



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



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





**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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A minimalist line art illustration of several human faces in profile, rendered in a light gray color. The faces are overlapping and partially obscured by the text below. The style is clean and modern, using simple lines to define the contours of the faces, eyes, noses, and mouths.

WHO WE ARE

OUR VISION



We work to achieve **Equality without Exception.**

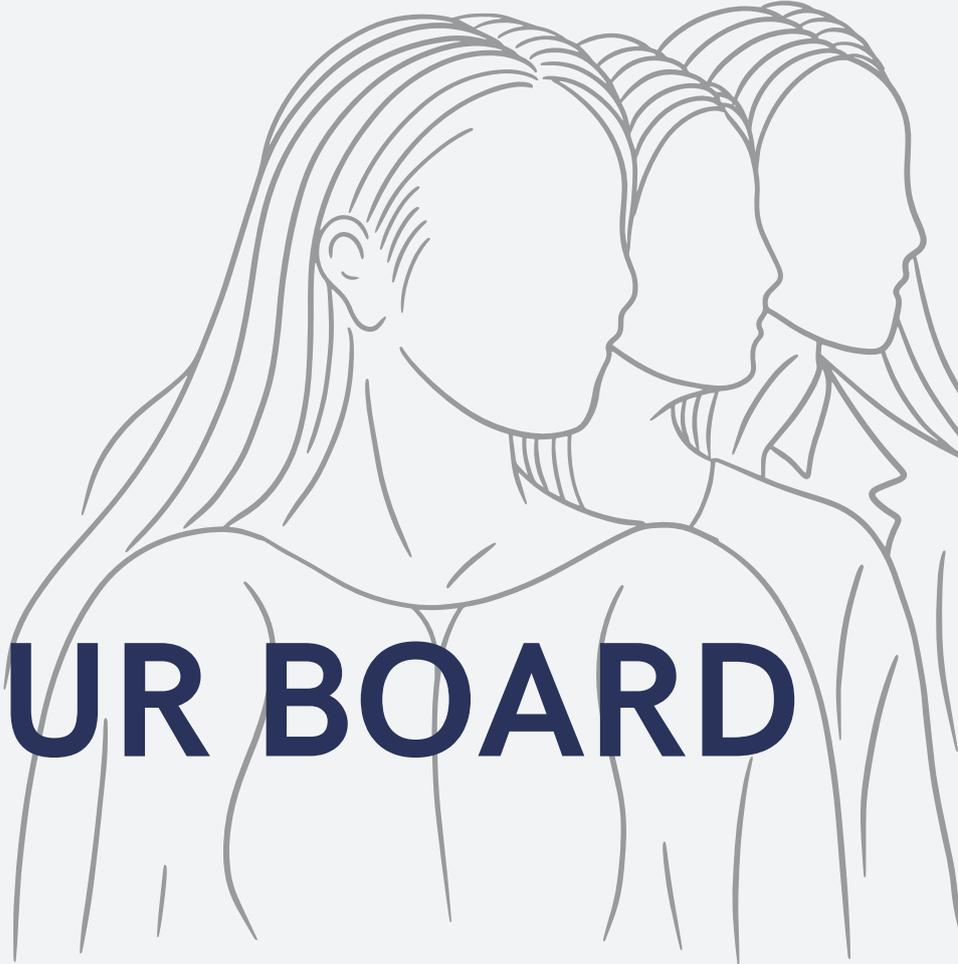
We contribute to public discourse on Muslim women's issues, advocating for the rights of Muslim women through our programs, casework, research, publications and consultancy.

OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose is driven by our unwavering commitment to work for the rights of Muslim Women in Australia. It is what drives our work and what we hope to continue to achieve for the future of our organisation.

- 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.



A minimalist line-art illustration of three women's profiles, facing right, positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page. The drawing uses simple black outlines to represent hair, ears, and clothing.

OUR BOARD



CO-CHAIRS

Dr Anisa Buckley

Marwa Khalaf
(Appointed December 2021)

Mariam Veiszadeh
(Resigned March 2022)

VICE CHAIR

Dr Umber Rind

TREASURER

Sahar Zaidi

SECRETARY

Jeanine Hourani
(Resigned August 2022)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Adiba Islam

Nafisa Yussf

Message from the Board & CEO

On behalf of the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights we are immensely proud to present another successful year working alongside our community. While we entered a phase of recovery following almost 3 years of the pandemic, we continued to manage the long-term impacts of restrictions and the various ways we adapted to delivering our programs and casework support services to Muslim women and their families.

The valuable lessons learned throughout the COVID-19 period informed how we prioritised our work and focused on leading impact and change in our communities through innovation and engagement using a trauma-informed and intersectional lens.

We further embedded the essential nature of our work in continuing to be a vital voice for fairness and equality during tough times, helping to ensure that those at risk are protected and those facing precarity and marginalisation had a platform – whether it was on the Afghanistan crisis and working directly with newly arrived evacuees to our policy and expertise advocating against the criminalisation of coercive control in Victoria. In spite of the challenges, we made human rights progress, as always working in close partnership with others in the sector to inform priority issue areas impacting our community while grounding all of our work in evidence-based research.

Partnerships are at the heart of all our work – from settlement and family violence organisations, peak bodies and alliances, pro bono lawyers, donors, philanthropists and, most importantly, with the people and communities whose rights are at stake and who are at the forefront fighting for change. We stood alongside our communities in times of heightened stress both here in Australia and those in the diaspora community who were impacted by crises abroad to provide support when needed.



Diana Sayed
CEO

Working to build our capabilities to better respond to our community, this year we played a key role in:

- **Delivering 108 community programs** from leadership to parenting and young women's programs.
- **Supporting Muslim women's access to services** with 146 women accessing one-to-one support from our caseworkers.
- **Building capacity and skills of Muslim women** with 3,250 women completing group capacity building programs, 527 women improving their understanding of family violence and 352 women building pathways to financial freedom.
- **Supporting young Muslim's** with 705 young women connected through our young people's programs.
- **Providing aid to Muslim families in need** with 255 families in crisis provided with urgent supplies and financial supports.

