
Islam and Muslims in Australia: Diversity and Inclusion

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What is Islam?

- Definition
- Origins
- Beliefs and practices
 - Five Pillars
- Prophet
- Scripture
- Muslim world

Muslims in Australia

- History
 - Migration, settlement, refugees
- Diversity
 - National
 - Ethnic
 - Linguistic
 - Socio-economic
 - Ideological
- Contributions

Issues

- Unemployment and underemployment
- Foreign policy
- Media representation
- Identity

Dealing with Muslims

- Daily prayers
 - Friday prayers
- Ramadan
- Dietary requirements
- Gender interaction

Interaction: The key to inclusion

- GIRU Research
 - Sources of knowledge
 - 79% rely on the mass media
 - Knowledge of Islam
 - 80% not familiar with the five pillars of Islam
 - Interaction
 - 33% interact with Muslims occasionally or often
 - Acceptance
 - 78% comfortable with Muslims
 - Threat
 - 67% do not regard Muslims as a threat to the country
- The higher the level of interaction:
 - The less reliant on the media
 - The more awareness about Islam and Muslims
 - The more accepting of Muslims as part of Australian society
 - The less concern about a Muslim threat

Capstone

- *Islam is a religion that emphasises the worship of God alone, prayer, charity, fasting and pilgrimage.*
- *Muslims in Australia are a highly diverse community with varying experiences and modes of settlement.*
- *Many Muslims feel that the media representation of Islam is a central obstruction to their successful integration in Australian society.*
- *Interaction between Muslims and the wider Australian society is the most effective means of offsetting the impact of negative media imagery and results in more positive perceptions and harmonious social relations.*
- *Muslims need to develop an approach to understanding and practicing Islam that is conducive to the Western context.*
- *An important part of achieving this is for Muslims and their fellow Australians to interact and get to know one another in a way that is unmediated.*