

MINUTES OF AGM 2023 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27 November 2023

TO ICV MEMBER SOCIETIES

Assalamu Alaikum

DATE: Monday 27 November 23

TIME: 07.00 pm to 08.30 pm

WHERE: Zoom

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

Minutes

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 7.05pm.

2. Dua

Dua was done by Adel

3. Welcome

Adel welcomed all the member societies present along with introducing the board members that were present. He highlighted that with the members present, a quorum has been reached.

4. Apologies

There are were no apologies received.

5. Adoption of Minutes from 2022 AGM – Sunday 23 October 2022

Proposed: Andri Nursafitri (IMCV)

Seconded: Manzoor Mian (Ararat Islamic Centre)

6. President's Report

Adel advised the membership that the financial challenges still exist, primarily to expanding existing services and costs. The donations to the ICV has increased over the last few months alhamdulillah but financially the situation remains very challenging.

We have now added Aged Care Chaplaincy service and a service offered to government schools that can request Muslim speakers to address staff, students, and parents.

It must be noted that there is an increased sharing and cooperation between Muslim organisations. This trend commenced during the pandemic and has continued and strengthened as is evident during the Gaza crisis.

Currently, the relationship with AFIC remains challenging. We have given notice of our intention to exercise the 5 year lease which if accepted will extend the ICV Jeffcott Street lease to November 2028.

We are seeking to gain a better understanding of our member societies by asking specific profile questions in a survey. This will primarily help the ICV advocate and represent the community better.

It has become apparent that the community expects a strong voice to represent the community. There have been a number of the members of the community approach the ICV to thank us for our strong position on Palestine.

The volunteer advocacy team has grown and primarily consists of student lawyers. Some of the items under their purview include Religious freedom and Muslim identity. Palestine. And we are currently working on a position statement whose objective is to increase the level of understanding and engagement between the Muslim community and First Nations peoples, building on the leading work that the ICV has done over the past few years. The failure of the Voice Referendum was a setback but the quest for justice and reconciliation for indigenous Australians remains. It is important that the Muslim community is in the forefront. We continue to advocate for the return of the Australian women and children from the northern Syrian camps. The first batch arrived in NSW with any issues, but the Victorian and Federal governments are currently not wanting to bring more.

The Victorian government has given funding for the ICV Islamophobia support service after a lapse of 4 years. The ICV was managing this service from its own funds and as a result it had to be significantly scaled back. With the additional funding, the ICV will be able to grow the service for the benefit of the community and to help the victims of Islamophobia.

As everyone is aware the situation of Palestine has been a high focus area. The positive side of this is that there has been a lot of cooperation between organisations across state and federal lines like LMA, AFIC, ANIC and this is a sign of maturity and we can achieve more when we work together. The ICV recommends that when any member society meets with a member of parliament or Minister to always ensure that Palestine is on the agenda. It is important that Muslims are at the forefront of the rallies and other actions. The ICV has been requested to provide assistance with the coordination of the support program the 860 Palestinians granted tourist visas. Br Andri asked what assistance can we give those who are coming into Australia in an effective way? Adel responded that we are currently awaiting clarification on where these Palestinians will be based, they will require funding to get on their feet. A number of the visa holders have families in Australia but they would require assistance as well. Currently ICV is awaiting on more information to provide guidance to the member societies.

The ICV long term goals still includes the City Community Hub and it has become apparent that gaining government funding will not be possible. We would need to reach out to the community to assist with the funding in the future. Financially we are working on our DGR status to encourage more community donations. We are considering whether to commence charging fees for the expert advice and service that the ICV is regularly asked to provide.

Br Milon welcomed all the members and advised the membership that we have had our challenges whilst keeping our services to the community active. The revenue for 2023 was 1,573,673 compared to 1,356,848 which was an increase of 216,825. The expenses also increased by 9% as well but we ended with a surplus of 12,307 which was partly due to some generous donations from members of the community. The balance sheet position is strong with our current assets showing a 15% increase on the previous year to be 1,530,412 with a total asset of 1,896,912 which is an increase of 167,924. The liability of the organisation has increased year on year by about 155,887 partly due to the superannuation and various other taxes.

Our revenue through grants has decreased from the previous year. However we made up for this by donations and various collections over the year.

The highest expenditure for the organisation is payroll expenses which year on year has increased around \$9,000. We have managed to keep the rest of the expenditure to essentials to ensure we are working to keep our finances in order.

Ahmad Kazi asked when the mosque donations come in, does it come in through the main accounts? He suggested that members should look to see how we can help in diversifying the revenue streams of the ICV. Br Amad further added that should split the accounts for example into mosque vs services. The membership should be looking to help more with the services part of the organisation especially. Br Mohamed added that the mosque collections are generally kept for mosque expenses but we also use it to part fund the salaries of staff.

Bro Milon agreed that this would be something we need to look into how we can do better with the reporting but also how we can diversify our revenue streams.

Br Milon went through the audited financial statements and reported there was nothing out of the ordinary for our organisation.

Bro Refai noted that the collections at Jumma and other events is probably insufficient. It would be a good idea to try and promote the work that the ICV does better, and this should result in an increase in donations. Br. Milon added that we have increased the amount of donation machines.

Br Adel acknowledged that we don't do enough to promote the work that the ICV does amongst the member societies and we could potentially conduct fund raising campaigns. A number of member societies proposed that the ICV consider asking member societies to fundraise for the ICV; for e.g., one Friday a year.

