Prison Chaplaincy program has continued through the COVID period as well as our work in the youth justice arena. The Muslim Connect program helps Muslims who come out of the prison system to transition and reintegrate into society, which is a big factor to prevent recidivism. The Hospital Chaplaincy program is continuing as it has been for the last 30 years. The Islamophobia support program is a very important pillar in our day to day operations which supports the victims of Islamophobic discrimination and vilification, and also institutions accountable.

Zakaria thanked the 100 or so volunteers that help the ICV and their dedication is what drives the organisation. The staff at the organisation are fantastic as it is not a 9-5 job. Zakaria took the opportunity to thank the Board and wanted the Member Societies to recognise the hard work of the Board. Zakaria paid tribute to the recently departed former President Yasser Soliman.

#### 9. Treasurer's Report & Financial Statements 2021/2022

Bro Milon welcomed the Board and thanked Member Societies for taking the time to come for the AGM on a Sunday morning. As previously mentioned by Adel and Zakaria the ICV incurred a deficit last FY and is forecast to be in a similar position this FY.

The revenue reduced by 33% from 2021 to 2022 which was due to the end of the Working for Victoria project (WV). We have spent around \$80,000 over the last financial year on mosque renovations and also incurred extraordinary legal expenses due to the dispute with AFIC.

The ICV strengthened its budgeting processes and has focused on reducing expenses which resulted in a 30% reduction. The deficit projected at the start of the year was over \$250,000 so the organisation has done much better than expected. final deficit was \$71,065.

The revenue from donations through following the easing of lockdowns has increased helped by the introduction of tap & go terminals.

Sis Rozzana Raheem asked what are the plans for the next year that would lessen the deficit next year? Milon advised that the leaving of the Spencer Street premises alone has reduced expenses by around \$100,000. Zakaria mentioned ICV's sponsorship strategy and that the ICV is looking to employ a grants officer to ramp up our efforts.

A resolution has been passed to adopt the financial report,

Proposed: Br Mohamed (ABIC)

Seconded: Br Zahir (MiX)

#### 10. Motions of Proposed Amendments to the ICV Constitution

In reviewing the Constitution, the ICV carried out the following activities:

- a) checked for any unintended internal inconsistencies that may have arisen due to amendments being done on an 'as required basis';
- b) checked for any material omissions;
- c) addressed certain governance issues regarding to membership.

Adel encouraged all the organisations to do this health checks of their own constitutions.

##### **Resolution 1: Changing the registered office.**

Proposed: Br. Andred (IMCV)

Seconded: Br. Azzam (Newport)

Status: Passed

##### **Resolution 2: Application for general membership (9.2)**

Proposed: Br Makdoonm

Seconded: Br Milon (Al Ehsan Centre)

Status: Passed

##### **Resolution 3: Term of Office for Exco Appointed Members**

Proposed: Br Mohamed (ABIC)

Seconded: Br. Ande (IMCV)

Status: Passed

##### **Resolution 4: Composition of the Executive Committee**

Azzam asked the question around if the additional member would be elected or appointed. Adel responded that this will be an appointed position.

Proposed: Br Manzoor (Ararat)

Seconded: Br Mohamed (ABIC)

Status: Passed

##### **Resolution 5: Duties of Officers (naming of ICV General Manager)**

Proposed: Br Andre (IMCV)

Seconded: Zahir

Status: Passed

#### 11. Election of ICV Executive

The election of the office bearers does not need to occur at this AGM because only six nominations were received for the six positions. So the current Exco has been re-elected. Adel noted that the lack of new nominations is likely an indication that the Member Societies are generally happy with the direction of the organisation and its current Board.

12. Address by Re-Elected President

Adel thanked all the Members who came for the AGM, both in person and online. It would be great if more Member Societies attended and this is something that the ICV will consider for future AGMs.

The big strategic goals of the ICV remain the new city community hub and financial sustainability.

The ICV's advocacy work will continue to be high on our agenda as well.

The Islamophobia Support Service is a vital service that the ICV provides for the community and will continue to be supported but ongoing funding is a serious challenge.

The President recommended the re-appointment of Sr Inaz Janif, Sr Sarah Baarini, and Br Abdel Kareem Halabi. The Board accepted the recommendations and the three have been re-appointed.

13. Approval of Membership Subscription for 2022/2023

The annual membership fee has been proposed to remain the same.

Proposed: Br Azzam (Newport)

Seconded: Br Andre (IMCV)

14. Appointment of Auditor for 2022/2023

It is proposed to re-appoint current auditors Kidman Partners.

Proposed: Br Azzam (Newport)

Seconded: Br Andre (IMCV)

15. General Business

Br Andre noted that the work with the youth is great and it would be good to help the Member Societies in achieving greater youth engagement. Bro Andre also added that it must be noted that the societies must help the ICV in whatever way they can.

Br Manzoor provided an updated for their mosque where the construction will begin in about 2 to 3 weeks and if there is any members who would like to assist them in anyway, to contact Br Manzoor.

The ICV has created an honoray ambassador position. People selected for this role should be known for their excellent character, for their record of community work, and for their support of the ICV's programs and initiatives. The ICV is pleased to announce that Sh Alaa Elzokm has been appointed the inaugural Honorary Ambassador for the ICV. Sheikh Alaa thanked the ICV team for the hard work they do and for being so inclusive of youth and sisters. It is a reminder that to all the Members that it is important to get the sisters and youth involved as they are an integral part of society and it is great that the ICV is leading the way with its diversity and inclusiveness.

16. Closing dua'a by Sh Ala Elzokm

## Appendix | Attendance Record

Name	Society
Br Adel	ICV Board
Br Yusuf	ICV secretary / USMAA
Br Sacher	ICV Board
Br Milon	ICV Board
Br Andre	IMCV (Indonesian Society)
Trish	ICV Board
Sh Alaa	Heidelberg Mosque
Br Mohamed	Australian Bosnian Society
Rozzana Raheem	IWS (Weekend school) Affiliate
Moksam Hussain	Melbourne Islamic Cultural Society
Sr Inaz	ICV Board
Sr Trish	ICV Board
Sr Sarah	ICV Board
Azzam Barrakat	Newport
Fawzan Khan	Activate Youth
Jazeer Nizamudeen	Activate Youth
Ahamed	IMCV
Manzoor Mian	Ararat Community Centre

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Salaams  
Yusuf Zarani  
Secretary