ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

ISLAMOPHOBIA REGISTER AUSTRALIA





TRACKING AND TACKLING ISLAMOPHOBIA

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We acknowledge that sovereignty is never ceded and we pay our respects to Elders past and present..





"Unless reported, count it as if not lived! Islamophobia continuously destructs everyday Muslim Australians' lives. Reporting your experience is essential to raise awareness about Islamophobia in Australia. The more Islamophobia is reported, the better we can identify and deal with it."

Dr Derya Iner

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE



749 reports of Islamophobia



30+ stakeholder engagements



13 press releases issued



16+ times quoted in the media



350+ individuals supported



2 law reform submissions

"Thank you for making me feel heard."

"Thank you for a platform where it is safe, comfortable & easy to report!!"

"It was lovely to speak to Sana, she understood my fears and concerns and had empathy for me. She gave me confidence to speak out again if I experience or witness future unfortunate incidents."

"I appreciate you following up, and for the advice. Thank you for the work you do".

"Please keep up this vital and important community service and publish your annual report as widely as possible."

"Dear Surur,
Thank you for your kind
message. The work you are
doing is amazing."

"Thank you for your time on the phone today, your wealth of knowledge and for the work that you do."

FOUNDER & CHAIR'S MESSAGE

As the Founder and Chair of the Islamophobia Register Australia, it is my privilege to share this year's Annual Report, reflecting on our progress, challenges, and strategic direction. This year has been particularly difficult as we faced an unprecedented rise in Islamophobia in the aftermath of Israel's war on Gaza. The surge in Islamophobic as well as Anti-Palestinian racism has been a stark reminder of the critical importance of our work in tracking, reporting, and addressing Islamophobia across Australia.

In response to these challenges, the Board has been more committed than ever to advancing our mission and vision. We held a pivotal Board Strategy Day, bringing our full board from across the country to strategise on how we will continue to drive our mission. I am immensely proud to have a board that represents the diversity of the Australian Muslim community including Muslims from a wide variety of culturally and racially marginalised backgrounds and representatives from both Sunni and Shia communities. Our mission, "to lead the national effort in tracking, reporting, and addressing Islamophobia through evidence-based research, integrated support, policy reform, and education," remains our guiding force as we navigate these complex times.

This year, we also appointed a new Executive Director Dr Nora Amath, taking over from Sharara Attai who commenced a period of parental leave. Nora's leadership and fresh perspectives have already begun to shape our strategic approach in our organisation's journey, and we are confident in her ability to drive our mission forward with renewed energy and focus.

We also farewelled Dr Derya Iner from our board and thanked her for her tireless efforts and dedication to the Register from its early days and for her ground-breaking work as the author of our first 4 *Islamophobia in Australia* Reports. We were also thrilled to announce, earlier this year, our collaboration with Monash University's Dr Susan Carland and a team of esteemed academics on our upcoming flagship research project. This partnership represents a major step forward in our evidence-based approach to combating Islamophobia. The research will provide invaluable insights that will inform our advocacy, policy recommendations, and educational efforts in the coming years.

Despite the difficulties we've faced, the Board remains optimistic about the future. Our collective resolve to create a safer and more inclusive Australia is stronger than ever. We look forward to continuing our work with all of you—our partners, supporters, and the broader community—as we strive to build a society where everyone, regardless of their faith, can live free from fear and discrimination.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to this vital cause.

Sincerely,
Mariam Veiszadeh
Founder and Chair, Islamophobia Register Australia

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Friends- Salaam. Peace, blessings and mercy be upon you all.

It is an honour to address you for the first time as the Executive Director of the Islamophobia Register Australia (The Register). Having joined the organisation as an executive just over three months ago, I have been deeply moved by the commitment, resilience, and strength of our community. As I have settled into this role, I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the vital work we do in documenting, analysing, and combating Islamophobia across the nation.

