

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP
Annual Iftar Dinner at Nasir Mosque
Sunday, 8 March 2026

Good Evening one and all

I am delighted to be here this evening with my wife Patricia and councillors from the City of Cockburn to recognise Ramadan, the holy month of fasting observed by Muslims worldwide.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar nation the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered and I pay respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to first nation people who are with us tonight.

I also acknowledge:

- Imam Syed Wadood Janud; Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Perth;
- Mr Anjum Qaisrani, President, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Perth;
- Other faith leaders and their guests;
- distinguished guests;
- Ladies and gentlemen and the boys who have joined us today.

This year's theme, 'Religion: A Force for Good' provides the opportunity for us all to reflect on the importance that religion plays in our daily lives.

Having a sense of identity and belonging provides a sound foundation for individuals, families and communities to guide their journey through life allowing them to seek guidance and support for themselves and others on what is a complex and demanding world, particularly, at this time of unrest across the world.

Australia is a very multicultural community allowing freedom of speech and religion and given its rich indigenous history opportunities abound for people to respect and value these freedoms.

My understanding of various religions is having faith and a sense of purpose with many showing the need to care for the needy and vulnerable members of our communities and in many cases those in other countries.

Australians are known around the world as a very generous people when it comes to providing aid to communities less fortunate.

Many of the world's faith groups co-ordinate aid programs and distribute food and other aid to people forced to leave their country due to war, ongoing conflict, famine or other circumstances that see them reside in refugee camps, sometimes for years before they can be resettled.

It is the faith groups across the world along with other aid groups who reach into homes seeking donations which with modern technologies appear in our living rooms on a daily basis.

In my opinion, if it were not for faith groups many people would die of starvation or suffer exponentially and for that reason alone, 'Religion: A Force for Good' will remain an important part of our life.

For the Muslim community I thank you in particular as voice of respect, trust and community – always present – always positive – always supporting others – Love for All, Hatred for None founded in 1889 by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.