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Australian Muslim Women's
Centre for Human Rights
Equality without Exception

ANNUAL REPORT





**Australian Muslim Women's
Centre for Human Rights**
Equality without Exception

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This report recognises that gender, race and religion intersect to create multiple forms of discrimination and violence against Muslim women. It also recognises that preventing prejudice in all forms is bound to the struggles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and before we can successfully tackle issues within our communities, we must address the ongoing impacts of colonisation, racism, and discrimination in this country.

The Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights (AMWCHR) acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work, and that sovereignty has never been ceded. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present. AMWCHR is committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

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Front and back page art: Amani Haydar, "Solitude in the Café"

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OUR BOARD



CO-CHAIRS

Mariam Veiszadeh
(Appointed December 2020)

Dr Anisa Buckley
(Appointed December 2020)

DEPUTY CHAIR

Dr Umber Rind

TREASURER

Sahar Zaidi

VICE TREASURER

Marwa Khalaf

SECRETARY

Jeanine Hourani

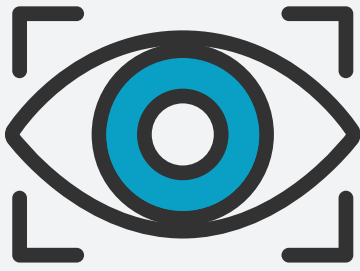
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nafisa Yussf

Adiba Islam



ABOUT US



OUR VISION

We work to achieve *Equality without Exception*.

We contribute to public discourse on Muslim women's issues, advocating for the rights of Muslim women through our programs, casework, research, publications and consultancy.

OUR PURPOSE

We work for the rights of Muslim women in Australia by:

- Empowering women's self-determination
- Bringing a human rights approach to bear on issues of inequality and disadvantage
- Working with individuals, communities and government to advocate and educate for equality within the Australian context.



OUR APPROACH



We believe that Muslim women must be the impetus for change in their status as citizens.

In realising our vision, we use a human rights framework to amplify the voices of Muslim women. We acknowledge the inherent agency that Muslim women have. Our work aims to build capacity and raise awareness, breaking down structural barriers that exist for Muslim women both within the Muslim community and in broader social and political contexts.

We take a non-religious, non-sectarian approach to our work. We resist versions of Islam used to justify any violations against women and use a social justice lens to push back against harmful narratives. We embrace the diversity and plurality of Muslims that exists in Australia as a strength, ensuring our work is accessible and relevant to all Muslim women.

Our work strives to create spaces to elevate and amplify Muslim women's voices, learnings and supports their rights to self-determine the direction of their own lives.

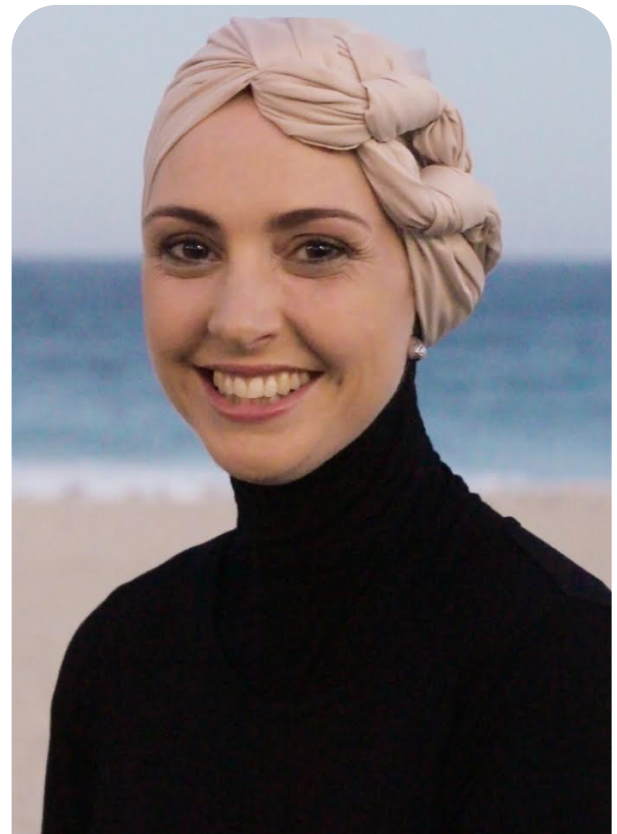
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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CO-CHAIRS

The ongoing pandemic has placed considerable pressure on the entire community sector over the past two years, however AMWCHR has risen to meet the various challenges to continue to provide for and attend to the very complex needs of our clients that have been exacerbated by COVID-19. This has meant that many of our programs and services have transitioned from face-to-face to online delivery, including information sessions and community consultations, however the executive management team and staff have been exceptional in responding to the ever-changing situations they have faced, particularly given Melbourne has had to endure the longest lockdown of any city in the entire world!

As Co-Chairs for this past year, it has been a privilege to be part of such a dynamic and successful organisation alongside other esteemed Board members, who are all dedicated to advancing the wellbeing of Muslim women in Melbourne and across Australia. We have had a number of new members join the Board, bringing with them a wealth of experience in advocacy, research, community engagement, leadership and international connections with like-minded organisations. We would like to recognise the contribution of our past Board Chair, Yasmin Karaata, as well as long standing Board members who have given many years of voluntary service providing leadership and guidance to AMWCHR.

Our CEO Diana Sayed has done an exceptional job in leading the organisation over the past two years, and has instituted a number of new initiatives and changes across the Centre, including increasing our capacity and capability across our



DR ANISA BUCKLEY



MARIAM VEISZADEH

programs and services, and establishing a social media presence through a dedicated Media Comms role. The challenges of the pandemic and extended lockdown in 2021 placed a number of additional pressures upon our staff, and Diana is commended for placing staff wellbeing as a priority when delivering our program and services. In addition, Diana was responsible for AMWCHR hosting our first ever Iftar in Ramadan earlier this year, which was attended by numerous stakeholders, partners and community leaders, bringing together many remarkable women who are all at the forefront of their respective sectors in supporting women and their human rights.

The Centre has been fortunate in continuing to provide essential programs and casework services to our clients, with Family Violence still a prominent aspect of our casework load. This has been made possible through the Women's Support Line and other projects that were transitioned to online and phone service delivery methods, including the Our Place project run by the AMWCHR Youth Program which produced an insightful and engaging series of podcasts.

In light of the ever-changing conditions facing the Centre, we undertook a revision of our Strategic Plan that was conducted back in 2019. This revision will ensure that the Centre is well placed over the next 5 years to fulfill our goals of being a leading advocate for Australian Muslim women's rights and providing cutting-edge programs, support services and research underpinned by evidence that best meet the needs of Muslim communities.

