



Arab Council Australia Inc.

Annual Report 2017



Arab Council Australia
المجلس العربي استراليا

About Us

Arab Council Australia (Council) is a secular community based organisation working to bring about positive social change and improve the lives of the most vulnerable people in the community. We represent the interests of people from twenty-two Arab countries. Our membership reflects this diversity and includes people of non-Arabic speaking background.

Since our establishment, we have been providing a range of quality services such as: family support, child protection, youth projects, social support to older people, problem gambling and financial counselling, orientation and settlement, casework and educational support to children, youth and families, and emergency relief assistance.

We work with diverse communities and across sectors and play a pivotal role in capacity and community building and in advocacy. We promote solutions through consultations, research, education, and partnerships; we work inclusively across diversity and in forging strong collaborative practices with community, government and private sectors.

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work and pay our respect to elders, past and present. We acknowledge that this land was, is and always will be Aboriginal land.

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Layout and Design MK Graphics 3 Derwent Road Bringelly NSW 2556
T 02 4774 9995 M 0408 623 353 E mkgraphics@netspace.net.au

Printer R M Gregory Printers 227-231 Georges River Road Croydon Park NSW 2133
T 02 9744 8979 F 02 9744 8032 E print@rmgregory.com.au W www.www.rmggregory.com.au



△ Council's Board, Human Rights Commissioner Ed Santow (back centre), Dr Astrid Perry, AGM Chair (back left), Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (left front), Ms Julia Finn MP (2nd row third left), Iraqi Ambassador to Australia HE Hussain Mahdi Al-Ameri (front row right) at Council's 2016 AGM



△ Guests and members at Council's 2016 AGM

△ Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Ed Santow launching the Racism. It Stops With Me Campaign at Council's 2016 AGM



△ Guests at Council's event commemorating the story of the Australian Painter and campaigner for Palestinian Rights Janet Venn-Brown story, May 2017



△ Painter and campaigner for Palestinian Rights Janet Venn-Brown and Dr Peter Manning



△ Farewell dinner with board and staff members for Pauline Oshana, who retired after 20 years of service with Council, Jul 2017

Chairperson's Message

It is with great pleasure that I present Arab Council Australia's (Council) 2017 Annual Report, showcasing another year of achievements and great work.

I stepped into the Chairpersons' role following Ms Fatima Ali's leave and subsequent resignation from this position. I take this opportunity to thank Ms Ali for the invaluable leadership and contribution she has made to Council's overall directions during her tenure. We wish her the very best and look forward to her continued support and involvement in Council.

Throughout the year, we have continued to deliver our core services, providing much needed quality programs and supports to families, young people, refugees, the community and the sector.

We have expanded our services in line with Council's strategic plan and have seen this growth on several fronts. We have established our NDIS Gateway service. We have expanded our work in the domestic and family violence space under the *Live Safe Feel Safe* project raising awareness and increasing engagement particularly among newly arrived and refugee communities. We have also formed a partnership with Settlement Services International (SSI) on an important joint venture to support refugees in finding employment. We have also continued to take a leading role in facilitating networks and collaborations across communities and organisations as illustrated through the Canterbury Bankstown Connecting Project.

We were honoured to host a successful full-house event to pay tribute to Janet Venn-Brown – a dedicated Australian artist and determined campaigner for Palestinian rights as illustrated in Dr Peter Manning's book.

Council's new premises in Fairfield East (aka Villawood) is home to Council's management and administration. While service provision continues to be undertaken from the Bankstown satellite office, we are nevertheless considering options to bring all Council teams together once more under the same roof.

On the subject of Council staff, the past year has seen several changes with some long-term staff members leaving the organisation. Their dedication and long service to Council is duly acknowledged and we wish them great success in their future endeavours. Although the changes have been challenging for Council, the continued quality service provision is a testament to management and to those who have filled these positions.

There is no doubt that this year has been characterised by numerous challenges and opportunities that required strategic leadership. One such an example is Council's proud stand with other groups in support of marriage equality. Although this was met with mixed reactions, Council stayed true to its values to fight discrimination and uphold equality and inclusion.

Finally, I offer my sincere thanks to my colleagues on Council's Board for their support. Special thanks to the diligent and vigilant leader, the CEO Randa Kattan; not to forget old and new staff members who have and continue to embrace the challenges of a changing environment.

Mary Shalhoub

A/Chairperson



Council's CEO with the Hon Bob Carr, former Premier of NSW and former Foreign Minister and other guests and officials at a private dinner organised by the Palestinian Community of NSW in acknowledgement and appreciation of the NSW Labor Party's support for the recognition of the State of Palestine, Oct 2017

The Australian Ambassador to Lebanon, HE Glenn Miles and Council's CEO at the Australian Embassy in Lebanon, Jan 2017



Hon Tony Burke MP, Mr Jihad Dib MP and Council's CEO at the Walk for Respect Ambassadors' Award Ceremony, Feb 2017



Council's CEO, other Stronger Communities grants recipients with the Minister for Local Government, Hon Paul Toole and Canterbury Bankstown Administrator, Mr Richard Colley, Dec 2016

Representatives from local organisations during the Canterbury Bankstown Connecting Forum, Jul 2017



Granville South Performing Arts High School Presentation Day, Dec 2016. Council's CEO with other officials including the Principal Melissa Johnston and Hon Jason Clare MP

This has been an incredibly fast paced year marked by both challenges and opportunities. There have been significant shifts in liberal democracies around the world as well as on the home front. This has been evident in some political discourse and media commentaries that feed into people's fears about race, immigration and diversity and have impacted adversely on minority groups. In such times, while our resources, time and energies have been tested, Council has continued to lead with a greater sense of purpose and determination for an inclusive and just society.

We have been relentless in our advocacy and representation. We have been strategic as well responsive in how we address prevailing issues. We have been vocal in the media and regularly commented on key matters including gender equity, domestic violence, proposals to change citizenship laws and on the drug testing trials in the Canterbury Bankstown area.

The earlier part of the year has seen the debate around Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act (RDA) intensify. Indeed, the strident albeit politically motivated actors sought to influence the community by inventing non-existent threats to free speech. Together with other community groups Council stepped up our long running campaign to preserve this critical protection and maintained our strong rejection of any moves to undermine the RDA. In the end, the legislative amendments were voted down by the Senate in March 2017; in no small part due to the tireless efforts of organisations like ours voicing their opposition to the proposed changes. It is welcome that the Act remains in its current form.

In late 2017, Council publicly supported marriage equality when the federal government put this to a national survey. We did this as part of the Yes Alliance a group of multicultural organisations campaigning for marriage equality. As an organisation that believes in human rights, equality and social justice for all, silence was not an option for us. We took a stand that is consistent with our values, policies and long-standing work in combating homophobia. We recognise the diverse views in our community about this issue and that not everyone agrees with our position. However, we stayed the course and supported LGBTIQ + people during a very distressing period and we will continue to do so in the long term through our services and programs.

Consistent with our aspirations to work in partnership with others and in building capacity, we have developed and implemented a number of innovative projects. Two such projects I will mention here:

- The Live Safe Feel Safe project worked with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities and engaged thousands of people across South West Sydney. It employed a socially inclusive approach to raise awareness and run community education campaign about domestic and family violence.
- The Canterbury Bankstown Connecting project built upon our collaborative and ground-breaking work and brought together 57 diverse organisations from the newly merged Canterbury and Bankstown LGA. It provided a creative space to engage and collaborate around some community problems. While the project's funding has come to an end, we will continue to build with others sustainable practices that keep the community at the centre of our work.

Another major achievement this year has been that Council became a registered National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provider. This involved successfully undergoing a third-party verification process to demonstrate our compliance with the NSW Disability Quality Standards. Subsequently, Council successfully operationalised our Gateway Service model which provides culturally appropriate and accessible support coordination and plan management services to people with a disability.

Arab Council Australia is a dynamic organisation. We are forward looking and seek continuous innovation with a view to enhancing our service offering. A key issue we are addressing is our long term

fiscal viability and independence. To this end, we are strategising around developing an independent consultancy service that will deliver much needed resources and expertise.