2023-2024 has been marked by both challenges and progress. Against the background of the horrors in Gaza, the sharp rise in Islamophobic incidents reminds us of the critical importance of our mission. At the same time, the growing recognition of our work, including being a recipient of the 2023 Community Organisation of the Year at the Australian Muslim Achievement Awards, and the increased support from both the public and private sectors have reinforced our resolve to stand against discrimination, hatred and intolerance.

In these early months of my tenure, I've been focused on listening and learning from our team, community partners, those who have been directly affected by Islamophobia and from you. In the first few months, I have managed to travel across Australia to hear from communities. Their stories and experiences have only strengthened my commitment to ensuring that the Register remains a powerful tool for advocacy, education and change. I am proud to lead an organisation that not only records these incidents but also provides an integrated wrap-around victim support service and a platform for the voices of those affected.

We have also strengthened our outreach through workshops and community programs aimed at improving awareness and fostering resilience. Our partnership with key academic institutions has enabled us to provide evidence-based insights, informing policymakers and the broader public about the realities of Islamophobia in Australia. Our strong connection to the diverse communities we work with and our impactful collaboration with key stakeholders in the sector ensure that we remain informed and engaged on critical issues.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated board, executive team, our tireless volunteers, our partners and our supporters. Your contributions are invaluable, and your commitment to standing against Islamophobia, specifically, and racism, generally, inspires us all.

I am especially thankful to those who report your incident to us; by sharing your lived experience of Islamophobia, you enable us to amplify and directly advocate for an Australia where everyone feels safe, respected and included.

Yours sincerely
Dr Nora Amath
Executive Director, Islamophobia Register Australia

ABOUT US

The Islamophobia Register Australia (The Register) is a pioneering not-for-profit organisation, serving as the first platform of its kind in the country to report, record, and analyse incidents of Islamophobia. For the past 10 years, The Register has partnered with universities to systematically collect and document hate incidents, establishing itself as the leading authority on tracking and combating Islamophobia in Australia.

Over the years, The Register has published 4 comprehensive national reports on Islamophobia, utilising a highly-developed methodology to analyse patterns and trends in both online and offline hate. Additionally, it has produced a separate preliminary report focused on Australian media coverage of Israel's war on Gaza (from 7th October-7th November 2023). These reports have been instrumental in informing both the media and the public about the prevalence and nature of Islamophobia in Australia and beyond.

OUR VISION

AN INCLUSIVE AND JUST AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY

OUR MISSION

TO LEAD THE NATIONAL EFFORT IN TRACKING,
REPORTING AND ADDRESSING ISLAMOPHOBIA THROUGH
EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH, INTEGRATED SUPPORT,
POLICY REFORM AND EDUCATION

WHAT WE DO

The Register was established to provide public benevolent relief to victims of hate incidents, crimes, vilification, or discrimination. Our mission is to empower these individuals to regain a sense of control, agency, and certainty, ensuring that their dignity and place in the community are recognised and valued by society and Australia's institutions.

KEY ACTIVITIES

DATA COLLECTION

We systematically collect and analyse data on hate incidents, crimes, religious discrimination, and vilification, whether they occur online or in the physical world.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT SERVICES

We connect individuals affected by Islamophobia with free legal advice and culturally-sensitive mental health support. Our services also include advocacy on behalf of our clients.

PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL RESEARCH REPORTS

In collaboration with leading academics and universities, we publish highly-regarded academic reports on Islamophobia in Australia, contributing valuable insights to the field.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Register produces a variety of educational resources including factsheets, posters, and videos on Islamophobia. We also conduct evidence-based workshops, tailored to different segments of the community.

POLICY AND LAW REFORM

We actively participate in policy and law reform processes by providing formal submissions, providing commentary on draft legislation, and engaging in inquiries and reviews initiated by the government or other organisations.

