



Australian High Commission
Malaysia

MEDIA RELEASE

**AUSTRALIA CELEBRATES ITS ISLAMIC HISTORY WITH
MODEL OF ADELAIDE CITY MOSQUE**

Kuala Lumpur, 14 May 2026 – The Australian High Commission in Malaysia, in partnership with the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, launched a detailed architectural model of the historic **Adelaide City Mosque** on Wednesday (13 May), highlighting Australia’s Islamic history and its shared commitment to cultural understanding and religious diversity with Malaysia.

Her Excellency Ms Danielle Heinecke, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, and Imam Shadi Alsuleiman, President of the Australian National Imams Council and Founder of the Alliance of Australian Muslims, attended the launch event.

Ms Heinecke said, “Today’s unveiling is a powerful representation of Australia’s rich heritage and multicultural identity. It underlines the strong people-to-people ties between Australia and Malaysia, reflecting the contribution Muslim communities have made to Australia, and serves as a bridge for deeper cultural understanding between our countries. To this end, we are pleased to partner with the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, which is another example of our bilateral institutional relationships and a shared appreciation of our diverse cultures and faith traditions.”

Established in 1888 by Afghan cameleers, the Adelaide City Mosque is a testament to Australia’s Islamic history and is Australia’s oldest surviving Muslim place of worship. The model displayed as part of the permanent collection at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia is a symbol of friendship between Australia and Malaysia, and will sit alongside models of other Islamic architecture from around the world.

Given the age of the mosque and the absence of contemporary architectural plans, Malaysian designers Technibuilt travelled to Adelaide in 2025 to conduct detailed surveys and produce new drawings. As a gesture of gratitude for the mosque community’s support, the architectural surveys were subsequently presented to the managing committee. This

two-way exchange demonstrated the reciprocal spirit and friendship between Australia and Malaysia.

Mr Syed Mohamad Albukhary, Director of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, said, “We are pleased to accept the model of the Adelaide Mosque from the Australian High Commission as part of our continued commitment to preserving and promoting cross-cultural appreciation through Islamic art and heritage. This model reflects the shared values of faith, community, and multicultural understanding, demonstrating how Islamic history and culture continue to play a meaningful role in contemporary societies, including both Australia and Malaysia.”

As part of the launch, Imam Shadi Alsuleiman, a prominent Muslim Australian, also delivered a public lecture and shared his experiences as a Muslim in Australia, as well as the role of mosques in fostering openness and community engagement. Imam Shadi was in Malaysia as part of a visit program hosted by the Australian High Commission.

Imam Shadi said, “The Adelaide City Mosque represents more than a place of worship – it showcases how faith, dialogue and service can come together to build inclusive communities and deepen understanding in a diverse society. It also highlights how modern mosques can serve as spaces for faith, education, and community connection.”

During his visit to Malaysia, Imam Shadi met with Malaysian stakeholders across the public, media and education sectors to exchange perspectives on Islamic leadership in multicultural communities. He also met students from the International Islamic University Malaysia and the Al-Akhlas Hope Society, which provides education and social services for refugee and marginalised communities in Kuala Lumpur.

This model launch follows the 70th anniversary of Australia’s diplomatic presence in Malaysia in 2025, which reflected decades of friendship. Australia and Malaysia share a long-standing and close partnership built on strong people-to-people links, including across education, defence and security, and trade and investment. The launch demonstrates Australia’s commitment to promoting inclusivity and multiculturalism, both of which are pillars of cultural diplomacy between Australia and Malaysia.

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Media Imagery can be downloaded here: [\[Link\]](#)

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