The Board would like to say a fond farewell to our outgoing COO, Nesreen Bottriell, who has been remarkable in managing operational and financial requirements over the past three years and has provided stellar support in her management role both before and during Diana's time with the organisation. We wish her all the best in her new position as CEO of the Islamic Museum of Australia and look forward to announcing a new COO soon.



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The organisation could not achieve the level of care and success without you, and for that we are eternally grateful. We would like to especially thank those members of staff who have given many years of service to the Centre and have been instrumental in guiding all the new staff that have become part of the AMWCHR family. We would also like to thank all our partners, donors and funders for their continued support of our organisation, as well as the numerous stakeholders and community service providers that recognise and support our specialised services and programs.

On behalf of the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights, it is our great honour to present the achievements of our Centre in this Annual Report and highlight our determination to keep providing essential services to our communities.





MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



DIANA SAYED

It is with an immense amount of pride that we present our 2020-2021 Annual Report and provide a summary of an incredibly remarkable and challenging year for our Organisation. I have consistently been inspired and in awe of the resilience, courage and generosity shown by community members we work alongside, our staff who bring so much of themselves to the organisation every day and our supporters across the country over the last year.

With deep gratitude I wish to thank everyone for your ongoing commitment to our vision.

For those of us in Victoria who thought we had faced the worst of the pandemic in 2020, the last 12 months once again tested us. The uncertainty of continued lockdowns and the rise of new strains of the COVID-19 virus in addition to vaccine hesitancy, only strengthened our resolve and commitment to serving our communities.

Through increased direct engagement and outreach while working closely with our partners we forged and strengthened our relationships across government, both at a State and Federal level and built key relationships with Ministers leading pertinent reforms directly impacting our communities and the heightened vulnerability we experienced – whether on issues pertaining to the prevention of family violence or anti-racism, our organisation continued to advocate for the rights and status of Muslim women.

We made a concerted effort to increase the visibility of our support services and community programs by launching our new website and digital communications strategy, with a larger presence on social and traditional media. This brought together our 30 years of experience in research, publications, community programs and direct services to an online space which allowed us to reach new target audiences in our communities.

This assisted our organisation with the timely dissemination of important information pertaining to the vaccines, our report on Policing and Surveillance of Muslim communities, and helped maintain open communications - particularly to highly vulnerable groups where standard with limited digital literacy and created spaces for young Muslim women to engage in programs discussing issues around mental health and isolation.

Throughout the year, we continued to run our community programs online with increased engagement from women who were facing considerable isolation who found spaces to connect and share their experiences of hardship with others. Rates of family violence in our community has seen a steady increase and, during COVID, we have seen a rise in the complexity of cases our caseworkers are responding to.

We co-hosted an Iftar during the month of Ramadan alongside the Queen Victoria Women's Centre and the Moroccan Soup Bar where all our staff and board members were able to come together to celebrate the occasion. We facilitated community consultations on our anti-racism project, ran a highly successful youth podcast series, launched another Ramadan Fundraiser campaign to support women and their families experiencing financial hardship and joined the acting State Premier for his inaugural Iftar where I was fortunate enough to be invited along as the keynote speaker. We continued to engage in a range of conversations with other community organisations and leaders, service providers and subject matter experts on issues of community

safety and terrorism laws, forced marriage, settlement issues for newly arrived communities, the Victorian Inquiry into mental health, anti-racism campaigns and as one of the organisations invited to attend consultations for the Women's Safety Summit held to inform the next National Plan to End Violence Against Women.

These activities helped to further build our organisational brand as an expert on the intersections of issues impacting Muslim women, and paved the way for more effective service delivery, policy and funding allocations by government in a number of areas.

The anxiety, isolation, grief and trauma of the pandemic deeply affected our communities - especially during the Afghanistan crisis in August. I am proud of the way the AMWCHR team demonstrated leadership and unity during this time in our tireless efforts to publicly campaign for the rights of women and children through our humanitarian settlement program. Our staff and board mobilised and provided critical outreach work during these times of crisis, supporting Afghan women and families, providing referral pathways for legal advice and convening town hall meetings and information sessions for those with concerns about families back in Afghanistan.

Despite the impact of COVID, we continued to celebrate significant cultural moments and milestones with our diverse communities. Seeing members of our community and wider circle face-to-face during the month of Ramadan gave us a much-needed energy to forge ahead in times of uncertainty.

I would like to extend a special thanks to our management team- each with their own unique lived experience, expertise, passion and community connections – who have helped steer the organisation throughout the year with a steady hand. A heartfelt thanks goes to our outgoing Chief Operations Officer, Nesreen Bottriell, who tirelessly saw the organisation through so many changes and challenges over the years with her tenacity and diligence as an incredible leader who helped build the AMWCHR into what it is today. Her legacy lives on strongly and we wish her all the best in her role as the new CEO at the Islamic Museum of Australia. I would also like to highlight all of our staff for their tireless efforts and dedication in amplifying the voices of our communities through their capacity building programs and essential casework support. The foundational cornerstone of everything we do at the AMWCHR is driven by our staff, none of our work would be possible without each one of them.

Finally, I am overwhelmed with gratitude to the AMWCHR board -- for their dedication, skill and extraordinary commitment to our Vision over a challenging year. They provided an immense amount of support to me personally as a relatively new CEO, no words will truly capture it, especially as we participated in a new strategic planning process to ensure the long-term sustainability and viability of the AMWCHR into the future.

Navigating the evolving space of COVID restrictions, mandates and responses has highlighted the importance of our role as a specialised community-led organisation of Muslim women leading change for Muslim women.

It is truly an honour to lead such an exceptional team at the AMWCHR.

I look forward to continuing our service in the coming year. I have no doubt that the hard work undertaken in 2020–2021 will support ongoing responses to how we deal with other emerging issues and help lead us to a stronger and safer future for all.