There have been significant staff changes over the last year. Some of our staff have moved on to new ventures while others are considering options to return to Council in a different capacity. I would like to acknowledge the two who have well and truly moved on from our employ: Mr Hany El Helu – who has given 11 years of service to Council in various roles – is currently pursuing his legal career; and Ms Pauline Oshana, the Administration Unit Manager, our longest serving member of staff who has retired after 20 years of service to Council. I thank them both for their dedicated service, loyalty and integrity and wish them the very best. We also welcome all the new staff who have come on board and are already delivering solid results on their projects.

Our services have continued to yield strong outcomes for the community and the people we serve - the families, the elderly and the young, in both the Arabic speaking community and beyond. Some of these achievements are outlined in the pages of this report which are truly worthy of your attention.

Council is a member driven organisation. We rely on the support of countless individuals, and organisations. For this, I say thank you. Thank you to our funding bodies for your confidence. We thank members of the media for the consistently promoting our services and causes. I thank Council's members for your ongoing commitment. Our openness, innovation and collaboration are what drive our efforts for greater inclusion, social justice and human rights. This is a collective effort for which I thank all our partners.

I offer my most sincere appreciation to the people and families we meet every day. I thank you for trusting us with your stories, your trials and your hopes. Your resilience and tenacity for a brighter and better future inspire us and drive us to do better. You are the reason behind our work.

This organisation cannot serve the community without the commitment of our Board, staff volunteers and interns. My thanks go to each staff member, volunteer and intern for your professionalism, hard work and dedication. My sincere appreciation goes to the former Chairperson, Ms Fatima Ali who had to retire from the Board earlier than anticipated but whose support continues on. I offer deep gratitude to the Acting Chairperson, Ms Mary Shalhoub and the Board for your leadership, commitment and unwavering support. Council's standing in the community as a leading, inclusive and progressive organisation is a credit to you all.

Randa Kattan
CEO

▷ At the Palestinian Community in NSW dinner (left to right), Mr Jihad Dib, MP, Ms Marcelle Mansour, H.E. Izzat Abdulhadi Ambassador of the State of Palestine, Council's CEO and Mr Hany El-Turk



▷ Council's CEO at the Walk for Respect event in Lakemba, Mar 2017



Key Achievements

Council Strategic Plan 2016-2020 articulates our directions with a vision of promoting inclusion and social justice. The activities in this report reflect the achievements against the strategic plan. The goals have been used below to align the activities undertaken by Council in 2016-17.

Goal 1: Wellbeing

Promote well-functioning, healthy, productive, caring, and safe individuals, families and communities.

This Strategic Goal encompasses working with specific client groups in need and where Council can play an increased role, such as supporting women and children who are victims of domestic and family violence or supporting migrants and refugees. It also includes a focus on expanding Council's role in the ageing, disability and mental health sector. It is envisaged that this will be achieved by expanding outreach services through new partnerships and locations.

Council undertook research and planning to provide support to various groups within the Arabic speaking community to assist them to lead well-functioning and healthy lives. These groups and the associated supports are detailed below.

We delivered an early intervention and prevention project called Live Safe, Feel Safe with funding from the Department of Social Services (DSS). This project employed a multifaceted and socially inclusive approach to raise awareness about the nature of domestic and family violence (DFV) and where to find help for CALD women, men and young people in South West Sydney (SWS).

The project involved delivering accessible information consisting of some key messages in community languages through various means including:

- Radio interviews and in face to face workshops
- Print media and distribution of existing resources to accessible locations.

The outcomes of the project include:

- Over 2,000 women received hardcopy resources in 11 different community languages, outlining what is DV and where to find help
- Three (3) survivors shared their story on

6 community radio stations in Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin and through print media

- Over 1000 women and men were provided with face-to-face information in interactive workshops which increased their knowledge and awareness about the nature of DFV and where to get help
- Over 320 young people were provided with workshops increasing their knowledge and skills about how to have respectful relationships and what to do as "active bystanders"
- Working relationships were strengthened with other NGOs including Navitas, Asian Women at Work and Bonnies Support Services, which allowed the organisations to draw on each other's experiences and strengths and provide better results for the communities.

The project outcomes and findings are being shared at relevant interagency meetings in SWS as well as detailed in a project report that will be published by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited (ANROWS) in February 2018.

People with a disability

Council continued to provide social support and centre-based day care services to people with a disability. We also provided support to carers caring for family members with an intellectual disability.

A major achievement for the year, was that Council became a registered National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provider which involved successfully undergoing a third-party verification process to demonstrate our compliance with the NSW Disability Quality Standards.

Subsequently, Council successfully operationalised its Gateway Service model which provides support coordination and plan management services, with funding from

Settlement Services International (SSI). This service aims to provide invaluable culturally appropriate and accessible services in Arabic and English to assist people with a disability to connect to the NDIS, manage their NDIS funding and connect their supports. This is further explored under Goal 6.

Older People

Council provides several services to support older people and their Carers from Arabic speaking backgrounds to meet their needs including reducing social isolation. The main services included:

- **The Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network (ASSIN)** provides social support and information to older people of Arabic speaking backgrounds and their carers in Auburn, Blacktown, Parramatta and Holroyd. Over 100 participants met once a week to participate in activities and were provided with transport. Group activities included: outings, games, gentle exercise, developing life skills, and education sessions.
 - **ASSIN Workshops:** More than 40 sessions were delivered including: Stepping On program, health and wellbeing, budgeting, gambling awareness, environmental protection and gardening, government services (i.e. Centrelink, smart traveller), safety and legal matters (i.e. power of attorneys, wills, deceased estates). Fortnightly excursions also took place to enable participants to be in an outdoor environment, enjoy nature and do gentle exercise.
 - **The Highlight of the year** included participation of the ASSIN seniors in the older women expo event in Bankstown Arts Centre and also active engagement and contribution to the Intergenerate Creative

Ageing Project. This project was launched in Bankstown Arts Centre and included a video of a story telling workshop with ASSIN seniors sharing their happy childhood experiences.

- **Housing Support** – Council through its longstanding partnership with Evolve and Hume Housing, continued to provide support to older people in community housing including casework, home visits, referrals, assisting clients to access mainstream services and advocacy.
- **Road Safety Education** – Council delivered 10 Walk Safely workshops in various Local Government Areas (LGAs) to build the skills and knowledge of older people from Arabic and non-Arabic speaking backgrounds regarding road safety. Themes included road crossing risks and how to avoid accidents. Older people were actively engaged in the workshops and enjoyed them. They also provided valuable feedback on road safety issues relating to their cohort which was communicated to Roads and Maritime Services to inform their policy development.
- **Breast Screening, Community Engagement** – Council partnered with Cultural Partners to raise awareness about Breast Screening targeting women from Arabic speaking



▷ Participants at one of the Breast Screening Community Awareness events



△ Holroyd Seniors group at the Walking Safely workshop with Council's Community Care Co-ordinator, Ms Rhonda Issaoui (4th right)



△ Parramatta Seniors group in a consultation relating to elder abuse

backgrounds between 50 and 75 years of age. The project recruited two women champions who told their stories of breast cancer survival and whose stories were collated and documented. In addition, an Arabic media launch took place and three (3) community engagement and awareness events were held in May 2017 in the Bankstown, Parramatta and St George areas. These events included General Practitioners as speakers and entertainment and were attended by 77 women and their families.

Carers

In partnership with CarerAssist, Council provided the *Care for Carers* service to assist carers from Arabic speaking backgrounds who care for a person with a mental illness to participate in social groups with others in similar circumstances. A group of 20 carers met once a month and received information on self-care and mental health, first aid, education and shared their experiences.