- **Building sector capacity** with 182 sector professionals trained to improve their support to Muslim women and communities.
- **Sharing and celebrating our culture** with 545 women joining us to celebrate community and sector events from our annual Women's Iftar during Ramadan to our Eid event.
- **Fundraised** over \$18,000 for our Ramadan Fundraiser that helped deliver material aid support for women and their families in need.
- **Developed our new 5-Year Strategic Plan** alongside our executive and staff teams.
- **Advocating** the urgent need of Muslim women and young women by consulting on the National Action Plan to End Violence Against Women at a Federal level, as well as high level media on the #ActionForAfghanistan campaign reaching over 10,000 new audiences.
- **Built key infrastructure** to capture the demographics of the women we work alongside in communities through establishing a new CRM.
- **Welcomed new staff** to the team.

The pandemic has given us difficult but valuable lessons and we are committed to ensuring the lessons learned over the last three years informs our values and practice principles working alongside our communities. We must act on them to shape a fairer future for all.

Human rights reflect the shared values that unite us and help to reimagine the kind of society we all want to live in. To everyone who worked alongside us and supported our work this year, thank you. To everyone we partnered with to make change, we look forward to continuing to build on our progress. Together we help to build a fairer, safer, more compassionate Australia that values our differences, honours the plurality of our experiences and diversity while being grounded in respect.

Our organisation could not have achieved the level of care and success without the dedication and determination from our staff, 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.



Dr Anisa Buckley
Co-Chair



Marwa Khalaf
Co-Chair

On behalf of the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights, it is our great honour to present the achievements of our organisation in this Annual Report and highlight our determination to keep providing essential programs and support services to our communities through a research and values driven ethos that continues to ensure our ongoing relevance and impact in community.



OUR WORK

COMMUNITIES GUIDE OUR WORK

We've consulted over **163** women and young women who have shared their insights, needs and hopes for themselves and their communities.

From this feedback, we have designed new programs, publications and resources and contributed to important policy and sector discussions.

Priority topics for women in our community:



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN

INDEPENDENCE

MENTAL HEALTH
AND WELLBEING

FINANCIAL SECURITY

ACCESS TO
EDUCATION

PARENTING SUPPORT

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.



**OUR YEAR IN
REVIEW**

HOW WE'VE SUPPORTED MUSLIM WOMEN THIS YEAR

In 2021-22 we have delivered 108 programs and 538 individual supports to Muslim women, their families and their children. Through our work with community we deliver a range of programs, services and initiatives to build understanding, access and agency of Muslim women.

SUPPORTING MUSLIM
WOMEN'S ACCESS TO
SERVICES

146

WOMEN ACCESSED
ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT

BUILDING CAPACITY AND
SKILLS OF MUSLIM
WOMEN

3,250

WOMEN COMPLETED GROUP
CAPACITY BUILDING
PROGRAMS

SUPPORTING MUSLIM
WOMEN'S FINANCIAL
LITERACY AND
INDEPENDENCE

352

SUPPORTING MUSLIM
WOMEN'S FINANCIAL
LITERACY AND INDEPENDENCE

SUPPORTING MUSLIM
WOMEN'S SAFETY

527

WOMEN IMPROVED THEIR
UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY
VIOLENCE

SUPPORTING YOUNG
MUSLIMS

555

YOUNG WOMEN CONNECTED THROUGH
OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROGRAMS

PROVIDING AID TO
MUSLIM FAMILIES IN
NEED

255

FAMILIES IN CRISIS WERE SUPPORTED
WITH URGENT SUPPLIES AND FINANCIAL
SUPPORTS

BUILDING SECTOR
CAPACITY

182

SECTOR PROFESSIONALS TRAINED TO
IMPROVE THEIR SUPPORT TO MUSLIM
WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES

SHARING AND
CELEBRATING OUR
CULTURE

545

WOMEN JOINED US IN
CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND
SECTOR EVENTS