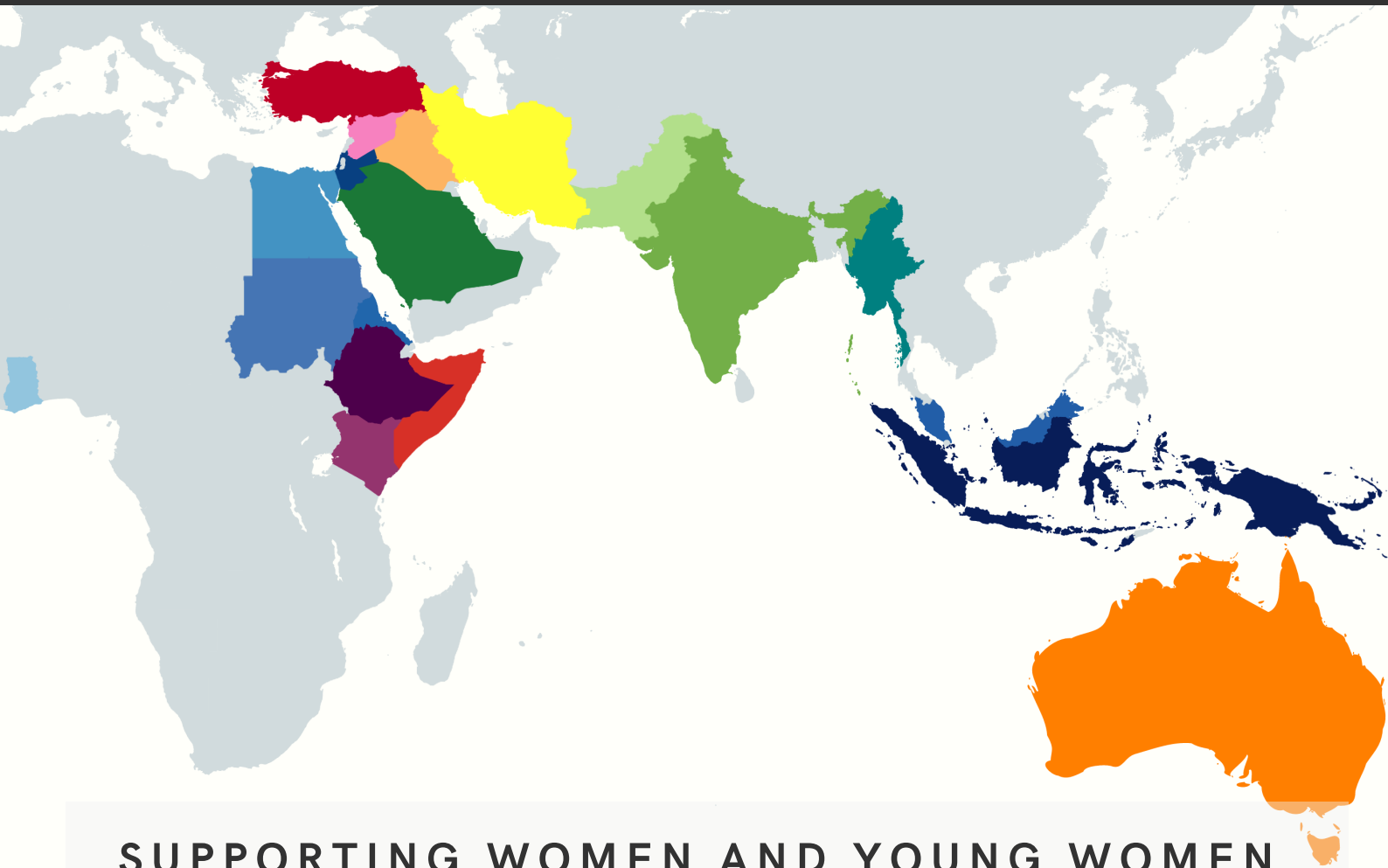


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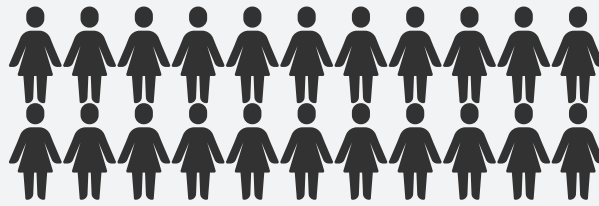
OUR IMPACT



SUPPORTING WOMEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

WOMEN'S INFO SESSIONS, PARENTING SESSIONS & LEADERSHIP SESSIONS	 185	 826
EVENTS	 6	 262
YOUNG WOMEN PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSIONS & LEADERSHIP SESSIONS	 56	 166
TOTAL	 247	 1254

WOMEN SUPPORTED WITH MATERIAL AID



288
WOMEN

WOMEN SUPPORTED WITH ONE-TO- ONE SESSIONS



428
WOMEN

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

13

CONSULTATIONS



A total of 13 consultation sessions held each year, receiving community feedback from 93 women and young women across the sessions. Participants are a diverse mix of Somali, Arabic speaking, Afghan and Indo Pakistani communities of women.

POLICY & SECTOR GROWTH

41

SESSIONS



This figure includes a total of 24 CoP sessions, consultations, conferences, strategic meetings around family violence and settlement issues and a total of 17 groupwork SETS Community of Practice sessions.

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

65

TRAININGS



This figure includes 14 sector training sessions attended by 174 participants and 51 secondary consults bringing the total to 65 capacity building trainings and sessions for professionals reaching over 125 professionals.

NETWORKING SESSIONS



92

ATTENDED

SUBMISSIONS

1

Submission into Review of Terrorism (Community Safety) Act 2003, Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights 11 June, 2021

2

Submission to the National Action Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, 30 July, 2021

3

Submission to Supporting Improvements to the Families and Children Activity consultation, 5 March 2021

BUILDING VISIBILITY AND ENGAGEMENT



8,160
REACH

715
PAGE LIKES

20
POSTS



1,033
REACH

671
PAGE LIKES

31
POSTS



76,828
IMPRESSIONS

50
TWEETS





OUR WORK WITH COMMUNITY

SUPPORT THROUGH COVID-19

The global coronavirus pandemic has been particularly difficult for migrant women, in particular those who are disadvantaged. The pandemic exacerbated existing systemic inequalities which act as barriers for those most in need accessing necessary supports. In response to this the AMWCHR launched a number of initiatives throughout the pandemic to provide a culturally sensitive range of services to support migrant and Muslim women. This included a dedicated phone service for migrant and Muslim women – The Women's Support Line, in-language outreach services to connect with isolated women, material and financial aid services to support vulnerable families and women and mental health support and referral services.

The Women's Support Line was established in response to the increased risk posed to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of migrant Muslim women. Launched in May 2020, the Women's Support Line supported Muslim women to provide support and information on NDIS, public housing and emergency relief schemes, parenting challenges during COVID, emotional and wellbeing support for families, address issues of social isolation, and to access material aid and financial support services.

Under the Supporting Multicultural Communities initiative of the Victorian State Government, the AMWCHR distributed financial and material aid supports to women throughout the year, supporting families, women and children who had suffered job losses, were ineligible for relief payments and who were suffering extreme hardships as a result of the pandemic, many of whom were highly isolated, with no families or support in Australia.



