

مجلس الأئمة الفخريين الأستراليين
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

"In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful"

Statement Regarding the Holy Month of Ramadan 1439H - 2018

All Praise is due to Allah, and peace and blessings be upon the seal of all the prophets and messengers.

Following extensive consultations with nation-wide Islamic leaders and Imams from the Australian National Imams Council Executive Committee and their representatives from all Australian States, the Grand Mufti of Australia, Imam Abdul Azim Al-Afifi and the Australian National Imams Council wish to make the following statement regarding the Holy Month of Ramadan 1439H -2018:

The Holy Month of Ramadan for this year (1439H - 2018) will Begin on Thursday 17th of May 2018

Therefore, the first night of the Holy Month of Ramadan and Taraweeh Prayer will be on Wednesday the 16th of May 2018 after Maghreb (Sunset).

The Grand Mufti of Australia, Imam Abdul Azim Al-Afifi, and the respected Imams of the Australian National Imams Council, acknowledge the different opinions amongst the scholars on this topic and that not all Imams and schools of thought agree on the methodology used in determining the beginning and the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan, including prominent member Imams from the Australian National Imams Council and its executive committee members. It is therefore, the Australian National Imams Council's and the Grand Mufti of Australia's call upon all Muslims to respect these differences by avoiding debates that lead to disagreements and misunderstanding amongst the Muslims and to focus on the potential unity amongst the community and what brings them closer to Allah the Almighty.

The Grand Mufti of Australia, Imam Abdul Azim Al-Afifi, and the respected Imams of the Australian National Imams Council, emphasise on the importance of confirming the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan to avoid the nullification of fasting. Islam stresses on the importance of promoting cultural and societal diversity. As such, it is highly encouraged to invite non-Muslim families to join Muslims in the act of breaking their fast and to use the Month of Ramadan as a month of advocacy (Dawah) and clearing misconceptions of Islam to the wider Australian society.

The Grand Mufti of Australia, Imam Abdul Azim Al-Afifi, and the Australian National Imams Council, call upon all Muslims to preserve their fasting while considering their brothers and sisters facing adversity around the world.

Finally, do not forget to keep your brothers and sisters in your prayers, asking Allah to end their wars, to grant them peace and security in their countries, our country Australia, and all around the world.

May Allah bless this holy month for you and your family and may your worship and fasting be accepted this year.
AMEEN

The Grand Mufti of Australia
Imam Abdul Azim Al-Afifi
Dated: 15th of May 2018