VISIBILITY AND ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

80+

Social Media Posts



2,682

Social Media Followers

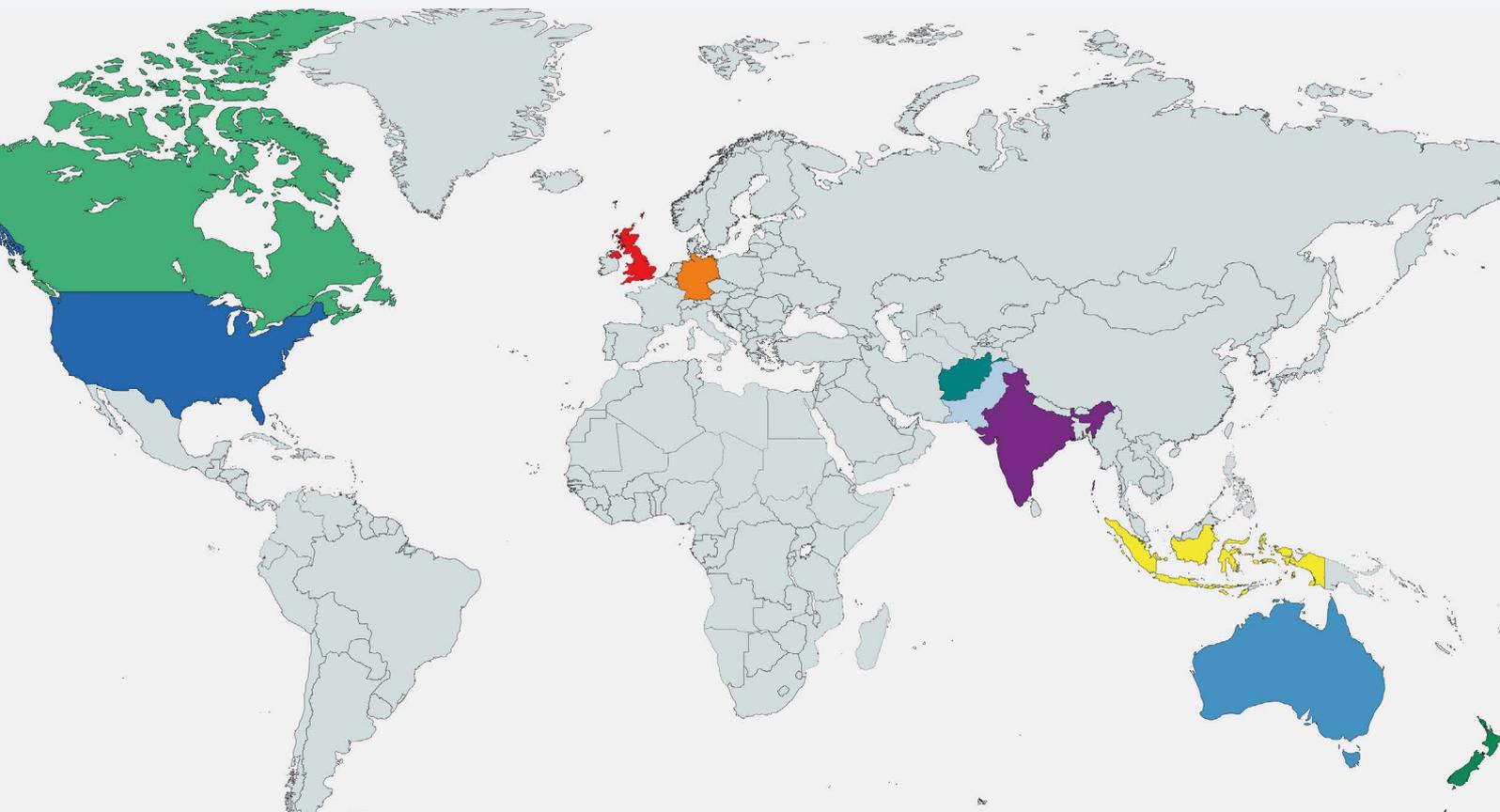


31,357

Social Media Reach



Our Audience:





**PROGRAMS
AND SERVICES**

Women's Programs

SUPPORTING MIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN AND FAMILIES

Our programs supported newly arrived Muslim women to build confidence, skills and capabilities, while offering a safe and trusted environment for women to share experiences and reflections. In this way our work is designed to acknowledge the hardship and trauma experienced by many migrant women and support them through their unique adjustment and settlement journey towards a gradual healing and realising of their personal strengths and aspirations. For many women, these programs form the foundational blocks for the building of new connections and friendships, and in establishing social networks which play a critical role in preventing further isolation and mental health issues to those already vulnerable and at risk.

Our programs throughout the year are designed to provide opportunities for Muslim women to build their own skills and capacity in areas relevant to them and have included:

Settlement programs: to build knowledge, confidence and capacity of newly arrived Muslim women to adjust to life in a new country, understand local laws and systems and build individual capacity to support their own settlement journey.

Children and Parenting Programs: support Muslim women to develop parenting skills and support mothers to tackle challenges of parenting, adjust to new parenting models and support their children's settlement journey

Covid recovery initiatives: as our communities continue to navigate the global pandemic, the longer-term impact on individuals and families became the focus of our work. Supporting women to continue to protect themselves and their families from Covid, while overcoming challenges of isolation, digital literacy and re-engagement of children in schooling. In addition to navigating the complex and lasting impact of employment instability, mental health, family violence, poverty and discrimination on individual and family health and wellbeing.

Programs supporting Afghan Refugees: our tailored programs launched in response to the Afghanistan crisis focussed on delivering trauma-informed supports to displaced women and children to support their immediate settlement needs. Our programs focussed primarily on addressing the impacts of social isolation and loss of community by providing spaces to build new community connection with diaspora communities and providing safe spaces for families to begin the gradual journey towards healing.

GENDER EQUALITY AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Family violence prevention and early intervention is a core pillar of our work within community. Our programs are designed to weave in concepts of gender equality and human rights, and to challenge structural, cultural or religious norms which prevent women's freedom and rights. This year our prevention work with Muslim women was delivered through the following initiatives.

Voices for Change: provided prevention programs to support Muslim women and families to build resilience, awareness, knowledge and skills to prevent family violence. Through this project, programs have been delivered across diverse communities to promote healthy and respectful relationships, challenge gender stereotypes and build parenting skills which promote a foundation of equality and respect.

Prevention for Afghan evacuees: a tailored prevention initiative to support recently displaced evacuee women from Afghanistan was launched in 2022. This program promotes values of gender equality and provides a culturally safe and trauma-informed space for women to be supported to explore concepts of gender equality for themselves and their children.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Muslim women are the agents of change in their own lives. Through our strengths-based leadership programs we deliver tailored programs to support Muslim women to identify their goals and aspirations, build skills and capabilities and develop plans and pathways to achieve them.

Pathways to Success Program: a project designed to support Muslim women identify opportunities to engage with education and employment opportunities relevant to their aspirations. Women successfully identified their own skills and potential, participated in employment skills training and explored new and diverse opportunities to engage in education, business and employment.

Women's Leadership & Resilience Project: our leadership programs with migrant Muslim women were delivered to provide spaces for Muslim women to recognise and utilise their own inherent attributes and strengths to take leadership roles within their own lives and communities. This included learning new skills, building confidence and resilience which was showcased through organising local events and activities within their community groups.

Women's Leadership Program in the North: our leadership program in Darebin engaged Muslim women from diverse groups, to explore their aspirations and goals and were supported to recognise and unlock their own strengths and capacity to achieve those goals.



I have a job- a full time/ permanent job! I just wanted to say a big big thank you for all the support- for all the sessions you have given me. You cannot imagine how helpful they have been. You guys have been amazing, your support has been amazing, and you have always been there to support me.