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You can still access support during lockdown

If you are struggling or experiencing family violence during lockdown, you can contact the following services for help.



In an emergency please call the police or ambulance on 000



**Sexual Assault Crisis Line
1800 806 292**



**Safe Steps
1800 015 188**



**1800 RESPECT
1800 737 732**



**Lifeline
13 11 14**

Women's Support Line

Support for women and families experiencing financial hardship* available under the following categories:



Back to school fund



Pathways to
employment and
education



Urgent health and
wellbeing needs



Food and
material aid

*Support will be allocated based on needs assessment

COVID-19 RECOVERY

03 9481 3000

You can call our Women's Support Line for information and emotional and cultural support, Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm.



SUPPORTING SETTLEMENT

AMWCHR continues to provide settlement support to newly arrived Muslim women and their families, as they face the challenges of adjusting to a new country and cultural context and making new lives for themselves.

Our settlement work focuses on supporting Muslim women by promoting economic and personal wellbeing, independence and connectedness.

Through building knowledge and confidence women are better able to access available services to address their complex needs, including pathways to learning English, education and employment readiness.

We achieve this through the delivery of a range of tailored settlement programs for Muslim women, young women, mothers and their children.

SETTLEMENT PROGRAMS

Information and skills training sessions were delivered to diverse language groups to support newly arrived Muslim women build their skills, knowledge and awareness of the services and supports available under the National Settlement Framework. Through this service, working in collaboration with an extensive network of community partners, the AMWCHR provided an opportunity for newly arrived Muslim women to build their understanding of Australian laws, systems, services and community resources to support them to navigate new systems and processes.

Settlement information sessions were delivered to 184 women throughout the year covering employment pathways, English classes, TAFE and skills development courses, services such as NDIS and the Utility Relief Grant Scheme, mental health care, COVID-19 and vaccine related information and clarification, wellbeing and stress management techniques.

SETTLEMENT AND PARENTING

Our long running settlement parenting program was again delivered to newly arrived Muslim women and offers practical support to mothers and supports an understanding of family, health and educational support services available in Australia, as well as strategies for effective communication and building healthy parent-child relationships, to assist in their settlement to Australia.

The Parenting program enabled women to openly discuss their struggles in adapting their parenting practices and styles to the needs of parenting within an Australian context. Often this comes with knowing the child protection laws, the child development approaches applied in schools and kindergarten and understanding the context of Australia that



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1800 806 292



1800 RESPECT
1800 737 732



Safe Steps
1800 015 188



Lifeline
13 11 14



differs from their countries of origin and how these impact on effective parenting strategies. Through this program a range of topics are addressed including setting healthy boundaries, parenting for gender equality, children's brain development, discipline techniques, healthy eating and bedtime routines, screen time and behaviour management, as well as communication techniques and where to seek support.



“It was a very good program, it helped me with my parenting as well as socialising with other women”.

– Participant

“I am so happy that I was able to keep my family happy during this time. Kids were helping me with household chores and we were like friends”.

– Participant

context of their unique experiences, challenges and strengths, to deliver a range of programs to support capacity building, confidence and leadership. Through this project a range of programs were delivered, attended by 189 participants across the various activities that focused on building self-awareness, strengthening identity, building confidence, developing leadership and communication skills and developing respectful relationships within the Australian context. A total of 67 sessions were delivered to young women from diverse backgrounds including Afghan, Pakistani, Iranian, Iraqi, Saudi Arabian, Indian, Syrian, Bangladeshi and Singaporean. Programs also included goal setting, study skills, and understanding and succeeding within the Australian education and employment system to support increased independence, participation and wellbeing.



“My favourite aspect was talking in front of people without feeling shy”

– Participant

“I particularly enjoyed the session on identity and healthy relationships”

– Participant

“I love these sessions and would recommend them to all young Muslim women.”

– Participant

YOUNG WOMEN'S SETTLEMENT PROGRAMS

Settlement programs specifically designed to support young Muslim women and girls to navigate the complexities of migrating to a foreign country is critical to provide opportunities for young people to share their experiences with peers and build connections. This youth focussed project was designed to support young Muslim women, within the



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

CHILDRENS AND PARENTING PROGRAMS

The AMWCHR is renowned for its strengths-based children and parenting programs aimed at improving children's development and wellbeing through the upskilling of parenting roles and skills for migrant women from diverse Muslim communities. It includes a series of interactive parenting group-based programs providing information, skill development and support for parents on a range of parenting topics.

Parenting workshops were offered for isolated and vulnerable migrant and refugee mothers of children aged 0-12 and supported capacity building, improved parent confidence and parenting skills. Women attending the session represented diverse cultural groups including Pakistani, Indian, Afghan (Tajik and Hazara), Lebanese, Syrian, Egyptian, Somali and Malay.

“All the sessions were amazing and I learned a lot of things and gained more knowledge”
– Participant

“I learned how to be a good role model for my children”
– Participant

RECOGNISING LEADERSHIP

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

The AMWCHR continued to offer community-led leadership programs to Muslim women to support the development of leadership skills and build an awareness and understanding of the challenges and barriers which limit their potential. Our leadership programs are person-centred and work to support Muslim women, in culturally respectful ways, to identify their own inherent strengths and capabilities and provide meaningful opportunities for participation and engagement within families, community and broader society. Through these programs, the AMWCHR has continued to support Muslim women to build confidence, strength and capabilities which builds both individual and community resilience. This year over 220 women participated in various leadership programs across Metropolitan Melbourne which also included a number of events and presentations led by participants to showcase their leadership skills and learnings. Some feedback from our women who attended the leadership training include:

“The best thing I have learnt is gender equality and now I can say all limitations in gender roles are not from religion, it comes from society.”
– Participant



"In each session I found new things, I learnt the balance between assertive and passive. The most important I have learned is to see a positive side first in each situation. I have learned we are what we watch and we are what we feed our brain. These sessions have been very positive for me."

- Participant

BUILDING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

PRIORITY RESPONSE PROGRAM ON MENTAL HEALTH

AMWCHR successfully secured funding through the CALD Communities Taskforce – Priority Response to Multicultural Communities grant under the ambit of DFFH to deliver a range of community outreach programs focusing on mental health support and covid /vaccination

awareness to Muslim communities. The program which will commence in the next financial year will be an important milestone for the organisation as we embark on services with a mental health focus. The Programs Team has began talks towards the development of a mental health groupwork program for women and young women to be rolled out in August-September of 2021.



OUR SEGMENT ON

The Mental Health Care Plan

Your guide and one-stop information post on the MHCP.