Br Abdel Kareem further added that there are a number of organisations that come to the ICV for Friday collections and quite often we oblige their requests.

VMOD will be on Sunday 25th February and we will have more information released soon.

Br Adel added that the new grants for Islamophobia and VMOD, whilst significant in their value is expensed purely for the programs. Thus not materially improving the ICV's bottom line.

Resolution: approve the financial accounts.

Proposed: Br Andri Nursafitri (IMCV)

Seconded: Br Azzam Barakat (Newport)

Br Zakaria introduced himself as the General Manager of the ICV and that he overlooks the staff, mosque and any other programs. It has been great that the ICV has been successful with its advocacy and protecting the Muslim community in Victoria.

Br Zakaria took a moment to congratulate Br Adel & the advocacy team around the work that they have been doing to help the Palestinians. We have begun a program to provide chaplaincy services to both Muslim & non-Muslim run aged care facilities to provide support. We have done a number of women focused initiatives including the Mum & Bub program which has been successful. We also worked with City of Melbourne to train women in swimming. A significant project that was done spearheaded by Sis Sarah & Br Adel was the youth parliament, where we had many youth in our community experience what it takes to be a politician and community leader. We have now got a group of volunteers who are focused on data analytics to help make better informed decisions. Our social media reach has increased year on year which is great, especially during the recent Palestinian crisis.

The ICV mosque has gotten a number of renovations over the last year. The number of people that attend the nightly iftars at the ICV during Ramadan increased significantly, from 150 to 250+ per night.

The Muslim Connect program has been successful in helping the people released from the prison system to integrate back into society.

The hospital chaplaincy program is one of our oldest program lead by Sis Lina and Prof Aladin. It must be noted that at the end of the year the government has decided to no longer fund these services but the ICV together with other faith bodies are advocating to have this decision reversed.

The Islamophobia support service will get an injection in funding from the state government, with the release of grant money which will assist in taking the program to the next level.

Currently, the MyVoteMatters program is working on determining the MPs who do and don't support the Palestinian cause.

Br Zakaria further thanked Adel, the board and the volunteers.

Br Azzam acknowledged the board and the team at ICV. We should focus on the systems we have in Australia and getting the ICV to look into the future in the political system. The media is currently is controlled very high and this is an area where we need to be more effective in our presense. Br Zakaria added that our firmness with media and the political sphere. Br Adel added that it is humbling and encouraging to hear that our member societies acknowledge the work.

9. Approval of Membership Subscription for 2023/2024

It is proposed to keep our membership subscitopn the same as previous year.

10. Appointment of Auditor for 2023/2024

It is proposed to retain Kidman Partners as the auditor for the year 2023/2024.

11. General Business

Br Mohamed added that VMOD will be 25th February 2024. There will a level of funding provided to the mosques.

Br Rifai would like to see more interaction of the board with member societies. It is great to see that \$3 million was given to the community for addressing Islamophobia.

Br Abdul Wardak, asked what the requirement for becoming a member of the ICV. Br Mohamed said that there is a form that needs to be filled with supporting documents and sent to the office, followed by the membership team reviewing it, followed by the board approval.

Br Amad added that we are in a crisis mode with Palestine. Could we invest in a 30 minute zoom every Sunday for example so that the various organisations aren't doubling up. Br Adel added that in terms of co-ordination we are looking to do this once we have an understanding of things. Br Amad added that it would be good to have more control such as media management. Sis Sarah added that she attended a meeting with Free Palestine Melbourne, and a topic of discussion was coordinating better where there is a centralised event calendar so that there is no two rallies on the same date.

Br Adel shared some good news that Dandenong City Council has passed the motion on Palestine, with only 1 councillor opposing. Merri-Bek, Marybynong and Dandenong have now passed the motions on Palestine. We are currently working on Hume Council and others to pass similar motions. Br Rifai added that Wyndham council is supportive of a vigil so we are trying to get them to pass a motion as well.

Br Andri suggested that every 6 months that we have one Friday collection for the ICV and further added the IMCV's gratitude to the ICV and their hard work.

12. Close

Adel closed the meeting with a du'aa.

Appendix Attendance Record

Member organisations

- IMCV
- Newport
- Mcis
- Isomer
- Bendigo
- Ararat
- Mel Central
- Darusalam
- Umma centre
- Afghan society
- IEACA
- Monash Mosque
- Bangladesh society
- GAMCI
- USMAA
- EL Sedeaq

Attendees

- Abdurrafi Suwarno - ICV (ICV)
- Bridget McKenzie
- Mohamed Mohideen (ICV VP) (Mohamed Mohideen (VMC))
- Yusuf Zarani - ICV Secretary (Yusuf Zarani)
- Tris
- Abdul Wardak
- adel salman
- Ahmed Rajab
- Milon Islam -ICV Treasurer (Milon Islam)

- Abdul Rahman Mohamed Saleh
- Anis Armanto - IMCV Australia
- Zakaria Wahid
- Azzam Barakat
- Abdel K Halabi
- MICS MELB
- Rifai A. Raheem (WIC/MGM)
- Heri Febriyanto _Bendigo)
- Yusuf Osman (Darusalam Society)
- Manzoor Mian -Ararat Mosque (MICS MELB)
- Abdul Rahman (IEACA)
- Andri Nursafitri
- Fahim Farooq
- Sarah Baarini
- Inaz Janif
- Fouad Hassan (ISOMER) (Fouad Hassan)
- Amad Kazi
- ANDREW GARDINER

Salaams
Yusuf Zarani
Secretary