Families

Council continued to support vulnerable children, young people and families, so that children and young people have a safe and healthy start to life, through early intervention and prevention programs as well as casework. Some of the supports included:

- **Family Support Service: Early Intervention and Placement Prevention (EIPP) Program** – This program is funded by FACS and the activities included:
 - Support and referral relating to issues such as: child behavioural management, financial difficulties, employment, mental health and housing
 - Case management for young people and families who require additional and ongoing support to access appropriate services. This is provided for an average duration of three (3) months
 - Convening parent support groups focusing on helping parents improve their capacity to build positive relationships with their children
 - Convening skill development groups for parents including building skills such as

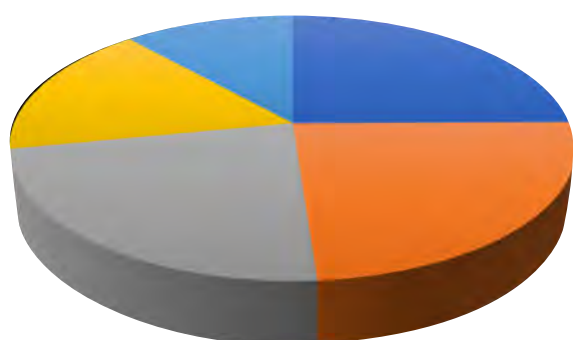
budgeting and cooking. Convening skill development groups for young people including building knowledge and skills in: cyber safety, healthy relationships, body image, anti-bullying awareness and psychosocial support, and building connections with family

- Conducting home visits where required including the provision of parenting information, family support and case management services
- Participation in the Targeted Earlier Intervention Program reforms with FACS to plan for future directions of the EIPP service.
- **Playgroups** – this service delivers early childhood activities, school vacation activities, school readiness, speech pathology, nutrition, fitness and health education to parents and carers. This service provided active ties for around 47 children under 5-years old and their parents (34) from all cultural backgrounds during school terms. A major achievement was that the Playgroup received additional funding until June 2019.
 - **Parents Support Group** – a service providing information and building capacity relating to parenting skills and healthy lifestyle. Approximately 50 parents participated in several activities, **training** and events such as Positive Parenting Program, Play Power and life skills activities.
- **Vacation care and excursions** – These were conducted during school terms and during holidays. This year 27 parents and 97 children of pre-school, primary and early high school age actively participated. Excursions and vacation care locations included sports centres, zoos, animal farms, **libraries**, parks and other local attractions. The playgroup also participated in the annual Paint Bankstown ReAD and Greenacre Family Fun Day.
- **Casework, Advocacy and Referral** – this involved the provision of casework with families at Council’s premises and in some cases in client’s homes in Bankstown, Liverpool and Fairfield LGAs. Staff provided support or referrals to clients and worked with them on achieving their goals. Overall, clients provided positive feedback about their

experience and the services they received. The table below shows the presenting issues and the related number of occasions of service.

Casework 1 Jul 2016 – 30 Jun 2017	
Issues	Occasion of Service
Aged Care	192
Child Care	101
Domestic Violence	64
Education	74
Employment	96
English Classes	65
Family Support	380
Housing	130
Income Support / Financial Issues	271
Immigration & Settlement Issues	155
Mental Health	151
Legal	136
Material Assistance	410
Physical Health	133
Letters & Form Filling	115
Social Support	395
Training & Development	32
Total	2,900

**Five Highest Presenting Issues
1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017**



- Material Assistance
- Social Support
- Family Support
- Income Support/Financial Support
- Aged Care

Goal 2: Inclusion and Social Justice

Promote inclusion and social justice, access and equal opportunities for all.

This Strategic Goal focuses on increasing the participation of groups to engage in the community. This includes a strong focus on assisting young people to exercise leadership and guide them through educational pathways. It also focuses on newly arrived refugees, humanitarian entrants and migrants and their settlement needs. Importantly this Goal also works towards inclusion by combatting exclusionary factors such as racism and discrimination.

Upskill Café – Connect, Up Skill, Engage newly arrived migrants of Arabic speaking background project.

The Upskill Café project funded by the Scanlon Foundation, involved Council recruiting 30 newly arrived migrants and refugees who hold various visa types and assisting them to enrol in TAFE Bankstown for English language skills courses. Participants attended weekly workshops about: employment seeking skills, life skills, mental health, communication skills, health education and civic life in Australia. Participants also attended excursions to local government and business locations such as Bankstown Library and local employment offices to expose them to the public systems and services. The project will conclude in December 2017 with a graduation ceremony for all participants.



△ Upskill Cafe Workshop

Combating racism and discrimination

Throughout the year Council collaborated with other organisations to speak out against racism and discrimination both generally and in relation to specific events. For example, Council together with other organisations continued to campaign against the proposed amendments to section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act in an attempt to preserve the legal protections against racist hate speech. In addition, the CEO as one of the Ambassadors for the Walk of Respect, promoted and took part in the march to send a strong message to the Government that proposed changes are unacceptable and to bring support and highlight commitment to multiculturalism, community harmony and cultural respect.

Furthermore, Council launched its pledge to become part of the *Racism. It Stops With Me* campaign at its Annual General Meeting in 2016, supported by the Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Ed Santow who was the Guest Speaker. The national *Racism. It Stops With Me* campaign, led by the Australian Human Rights Commission, has been developed in partnership with government and non-government agencies.

Council was also prominent at conferences and other forums where issues relating to the community's experience of racism and its harms were presented.

Goal 3: Poverty Relief

Alleviate poverty and promote greater equity for those in need.

This Strategic Goal aims to alleviate poverty through raising awareness of the disadvantage experienced by the Arabic speaking community as well as through the provision of direct measures to assist families and people experiencing financial hardship.

Food Aid and the Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA)

Council continued to deliver emergency relief services including the Food Aid and the EAPA Scheme to support low income families and people facing financial hardships, crisis or in emergency situations to access groceries and

assistance to pay their home gas or electricity bills.

Work and Development Order

Council received approval in January 2017, from State and Debt Recovery, Department of Justice and became a sponsor organisation to host clients to undertake counselling or volunteer work to assist them to pay off their court of SDR0 fines. Eligible clients can attend either gambling or financial counselling related to gambling issues, or do volunteer work at Council. Referrals to other host organisations and health care providers are also available.

Emergency Relief Assistance 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017	
Work and Development Order	
Total number of clients assisted	280
EAPA	
Total number of clients served	393
Total number of vouchers given	1280

Welcome Refugees engagement program

Council partnered with Sydney Alliance and other NGOs in the Bankstown area to plan, implement and evaluate ways of welcoming refugees from Syria and Iraq to Sydney. The Welcome Refugees event was held in Bankstown Arts Centre in November 2016 and more than 200 refugees and their families and support organisations attended.

Gambling Help Recovery and Support

Council continued to provide the Gambling Help Recovery and Support Service and the Financial Counselling service funded by the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing-Responsible Gambling Fund. The service was provided in South West, West and Coastal Sydney and offered therapeutic and financial counselling, casework and group support to Arabic speaking individuals, their families and friends on gambling and other related issues. The service follows a harm reduction approach and aims to assist clients to address their problem gambling behaviours to either control or abstain

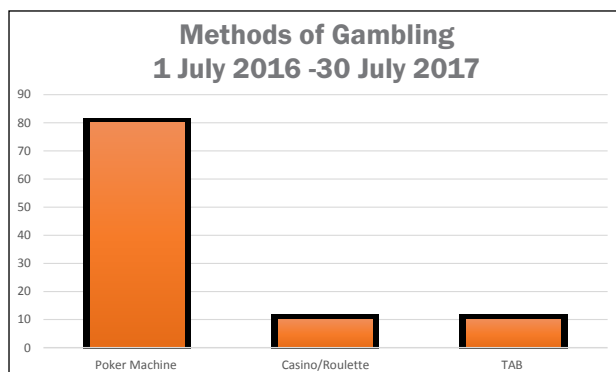
from gambling. The service assisted clients to reduce the harm associated with gambling such as relationships, mental illness, study and employment issues, crime, legal and fraud.

This year, the service was comprehensively audited by the funding body, and the outcomes were positive particularly regarding the delivery of support to the target group; raising awareness; and collaboration with stakeholders.

The Manager of the service presented a paper about “help seeking behaviours of Arabic clients” and participated as a panel member in the National Association of Gambling Studies conference to address issues relating to gambling in the Arabic community.

The table below shows what supports were provided this financial year.