OUR PLACE FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Supported by Vic Health, the Our Place project was initiated to create safe spaces for young Muslim women to engage in open conversations about issues and challenges relevant to them in a bilingual and culturally sensitive way. The project was led and designed by an advisory team of 10 young women and a youth coordinator to initiate a social media campaign on Instagram through @amwchr_youth. In all, the project delivered 38 social media posts on Instagram, 9 podcasts on Spotify, 1 video that was shared by numerous allied agencies, an Instagram live workshop and two groupwork programs throughout the year.

The project was successful in opening doors to having difficult conversations around many taboo topics for Muslim young women. The positive reception to the many posts, podcasts and video was evident through the reach, engagement, online comments and shares for the various posts. Through this young Muslims were engaged on issues that have left them feeling isolated and alone. It provided them with a connection to other young Muslims who also struggled with similar issues. Comments to some of the podcasts included:



@Haniye_Haidary

Well done, so proud of you guys. Keep up what you are doing



@Seeru_fil_ard

I loved how the energy of the speakers grew more positive talking about this topic. I know we are over online interactions, but I think it has its place.



@Sincerelyhima

Amazing! So inspiring to see these conversations happening



Hosted by Ayesha Ahmad

NEW EPISODE

OUR PLACE PODCAST SEXUAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE



with Guest Speaker
NADINE ATIA

CELEBRATING CULTURE

EID COMMUNITY EVENTS

Two community-based Eid events were held for newly arrived Syrian and Afghan women and their children in May 2021 in Broadmeadows and Dandenong. Attendees celebrated Eid with fellow community members and shared their stories of migration to Australia, how they are adjusting to their new environment, schools, and friendships.

The event allowed women to get to know each other through games and activities. They sang and danced and sang, while children enjoyed face painting, and children's entertainers. Attendees reported thoroughly enjoying the events and with many not having family in Australia, this event provided an opportunity for them to connect with others and celebrate this important cultural event.



AMWCHR Women's Iftar co-hosted with the Moroccan Soup Bar & Keynote Speech at the State Premiers Iftar

We were honoured to be invited to co-host a Women's Iftar alongside long-time partner, Hana Asifiri at the Moroccan Soup Bar kindly supported by the Queen Victoria Women's Centre. Our invitation extended to all of our staff, board and key partners and allies and the turnout was overwhelming – even with the COVID density restrictions we were able to celebrate the occasion with joy.

Shortly afterwards we were invited to keynote at the State Premier's Iftar the following week where we mingled with key department leads, stakeholders and supporters of our work. It was a pleasure to not only have been out of lockdown this Ramadan but to have spent it enjoying each other's company in real life!





OUR SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

Our work with individuals adopts a trauma-informed and strengths-based model in which we apply a cultural lens to support women to achieve their individual goals. With a diverse team of multi-lingual staff, women who access our services feel comfortable knowing they can be supported without fear of judgement or reprisal and can connect with someone who has an understanding of the cultural and religious contexts in which they exist.

SETTLEMENT CASEWORK SERVICES

The AMWCHR settlement casework services provide support for migrant Muslim women. Through understanding and responding to the cultural, linguistic and unique needs of each individual, newly-arrived Muslim women have been provided casework support that validates lived experience, addresses barriers and builds capacity to understand and navigate the numerous service systems and engage in new opportunities, supporting women to stabilise some of their and their family's foundational needs.

Women and their children have needed intensive support during lockdowns, understanding the ever changing restrictions in Victoria, information on fines and ongoing Covid safe regulations; with a significant increase in escalating mental health concerns and suicidality, women have needed crisis support and referral; mothers and carers have required technical and literacy support to engage with online and remote learning, often for numerous children; financial and material aid crisis have required multiple and repeated referrals; education on rights and advocacy work with landlords and real estates has been provided to avoid issues of homelessness and housing crisis along with intensive support to access government supports for job and income loss, with online applications and assessments proving particularly challenging for many clients with language and literacy barriers.

With drops in services and accessibility over the year, there has been an increased demand for many to access emergency relief and interventions to support clients with their most essential needs, such as food, baby and child needs and culturally appropriate foods.

FAMILY VIOLENCE CASEWORK

Through the specialist family violence casework service, the AMWCHR works to support women experiencing violence. We work to support Muslim women experiencing complex and intersecting controls and abuse requiring expert knowledge, intensive and often longer-term interventions. Our team works alongside women through processes from safety and risk management, crisis support and advocacy, engaging with police and courts, ensuring successful referrals to services that support women with migration, legal, housing and poverty.

The AMWCHR continues its efforts to reduce and prevent the use of religion as tool to control and perpetuate violence against woman and children and works to increase capacity to respond in culturally appropriate and supportive ways. We do this through training, secondary consultation with mainstream services and co-case management.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

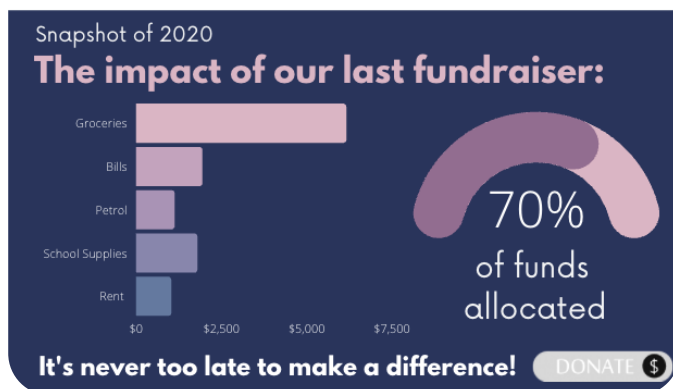
We once again ran our inaugural Ramadan Fundraiser to support Muslim women and their families who were experiencing financial hardship during the COVID-19 lockdowns and ongoing uncertainty. We used a new platform to promote this and Launchgood was able to support our needs. Our efforts were slightly hindered with more pressing global events at the time and the same level of urgency around the pandemic had waned but we were proud to have raised over \$17,000.

Thanks to you, we can continue to provide essential material aid and food supplies to Muslim women in need, but most importantly, we can give them the dignity of choice in allocating resources for their household and families.

While fundraising is a fairly new endeavour for our organisation, the impact that your donations have made are already tangible.

Thank you for your continued support of Muslim women and our work.

On behalf of the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights



We innovated on our fundraising strategy from 2020 to add more digital elements to the campaign including social media graphics, EDM's (email direct marketing) and utilising the Muslim owned platform LaunchGood to collect donations.

We acknowledge that running a fundraiser during a pandemic can be incredibly difficult. However, we are pleased to say that we raised \$17,000 to provide 79 women with material aid and service provision support.



