

ICV Policy Statement on Accessibility and Disability Inclusion

The Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV) is the peak Muslim body in the state of Victoria, representing close to 300,000 Muslims through 80 member societies. The ICV's mission is to protect and empower Victoria's Muslim community, including striving to ensure that the material and spiritual needs of Muslims are met across the state. The ICV is committed to fostering an inclusive Muslim community that upholds the dignity, rights, and spiritual engagement of people with physical and mental disabilities. We recognise the need for full accessibility across Muslim organisations, in order to ensure that Muslims with disabilities are able to fulfil their religious needs and obligations and participate fully in their community. We strive to ensure that our programs, services and spaces are inclusive of all members of our community, and encourage our member societies to do the same.

The ICV endeavours to be a disability-friendly organisation by removing barriers to access, providing reasonable accommodations, and consulting with people with lived experience of disability. We are also committed to ongoing learning and improvement in line with best practices in accessibility and inclusion. Our mission to promote accessibility is guided by the following priorities:

1. Promote inclusive community attitudes

- Foster a welcoming environment for people of all abilities by promoting community education on disability inclusion.
- Encourage respectful language, behaviour, and awareness of diverse needs.

2. Promote physical accessibility

- Where feasible, make our facilities and event venues physically accessible, and make reasonable accommodations that will allow disabled Muslims to participate in religious and community events.

3. Support Accessible Events and Celebrations

- Ensure major community events and religious celebrations include considerations of physical accessibility, including providing AUSLAN interpreters where possible.
- Design Ramadan and Eid programs to be as accessible as possible for people with physical or cognitive disabilities or sensory issues.
- Clearly communicate accessibility features of events in advance.

5. Support Equity in Participation

- Make program materials, event registration and communication channels available in accessible formats.
- Support disabled Muslims in volunteering and contributing to their community through appropriate roles, support, and accommodations.

6. Listen to Lived Experience

- Engage people with disabilities in planning and consultation processes to ensure their needs and ideas shape decision-making.
- Build relationships with Muslim disability advocates and community members for ongoing improvement.

We encourage and support our member organisations, including mosques, schools, and community groups, to adopt similar inclusive practices. This includes ensuring physical accessibility of facilities, promoting inclusive attitudes within community, providing accessible information, and creating welcoming environments for people of all abilities.

Together, we aim to build a Victorian Muslim community where everyone can participate fully and equally.