Gambling Help Recovery and Support 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016	
Clients serviced	195
Families/Friends of clients serviced	30
Number of counselling sessions	1050



The methods of Gambling reported by clients included: Poker Machines 80%, Casino/Roulette 10% and TAB 10%.

The service also participated in over 80 consultations and awareness raising events to engage with the community. They include but are not limited to, participation in:

- St George Multicultural Network stakeholder meetings
- Salvation Army’s Financial Counsellors meetings
- Islamic Chester Hill Youth centre stakeholder meeting

- Regular meetings with the Parramatta community corrections to inform the service
- Consultations with the funding body on planned marketing campaigns targeted to the Arabic speaking community on sports betting and gambling
- Consultations with: Burwood and Sutherland Legal Aid; St George Leagues Club; St George Hospital Mental Health Centre; Rockdale Community Centre; Hurstville Community Mental Health Centre; Arncliffe Chemist; Arncliffe Mosque; Rockdale Library; Sydney Technical High School; Kogarah High School; Bethany College, St George Girls High School, Moorefield Girls High School, James Cook Boys High School, and Sutherland TAFE
- Bankstown Homeless Connect Hub and speaking to clients and workers about our service attended by 200 people
- Older Women’s Wellness Expo attended by 200 people
- Liverpool Multicultural Wellness Festival and Rockdale Community Festival attended by 1,000 people
- St George Migrant Information Day attended by 300 people
- Granville South High School Expo attended by 200 people
- Liverpool Law Expo attended by 300 people
- Arncliffe Spring Fete attended by 100 people

Financial Counselling

Financial Counselling was provided as part of the Gambling Help Recovery and Support Service to clients with problem gambling and their families, by staff who are accredited Financial Counsellors. Services included:

- financial counselling and supports related to financial hardship
- negotiations with creditors, financial institutions and government bodies on behalf of clients
- providing information on credit laws, debt recovery and bankruptcy
- providing Work and Development Order service for eligible clients

- referring clients to legal services, mental health and welfare services.

The service makes a difference in the community and assists people with financial problems related to gambling to alleviate the anxiety of financial difficulties.

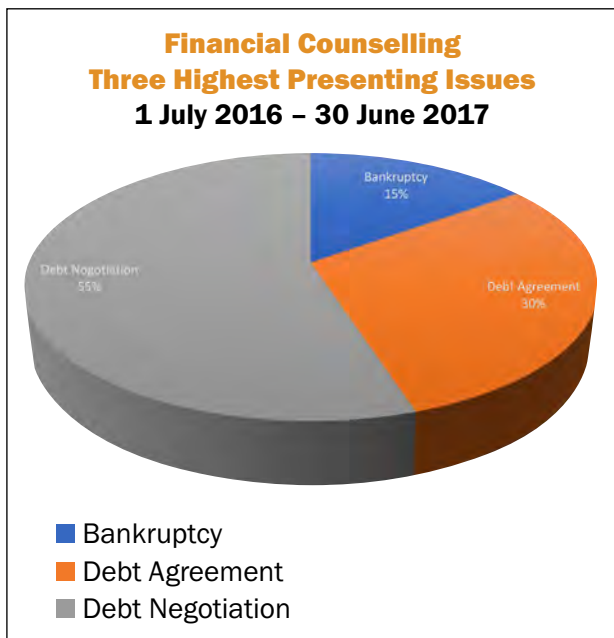
The table below shows what supports were provided this financial year.

Financial Counselling 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017	
Clients serviced	50
Number of counselling sessions	160
Number of community education events	30

The financial issues which the clients attended the service to address include: bankruptcy 15%; debt agreements 30% and debt negotiations 55%.

Sixty-six (66) community engagement and awareness events on both gambling and financial issues, were also provided by counsellors. These focused on gambling education and control and budgeting skills. The table below indicates statistics on events and attendances.

Community Education sessions	Attendance
Gambling and financial issues awareness sessions to Arabic speaking community members in Western Sydney, Coastal and South West Sydney	265
Gambling and financial issues awareness on Arabic Radio, SBS, 2ME, Sawaki Group TV and Aghapy TV for community members	30,000
Presentations to newly arrived migrants at Navitas English Learning Centres raising awareness on budgeting and problem gambling	300
Gambling and financial issues awareness for High School students in Auburn during the Community and Government Expo	300
Gambling issues forum presentations to community welfare workers and counsellors	200



△ Gambling Awareness session in Liverpool



▷ Council's information table at Greenacre Family Fun Day event

Goal 4: Capacity Building

Build active, productive and cohesive communities and increase community skills and capacity.

This Strategic Goal focuses on building the capacity and cohesiveness of communities through strengthening connections and the representation of Arab organisations and communities; through the provision of community building events and educational activities for the Arabic speaking community. It also identifies Council's integral role in promoting cultural awareness and in providing advice to others regarding the issues faced by Arabic speaking communities.

Community Building and Development

Council ran events and educational activities using a strength-based approach to develop community capacity and address community issues. These activities included community workshops, community networks/groups, social inclusion programs and events, skills/training programs, resources development, sector planning, consultation and partnership projects. Some specific examples include:

- **Arabic Speaking Communities Foster Carer Recruitment Project.** Council partnered with SSI to provide seven (7) information and awareness workshops to more than 80 Arabic speaking parents and carers about becoming a foster carer. This project aimed to increase the number of Arabic foster carers in SWS due to the identified shortage of culturally appropriate fostering of children from Arabic speaking communities. The project was well promoted through ethnic radio interviews.
- **Road Safety – Graduated Learner Scheme (GLS) and Child Restraints Workshops**
– Council ran ten (10) Graduated Learner Scheme (GLS) workshops which provided information to families, relatives or friends of learner drivers about laws and requirements to becoming safer drivers (95 participants). Council also ran ten (10) Child Restraint workshops to families with young children, 8 years of age or under (more than 100 participants).

- **Community Kitchen** – Community Kitchen was conducted at the Hub of Banksia Road Primary School. Parents were involved in producing an educational short film called Clever Cookies, about their weekly activities, recipes and outings. The aim of this project was to help parents overcome daily life stress and isolation, practice basic English and build new friendships. Each week during school terms, the parents learnt how to cook healthy food and shared the meals they prepared in the Community Kitchen. Group outings were also organised. Approximately 10 classes were conducted and attended by 50 parents/carers.
- **Parenting programs including Triple P in both English and Arabic** – Seminars were convened for parents/carers who have children in their care aged between 2 and 12 years of age. The program provided an overview of several parenting styles and information about how to manage challenging and complex behaviours in children. The program was delivered in several locations including: Bankstown; Fairfield; Liverpool; and Mt Druitt. 24 workshops were conducted and more than 100 parents participated.
- **Arabic Workers Network (AWN)** – Council continues to convene the AWN which is a forum for workers from across NSW who either speak of Arabic background or who work with the Arabic speaking community. The AWN continues to highlight a vast array of issues affecting the Arabic speaking community and provides valuable information to workers with the view of increasing access and equity to the community. The AWN also provides a platform for skills development and information exchange amongst its members.
- **Activities and Information sessions** – Based on the identified needs of families through both consultations and casework, Council provided more than 100 educational activities and partnered with other service providers in organising events. The table below includes information on the type of activity conducted and the target groups.

Topics	Target Group	Attendance
Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers	Community	95
Positive Parenting Program	Parents	200+
Fitness Class	Parents	60
Greenacre Family Fun Day	Community	100
Child Restraint Workshop	Community	100+
Liverpool Wellness Festival	Community	1000
Walk Safely Road Safety	Seniors	200+
Paint Bankstown Read	Community	200
NDIS Consultation	Community	60
Open Day For People At Risk Of Homelessness	Community	100
Cooking Classes	Parents	50
Settlement-Upskill Café	Community	100+
Carer Group	Carers	50
Employment Skills-Upskill Café	Community	100+
Granville South Performing Arts High School Expo	Community	200
AWN	Workers	80
Elder Abuse Consultation	Community	40

Consultations and Advisory

Council has continued to provide a consultative role and has been resourceful in addressing issues related to Arabic speaking communities.