RAMADAN FUNDRAISER

The AMWCHR conducted our first Ramadan Fundraiser in 2020 and following its success chose to run another fundraiser in 2021 to help support the work that we do at the centre and provide material aid and service provision for Muslim Women in need.

NEW
DONORS



48

WOMEN
SUPPORTED



79





Australian Muslim Women's
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YOU'RE INVITED TO

A WOMEN'S IFTAR

April 29, 2021 | Thursday 4.45 PM - 8 PM
Queen Victoria Women's Centre
Victoria Room | Level 4
210 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, 3000

Come along to connect, contemplate and cultivate relationships with Muslim women over a shared meal during the blessed month of Ramadan.

This event is in collaboration with the Moroccan Soup Bar and Queen Victoria Women's Centre featuring special guest speakers and artworks.

Bookings essential as spaces are limited

BOOK VIA THE LINK BELOW

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/womens-iftar-tickets-146515470717>

Donations via Bank transfer

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

BENDIGO BANK
380 HIGH ST, PRESTON, VIC, 3072

ACCOUNT NAME:
AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM WOMEN'S CENTRE
BANK ACCOUNT: 142993666
BSB: 633000
SWIFT CODE: BENDAU3B

Through our work with women, communities and the sector we seek to:

- Raise awareness of the varied and more complex forms of family violence.
- Support women through challenging systems that sometimes disempower and replicate systems of abuse.
- Promote greater understanding within the community of what constitutes family violence and how it intersects with gender equality and broader human rights.
- Raise awareness of the link between early forced marriage and family violence and create strategies into prevention and early intervention and offer victims of early or forced marriage culturally sensitive support that allows women to unpack the complexities of consent, familial, cultural and religious expectation and how they wish to respond.
- Support and respond to the complexities of denial of Islamic divorce, sometimes used by perpetrators to hold victim/survivors within their reach.





OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SECTOR GROWTH

GROWTH

SECTOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The AMWCHR values its role in supporting the development and capacity building of the broader services sector to raise awareness and better equip services to respond to the needs of their Muslim clients. This year our suite of sector training programs successfully transitioned to an online delivery mode, with our core training programs offered throughout the year.

Organisations including The Red Cross, Orange Door, Save the Children and more have taken AMWCHR training covering a range of topics including:

- Introduction to Islam
- Working with Muslim Communities
- Family Violence
- Early and Forced Marriage



WORKSHOP ONE

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!

Insights into working with Muslim migrant communities

4 OCTOBER 2021
10 AM - 12.30 PM

8 OCTOBER 2021
12 PM - 2.30 PM

- Overview of Muslims in Australia
- Insights into the Islamic Worldview
- Religious practices and social customs
- Intersections of Religion, Culture, Identity in the Australian context
- Working with Muslim refugee and migrants



REGISTER YOUR PLACE NOW
[AMWCHR.EVENTBRITE.COM.AU](https://www.amwchr.org.au/AMWCHR.EVENTBRITE.COM.AU)



WORKSHOP TWO

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!

Responding to family violence in Muslim communities

5 OCTOBER 2021
10 AM - 12.30 PM

12 OCTOBER 2021
12 PM - 2.30 PM

- Overview of Muslims in Australia
- Insights into the Islamic Worldview, women's rights and safety
- Working with Muslim refugees and migrants on issues of Family Violence



REGISTER YOUR PLACE NOW
[AMWCHR.EVENTBRITE.COM.AU](https://www.amwchr.org.au/AMWCHR.EVENTBRITE.COM.AU)

COLLABORATIONS AND NETWORKS

- DV Vic, Specialised Leadership, Practice Lead and Implementations Group
- Women's Mental Health Alliance
- National Roundtable to Combat Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
- Forced Marriage Working Group
- Australian Human Rights Commission, National Anti-Racism Campaign
- National Advocacy Group for Temporary Visa Holders
- Multicultural Network of Specialised Family Violence providers
- Migrant women's Network PVAW CoP
- ECCV CEO Network
- SETS CoP Networks including CEO, Best Practice, Cross Sector Partnerships



A decorative border at the top of the page featuring a repeating geometric pattern of interlocking squares and stars in white on a dark background.

OUR ADVOCACY FOR MUSLIM WOMEN

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND KEYNOTES

MAR
12

What should **intersectional feminist leadership** look like, post COVID-19?

Tuesday March 9, 11am-12.30pm

| Diana Sayed | Navanita Bhattacharya | Alex Bhathal



WIRE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PANEL

"What should intersectional feminist leadership look like, post COVID-19?"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-u_UKSNiavE

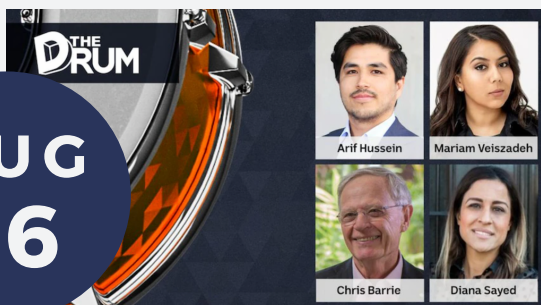
MAY
10



PREMIERS IFTAR Keynote Speech

https://www.instagram.com/tv/COuY50ND-xn/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

AUG
16



ABC THE DRUM

"Trauma for Afghan Diaspora in Australia"

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-08-16/the-drum-monday-16-august/13498552>

AUG
17

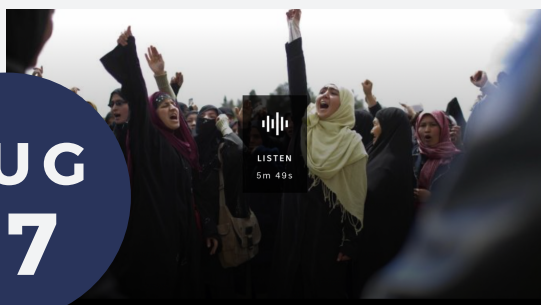


ABC NEWS WITH STAN GRANT

"The Fall of Afghanistan"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lXniK3FU8M>

AUG
17

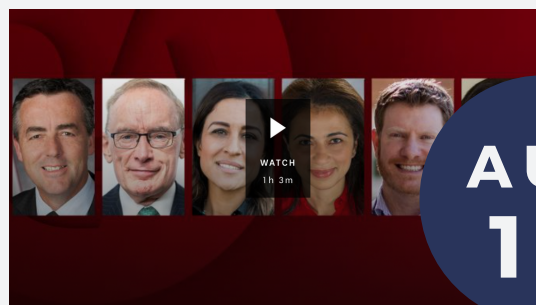


ABC RADIO NATIONAL

"Taliban rule to wind back women's rights in Afghanistan"

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/taliban-rule-wind-back-womens-rights-afghanistan/13498680>

AUG
19



ABC Q&A

"The Taliban Takeover and Afghanistan's Future"

<https://www.abc.net.au/qanda/2021-19-08/13498962>

AFGHANISTAN CRISIS

The situation in Afghanistan developed rapidly and we witnessed large scale displacement amid what is now a humanitarian emergency. We compiled a list of resources following the most frequently asked questions to our organisation and whilst we did not receive any resources or funding to support with the unfolding crisis in Afghanistan, the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights provided Afghan women with:

- Emotional and cultural support
- Material Aid (limited resources)
- Casework and referral services
- Advocacy.

