



## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday 9 November 2019, at The Bellevue Venue in Bankstown, Arab Council Australia celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The sold-out event was attended by distinguished guests, friends, supporters, community members and organisations, former and current board and staff members and volunteers.

Uncle Malcolm Maccoll from the Gandangara Land Council performed the Welcome Ceremony. The event MCs, Ms Alissar Gazal and Mr Hassan Moussa opened the official program and acknowledged the unprecedented bush fires that were burning throughout NSW and recognised the courageous efforts of the firefighters.

Council's Chairperson, Ms Mary Shalhoub welcomed guests and paid tribute to all former and current Board and staff members and CEOs and acknowledge their legacy in shaping this unique and dynamic organisation.

The Hon David Coleman MP addressed the celebrations on behalf of the Prime Minister, The Hon Chris Hayes MP on behalf of Federal Opposition Leader, The Hon Geoff Lee, MP on behalf of the NSW Premier and the Hon Jihad Dib, MP on behalf of the NSW Opposition Leader.

Council's CEO, Ms Randa Kattan summarised the 40-year history of Arab Council Australia emphasising the principles that have guided the organisation since inception and launched the anniversary video "40 Reasons Why".

At this event, Council's Chairperson and the Board took the opportunity to recognise the CEO's long-standing dedication and commitment to the organisation and present Ms Kattan with an award.



# 40 MOMENTS

- Established as the Arabic Welfare interagency (1979)
- Employed the first staff member (1983)
- Held the first Arabic Carnival at Wiley Park as part of the statewide Carnivale (1983)
- Hosted the first Arab Women's Day celebration at the Orion Centre, Campsie (1984-1987)
- Published the first issue of "Al-Minbar", Council's bilingual newsletter (1986)
- Organised "The Australian Arab Community - Participation or Marginalisation" conference held at the Bankstown Civic Centre (1988)
- Arabic Welfare Interagency became a Council and was named Australian Arabic Welfare Council (1988)
- Established the first Arabic Family Support Service (1988-current)
- Campaigned for the use of appropriate terminology in the Macquarie Dictionary to change negative references of Arabs (1989)
- Initiated and ran the AIDS Community Education Prevention program (1990)
- Established the Community Legal Education Project (1990)
- Set up the Helping Early Leavers Program (HELP) and Circuit Breaker project (1990), which later merged to become the Links to Learning program
- Produced "Like Shifting Sands" video about Arab Australian women (mid 1990s)
- Published "Get Up Stand Up", a magazine produced by students of the HELP project (1994/95)
- Launched the "Like Engraving in Stone" - a Child Protection training resource and educational video. Winner of the Multicultural Marketing Awards, Community Category (1997)
- Australian Arabic Welfare Council changed its name to Australian Arabic Communities Council (1998)
- Offered a public apology to Australia's First People (1998)
- Arabic Carnivale expanded to a month-long event (1998 - 2005)
- Set up the first Arabic Gambling Help Service which continues to date and includes Financial Counselling service (1998-current)
- Jointly held with the University of Sydney, the "Arab Australians Today: Citizenship and Belonging" Conference (1998)
- Arab Australian Women's Awards (1998 - 2005)
- Arab Youth Quiz (1998 - 2005)
- HSC High Achievers Awards (1999 - 2005)
- Hosted the visit of the great Arab icon, Mr Dorade Lahham and celebrated his incomparable contribution of over 40 years to the arts, culture, community affairs and social development of Arab societies (2003)
- Australian Arab Communities Council changed its name to Arab Council Australia (2004)
- Founding member of the Sydney Alliance in 2008 and Council's CEO elected as inaugural Chairperson in 2011
- Initiated the "Imagine Bankstown" Project - Won the Inaugural WSCF Zest Awards for Exceptional Partnership Project and the Macquarie University and NSW ECC Building Inclusive Communities Awards (2010-2011)
- Together with Uniting, established in West Sydney the "Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network" service (2010-current)
- Played a leading role in the "Say No to Income Management: Not in Bankstown Not Anywhere" Campaign coalition (2011 - 2012)
- Launched with ACON the "We're Family Too" Report - a report into the effects of Homophobia in Arabic Speaking Communities in NSW (2012). The report was the result of work that commenced in 2004
- Received the ACON's Honour Awards for ground-breaking efforts to reduce homophobia in Arabic-speaking communities in NSW (2013)
- Brought services together to collaborate around challenging community issues through Arab Council Australia's "Linked In Bankstown" project (2014-2015)
- Campaigned with other groups against proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act (2014 and 2016)
- Implemented the "Live Safe, Feel Safe" project, raising awareness about domestic and family violence amongst CALD women, men and young people (2016 - 2017)
- Took a public stand in support of Marriage Equality (2017)
- Established the "Stronger Connections: Children, Families, and Communities" project which includes children's playgroups, parenting and life skills sessions (2017-current)
- Accredited to provide NDIS Support Coordination and established the NDIS Gateway service for people with disability (2017)
- Implemented the "Canterbury Bankstown Connecting" Project, linking services across the two newly merged areas and promoting collaborative practices (2017 -2018)
- Initiated the "AwarAbility" Project, raising awareness and combating myths and stigma around disability and mental health (2018-current)
- Commenced the "From the Ground Up to Equality" Project, raising awareness about gender equality and changing attitudes that lead to domestic and family violence (2018-current)