Council participated in several advisory groups, meetings and networks, representations and partnerships. These are shown in the following table.

Advisory Groups, Representations, Partnerships
Diverse Werks/positive partnerships
Bankstown Homelessness Connect
Bankstown TAFE
Bankstown Police
Bankstown Child & Family interagency
Bankstown Child & Family interagency
CALD Stakeholder Resources and Communication Project with NSW Liquor and Gaming
Cancer Council of NSW
Roads and Maritime Services
Cultural Partners- Breast Screen
Community Corrections NSW
Families NSW Child Protection Week event
Financial Counselling Association of Australia
Greenacre Area Community Centre
Multicultural HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis C Service
Navitas English language centres
Responsible Gambling Forums
Paint ReAD Bankstown
Salvation Army
SBS Radio, Arabic program
Settlement Services International
Smith Family
Sydney Alliance
One Door mental health-Open Dialogue
Western Sydney University
TAFE NSW
Littering awareness and prevention campaign
Settlement Services International – Future Ability
NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service on Ovarian Cancer Arabic resource
Safe Work NSW CALD migrant and workers at risk workshop

Networking, Consultations, Focus Groups
Arabic Healthy Lifestyle Project
Arab Workers Network
Auburn Girls High School
Bankstown Children and Families Hub
Canterbury Bankstown Council
Bankstown Public School
Banksia Road Public School
Seniors Rights Service-Elder abuse
Settlement Symposium – support for refugees
Chester Hill North Public School
Clubs NSW
Condell Park Public School
Creating Links
Crisis Support Services
Bankstown Girls High School
Family Relationship Centres
Department of Community Services
Georges Hall Public School
Legal Aid
State and Debt Recovery
Bankstown Community Health centre
Auburn Diversity Services
Hep B prevention project
Multicultural Advisory Committee
Cultural Partners- Border Watch consultation
White Ribbon- Call Me Dad film screening
Organ and Tissue Donation research
Woodville Alliance – NDIS ready
Greenacre Neighbourhood management committee
Australian Centre for Social Innovation- older people wellbeing consultation
Schottler consulting- ATMs and third-party exclusion

Goal 5: Advocacy

Advocate on issues affecting the community and promote a positive community image.

This Strategic Goal highlights the importance of advocacy and the role Council plays to engage both individuals, members and organisations in identifying and lobbying to protect the interests and uphold the rights of Arabic-speaking communities

Council worked collaboratively with other agencies and across sectors on numerous initiatives, some of which are highlighted elsewhere in this report.

Collaborative Approaches

- Sydney Alliance** – Council works as a member of the Sydney Alliance which is a citizens' coalition whose vision is to provide the community with a voice to express common values and aspirations for a fair and just Sydney. Sydney Alliance brings together people from diverse community organisations, unions, universities and religious organisations to provide a way for their members to have their say in what they want for Sydney now and in the long term, always acting together for the common good.

Council supported and advocated for the proposed changes for new developments to provide reduced rent rates of its dwellings to low income families. Board and staff participated in the Sydney Alliance Housing Assembly in Eastwood which was attended by large numbers of Sydneysiders to call for stronger action on housing in Sydney and to ensure and secure government's commitment to take these proposed changes to the senate to become law. The Sydney Alliance, which organised the assembly, wants inclusionary zoning targets for affordable rental housing.

- Arabic Healthy Lifestyle project** – Council collaborated with other NGOs and the Department of Health to identify effective ways to reach out to the Arabic speaking community to promote healthy eating habits and reduce the incidence of chronic diseases related to unhealthy eating.

- **Organ and Tissue Donation** – Council assisted the South West Sydney Health Service to distribute and collect Organ and Tissue Donation surveys to community members in SWS as part of the Cancer Council’s research on the best ways to engage with the community and to identify community attitudes towards donating organ or tissue to help preserve the lives of others.

- **Commemoration** – Council hosted a night of art, dinner and music to commemorate the remarkable story of Australian painter Janet Venn-Brown – a dedicated artist and determined campaigner for Palestinian rights. Special Guests included Janet Venn-Brown Painter and Campaigner, HE Izzat Abdulhadi, Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific and Dr Peter Manning, Author of *Janet Venn Brown: A Life in Art*.

- **Canterbury Bankstown Connecting project** – With funding from Canterbury Bankstown Council under the Stronger Communities Fund, Council implemented the Canterbury Bankstown Connecting Project which aimed to identify ways that services across the newly merged two areas could connect and collaborate around community issues.

The project convened a series of four (4) forums across Canterbury Bankstown involving 61 people from 57 organisations and services. The forums facilitated conversations with the aim of: networking; learning about services and resources; drawing on commonalities through identifying shared history and stories; and delving deep into the issues that matter, keeping the community at the centre of all discussions and discoveries.

Over the course of the project, Council has documented the journey of the initiative including the shared history developed at the initial forum, *The Story of Canterbury Bankstown* as well as documentation of consultations, learnings and tools developed, which will be presented in 2018.

The project was a great success in not only fulfilling its aims of creating a space

for exploring adaptive leadership and collaboration, but also instigating new collaborations and connections beyond the project.

- **Positive Partnerships- Autism** – Council partnered with Diverse Werks to plan and deliver two (2) forums with the community and organisations to discuss Autism Spectrum Disorder with Arabic families and their support and health care centres. The forum assisted families to increase their knowledge regarding available supports and facilitated networking opportunities with local community and health providers. A radio interview with SBS was also conducted to raise awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder and invite parents and carers to seek information and support.
- **Zest Awards:** Council participated in the annual Western Sydney Community Forum’s (WSCF) Zest Awards event and Council’s CEO presented some of the winners. The CEO sits on the WSCF’s Board and is the Deputy Chairperson.
- **RESP** – Council in partnership with SSI, received funding to provide employment assistance to the refugees and provide capacity building and leadership skills to assist the refugees to find suitable employment. The project is still in its initial planning and consultation phase.

Taking a public stand

Council has taken a public stand on issues affecting the community through the media and by presenting at forums, conferences and other gatherings. For example, in September 2016, Council’s CEO Randa Kattan, delivered a keynote address at the Human Rights Commission highlighting issues about racism over the past 20 years.

Council also took a public stand on the government’s proposed citizenship laws, the drug testing trials in Canterbury and Bankstown and in supporting marriage equality together with other diverse groups.

Goal 6: Sustainability

Build a strong, representative and sustainable organisation.

This Strategic Goal highlights the importance of building the sustainability of Council to maintain its strength and representative role. It identifies measures such as identifying new funding models and services, developing the capability of staff and the maintenance of a healthy governance structure.

New funding models and services

Council scoped several new funding models and services. These include:

- **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) – Gateway Service Model** – Council undertook small-scale research and consultation in 2016 to see how it can continue to deliver and also expand the delivery of quality services to people with disability under the NDIS. The research resulted in two recommended service options including a social support function providing group and individual activities for people with a disability and a Plan Management service assisting clients to manage their NDIS funding and connect their supports.

To build on this research, with funding from SSI under their Future Ability Business Development Initiative, Council undertook further scoping and development to operationalise the Gateway Service model. This required undergoing a third-party verification process which resulted in receiving accreditation and registration with the NDIS in July 2017. It also involved:

- consulting with other services such as Woodville Alliance about the operational processes and their NDIS experience, as well as to identify referral pathways to inform the service model;
- providing information sessions to the Arabic speaking community (including Council's existing clients) in conjunction with local NDIS Local Area Coordinators;
- the review and update of all of Council's policies and procedures;

- development of all relevant client forms and brochures; and
- the provision of staff training.

The Gateway Service is now operational and provides accessible and culturally appropriate Support Coordination and Plan Management services to Arabic speaking people with disability and their carers.

Council also participated in the CALD engagement meeting at St Vincent De Paul Society in Bankstown and at the SWS Aged and Disability Interagency Forum.