The AMWCHR values its role in advocacy and working for the rights of Muslim women in Australia, by empowering women's self-determination and bringing a human rights approach to bear on issues of inequality and disadvantage. In response to the current humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, the AMWCHR Co-Chair, Mariam Veiszadeh and AMWCHR CEO, Diana Sayed took part in many advocacy initiatives including, stakeholder, government and community engagements and multiple media appearances on Q&A, The Equality Institute and the Drum to support action for Afghanistan campaign by urging the Australian government to help at risk groups and to ease the suffering of the people of Afghanistan by:

- Committing to an additional humanitarian intake of at least 20,000 prioritising the most vulnerable persecuted people of Afghanistan.
- Expediting the resettlement of interpreters, guides and other personnel involved in Australia's mission in Afghanistan.
- Granting permanent protection to more than 5,100 refugees from Afghanistan, predominantly from the historically persecuted Hazara ethnic groups, who are currently on temporary protection visas in Australia.
- Prioritising the family reunification visas of Afghan-Australians.

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES



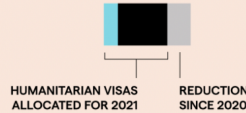
Join Diana Sayed and Dr Emma Fulu

for a chat about Afghanistan and Australia on Instagram live, Wednesday **October 20** at 6pm AEDT.

@theequalityinstitute | AMWCHR

There have been *no extra* humanitarian visas granted.

VISAS ALLOCATED TO ADDRESS THE AFGHANISTAN CRISIS



@theequalityinstitute | AMWCHR

Humanitarian Visas granted for various crises:

VIETNAM WAR
1975 - 1980

TIANANMEN
SQUARE CRISIS
1989

SYRIAN CONFLICT
2015

HONG KONG
PROTESTS
2020

AFGHANISTAN
CRISIS
2021

@theequalityinstitute | AMWCHR

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Action for Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan is rapidly developing and we are witnessing large scale displacement amid what is now a humanitarian emergency.

We have compiled a list of resources following the most frequently asked questions to our organisation over the last few weeks. The situation in Afghanistan is evolving rapidly, all information provided is accurate and up to date as of October, 2021.

If you have an urgent request or a question that hasn't been answered below, you can contact us via email at reception@amwchr.org.au.



Sign the Petition

Join the call on the Australian Government to make a commitment to helping those in Afghanistan, by signing the petition [here](#).



Contact your local MP

Call on the Australian Government and Parliamentarians to stand in solidarity with the Afghan people [here](#).



Donate Now

You can make a donation to those in Afghanistan directly via [Action for Afghanistan](#) [here](#).

I am in Afghanistan at the moment, can you help me?

You can find the latest updates from the Department of Home Affairs [here](#).

People in Afghanistan can contact [Awaaz Afghanistan](#) who provide a toll-free, countrywide hotline number (410) that affected populations can dial to access information, you can visit their website [here](#).

Individuals with ties to foreign governments, embassies, military, Non Government Organisations (NGOs) are advised to consult with those foreign

Crisis Lines and Counselling Support:

If you require support during this time, we encourage you to contact the following helplines:

Hayat Line: 1300 993 398

Hayat Line is a free and confidential crisis support line for Muslims in Australia.

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Lifeline is a national charity providing all Australians experiencing emotional distress with access to 24 hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 46 56

Beyond Blue provides information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health, whatever their age and wherever they live.

eHeadspace: 1800 650 890

eHeadspace provides free online and telephone support and counselling to young people 12 - 25 and their families and friends.

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

Kids Helpline is a free, confidential, 24/7 online and phone counselling service for young people aged 5 - 25.

QLife: 1800 184 527

QLife provides anonymous LGBTI peer support and referral for people wanting to talk about a range of issues including sexuality, identity, gender, bodies, feelings or relationships.

What can we offer you at the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights?

The Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights can provide Afghan women with:

- Emotional and cultural support
- Material Aid (limited resources)
- Casework and referral services

Please note that we have not currently received any resources or funding to support with the unfolding crisis at this time however we will do our best to provide you with support, information and any resources we can.

Material Aid:

The Australian Muslim Women's Centre provides aid by assisting vulnerable Muslim women access basic material aids such as groceries, petrol and back to school support for women and children. However our organisation is not a financial aid provider. As funds are community donations and are therefore inconsistent, there is no guarantee that we will have available funds at any given time. In situations where we cannot support clients with material aid we refer them to other welfare community organisations.

Media Requests:

If you would like to request an interview from one of the spokespeople of the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights, please contact our Communications Coordinator at comms@amwchr.org.au.

I'm in Australia, where can I get advice about visa options?

How can I get help to support someone to apply for a Humanitarian Visa?

I have lost contact with my family/friends in Afghanistan, what can I do?

TWEETS

You Retweeted



Shabnam Safa @ShabnamSafa · Aug 19

"We need to be centred. Our experiences need to be centred. Our voices need to be heard!" @DsSayed on #ActionForAfghanistan #QandA

You Retweeted



Belle Currie @belle_smells · Aug 19

@DsSayed is doing an incredible job navigating the opinions and narratives of this panel #qanda

You Retweeted



Roxy Moore @Roxy_Moore_ · Aug 19

"Afghans - I see you, I hear you, I am one of you. There is palpable fear right here in Australia, for us reliving the past, our traumas and memories of war"

@DsSayed being a fierce voice for Afghans on this crisis in Afghanistan 🙏

You Retweeted



Lauren Black @laurenblack492 · Aug 19

@DsSayed there is an incredible number of people who are grateful for your strong, passionate voice tonight, non-Afghans included. Continue to interject the monotonous rhetoric that aims to dehumanise and deny responsibility as a signatory to international convention. #qanda

You Retweeted



tinker @tinker50637113 · Aug 19

Replying to @amwchr and @DsSayed

Applauding Diana's nuanced overview and plea to be heard; for Afghan voices not to be drowned out .. and to identify at this point what's been learned.