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Youth Programs

SUPPORTING MIGRANT AND REFUGEE YOUNG WOMEN

Our work with young Muslims commences from arrival in Australia, working with adolescents who are adjusting to a new culture, language, peers and environment. Many young Muslims arrive in Australia having experienced trauma, often with parents who are navigating their own challenges dealing with displacement, poverty, trauma and the process of settlement itself leaving little capacity to support young people's emotional and educational needs. This leaves many young Muslims feeling vulnerable and alone, with little support to adjust to new schooling systems, navigate experiences of discrimination and build resilience.

Programs for newly arrived young women are focussed on providing practical support through our living in Australia, study skills and peer support program initiatives. These programs offer workshops which are designed to meet the unique needs of newly arrived young people and provide information, tools, techniques and skills to support their settlement journey and making strides towards achieving their personal goals and successes in their new context.

The support provided by the facilitators and the information that was given was very helpful for me. I learnt so much about Australia that I wouldn't have known if I didn't attend these sessions.

YOUTH PROGRAM
PARTICIPANT

YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Our leadership programs for young women work to support young women to realise their potential and inspire young women to take active leadership roles for themselves, their peers and within the wider community. Programs explore the challenges and barriers facing young Muslim women and offers a safe and nurturing space for young women to build confidence and capacity and build their leadership skills.

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Early intervention initiatives: Our family violence prevention work extended to young people, working with children and young women to build awareness and understanding of principles of gender equality, healthy and respectful relationships, values of respect and how to access support.

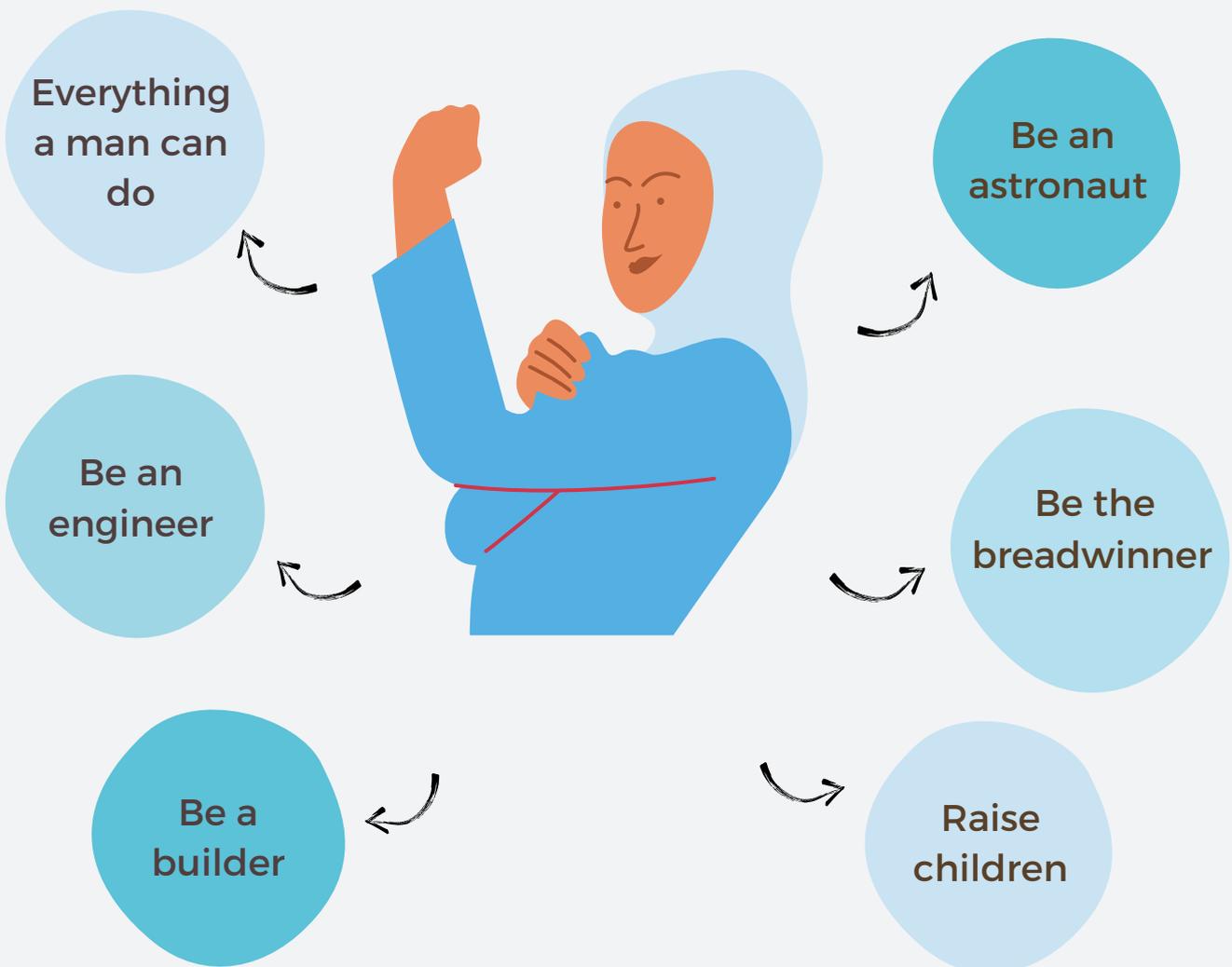
Let's Talk: a holistic project to build community awareness, understanding and resilience to prevent forced marriage within the Muslim community. This project engaged young Muslims to raise awareness, provide information and build skills to advocate for their own wants and needs, understand their rights and the concept of consent. The next phase of our work will expand to resources and advocacy along with working with women and families to build community awareness and resilience to support young women's safety and rights.

What our future leaders are saying...

If there is one thing our youth program has taught us this year, it is that **the future is female**. The participants who have been attending our programs have shown us the positive impact and learning behaviours our youth program has had on our brilliant young Muslim women. Through different sessions, activities and workshops many young women have offered their thoughts and ideas on challenging cultural notions of women, career and financial independence.

