

Integration and Challenged Faced by Australian Born Converts to Islam

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A unique presentation on research investigating the experiences of Australian born converts to Islam. The research was conducted in early 2020 in the form of an online survey that was open to all Australian born converts to Islam over the age of 18 and converted for at least two years. The survey was specifically developed for the research's hypothesis that converts to Islam navigate personal, lifestyle and social aspects and is based on key academic researches and literature conducted in the last two decades (2000-2020) on conversion and converts to Islam in Western societies. The findings reveal there are several factors indicating successful integration of converts. Converts need to engage on all three dimensions of the hypothesis; internal, lifestyle and social. It is evident that changes in these spheres can bring about challenges, and certain challenges can be on-going. The results of the survey have provided beneficial insight to Australian converts experience, particularly in contributing evidence that converts can integrate successfully within their Muslim community while maintaining a distinctive Australian identity. These findings are crucial to the field of conversion studies as it provides fresh data on the conversion experience and insight to understanding the commonalities between the experiences of converts and process of conversion in Western societies as well as identifying potential the social and historical contexts that produce important nuances of difference within an Australian context.

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