You Retweeted



Emily @Dorkleberg · Aug 19

@DsSayed amazing effort on #qanda, essentially saying "do not reduce us to a security threat" beautiful





OUR SUPPORTERS

OUR TOP POSTS



Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights ...

January 25 · 🌐

#alwayswasalwayswillbe

[ALT TEXT: Grey background black text. We are open. In solidarity with First Nations people, our office will be open for 'business as usual' with service delivery, referrals and support on January 26th. Blue text, #AlwaysWasAlwaysWillBe. AMWCHR logo says in blue text Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights, Equality without Exception.]



Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights ...

733 followers

1mo · 🌐

In 2021, our CEO [Diana Sayed](#) was asked to deliver the keynote speech at the Premiers Iftar.

We chose to use this platform to highlight the strength, resilience and inherent agency of Muslim women here in Australia and around the world.

The work that we do at the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights focuses on centring the experiences and needs of Muslim women to ensure that they have the support and tools to contribute to family, community and in turn greater society.

Supporting organisations like ours, means that you are supporting community based, grassroots focused avenues for Muslim women to access the support they need to combat discrimination and oppression.

[#PremiersIftar](#) [#MuslimWomen](#) [#AMWCHR](#) [#DianaSayed](#) [#DiverseLeaders](#) [#tbt](#)



Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights ...

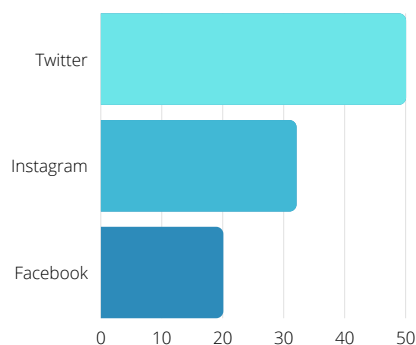
@amwchr

What should intersectional feminist leadership look like, post COVID19? Join us this International Women's Day to explore with our CEO [@DsSayed](#) & other panellists [@NayukaGorrie](#), [@BNavanita](#) & [@AlexBhathal](#). Tickets are free book via the link in our bio.

[#iwd2021](#) [@WIREwomensinfo](#)



NUMBER OF POSTS



HIGH PROFILE TWEETS



VicHealth @VicHealth · Oct 20

We're proud to be supporting the Our Place program run by [@amwchr](#).

As part of their work, they've spoken to six young Muslim women about how the program has impacted them and what they've learnt. Watch the promo now.



Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria @dvrcv · Aug 20

Amidst the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, we express our support and solidarity with the Afghan community and commend the powerful advocacy of [@AMWCHR](#) CEO Diana Sayed [@DsSayed](#) on [#QandA](#) last night. [#ActionForAfghanistan](#)





OUR PARTNERS

DONORS



COLLABORATING PARTNERS

3CR Community Radio
 Afghan Program SBS Radio
 Afghan Women's Organisation of Victoria
 Anglicare
 Arabic Welfare Inc
 Benevolence Australia
 Bridge Darebin
 Broadmeadows Community Hub
 Board of Imams of Victoria
 Catholic Care Dandenong
 City of Casey
 Darebin City Council
 Dandenong North Primary School
 Dandenong Valley SDS
 Deakin University
 Diversitat
 East Preston Islamic College
 East Preston Community Centre
 Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
 Fawkner Community House
 Family Relationship Centre Broadmeadows
 Foundation House
 Fountain Gate Secondary College
 Greater Shepparton Secondary College
 Head Space
 Islamic Council of Victoria
 Islamic Museum of Australia
 Jesuit Social Services
 Mind Australia

Migration Council of Australia
 Multicultural Centre for Women's Health
 Save the Children
 Strathaird Kindergarten
 South East Community Link
 Uniting Care
 Whittlesea Community Connections
 Wyndham City Council



FINANCIALS

AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM WOMEN'S CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INC.
ABN 57 347 235 363
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grant income	1,720,569	1,278,973
Interest received	2,210	7,461
Management fees	140,667	100,475
COVID-19 government assistance payments: Cash Flow Boost	50,000	50,000
COVID-19 government assistance payments: JobKeeper	147,000	123,000
Other income	38,140	18,400
TOTAL INCOME	2,098,586	1,578,309
EXPENDITURE		
Depreciation and amortisation	2,569	1,310
Finance, audit and accounting fees	30,516	33,439
Insurance	3,017	2,139
Office overheads	44,678	32,428
Premises expenses	62,676	79,562
Programming and planning	378,581	271,015
Staff related expenses	18,885	16,588
Staff salaries, wages and on-costs	1,569,305	1,065,861
	2,110,227	1,502,342
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,110,227	1,502,342
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION	(11,641)	75,967

AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM WOMEN'S CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INC.
ABN 57 347 235 363
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at bank	952,686	461,455
Term deposit	522,677	520,471
	<u>1,475,363</u>	<u>981,926</u>
Trade and Other Receivables		
Accounts receivable	800	-
Other receivables	-	42,000
Prepayments	21,651	20,000
Security bonds	10,037	10,678
	<u>32,488</u>	<u>72,678</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>1,507,851</u>	<u>1,054,604</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Office equipment - at cost	32,789	32,789
Less provision for depreciation	(20,736)	(18,167)
	<u>12,053</u>	<u>14,622</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>12,053</u>	<u>14,622</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,519,904</u>	<u>1,069,226</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and Other Payable		
Accounts payable	7,316	46,236
Accrued expenses	67,751	12,303
GST payable	66,882	(1,140)
PAYG withholding tax payable	15,204	-
Superannuation payable	30,226	24,613
	<u>187,379</u>	<u>82,012</u>
Deferred Income		
Grants received in advance	667,183	375,000
	<u>667,183</u>	<u>375,000</u>
Employment Entitlement Provisions		
Provision for annual leave	136,414	79,867
Provision for long service leave	31,652	22,602
Provision for time in lieu	3,588	4,416
	<u>171,654</u>	<u>106,885</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>1,026,216</u>	<u>563,897</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,026,216</u>	<u>563,897</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>493,688</u>	<u>505,329</u>
EQUITY		
Accumulated funds	493,688	505,329
	<u>493,688</u>	<u>505,329</u>

AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM WOMEN'S CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INC.
ABN 57 347 235 363
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 8:

- 1 Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights Inc. as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

Acting Chairperson


Sahar Zaidi

Acting Secretary



Marwa Khalaf

Dated this

5 day of October 2021