<p><b>COMMUNITY</b> We are an integral part of the community and the community is our work</p>	<p><b>SECULAR</b> We embrace all people irrespective of religious or spiritual beliefs</p>	<p><b>ADVOCATING</b> We are advocates for marginalised and vulnerable communities and speak truth to power without fear or favour</p>	<p><b>SOCIAL JUSTICE</b> We are driven by the belief that social justice is the foundation of community progress</p>	<p><b>ANTI-RACISM</b> We counter the stigmatisation of the community in media and in the public sphere and work to protect laws against racial vilification</p>	<p><b>RESPECT</b> We promote respect in all aspects of our work – respect for people, beliefs, culture, faith, land and the environment</p>	<p><b>RIGHTS</b> We fundamentally believe in all aspects of human rights and work towards ensuring the expression and protection of those rights for marginalised and vulnerable groups</p>
<p><b>UNIFYING</b> We celebrate and respect difference, providing unified representation for a diverse community</p>	<p><b>REPRESENTATIVE</b> We represent the diverse voices of Arab Australians and promote their contribution, perspective, needs and concerns</p>	<p><b>COURAGEOUS</b> We show courage in the face of injustice and speak out within and on behalf of the community even when issues are controversial</p>	<p><b>PROGRESSIVE</b> We are progressive and generate new conversations, bridging cultural barriers to spark new ideas and influence policy</p>	<p><b>EQUITY</b> We consistently work towards equity, giving vulnerable people what they need to achieve quality of life</p>	 <p>Arab Council Australia المجلس العربي استراليا SINCE 1979</p>	<p><b>EQUALITY</b> We deeply believe in human equality and reject all forms of discrimination against people on any grounds including but not limited to race, age, gender, sexuality, ability or religion</p>
<p><b>DIVERSITY</b> We embrace diversity of culture, ethnicity, religion, ability, sexuality, gender, age, opinions and ideas</p>	<p><b>BELONGING</b> We create the space for Arabic speaking backgrounds to feel they belong, are valued and have the capacity to contribute to society</p>	<p><b>INCLUSIVE</b> We practise inclusiveness with a commitment to developing solutions and building engagement, treating all people equally</p>	<p><b>AUTHENTIC</b> We are genuine in our work with the community and represent Arab Australians authentically and truthfully</p>	<p><b>COLLABORATIVE</b> We collaborate with other organisations and communities campaigning on issues, delivering on programs and encouraging greater understanding across divides</p>	<p><b>INFLUENCING</b> We work deep within the heart of community and across the breadth of government to actively bring about positive change</p>	<p><b>ADAPTING</b> We adapt to constantly changing environments, harnessing the power of change as a positive force for progress</p>
<p><b>LEADING</b> We exercise leadership for positive social change, engaging with complex issues and leading by example on service delivery and community advocacy</p>	<p><b>PIONEERING</b> We bring a fresh approach to issues, pioneering new and innovative programs and services to address emerging community needs</p>		<p><b>CHAMPIONING</b> We champion the issues which will lead to a more open and just society</p>	<p><b>INTEGRATING</b> We see each person as a valuable member of society and support migrants and refugees in their resettlement</p>	<p><b>RESILIENCE</b> We build community cohesion and resilience to withstand criticism and attacks, and promote reconciliation</p>	<p><b>AGILE</b> We are strategic and at the same time agile in our response to emerging issues and crises</p>