EVERYTHING A WOMAN CAN DO

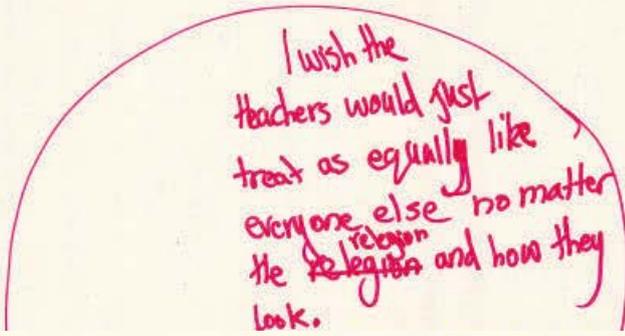
according to our young muslim women



“We’ve learnt many things from the program – that we are *not weak*, that its ok to be forgiving and important to understand other’s feelings. We’ve learnt that confident women can do amazing things, thus building each other up to be confident individuals is critical when supporting women. We’ve realised our latent strength in being able to express ourselves in front of others instead of hiding our thoughts. We’ve also recognised that its *ok to be different* and hold different points of view and that these differences do not necessarily mean that we are each wrong. Rather, it’s the differences that builds us together in *a unique way*.”



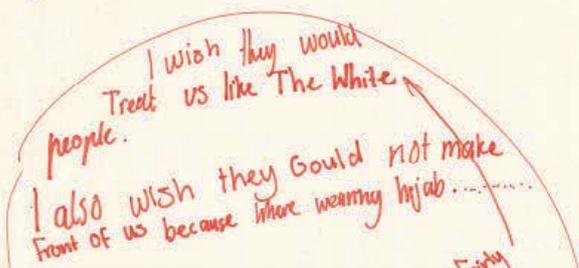
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



COMBATING RACISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA

This year the Stand Out/Speak Up! project supported young Muslims to tackle racism, Islamophobia and discrimination by providing a safe and supportive space to discuss their experiences and challenges. Students then worked through the program to understand the impacts of discrimination, intolerance and Islamophobia, to proactively identify action that can be taken to identify, report and respond to experiences of racism.

This project continues in 2022, conducting research with education practitioners on experiences and responses to reports of racism, with findings from the study to be published in late 2022.



“ I now have somewhere to go to seek help and educate others about the services available - I can also educate my friends on the recourses
 ANTI RACISM PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



“I have learnt how to stay financially independent and safe and how to not succumb to ideals of others or societal ways. I have truly begun to learn and appreciate who I am, why I am me and that I don't need to 'follow' just because others are. I now completely understand that I must gain more knowledge, in order to not become a slave to society or improper beliefs and financial stability is allowed for women.”

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Casework Services

When women have complex and personal challenges in their lives, casework services offer a safe place to disclose, discuss and create a plan to support women in moving forward. Casework is a model that creates private and collaborative space to address issues such as personal relationships, health, financial crisis, and learning about opportunities for newly migrated women. Other times women need crisis response, advocacy and intensive case work when facing issues of domestic and family violence.

Casework services provide women a space to unpack the complex web of personal circumstance, culture and faith, identity and life experiences. Women do this one-on-one with a caseworker who has shared language and culture where possible and the understanding of how political, racial and social issues impact Muslim women in Australia. Whether it is addressing issues within community that hold Muslim women back or the systemic issues they face in accessing services and resources, clients can benefit from the advocacy and support of a caseworker.

AMWCHR's casework services expertise is in providing meaningful settlement support, Family Violence specialist support and prevention support for any Muslim woman in need. Our small team works to the client's needs and strengths by creating case plans and goals that are shared between client and caseworker to work collaboratively.

“

Thanks a million for all your help and support. You have had a positive impact on my life. Thanks again.

CASEWORK CLIENT

Saying thank you would simply not be enough. You have always shown your confidence in me and have given me a lot of attention, assistance & support during a tough journey. I value the insights and guidance you provided me with since the day I met you.

CASEWORK CLIENT

”

CLIENT STORY

Elham was referred to AMWCHR by her local mosque. She had been in Australia for four years and had recently been misidentified to police by her abusive husband as being at risk of self-harm and abusive behaviour towards him. Elham found that when police attended the incident, they appeared 'friendly' with her husband, speaking in English, even laughing as he comfortably recounted his version of events. When the police asked her what had happened, aside from the significant language barrier with no offer for interpreters, she felt like she couldn't speak, feeling very unsafe. Based on her silence and her husband's account, the police removed Elham from the home and put her into accommodation for the night.

Elham felt terrified in the motel that housed men and women, many of whom were affected by drugs and alcohol, some behaving aggressively and using racist slurs as she arrived. The next morning Elham found herself in an unknown part of Melbourne with no money and without a safe place to go. With one of her main connections in Australia being to her faith, Elham managed to attend her mosque who then referred her to AMWCHR for casework support and referral.

Elham was able to undertake an assessment with a caseworker that shared her language, talking over the sensitivity of Elham's experiences of abuse and her encounter with police. She disclosed that in the years since her arrival in Australia, she had been highly isolated and completely dependent on her husband financially, who was being verbally and emotionally abusive and making her feel like she was responsible for his behaviour. He also gave her misinformation that her visa in Australia was solely dependent on him and his wish to sponsor her. Elham also disclosed issues of sexual violence over time.

For Elham this was the first time in 4 years she had shared her experiences and by opening up, her caseworker could name these behaviours as violence and validate Elham's experience of abuse, reminding her that her faith also held abusive men accountable for their actions. Elham's caseworker was clear that the police response was inadequate and that she would work alongside Elham to seek a different outcome. Through this assessment process that felt more like a conversation to Elham, she was identified as a victim survivor and could now access brokerage funding from the state government. This brokerage is provided to specialist family violence services such as AMWCHR, to be a flexible and responsive support to victim survivors, keeping them safe by addressing a woman's cultural needs, access to health and mental health supports, as well as the vital fundamentals such as accommodation and transport.

With these funds Elham could stay in a secure temporary accommodation. With much of Elham's immediate basic needs of accommodation and safety addressed, the caseworker formulated a case plan with Elham which included addressing her misidentification with police, addressing her safety needs by obtaining an intervention order, gaining an income and ongoing employment as well as longer-term stable housing. The AMWCHR caseworker took detailed notes of the police response and lodged a formal complaint and with strong advocacy, brought about a review of the police response, including checking the police body cameras and interviewing the victim survivor. Police conducted further investigation which led to the husband being charged with additional criminal offences.