ADVOCACY

The Register engages in broader advocacy against Islamophobia through:

- -Community engagement
- -Media appearances and outreach
- -Representations to government, law enforcement, and other institutions
- -Providing a platform for Muslim women, who are disproportionately represented in our reports, to have their voices heard.
- -Through our advocacy, we promote meaningful, national dialogue aimed at preventing future hate incidents, crimes, and unlawful discrimination based on race, religion, or other protected characteristics.

TREED

Akin to strong trees with deep-roots, the Register prides itself on being TREED in the Islamophobia space.

TRACK-RECORD

The Register has been successfully tracking Islamophobia and assisting victims for 10 years. The Register was the first organisation in Australia to develop and implement the concept of building a Register – recording, tracking and countering Islamophobia. Having built almost a decade of experience and know-how in this space, we are a trusted organisation by the Australian Muslim community to report their experiences, and have built an exceptional track-record for the tracking and tackling of Islamophobia in Australia.

EXPERTISE

Over a period of 10 years, the Register has built expertise on Islamophobia in Australia. We have published 4 academic reports on Islamophobia in Australia and a media report, written by Australia's leading experts on Islamophobia, entailing thorough and high-level analyses of trends in Islamophobia in Australia. We have also developed extensive networks in anti-racism and refined best practice in assisting victims of Islamophobic incidents get the support that they need.

ENDORSEMENT

The Register has the endorsement of a large number of Muslim organisations in various states, and has built an extensive network of partnerships and collaborations both within and outside of the Muslim community. We were recognised and honoured as the *Community Organisation of the Year* in 2023 at the Australian Muslim Achievement Awards.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY

The Register represents the diversity of the Australian Muslim community in its Board of Directors and staff, including Muslims from a wide variety of cultural and linguistic backgrounds and representatives from both Sunni and Shia communities. We also represent anyone who experiences Islamophobia – all Muslims, irrespective of their race, sect, culture or background, as well as non-Muslims who may experience Islamophobia due to perceived faith. The Register is a truly national organisation, with its Board and staff hailing from various states in Australia including New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, and assisting Australian Muslims in every state and territory.





WHO WE ARE

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARIAM VEISZADEH
Founder & Chair



NAIMA IBRAHIM Director



DR SUSAN CARLAND

BASIM AL ANSARI Director



HOOSEIN ISMAIL

MOBINAH AHMED Director



HILAL YASSINE Director



SAFIAH RIND Director



NESREEN BOTTRIELL Director



SILMA IHRAM Director



SABREEN HUSSAIN Board Secretary







OUR NATIONAL TEAM



Dr Nora Amath EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sana AfiouniOPERATIONS & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



Nancy Higazy
VICTIM SUPPORT & OUTREACH



Nadia Saeed
EDUCATION & TRAINING

IMPACT SUMMARY

The Register's work has continued to have a profound impact on the lives of individuals and communities across Australia. By providing support to victims, advocating for their rights, and fostering a more informed and inclusive public discourse, we have helped restore a sense of dignity and belonging to those affected by Islamophobia. Our efforts have also contributed to a broader societal shift towards recognising and addressing the harms of discrimination.

As we reflect on the past year, we remain committed to our mission of combating Islamophobia and supporting those impacted by hate. The achievements of 2023-2024 have laid a strong foundation for future work, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

During this period, 749 Islamophobic incidents were reported to us at the Register.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR 2023

As a result of our tireless work in tracking and tackling Islamophobia, The Register was awarded the Community Organisation of the Year for 2023. Thank you to the Australian Muslim Achievement Awards for recognising the efforts of the Register and our fellow Muslim community members, stakeholders and network partners for your tremendous support.





PROGRAM & SERVICE DELIVERY DELIVERY

SYDNEY - March 2024

Empowering the Australian Muslim Community against Islamophobia

On 2nd March 2023, The Register commemorated the UN International Day to Combat Islamophobia with a sold-out event centered around the theme *Empowering the Australian Muslim Community Against Islamophobia*. This significant gathering brought together a diverse group of community leaders, advocates and thought leaders to address the pressing issue of Islamophobia in Australia.