Applications for Funding

Council continues to identify opportunities to grow its services and funding sources. Several funding applications for new projects were submitted during this period:

- Funding application for a grant partnership with SSI to work on the Refugee Employment Support Program (RESP). (Successful).
- Funding application to the Smith Family, Bankstown Communities for Children for the Stronger Connections: Families, Children and Communities Project (Successful).
- Funding application to Settlement Services International for SSI FutureAbility Business Development Initiative for NDIS readiness. (Successful)
- Funding application to Settlement Services International for SSI FutureAbility Business Development Initiative II for NDIS readiness. (Successful)
- Funding application to National Disability Services Quality Team for NDS Quality Subsidy. (Successful)
- Funding application to Community Building Partnership 2016 for renovation of Council's premises – Bankstown office. (Unsuccessful)
- Funding application to Canterbury Bankstown Council Grants & Event Sponsorship for renovation of Council's premises. (Successful)
- Funding application to Road and Maritime Services for the following three programs: Senior Pedestrian Safety "Walking Safely", Graduated Licensing Scheme "Helping

Learners Drivers Become Safer Drivers” and Free fitting for child restraint seat “Child Car Seat Check”. (Successful)

- Funding application for the Resilient Communities Grant (Unsuccessful)
- Funding application for Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ELC) – ILC National Readiness Grants (Arability Project) (Awaiting response)
- Funding application to the Cancer Institute NSW Tobacco Control Grants 2016/2017. (Unsuccessful)
- Funding application to Multicultural NSW for Cross Cultural Awareness Engagement and Training project under 2016/17 Unity Grants Program. (Unsuccessful)
- Funding application to the Scanlon Foundation for the Connect, Upskill, Engage – Newly Arrived Migrants of Arabic Speaking Background under the Community Grants Expression of Interest 2016. (Successful)
- Funding applications to NSW Department of Education and Communities for Links to Learning – Year 9 to Year 10 students. (Unsuccessful)
- Funding application to Department of Family & Community Services for “Healthy Living Project” under Liveable Communities Grants 2016/17. (Unsuccessful)
- Funding application to the City of Canterbury Bankstown for “Canterbury Bankstown Connecting Project” under Canterbury Bankstown Stronger Communities Fund. (Successful)
- Tender to Breast Screening NSW with Cultural Partners for Breast Screening Community Engagement activities (Successful)
- Round 1 EOI to Women NSW under the Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund for the Connected Support for Migrants and Refugees in DFV. (Successful)
- Joint proposal with Advance Diversity and SSI to Women NSW, for the Multicultural Connected Pathways Project under the Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund. (Unsuccessful)

- Funding application to Department of Health, Commonwealth Home Support Programme (Successful)

Council Membership

Council’s membership ranges from individuals to community organisations interested in the successful settlement of Arab Australians. It includes people from a range of backgrounds, fields, age groups and religions. This membership provides Council with a cross section of views and ensures a broad representation of community’s interests.

Professional Development

Staff have attended various training to develop their skills and knowledge relating to a range of issues. The training attended includes:

- Action Research Training
- Aged care training by Western Sydney Community Forum.
- Site Readiness- Family Preservation and Restoration model
- Graduated Learners Scheme, Child Restraint Fitting and Walk Safely for seniors by RMS
- Digital EAPA training
- Financial counselling training and monthly supervision
- Gambling counselling monthly supervision
- Annual Financial Counselling Conference
- Annual National Association of Gambling Studies conference
- Journal Clubs at Sydney University Gambling Treatment Clinic
- Liquor and Gaming managers training
- Triple P level 5 accreditation
- NDIS Readiness training to staff and managers
- NAPCAN’s Love Bites Training
- Work and Development Order training by Legal Aid
- Induction gambling counselling training
- Money Minded Facilitator training
- Working with gender diverse young people and their families
- Female Genital Mutilation identification of risk training
- Youth engagement training
- Bankruptcy and the new laws
- Veda Advantage
- Cognitive deconstructional therapy

Capable Governance

In November 2016, a new Board was elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Board consists of 10 members and they collectively bring extensive and valuable knowledge, skills and experience to the Council. These include but are not limited to: management experience and major program implementation both within Government and the not-for-profit sectors in community services and health; extensive experience on Boards; private sector experience in business and legal sectors, education and training delivery; community development; advocacy for human rights and vulnerable groups, research, developing innovative initiatives such as the Australian Arab Business Network, Sydney Alliance and the Probono Medical Program for Asylum seekers and volunteer experience both in Australia and abroad.

These members are committed to social justice, promoting cross cultural dialogue, conflict resolution and working towards an equitable, fair, secular and transparent society where acceptance is achieved through dialogue and exchange of ideas and information.

The CEO and Public Officer for the Council, Randa Kattan provides a subsequent layer of capable governance with her skills and experience including: community leadership, organisational leadership, management of projects and programs within and outside the Arabic community and her experience on a range of high level and ministerial committees. Ms Kattan is passionate about social justice, the status of women and social inclusion and uses this passion to unite a dedicated team in the Council to meet Council's organisational objectives.



△ Parents and children during playgroup



△ Council staff, Ms Josette Bechara with children at playgroup



△ Graduating students of the Positive Parenting Programme (Triple P) with Council staff, Ms Hala Al-Duleimi (2nd left)



△ Members of the seniors group at an outing to Auburn Botanical Gardens



▷ Child Restraint Workshop



▷ Mt Druitt Seniors group - Quit Smoking session

▷ Children's activities at Council's stall during the Greenacre Family Fun Day



▷ Participants of the GLS Helping learner drivers become safer drivers Workshop with a staff member (right)

▷ Auburn Seniors group at the Bankstown Arts Centre's Night Sky

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present Council's audited financial report for the 2017 financial year. It provides an overall view of our financial position and performance for this period and includes the Auditor's statement, Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure and Cash flow statements in addition to Notes that form part of the accounts.

All Council projects have operated within budget and the audited financial statements have been forwarded to our funding bodies as required. We have maintained all of our government funding for the existing projects and Council's financial position remains positive.

The audited financial statements indicate a substantial increase attributed to consultancy fees in comparison to the previous year. This increase is relative to the newly funded initiatives that contracted consultants to research, set up and develop two major projects: the NDIS *FutureAbility Gateway* service and the domestic violence *Live Safe, Feel Safe* CALD community engagement and awareness strategy.

On behalf of Council, I thank all our funding bodies and government departments for their continued support and for recognising Council's important role in the community.

I thank our administration staff for their dedication and energy in undertaking Council's day-to-day tasks. I also would like to thank our Accountant Mr George Silvino for his sound advice and our Auditor, Mr Edward Chahoud, for finalising the audits.

I offer my warmest appreciation to our former Chairperson, Ms Fatima Ali, who had resigned earlier this year. Thank you to the acting Chairperson, Ms Mary Shalhoub, my fellow Board members, Council's staff and volunteers for their commitment, devotion and hard work.

This has been a vibrant and dynamic year in the life of Council; full of achievements yet with many challenges that continue to dare us to be different to cultural norms. Within this context, our CEO, Randa Kattan, injects into Council two main qualities – courage and bravery – which are “easier said than done”. Randa's leadership shapes Council's ever evolving culture as the only way forward to an inclusive future for all people.

Jamal Hamdan
Treasurer





Edward D. Chahoud
is a CPA Practice

Edward D. Chahoud B.Bus., CPA
CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANT

ABN 28 958 252 950

469 BURWOOD ROAD
BELMORE, N.S.W. 2192

TELEPHONE: (02) 9759 4676

FACSIMILE: (02) 9759 4676

EMAIL: edwardchahoud@bigpond.com

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

ABN 65 538 322 175

We have audited the accompanying special purpose financial report of **Arab Council Australia Inc.** which comprises the Balance sheet as at **30 June 2017**, the Income & Expenditure statement and cash flow statement for the year ended **30 June 2017**, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement of Board members.