Along with legal representation, mental health support and employment, Elham was also able to gain stable community housing which offered her ongoing security and a chance to build her own meaningful life in Australia. Connection with a service such as the AMWCHR, supported Elham in a culturally responsive and inclusive way, helping her find her voice, overcome language barriers and years of fear, to challenge her abusive husband and the systems he'd used to further that abuse.

CLIENT STORY

Nazra contacted AMWCHR when she'd heard it was run by Muslim women providing support for Muslim women. With the increasing costs of accommodation and bills, Nazra was requesting help managing her small income from Centrelink.

Her first conversation was with an intake worker. Using an interpreter to assure Nazra of her rights to privacy and agency, the assessment begins with asking questions about Nazra's circumstances. Nazra chose to discuss her basic details only, requesting financial aid to help with her bills and through a series of questions, her needs are clear, as is her eligibility for settlement services: supporting new migrants and refugees in their first 5 years of settlement in Australia.

Nazra is allocated a settlement caseworker with shared language, and they start with a focus on her identified needs: food and financial aid. The caseworker has a number of referrals to support Nazra in the short term but explains the need to look at the longer term for her wellbeing. As their conversation feels easy, they begin to cover more of Nazra's life, her studies here in Australia, staying with friends on sofas while she awaits the arrival of her husband who is in Pakistan waiting for his visa to settle in Australia.

During their work together the reality of Nazra's homelessness and her physical and mental health challenges are apparent, as is her history of trauma in her own migration story. A referral to trauma counselling and therapeutic services at Foundation House involves a waitlist but creates a change to how Nazra is feeling. Her caseworker supports her to access her studies online during covid, provides advocacy to have her Centrelink payment changed from a job seeker to a student payment and a referral to Refugee Legal to access support around her husband's case. Nazra's caseworker provides a safe space for her to disclose her struggles with mental health, when she feels her circumstance are unresolvable and hopeless, she gets help through their validating and grounding conversations.

Nazra starts her therapeutic journey with counselling and traditional medicines, her studies support her growing confidence which leads to gaining part-time work and her student payment from Centrelink enables her part-time income to add to her financial capacity without further pressure of losing her payment. Nazra tells AMWCHR, the casework supports can't take away her pain of past experiences or being separated from her husband in uncertain circumstances, but they do help her stay hopeful.

A minimalist line drawing of a woman with long, wavy hair, sitting cross-legged. She is wearing a collared shirt and a skirt. The drawing is rendered in a light gray color and serves as a background for the text.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SOCIAL INCLUSION & WELLBEING EVENT

A community event was organised in June of this year at iceHQ with catering supplied by Preston Mosque. 30 women from the community took part in the event in which participants of our leadership programs were given the opportunity to present their projects from the course.

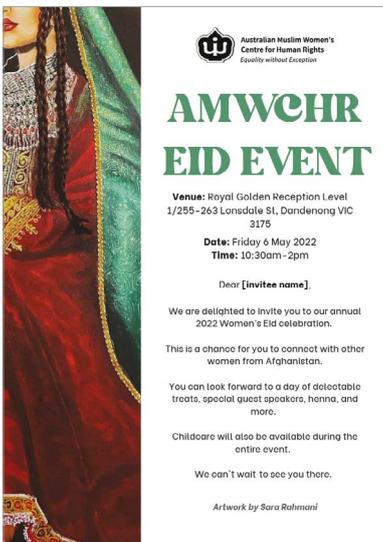
Program participants were also given their certificates of completion which they proudly accepted as a symbol of their accomplishment. For many of the women, this was the first time they had been given the opportunity to stand before an audience and speak publicly about a project that they were passionate about.

EID CELEBRATIONS

An Eid event for newly arrived Afghan communities was held on the 6th May 2022 at the Royal Golden Reception in Dandenong. Over 90 women attended the event with their children and enjoyed a range of fun filled activities that provided opportunities for women and their children to meet, make new connections and come together to celebrate Eid al Fitr.

STRONG AND RESILIENT COMMUNITY EVENT

To provide opportunities for Muslim women of diverse ethnic backgrounds to meet, interact and build networks, a community event and certificate presentation was held on 24th June 2022 at Minara Restaurant. Participants from our Women's Leadership program attended the event and presented their projects, displaying the public speaking skills that they had learn from the program.

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

AMWCHR EID EVENT

Venue: Royal Golden Reception Level
1/255-263 Lonsdale St, Dandenong VIC 3175

Date: Friday 6 May 2022
Time: 10:30am - 2pm

Dear [invitee name],

We are delighted to invite you to our annual 2022 Women's Eid celebration.

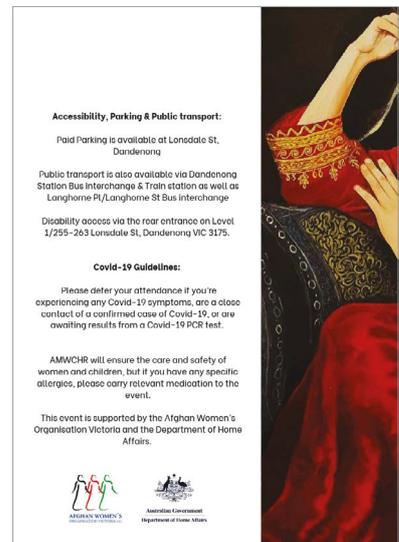
This is a chance for you to connect with other women from Afghanistan.

You can look forward to a day of delectable treats, special guest speakers, henna, and more.

Childcare will also be available during the entire event.

We can't wait to see you there.

Artwork by Sara Rahmani

Accessibility, Parking & Public transport:

Paid Parking is available at Lonadale St, Dandenong

Public transport is also available via Dandenong Station Bus Interchange & Train station as well as Langhorne Pl/Langhorne St Bus Interchange

Disability access via the rear entrance on Level 1/255-263 Lonsdale St, Dandenong VIC 3175.