Featuring distinguished speakers such as Greens Deputy Leader, Dr. Mehreen Faruqi, Dr. Susan Carland, Hanan Dover, Mahmud Hawila, and Lina Jebeile, the event provided a platform for meaningful dialogue on the challenges and experiences of the Australian Muslim community. Through insightful and evidence-based discussions, participants explored strategies for combating Islamophobia, fostering resilience, and amplifying the voices of Muslims across the nation.

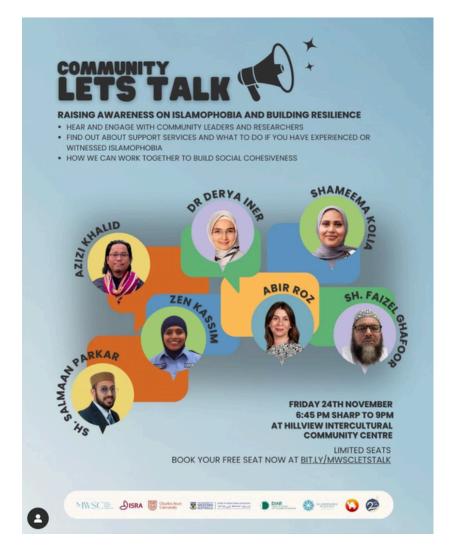
This event was more than just a conversation; it was a celebration of strength, unity and the ongoing efforts to create a more respectful and inclusive society.

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS:



PERTH - November 2023 Community Let's Talk: Raising Awareness on Islamophobia and Building Resilience

Let's Talk: Raising Awareness on Islamophobia and Building Resilience, led by Dr Derya Iner, was the first major event held in Western Australia. The presentation, also featured key community leaders in WA, was focused on understanding and combating Islamophobia. Through engaging discussions and expert-led sessions, the presentation explored the impact of Islamophobia on individuals and communities, shared strategies for building resilience, and empowered participants to take action.



November 2023

Processing Islamophobia: Strategies for Mental Resilience Video Series

Experiencing Islamophobia can leave lasting emotional scars, with the mind often replaying the distressing event over and over. For many, getting the brain to stop this relentless cycle can be the hardest part of the entire experience. Understanding the profound impact this can have on one's mental health, The Register, in collaboration with Centre for Muslim Wellbeing, was proud to release the series focused on Islamophobia and Mental Health.

Whether you've personally faced Islamophobia or are supporting someone who has, this resource aims to equip you with the knowledge and strategies to navigate the aftermath of such incidents, fostering healing and strength. Together, we can work towards not only combating Islamophobia but also nurturing the mental wellbeing of our community in the face of these challenges.



What is Islamophobia?



Islamophobia and Mental Health



Islamophobia and Emotional Resilience

Launch of the Activation of Bystanders Campaign

In our last *Islamophobia in Australia Report (IV)*, we noticed a dramatic decrease in bystander reporting to The Register. In response, The Register collaborated with several partners to launch the *Activation of Bystanders Campaign*, which aimed to educate witnesses of Islamophobia on how to safely and effectively intervene and report incidents both during and after witnessing Islamophobia. As part of this campaign, a short educational video was produced, and posters and booklets were distributed across Australia to raise awareness and empower bystanders to take action against Islamophobia.

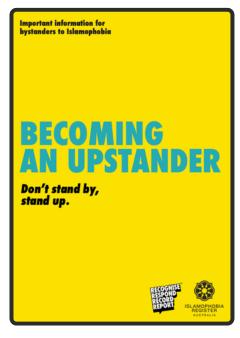
These can be summarised in the 4 Rs:

- 1. Recognising Islamophobia
- 2. Responding to Islamophobia
- 3. Recording Islamophobia
- 4. Reporting Islamophobia



December 2023

Launch of the Activation of Bystanders Campaign



Bystander Activation Booklet



Bystander Activation Poster



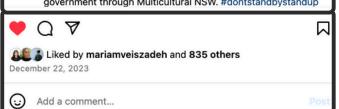
islamophobiaregisteraus lf you witness an incident of #islamophobia - don't stand by, stand up!

