



Media Statement

AFIC IMAMS APPOINT NATIONAL GRAND MUFTI OF AUSTRALIA

Friday 9 April 2021

At exactly 11 AM this morning, the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils' National Sharia Board (ANSB) and Australian Dar Al-Iftaa (ADA) appointed a National Grand Mufti of Australia. ANSB and ADA elected one of Australia's longest serving English speaking and most accomplished Imams: Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari of Queensland as the first National Grand Mufti of Australia.

Imam Quddoos, as he is affectionately known, holds Dip Ed from NTU (Australia), a Master's in Sharia from Darul Uloom Delhi university and a second Master's from Egypt's Al Azhar University in the Arabic language. Imam Quddoos served as an Imam and a teacher in Fiji (5 years), the Northern Territory (8 years) and Queensland (30 years). He is fluent in several languages including English, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu and Tamil. In addition to his extensive overseas community projects, Imam Quddoos is presently establishing his 5th school and 2nd mosque in Australia.

AFIC appointed the first Mufti of Australia in 1989. In 2007, AFIC expended resources and energies to confront the multitudes of challenges confronting the Australian Muslim community at a variety of levels. Many in the community felt at the time that Imams and Muftis should work in the background to educate the community and should not be distracted with media fanfare. Today, in 2021, AFIC, ANSB and ADA, after extensive consultations with Australian Muslims and Non-Muslims, we have decided that it is time to again revive this position into the unifying post of National Grand Mufti of Australia.

"The Islamic scholars and Imams affiliated with AFIC firmly hold the view that only AFIC can, through AFIC's National Sharia Board (ANSB) and Australian Dar Al-Iftaa (ADA) support the office of **National Grand Mufti of Australia** with the necessary resources to fulfil the requirements of such a position whose significance will extend throughout the states and territories of Australia and beyond into a multilingual and multicultural international community." Said **Imam Riad El Rifai**, Australian Dar Al-Iftaa and AFIC National Sharia Board Chair of Da'wa and Fatwa committee

"After months of consultations among Imams and Islamic scholars, AFIC, during a program in the Australian Federal Parliament on 24 March 2021, officially launched the AFIC National Sharia Board (ANSB) and Australian Dar Al-Iftaa (ADA). ANSB and ADA repeated in parliament, the open invitation to Imams, Sheikhs and Muslim scholars to unite and work together. It was made clear that ANSB will be an open and democratic platform that will operate without favouring any group or nationality over another. ANSB and Australian Dar



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

AFIC National
Sharia Board



Al-Iftaa continue to expand and bring together the most active and sincere Imams and Islamic Scholars.” Said AFIC president **Dr Rateb Jneid**.

“Today, I proudly declare that AFIC’s National Sharia Board and Australian Dar Al-Iftaa, after broad ranging consultations, have elected Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari of Queensland as the National Grand Mufti of Australia.” Said **Imam El Rifai**.

“As the president of the AFIC, the national body for Australian Muslims since 1964, I am proud to endorse the appointment of Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari as National Grand Mufti of Australia, I congratulate Imam Al Azhari and invite the community to enjoy his skills, expertise and advise.” Said **Dr Jneid**.

“I am humbled and greatly honoured to be chosen by the distinguished Imams of ANSB and Australian Dar Al-Iftaa as the National Grand Mufti of Australia. I pledge to serve society faithfully with the help of Allah, my heart and my door will be open to all.” Said **Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari**, National Grand Mufti of Australia.

Authorised by Dr Rateb Jneid

President

Media contact: Keysar Trad

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils

*The peak body for Australian Muslims representing
State and Territory Islamic Councils and Societies*



Sydney (Head Office): 932 Bourke Street, Zetland, NSW 2017

Melbourne: 66-68 Jeffcott Street, West Melbourne VIC 3003

Canberra: 21/41 Lizardet Street, Weston ACT 2611

Perth: 17 Mercantile Way, Malaga WA 6090

W: afic.com.au **E:** admin@afic.com.au **PH:** (02) 9319 6733