Covid-19 Guidelines:

Please deter your attendance if you're experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms, are a close contact of a confirmed case of Covid-19, or are awaiting results from a Covid-19 PCR test.

AMWCHR will ensure the care and safety of women and children, but if you have any specific allergies, please carry relevant medication to the event.

This event is supported by the Afghan Women's Organisation Victoria and the Department of Home Affairs.

Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights
Australian Government Department of Home Affairs





AMWCHR WOMEN'S IFTAR DINNER

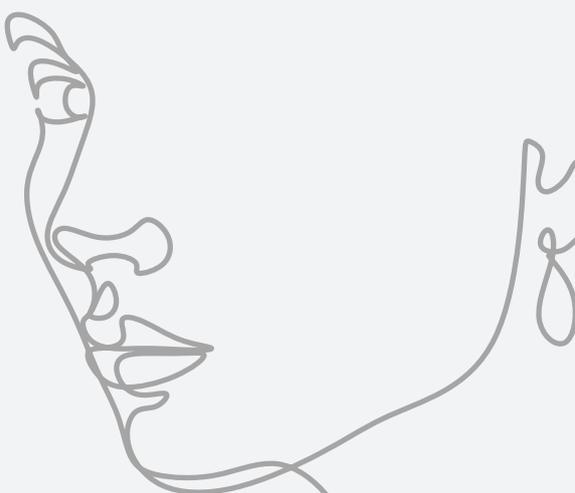
Our annual Women's Iftar dinner was held at the Immigration Museum, alongside our partner, the Moroccan Soup Bar. Our evening's theme was centred around "Intergenerational Women" with women invited to bring along their daughters, mothers, grandmothers and friends to share the celebrations.

With guest speakers joining us on the night including the Hon. Gabrielle Williams, Senator Mehreen Faruqi, Vivian Nguyen AM, Hana Assafiri, Aunty Zeta and Akec Chuot of the Hawthorn Football Club, we were delighted that our second year of this event has continued to see it grow extensively and provide a night of inspiration, strength and festivity.

Supported by the Immigration Museum, the Victorian Multicultural Commission and the AFL Women's Diversity and Inclusion Division, the 2022 AMWCHR Iftar event was full of celebration, culture and community.

A Women's Iftar: Intergenerational Women





**ADVOCATING
FOR OUR
COMMUNITY**

SECTOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

Our work in supporting a stronger sector continues with our training and capacity building services throughout the year. Over 20 training sessions were delivered across diverse sector organisations to raise awareness, build understanding, improve cultural literacy and contribute to enhanced service delivery to Muslim women, children and communities.

Our consultancy services continue to provide insight and information to organisations working with Muslim communities. Whether through advising on program design or tailoring individual response approaches, our consultancy and advisory service offers organisations evidence-based guidance and advice on applying a strengths-based, trauma-informed approach to responding to the needs of Muslim communities. Our work over the past month has supported organisations including Victoria Police, Strathaird Kindergarten, Jesuit Social Services and The Orange Door.

“
Overall it was great to get a snapshot of the Muslim community in Australia and to be able to feel more confident in being respectful and curious about the people we work with, not shying away from cultural conversations because they come from an empathetic and compassionate place and contribute to better outcomes for service users.

SECTOR FEEDBACK

SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

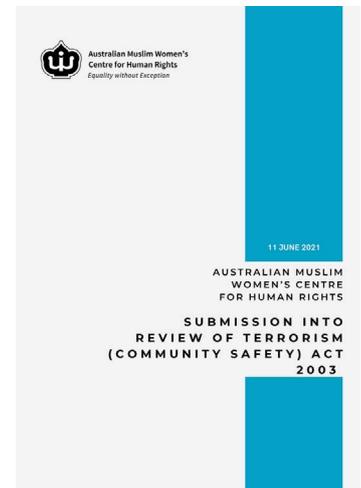
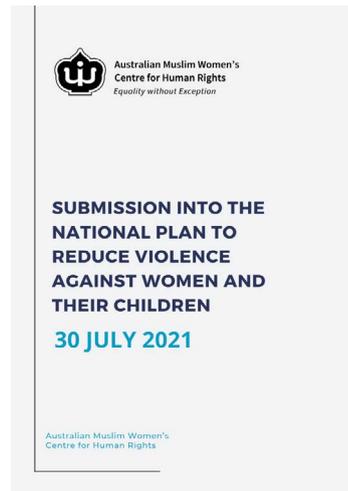
Over the past year the AMWCHR team have continued our work engaging with sector organisations and partners, Governments and policy makers to raise awareness and advocate for the inclusion of Muslim women's experiences and voices, building strong and productive partnerships across key sectors.

Our team have provided critical insights and contributions into countless working groups, advisory committees, sector network meetings, along with secondary consultations and advisory services including:

- Ministerial Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
- Specialist Family Violence Leadership Group
- Good Beginnings Advisory Group
- MARAM Implementation Groups
- Women's Mental Health Alliance
- Australian Human Rights Commission: Anti-Racism Advisory Group
- Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Society: Practitioners Working Group on Tackling Hate
- Violent Extremism and Radicalisation to Terrorism Research Network
- Harmony Alliance
- National Advocacy Group for Women on Temporary Visas

SUBMISSIONS

- Submission into The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children
- Submission into Review of Terrorism (Community Safety) Act 2003



RESEARCH

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL LINKAGE GRANT

The Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights has partnered with Deakin University on their Australian Research Council Linkage Grant 2020-2023 along with the Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia and the Victorian Multicultural Commission. The project aims to investigate a shift in service delivery from community-specific to mainstream organisations, informed by Australian policies and focuses on service provision in the areas of health, social and economic.

Through this project we will share an understanding of the mainstreaming of social services, the experiences of users of the services and its likely impact on diverse communities and society more broadly. In addition, the effectiveness of current social services for diverse communities and recommendations from the research will provide economic and social benefits for Australia by identifying the service-provision modes that have the most positive impacts on Australian communities.