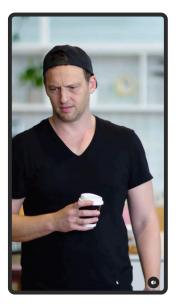
As we see unprecedented levels of Islamophobia being reported to us, and with many of these incidents occurring in public places, it is more important than ever for bystanders to play a role in maintaining community harmony by saying no to Islamophobia. Here are just some of the ways you can be an upstander:

- intervene and say something, where it is safe to do so
- check in with the victim to see if they're okay
- report to authorities
- report to the @islamophobiaregisteraus

Find out more about our #ActivationofBystanders campaign via the link in our bio or visit our website>resources>booklets and factsheets

This video is part of our Activation of Bystanders campaign. Funding for this campaign has been provided by the NSW government through Multicultural NSW. #dontstandbystandup







Bystander Activation Social Media Video

SYDNEY - April 2024 Islamophobia & Youth Workshop

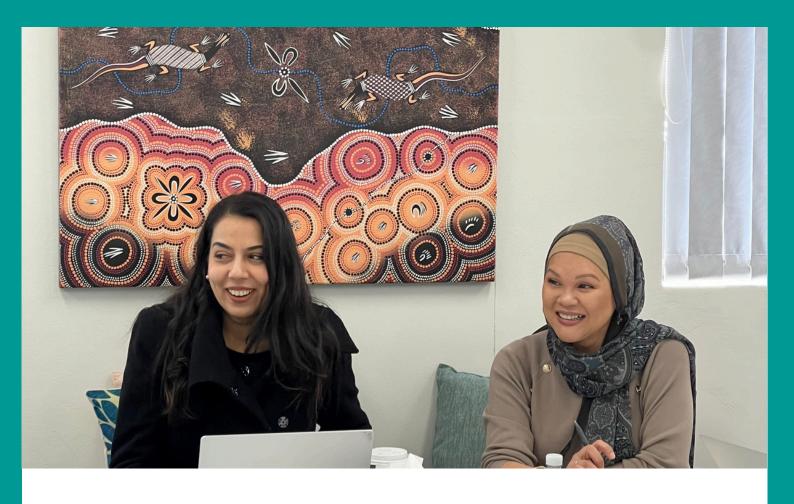
On 12th April 2024, The Register hosted a groundbreaking youth workshop designed for young Muslims aged 18-30, focusing on understanding, responding to, and coping with the pervasive issue of Islamophobia. This workshop marked the beginning of a series of such events set to take place across Australia, aimed at empowering Muslim youth with the knowledge, tools, and support they need to navigate the challenges of discrimination and prejudice.

The event brought together a diverse and influential panel of guest speakers, each of whom has made significant contributions in their respective fields while proudly representing their Muslim identity. Featured guest speakers at this event were Feras Basal (Winner of 'Survivor', 2024), Safia Arain (Actress, House of Gods), Osman Said (Winner of 'The Block', 2022) and Shereen Kassir (Digital Creator).

The workshop was not only a platform for learning and discussion but also an opportunity for young Muslims to connect, share their own experiences, and build a network of support. As the first of many workshops planned across the country, this event set a strong precedent for future initiatives, aiming to equip young Muslims with the confidence and resources needed to stand up against Islamophobia and contribute to a more inclusive and understanding society.









Contributions

CONTRIBUTIONS

July 2023

Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Prohibited Hate Symbols and Other Measures) Bill 2023



Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Prohibited Hate Symbols and Other Measures) Bill 2023

Submissions on behalf of the Islamophobia Register Australia

20th July 2023

Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

The Islamophobia Register Australia acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands on which we live and work.