The Board's Responsibility for the financial report

The Board is responsible for the preparation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the **Association Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)** and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Board's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining such internal control as they determine necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a fair presentation, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by [those charged with governance] as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Electronic publication of the audited financial report

It is our understanding that the Arab Council Australia Inc. intends to electronically present the audited financial report and auditor's report on its internet website. Responsibility for the electronic presentation of the financial report on the Arab Council Australia Inc. website is that of those charged with governance of the Arab Council Australia Inc. The security and controls over information on the website should be addressed by the Arab Council Australia Inc. to maintain the integrity of the data presented. The examination of the controls over the electronic presentation of audited financial report(s) on the Arab Council Australia Inc. website is beyond the scope of the audit of the financial report.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report

- 1) presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Arab Council Australia Inc. as at **30 June 2017** and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended on that date and
- 2) complies with Australian accounting standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Association Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW).

Basis of accounting and restriction on distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Board's reporting responsibilities under the constitution. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



Edward Chahoud, CPA 841305

Dated this 8th day of September 2017




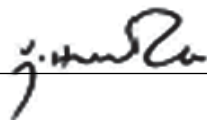
Arab Council Australia
المجلس العربي استراليا

Suite 2, Level 2 44-46 Mandarin Street, Fairfield East NSW 2165 Australia
PO Box 1103 Bankstown NSW 1885 Australia
Tel: +61 2 9709 4333 | Fax: +61 2 9709 2928 | Email: info@arabcouncil.org.au
www.arabcouncil.org.au
ABN 65 538 322 175

STATEMENT OF THE BOARD

In the opinion of the Board:

1. The accompanying financial statements have been drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of **ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INC.** as at **30th June 2017** and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.
3. All funds have been invested in accordance with the terms and conditions of funding agreements.
4. All funds have been expended in accordance with funding guidelines.
5. At the date of the statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

NAME OF MEMBER	SIGNATURE	DATE
Mary Shalhoub		16 Nov 2017
Jamal Hamdan		16 Nov 2017

ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

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Suite 2, Level 2 44-46 Mandarin Street, Fairfield East NSW 2165 Australia

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

Current Assets	2017	2016
C'wealth Bank a/c 062334 10737766	90,619.15	315,337.68
C'wealth Bank a/c 062334 10752309	231,175.41	229,479.41
C'wealth Bank Term deposit a/c 233450125705	98,720.89	96,010.18
C'wealth Bank Term deposit a/c 233450181694	17,714.13	-
Petty Cash	500.00	501.50
	<u>438,729.58</u>	<u>641,328.77</u>
Deposits	<u>5,434.00</u>	<u>9,579.60</u>
Total Assets	<u>444,163.58</u>	<u>650,908.37</u>
Current Liabilities		
Corporate Credit Card	376.75	1,214.60
GST payable	14,587.99	29,610.03
Superannuation Payable	8,463.68	11,569.31
PAYG Withholding	11,463.00	11,340.00
Provision for Program costs	87,397.09	22,294.14
Provision for Annual leave	60,000.00	15,174.55
Provision for Annual Leave Loading	12,000.00	10,793.57
Provision for Long Service Leave	30,363.87	-
Provision for Parental Leave & relief staff	-	5,296.80
Provision for Community Bus	7,000.00	10,017.36
Provision for Equipment	1,000.00	16,303.81
Provision for Relocation & Repairs	<u>36,071.21</u>	<u>96,512.44</u>
	<u>268,723.59</u>	<u>230,126.61</u>
Non Current Liabilities		
Provision for Long Service Leave	72,305.33	99,982.03
Provision for Program costs	25,000.00	13,263.19
Provision for Community Bus	<u>14,000.00</u>	<u>14,000.00</u>
	<u>111,305.33</u>	<u>127,245.22</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>380,028.92</u>	<u>357,371.83</u>
Net Assets	<u>64,134.66</u>	<u>293,536.54</u>

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

INCOME	2017	2016
Grants	note 2 1,215,134.22	1,178,324.65
Donations	30.00	630.00
Administration Charges	28,800.31	-
Centrelink Paid Parental Leave	2,762.13	-
Hall Hire	-	905.00
Interest	4,411.71	5,018.70
Membership	162.72	813.64
Other misc. receipts	8,138.05	3,546.26
Transfer from Provision-Program Costs	note 2 -	6,000.00
Management Charges	-	53,365.02
	<u>1,259,439.14</u>	<u>1,248,603.27</u>
EXPENSES		
Advertising - Staff recruitment & publicity	1,083.33	324.55
Annual leave Loading	10,213.97	9,451.92
Audit	4,945.00	4,450.00
Artwork & Design	920.00	-
Bank charges	1,867.44	1,258.43
Bookkeeping Fees	1,216.67	600.00
Books,reports & Resources	109.09	83.09
Bus running costs	8,035.56	11,938.87
Childcare	30.00	-
Cleaning	11,232.57	19,427.31
Computer purchase & maintenance	1,810.33	19,597.18
Conference	-	569.26
Consultancy & supervision	155,254.55	14,494.55
Electricity	8,775.48	11,434.57
Equipment Purchase & Hire	9,659.53	4,636.37
Food aid	10,419.17	3,680.08
General expenses	1.85	- 1.50
Hall and Venue Hire	3,201.80	1,877.72
Insurance - General & public liability	8,372.04	7,876.91
- Workers Compensation	15,421.14	16,205.49
Internet and networking	30,162.69	5,481.12
Management & Supervision Fees	6,730.83	3,174.83
Meeting exp.	8,605.47	6,427.93
Newspapers & Periodicals	76.18	413.82
Program activity costs	77,153.84	35,153.20
Postage	601.19	788.93
Printing	4,242.00	2,765.02
Rent	94,673.00	73,834.83
Repairs & maintenance	6,679.96	4,747.29
Salaries & Wages	878,018.42	758,060.70
Security	175.08	1,494.47
Staff Amenities	1,966.87	2,436.84
Stationery	2,789.59	2,787.70
Subscriptions & Membership	4,471.81	5,534.82
Superannuation	79,438.43	76,270.21
Telephone	29,499.23	14,817.64
Training	1,554.55	7,415.38
Travel	9,432.36	8,919.38
	<u>1,488,841.02</u>	<u>1,138,428.91</u>
Operating surplus / (deficit) for year	- 229,401.88	110,174.36
Brought Fwd Surplus/(Deficit) last year	293,536.24	183,361.88
Accumulated Surplus/Deficit @ 30.6.17	<u>64,134.36</u>	<u>293,536.24</u>

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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

2016	INFLOWS / (OUTFLOWS)	2017
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
1,243,585	Receipts Grants	1,255,027
1,246,076	Payments to suppliers & employees	1,462,038
<u>- 2,491</u>	Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>- 207,011</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
5,019	Interest received	4,412
-	Payment for property ,plant & equipment	-
<u>5,019</u>	Net cash used for investing	<u>4,412</u>
2,528	Net increase / (decrease) in cash held	- 202,599
638,801	Cash at beginning of reporting period	641,329
<u>641,329</u>	Cash at end of reporting period	<u>438,730</u>
RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO OPERATING PROFIT		
110,175	Operating profit after tax	- 229,402
	Add/(less) items classified as Non-operating activities	
5,019	Interest received	- 4,412
<u>105,156</u>	Cash derived from operating activities	<u>- 233,814</u>
	Add / (less) non cash items	
- 47,937	Provision for accrued leave	48,719
<u>57,219</u>		<u>- 185,095</u>
Changes in assets & liabilities		
-	Decrease / (Increase) in Deposits recoverable	4,146
901	(Decrease) / Increase in Corporate Credit Card Deposits p	- 838
21,366	(Decrease) / Increase in GST Payable	- 15,022
5,866	(Decrease) / Increase Superannuation Payable	- 3,106
2,226	(Decrease) / Increase PAYG withholding	123
- 93,037	(Decrease) / Increase in program costs	76,840
-	(Decrease) Increase in provision for relief staff	- 5,297
- 805	(Decrease) Increase in provision for community bus	- 3,017
4,676	(Decrease) / Increase in provision for equipment	- 15,304
- 902	(Decrease) / Increase in provision for Relocation & repairs	- 60,441
<u>- 2,490</u>	Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>- 207,011</u>



Arab Council Australia
المجلس العربي استراليا

ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INC
ABN 65 538 322 175

NOTES TO & FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2017

NOTE 1. Statement of Accounting Policies

This special purpose financial report was prepared for distribution to the members to fulfill the Board's financial reporting requirements under the **Arab Council Australia Inc.** constitution and the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW).

