

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



ARE YOU JUST A BOSS

OR

ARE YOU A GENUINE LEADER

A talk delivered by

The National Grand Mufti of Australia
His Eminence Sheikh

Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari

At

**The Australian Federation
Of Islamic Councils (AFIC)**

Leaders and Delegates Iftar Program

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Sydney Australia.



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils



AFIC National
Sharia Board

رمضان

Ramadan
Kareem

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين

Honourable guests, Respected President Dr Rateb Jneid, our Respected Brother Keysar Trad CEO of AFIC, various state delegates, ANSB members, Community leaders from various organisations and agencies, Brothers and Sisters.

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we stand and to pay my respects to the elders past, present and emerging.

What a beautiful occasion, the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils and ANSB Iftaar.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all and to thank AFIC for organising such a great event and inviting us all to be part of this special occasion.

Allah (s.w.t)' says that the purpose of fasting in Ramadan is

لعلكم تتقون

'So that You may achieve proper awareness of Allah.

Dear brothers and sisters, every moment during the month of Ramadan imprints in our hearts and minds, our conscious is aware of our duty before our Creator. Ramadan helps us to become watchful of our words and actions in everything that we do.

The most essential physical needs, food, water, sleep are readily and joyfully sacrificed, our hunger and thirst no longer becomes harmful. What is truly harmful is to go outside the guidance of Allah (S.W.T).

If we do not heed this message, then we will be like the people that our beloved Nabi (s.a.w) described in a hadeeth. *'Many of those that fast will gain nothing from their fasting except hunger and thirst'*.

Honourable delegates, Muslim leaders, this beloved month of Ramadan has taught us and is revealing to us that we are one Ummah, we are one, eating together, fasting together, breaking our fast together, praying together, making Dua together. We are focused and we are dignified. Alhamdulillah

Just as Ramadan brings us together on nights like this, we must realise, the need to stay together always. Our future and the future of our children needs the safeguards of unity and togetherness.

While I am talking about the future generation, I would like to give some important quotes from our recent ANSB publication.

One of the youngest members of ANSB, Sheikh Mohammed Trad recently wrote an article on Connecting the Youth with the Community, I borrow the following points from his work:

- A young person is like a flowing river, driving its path through the land that possess the least resistance, there are some paths a river must not take, but what would you imagine would happen if the river was prevented from taking any path.
- It is not uncommon for a young person to lose motivation and subsequently lose confidence in a society or organisation. A range of factors can contribute to this, including when they feel their voice is not being heard and the direction of the organisation is not seen as relevant to the needs of the hour and the people. This is especially true today when things happen very quickly and there are competitors for a person's time, attention, and energy. An organisation understandably would not want to endorse or support a particular idea, they may see an issue with it, but for the benefit of all parties, it is more appropriate to approach this in a inclusionary way.
- One of the steps, our leaders in community organisations can take to ensure this does not happen, is to adapt what is known in contemporary literature as a growth mindset. Having a growth mindset entails, looking for opportunities rather than flaws, seeing challenges rather than obstacles, and always seeing potential for improvement. One of the ways an organisation can work towards having a healthy growth mindset, is to facilitate regular upskilling for everyone involved. In the corporate world, upskilling is an unrelenting part of the culture.
- It is important for all community organisations to adapt an upskilling culture for both their paid and unpaid positions. This will help them to continue to offer their best and most effective selves, in the service of the community.

Are you just a boss or a you a genuine leader? It is a good idea for a person in any kind of managerial roll to consider whether they are guiding or just giving orders, whether they are inspiring or just issuing dull tasks.

Brothers and sisters, ladies and gentlemen, ANSB's article on Connecting the Young with the Community illustrates that the needs of the community are, to a large extent, represented by the needs of the young. The inclusion of the young was exemplified by our Nabi (s.a.w). It is therefore very important for any organisation to actively and regularly explore ways to include the young in the development, delivery and receiving end of any service or business. Recognising that the young person is like a flowing river. Let us make a path of goodness, a path with the least obstacles. InshaAllah

If the young find resistance in an organisation to be too forceful and overwhelming, they, will likely look elsewhere to channel their hopes and energies.

Brothers and sisters, ladies and gentlemen once again I would like to thank AFIC for organizing this great Iftar event. May Allah accept all our Ibadat during and after Ramadan.

تَقَبَّلَ اللَّهُ مِنَّا وَمِنْكُمْ صَالِحَ الْأَعْمَالِ

I ask Allah (s.w.t) to guide our community organisations to be models in delivering the best services to the community.

Please enjoy the rest of the program and enjoy your Iftar dinner.

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu

Ramadan Mubarak

رَمَضَانَ مُبَارَكًا

Ramadan Kareem

رَمَضَانَ كَرِيمًا