<p><b>SERVING</b> We understand the culture and the community we serve, addressing present and emerging needs and making a positive difference to the lives of the vulnerable and marginalised</p>	<p><b>PARTNERSHIPS</b> We build partnerships based on respect and shared learning and pursue professional and cultural relationships to bring communities together</p>	<p><b>RESPONSIVE</b> We respond to the needs of the community as they arise, both for short term crises and long-term development</p>	<p><b>CELEBRATING</b> We celebrate culture and acknowledge the heritage and contribution of Arab Australians to the rich tapestry of multiculturalism</p>	<p><b>VISIONARY</b> We are laying the foundations for future generations to engage and continue building community</p>	<p><b>ETHICAL</b> We are ethical in our dealings with clients, service providers, government and other stakeholders</p>	<p><b>KNOWLEDGE</b> We are a centre of knowledge, contributing to greater understanding of community issues through rigorous research and evidence-based information</p>
<p><b>DELIVERING</b> We identify gaps and emerging needs, delivering a broad range of services and programs to people of diverse ages and backgrounds</p>	<p><b>INNOVATIVE</b> We provide unique perspectives and actively develop new approaches and relationships to address emerging challenges</p>	<p><b>ACCESSIBLE</b> We consistently strive to make our services accessible to all, regardless of social or economic circumstance</p>	<p><b>ENHANCING CAPACITY</b> We enhance the existing capacity of people in the community, working with services, volunteers, students and emerging professionals</p>	<p><b>FUTURIST</b> We are committed to acting in the present to create a positive legacy for the future</p>	<p><b>ACCOUNTABLE</b> We are professional and our management systems are transparent and good governance is part and parcel of the culture of our organisation</p>	<p><b>STANDARD SETTING</b> We are professional in all our endeavours, expecting and maintaining the highest standards of service to the community within and beyond our organisation</p>

# 40 REASONS WHY





# MOMENTS FROM THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER







PRIME MINISTER

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**

**ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA  
40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Arab Australians have made an enormous contribution to our nation across a range of fields, including business and education, politics, entertainment and sport. These achievements reflect the remarkable mix of backgrounds and faiths that define this diverse and dynamic community.

As a strong voice for Arab Australians, the Arab Council Australia does a wonderful job promoting inclusion and opportunity in our society. Your efforts have helped to improve the lives of the vulnerable and disadvantaged, and to uplift our successful and peaceful, multicultural nation.

Australia is a promise to all of us who live here and call it home. That promise is the freedom to go about our lives and realise our aspirations, and be acknowledged for our efforts regardless of background.

Our shared commitment to accept and respect one another has sustained our communities for generations. It is the reason why people from all over the world have come here to call this country home and help make us one of the most peaceful and harmonious multicultural nations on earth.

As you look back on your achievements over the last forty years, I want to congratulate you on this special anniversary and thank the Council for all its efforts.

The Hon Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister of Australia

9 November 2019

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Thank you to the sponsors of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration

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**WESTERN SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY**



Thank you to Canterbury  
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supporting the video production