The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Arab **Council Australia Inc.** constitution and with previous years and are, in the opinion of the Board, appropriate to meet the needs of members:

- (a) The financial report was prepared on a modified accrual basis of accounting, including the historical cost convention and the going concern assumption.
- (b) The requirements of accounting standards and other professional reporting requirements in Australia do not have mandatory applicability to **Arab Council Australia Inc.** because it is not a 'reporting entity'. The Board has, however, prepared the financial report in accordance with Australian accounting standards.

Fixed Assets are expensed fully in the financial year they are paid for.

A provision has been made in these Accounts for Statutory conferred employees' entitlements.

**NOTES TO & FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2017**

NOTE 2. GRANTS RECEIVED	2017	2016
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES		
1.Arabic Welfare Centre Co-ordinator	104,186	101,385
2.Child, Youth & Family Support Project	353,366	349,062
DEPARTMENT OF GAMING & RACING		
1.Problem Gambling - South west Sydney	115,086	189,060
2.Problem Gambling - Coastal Sydney	48,702	80,010
3.Problem Gambling - Western Sydney	48,483	79,648
CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN COUNCIL		
Canterbury Bankstown Connecting Project	50,000	-
Better Community Better Future	5,000	-
LOCAL SOLUTIONS FUND		
1.Linked in Bankstown	-	6,727
DEPT. OF AGEING,DISABILITY & HOME CARE		
Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network	74,764	41,350
DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES		
Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network	167,039	139,213
Live Safe Feel Safe	75,000	75,000
DEPT. OF HEALTH		
Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network	6,564	-
THE SMITH FAMILY		
Stronger Connection:Family, Children & Communities	30,000	55,604
SETTLEMENT SERVICES INTERNATIONAL LTD		
Future Ability Projects Business Development Initiative 1	15,000	15,000
Future Ability Projects Business Development Initiative 2	35,000	-
Foster Carer	10,000	-
MINOR GRANTS		
Scanlon Foundation-Connect,Upskill,Engage	20,000	-
Cultural Partners- Breast Screening	20,000	-
NDS - Quality Subsidy	4,500	-
DSS - Volunteer Grant	-	4,310
RMS - Helping Learner Drivers Workshops	10,974	14,060
RMS - Child Restraint Workshops	10,849	8,861
RMS - Seniors Walking Safely Workshops	10,622	16,080
MHCS - Organ Tissue Donation Information	-	2,500
Club Grant- Dooley's Lidcombe	-	455
	<u>1,215,134</u>	<u>1,178,325</u>
Transfer from Provision for Program Costs		
Food Aid Project	-	<u>6,000</u>

ACCUMULATED FUNDS AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

Project Name		2017	2016
Links to Learning	2	-	0.32
General a/c	9	63,192.21	63,192.21
Problem Gambling - South West Sydney	10	-	38,362.00
Food Aid Project	16	-	10,419.17
RMS GLS Workshop	23	-	0.94
ADHC - Arabic Resources Project	35	-	477.45
Volunteer Grant	38	-	4,310.00
Fundraiser - Families & Elderly	41	5,247.45	5,247.45
Life Safe Feel Safe	101	-	75,000.00
Problem Gambling - Coastal Sydney	111	-	16,236.00
Problem Gambling - Western Sydney	112	-	16,162.00
Future Ability Project BDI 1	113	-	8,525.00
Future Ability Project BDI 2	114	- 35,000.00	-
Stronger Connection: Family, Child. & Comrr	119	- 5,000.00	55,604.00
Connecting Project	120	35,695.00	-
		<u>64,134.66</u>	<u>293,536.54</u>



Board of Management

Fatima Ali	Chairperson (Resigned July 2017)
Mary Shalhoub	Acting Chairperson (elected Deputy Chairperson)
Rita Almohty (Dr)	Deputy Chairperson
Ramzi Barnouti (Dr)	Acting Deputy Chairperson (elected Board Member)
Nicolai Haddad	Secretary
Jamal Hamdan	Treasurer
Rana Saab	Board Member
Wafa Jeha	Board Member
Amir Salem	Board Member
Imad Berro (Dr)	Board Member
Brian Mubarakib (Dr)	Board Member (Resigned July 2017)
Randa Kattan	Chief Executive Officer & Public Officer

Personnel

Randa Kattan	Chief Executive Officer & Public Officer
Pauline Oshana	Administration & Information Unit Manager (Resigned in Jul 2017. Started in 1997)
Hany El Helu	Communities & Business Development Manager (Jul 2016 – Resigned in Jun 2017. Started in 2006)
Randa Moussa	Direct Services Manager (Jul 2016 – May 2017) Communities and Business Development Manager (Jun 2017 – Resigned Sept 2017. Started in 2013)
Hiba Ayache	Problem Gambling Counsellor/Casework Officer (Apr 16 – May 2017) Direct Services Manager (May 2017 – present)
Zeinab Hourani	Problem Gambling Counsellor/Casework Officer (Mat Leave – Feb 2018)
Heshmat Shahid	Problem Gambling Counsellor/Casework Officer
Hala Alduleimi	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer Community & Business Development Manager (Sep 2017 – present)
Nena Al Bazi	Administration Officer (Sept 2012 – Jul 2017) Administration Unit Manager (Jul 2017 – present)
Zahia Charida	Canterbury Bankstown Connecting Project Manager (Apr 2017 – present)
Dallal Zonino	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (May 2017 – present)
Mary-Ely Bechara	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (May 2017 – present)
Wafa Ibrahim	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (Mat Leave – Feb 2018)
Djimi Barber	Gambling Counsellor/casework officer (May – Jul 2017) Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (Aug 2017 – present)
Fadi Nemme	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (Oct 2008 – Mar 2017)
Rhonda Issaoui	Community Care Coordinator (Feb 2013 – present)
Nehme Mrish	Community Bus Driver (May 2012 – present)

Jossette Bechara	Project Coordinator, Stronger connections; Families, Children and Communities (Nov 16 – present)
Rima Keyrouz	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (Apr 16 – May 2017)
Reem Khalil	Counsellor/Casework Officer (May 2017 – Present)
Souhaila Mourad	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (Jan 2017 – Jul 2017)
Sadie Arida	NDIS Support Coordinator (Oct 2017 – Present)
Ron Moukhallalti	On Call Casual Community Bus Driver (Jun 2017 – Present)

Consultants and Contractors

Robyn McEwan	Consultancy Services, Live Safe Feel Safe, NDIS Gateway Service and funding proposals
Lopitta Fares	Web Editing and Information Management
Nash Partners	Consultant Strategic Planning and proposals
Paul Porteous	Leadership Consultant, Linked in Bankstown and Canterbury Bankstown Connecting Projects

Volunteers

Rima Baba
Salwa Ayoub
Tony Krissakis

Students on Placements

Reem Khalil	ACAP
Matthew Hill	Jansen Newman Institute
Maryam Abulughud	Western Sydney University
Sadie Arida	Western Sydney University

Funding Bodies

NSW Family & Community Services – Community Services
NSW Family & Community Services – Ageing and Disability and Home Care through Uniting
NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing – Responsible Gambling Fund
Department of Social Services – Local Solutions Fund
Department of Social Services – Building Safe Communities for Women
Department of Health – Commonwealth Home Support Programme
Bankstown Region Communities for Children Facilitating Partner – The Smith Family
NSW Transport – Roads and Maritime Services
Canterbury Bankstown Council – Stronger Communities Fund
The Scanlon Foundation
Settlement Services International – Future Ability Business Development Initiative

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Arab Council Australia
المجلس العربي استراليا

- ▣ Suite 15/212 South Terrace
Bankstown Plaza
Bankstown NSW 2200 Australia
 - ▣ Suite 2, Level 2
44-46 Mandarin Street
Fairfield East NSW 2165 Australia
 - ▣ PO BOX 1103 Bankstown NSW 1885 Australia
- T** +61 2 9709 4333
F +61 2 9709 2928
E info@arabcouncil.org.au
W www.arabcouncil.org.au