Website: https://islamophobia.com.au/

CONTRIBUTIONS

October 2023 MULTICULTURAL FRAMEWORK REVIEW



Multicultural Framework Review Submission 2023

Submissions on behalf of the Islamophobia Register Australia

10th October 2023

Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Website: https://islamophobia.com.au/



Strengthening Sector



STRENGTHENING SECTOR

P BRISBANE - May 2024 WELCOME AUSTRALIA SYMPOSIUM

Dr Nora Amath, Executive Director, presented on the *Think Global*, *Act Local* panel at the Welcome Australia Symposium in Brisbane, QLD May 2024. Nora shared her insights on the importance of calling out racism and understanding social exclusion before we can tackle social cohesion.





We cannot discuss social inclusion without talking about social exclusion.

- Dr Nora Amath

#WASYMPOSIUM2024

Source: Ravin Ramachandran Nair

STRENGTHENING SECTOR

SYDNEY - June 2024

AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION "FREE + EQUAL" CONFERENCE

Dr Nora Amath, Executive Director, shared her thoughts on the Register's work, intersectionality and the Anti-Racism Framework review at the Australian Human Rights Conference "Free + Equal", held in June 2024 in Sydney, NSW.

Feedback from a conference attendee: "Absolutely brilliant contribution to the antiracism panel!" -MD





PRISBANE - June 2024

AUSTRALIAN ISLAMIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AIMA) LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Dr Nora Amath, Executive Director, was a keynote speaker at the Australian Islamic Medical Association Leadership Conference and presented on the manifestations of Islamophobia and provided some insights on how to address it.





IN THE MEDIA

IN THE MEDIA

2023-2024 PRESS RELEASES

2023-2024 has been a very busy year of engagements with the media.

We issued

press releases and have been able to provide commentary on a number of issues related to Islamophobia.



























IN THE MEDIA

2023-2024

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT | 15 MARCH 2024

ISLAMOPHOBIA REGISTER AUSTRALIA STATEMENT THIS INTERNATIONAL DAY TO COMBAT ISLAMOPHOBIA

STATEMENT | 9 JULY 2024

THE ISLAMOPHOBIA REGISTER AUSTRALIA, NOW IN OUR 10TH YEAR OF OPERATION, HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY CONSULTED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE ISLAMOPHOBIA ENVOY ROLE REFERENCED IN TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ANTI-SEMITISM ENVOY. WE DO NOT KNOW WHO THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING FOR THE ROLE.

STATEMENT | 5 JULY 2024

WE ARE RECEIVING MANY INCIDENT REPORTS ABOUT THE ISLAMOPHOBIC MEDIA FRAMING OF THE UNFOLDING SENATOR FATIMA PAYMAN SITUATION AND WILL BE ISSUING A PRESS RELEASE SHORTLY.

STATEMENT | 15 AUGUST 2024

PETER DUTTON'S COMMENTS ABOUT DENYING REFUGE TO PALESTINIANS FLEEING GAZA ARE BOTH DEEPLY TROUBLING AND DANGEROUSLY INFLAMMATORY.

BY SUGGESTING THAT AN ENTIRE GROUP OF PEOPLE SHOULD BE BARRED FROM SEEKING SAFETY IN AUSTRALIA, DUTTON SHAMEFULLY PERPETUATES HARMFUL STEREOTYPES AND VILIFIES VULNERABLE PEOPLE WHO ARE FLEEING UNIMAGINABLE HORRORS.

THIS RHETORIC NOT ONLY LACKS EVIDENCE BUT ALSO FUELS XENOPHOBIA AND RACISM, STOKING FEAR AND DIVISION WITHIN OUR SOCIETY. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT OUR LEADERS CHOOSE THEIR WORDS RESPONSIBLY.





