

Waleed Aly

Broadcaster, academic, media commentator, author

Waleed Aly is a broadcaster, academic, lawyer, author, musician and frequent commentator on Australian Muslim matters.

As a spokesman for the Islamic Council of Victoria, Waleed is frequently interviewed on current affairs and news programs and in the process has become one of Australia's most respected and versatile media talents.

As an example of his versatility, Waleed has tackled comedy as both a writer and presenter for SBS's *Salam Cafe*, hard-hitting news as a host of ABC radio's *Mornings program in Melbourne*, sporting analysis on ABC News 24's *The Drum* and political analysis on Q&A and *BBC World*.



Waleed is co-host of Network Ten's *The Project*, live to air on weeknights and also presents *The Minefield* on Radio National with ethicist Scott Stephens every Thursday morning.

Waleed has also made feature appearances on *Compass*, *Meet the Press*, *The 7.30 Report* and *Lateline*, to name but a few. At the same time, his social and political commentary also appears regularly in *The Australian*, *The Australian Financial Review*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* as well in overseas publications like *The Guardian* and *The Sunday Times of India*.

In 2005, Waleed was commended in the Walkley Awards in the category of Commentary, Analysis, Opinion and Critique and appointed the White Ribbon Day ambassador for the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. In 2006 he was shortlisted for the Alfred Deakin Essay Prize in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards. In 2007 he was named one of The Bulletin's 'Smart 100'. In 2008 he was selected to participate in the Prime Minister's Australia 2020 Summit and in 2009, his essay '*It's just a jump to the Left*' from *The Sydney Morning Herald* was included in Melbourne University Press' collection of Australia's Best Political Writing.

Waleed Aly's first book, *People Like Us: How Arrogance is Dividing Islam and the West* was shortlisted for the best newcomer award in the Australian Book Industry Awards and the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards in 2008.

In 2010 he hosted six sessions of *The Late Session* for SBS, a lively talk show set in a dinner party



environment canvassing a wide range of contemporary topics. Waleed was *Radio National's Drive* show host from 2012 for three years, also co-hosting *The Project* on Friday nights during this period.

In 2013, Waleed made his Melbourne International Comedy Festival debut alongside Charlie Pickering in *'The World's Problems Solved with Charlie Pickering and Waleed Aly'*. Every Sunday night of the festival they took on one of the world's greatest political, social or humanitarian troubles and solved it - the Charlie and Waleed way.

Waleed Aly is a lecturer in politics at Monash University, working within its Global Terrorism Research Centre. Previously, he worked as a commercial lawyer and he also has experience in human rights and family law.

In his free time, he is the guitarist and main songwriter for Melbourne band *Robot Child* and co-wrote the theme music for *Salam Cafe*. He played the lead guitar in the world's first ever theatrical production of Pink Floyd's classic album, *The Wall* with Nuworks Theatre in Melbourne, in the process helping to raise \$60,000 to rebuild a girls' school in Afghanistan that the Taliban had previously destroyed. Also, he is almost certainly the only Australian terrorism expert to have written a formal harmonic and structural analysis of Bohemian Rhapsody.

Deep thinking and quick-witted, Waleed Aly's versatility has seen him become many things to many people and trusted by audiences across Australia.

Client testimonials

“ (Waleed was received) extremely well, the audience was inspired by Waleed...very thought provoking presentation

- *Amarna*

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