At its conclusion the projects research findings will be disseminated to civil society, government, policy makers, media stakeholders and the academic community. The project is in its final year with more information available at www.multiculturalsocialservices.com.

Media



MIGHTY MUSLIM HEROES



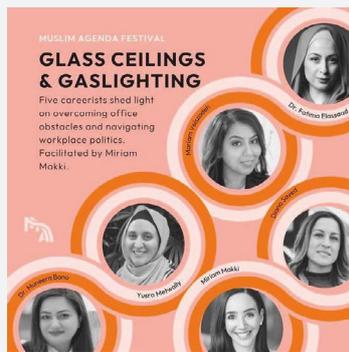
ABC NEWS



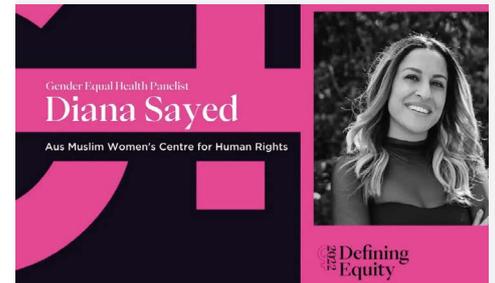
ALL ABOUT WOMEN



BUSINESS IN COLOUR



MUSLIM AGENDA FESTIVAL



DEFINING EQUITY PANEL



GEN VIC PRE BUDGET BREAKFAST



FEMINIST FEBRUARY: CHOICE, CONTROL AND RESISTANCE



OUR PARTNERS



DONORS



COLLABORATING PARTNERS

Action for Afghanistan
 Afghan Women's Organisation of Victoria
 Anglicare
 Arabic Welfare Inc
 Arts Centre Melbourne
 Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC)
 Australian Human Rights Commission
 Australian Red Cross
 Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)
 Benevolence Australia
 Board of Imams of Victoria
 Bridges Darebin
 Broadmeadows Community Hub
 Catholic Care Dandenong
 City of Casey
 Dandenong High School
 Dandenong North Primary School
 Dandenong Primary School
 Deakin University
 Diversitat Corio
 Diversitat Norlane
 Diversity Council Australia
 East Preston Islamic College (EPIC)
 Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV)
 Fair Agenda
 Family safety Victoria
 Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA)
 Foundation House
 Fountain Gate Secondary College
 Free to Feed
 GEN VIC
 Harmony Alliance
 Head Space
 Immigration Museum
 Intouch (Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence)
 Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV)
 Islamic Society of Victoria
 Islamophobia Register
 Jesuit Social Services
 Lyndale Secondary School
 Lyndhurst Secondary College
 Mental Health Victoria (MHV)
 Minaret College
 Moroccan Soup Bar
 Multicultural Centre for Women's Health (MCWH)
 Northern Community Legal Centre
 Pascoe Vale Girls' College
 Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre
 Safe and Equal
 SETSCoP
 Settlement Council of Australia (SCOA)
 Sir Zelman Cowan Centre
 Social Outcomes Lab
 South East Community Links
 Strathaird Kindergarten
 The Equality Institute
 Uniting Care (KOMAK)
 Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC)
 Women's Health In The South East
 Women's Mental Health Alliance
 Women's Health Victoria (WHV)
 Wyndham City Council



FINANCIALS

AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM WOMEN'S CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INC.

ABN 57 347 235 363

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

INCOME	2022	2021
Grant income	2,039,706	1,720,569
Interest received	263	2,210
Management fees	181,804	140,667
COVID-19 government assistance payments	-	197,000
Other income	23,609	38,140
TOTAL INCOME	2,245,382	2,098,586

EXPENDITURE	2022	2021
Depreciation and amortisation	13,398	2,569
Finance, audit and accounting fees	32,499	30,516
Insurance	2,533	3,017
Office overheads	47,844	44,678
Premises expenses	65,376	62,676
Programming and planning	431,962	378,581
Staff related expenses	21,443	18,885
Staff salaries, wages and on-costs	1,807,635	1,569,305
	2,422,690	2,110,227
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,422,690	2,110,227
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(177,308)	(11,641)



AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM WOMEN'S CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INC.

ABN 57 347 235 363

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

CURRENT ASSETS	2022	2021
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at Work	762,544	952,686
Term Deposit	523,418	522,677
	1,285,962	1,475,363
Trade and Other Receivables		
Accounts receivable	5,500	800
Other receivables	-	-
Prepayments	212	21,651
Security bonds	10,038	10,037
	15,750	32,488
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,301,712	1,507,851
NON CURRENT ASSETS	2022	2021
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Office equipment - at cost	94,158	32,789
Less provision for depreciation	(34,134)	(20,736)
	60,024	12,053
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	60,024	12,053
TOTAL ASSETS	1,361,736	1,519,904
CURRENT LIABILITIES	2022	2021
Trade and Other Payable		
Accounts payable	10,885	7,316
Accrued expenses	94,437	67,751
GST payable	35,106	66,882
PAYG withholding tax payable	32,656	15,204
Superannuation payable	67,998	30,226
	241,082	187,379

AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM WOMEN'S CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INC.

ABN 57 347 235 363

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

CURRENT LIABILITIES**2022****2021****Deferred Income**

Grants received in advance

598,335

667,183

598,335**667,183****Employment Entitlement Provisions**

Provision for annual leave

159,293

136,414

Provision for long service leave

35,760

31,652

Provision for time in lieu

10,886

3,588

205,939**171,654****TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES****1,045,356****1,026,216****TOTAL LIABILITIES****1,045,356****1,026,216****NET ASSETS****316,380****493,688****EQUITY**

Accumulated funds

316,380

493,688

316,380**493,688**

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, satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and:

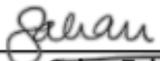
1 a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the association; and

b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights Inc. as at 30 June 2022

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 declaration is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Treasurer


Sahar Zaidi

Co-Chairperson


Marwa Khalaf

Dated this

3rd

day of

November 2022