Publications

PUBLICATIONS

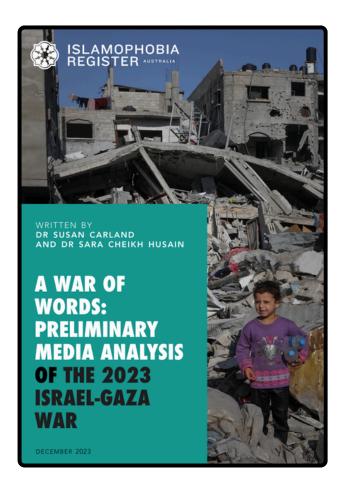
December 2023

A War of Words: Preliminary Media Analysis of the 2023 Israel-Gaza War

This academic report was commissioned by the Islamophobia Register Australia and conducted by Dr Susan Carland and Dr Sara Cheikh Husain.

The research analysed the Instagram accounts of Australian news outlets, revealing an imbalance in reporting of Israel-Gaza.

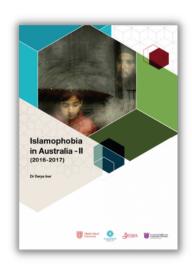
The research examined media posts made from ABC News, The Australian, The Daily Telegraph, 9News, news.com.au and The Daily Aus between October 7th and November 7th 2023.



PUBLICATIONS

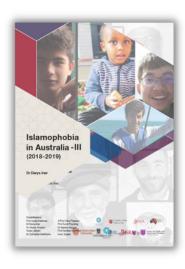
OVER THE YEARS





2017

2019





2022

2023

Event Launches:

NSW, VIC, ACT & WA

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In the 2023-2024 financial year, Islamophobia Register Australia achieved a

surplus of \$11,289, reflecting our commitment to efficiently manage and utilise funds in line with our grant and funding agreements. This financial outcome allows us to reinvest in our core initiatives, including community outreach, educational programs, and advocacy efforts, ensuring we continue to deliver on our mission to combat Islamophobia across Australia.

Looking ahead, we are dedicated to maintaining transparent financial practices and making prudent resource allocations. Every dollar will be directed toward furthering our vision of a more inclusive and just Australian society.

INCOME STATEMENT SUMMARY

Income	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Grant Income	227,436	177,733
Management Fees	17,064	-
Donations	-	182
Other Income	40,521	2760
TOTAL INCOME	285,021	180,675
Expenditure		
Staff Salary, wages, oncosts	168,964	74,339
Program Delivery expenses	86,844	70,840
Other operating expenses	17,924	10,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	273,732	155,679
NET/SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	11,289	24,995

FINANCIAL POSITION SUMMARY

Assets	30 June 2024 (\$)	30 June 2023 (\$)
Cash and Cash Equivalents	681,153	67,112
Fixed Assets	6,473	9,529
TOTAL ASSETS	687,626	76,641
Liabilities		
Trade and other Payables	53,389	(7,310)
Grants and Income in Advance	523,832	14,767
Employee Entitlement and Provisions	34,517	15,110
Non-current Liabilities	-	1,475
TOTAL LIABILITIES	623,738	24,042
NET ASSETS	63,888	52,599

LIST OF DONORS, FUNDERS & SPONSORS

COMPACT COMMUNITY RESILIENCE - MULTICULTURAL NSW



META



SOCIAL COHESION -AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



LIST OF PARTNERS PARTNER ORGANISATIONS





















LAW FIRM PARTNERS

- Baker McKenzie
- Bartier Perry
- Birchgrove Legal
- District Legal

- Dib & Associates (QLD)
- Racial Justice Centre
- Immi House Legal

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PARTNERS

psych Central





CONTACT US

All general enquiries to:

contact@islamophobia.com.au

Dr Nora Amath

Executive Director Islamophobia Register Australia executivedirector@islamophobia.com.au

Mariam Veiszadeh

Founder & Chair Islamophobia Register Australia mariam@islamophobia.com.au



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INC1500523
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TRACKING AND TACKLING ISLAMOPHOBIA

We acknowledge the support of all the individuals that have volunteered with us over the years and inspired and enabled our mission. Thank you for your commitment and generosity.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded and we pay our respects to Elders past and present..

