



Arab Council Australia Inc.

# Annual Report 2016



Arab Council Australia  
المجلس العربي استراليا

# The Council

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 businesses.

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 will always be Aboriginal land.

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▽ Council's Board, Ms Marcelle Mansour  
 ▽ AGM Chair and Hon David Clarke MLC (left)



Ms Naomi Klein – Canadian award-winning author, journalist, and activist presenting a lecture at the 2016 Sydney Peace Prize Ceremony in the Sydney Town Hall. Council's CEO was part of the Jury Panel that selected Ms Klein for this year's Prize ▽



▽ Guests and members at Council's 2015 AGM



▷ Representing Minister John Ajaka, the Hon David Clarke MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice launching Council's Strategic Plan 2016-2020



△ At the Australian Egyptian Council Forum Gala Dinner to honour Mr Nick Kaldas, APM. (L to R) Ms Natalie O'Brien; Hon Shaoquett Moselmani MLC, Ms Randa Kattan, CEO Arab Council Australia, Mr Nick Kaldas, APM, Former Deputy Police Commissioner; and Mr Hassan Moussa, President of Australian Arab Business Council

▽ Council's CEO with the Hon Jason Clare MP, at a Thank You Morning Tea for Volunteer Grant Recipients



# Chairperson's Message

I am pleased to present the Arab Council Australia's (*the Council*) Annual Report for 2016.

This was a busy year for the Council as we continued with our activities in support of our mandate to promote social inclusion and diversity, confront racism and provide a community voice. Building on the previous year's program, the Council worked tirelessly to deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate social services to address isolation, inequity, discrimination, poverty and hardship; to support building healthy, well-functioning, cohesive and productive communities and to advocate on issues affecting the community and promote a positive community image.

The Council has been proactive in voicing its concerns about the Government's Countering Violence Extremism policy. The continued rise of racism and Islamophobic discourse in addition to a number of divisive and toxic policy decisions have only exacerbated negative sentiments towards the Australian Arab and Muslim community. During this period, the Council has campaigned against racial discrimination and was represented at several fora addressing issues relating to gender equality, the role of Arab women in the West, youth and countering radicalisation, human rights and social justice.

This also has been another active year when Council continued to strengthen community relations across diverse groups and build on our well-established networks and existing ties with service providers and governments. We remain committed to improving the lives of the most vulnerable in our community with a focus on Arab Australians and predominantly newly arrived refugees and migrants. A recent example of this is when the Council joined the Australian Red Cross appeal to raise funds for humanitarian aid for the Syrian refugees.

In 2016, the Council moved premises and we are pleased to have secured the sites in Villawood and Bankstown enabling us to extend our level of outreach and presence in the community.

The Council is facing several challenges relating to membership and economic sustainability. The Board recognises that there is a need for the Council to develop new and more diverse sources of funds so that we can expand our level and range of services for those who benefit from its assistance.

Members are a core to the fabric of the Council and we need to make sure that our membership continues to grow and to be inclusive and eclectic. Hence 2017 will see a stepped-up campaign to grow our member base and their level of engagement.

We believe that the future is brighter given the level of the support of our members, our partners and most importantly the people and families we work with.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board for their vital contribution to the work of the Council.

I also would like to extend my thanks to our CEO, Ms Randa Kattan and Council staff for their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication during these difficult and challenging times.

**Fatima Ali**

*Chairperson*



Dr Imad Berro, Pathologist and Microbiologist as Returning Officer at Council's 2015 AGM

(L to R) Major Carolyn Harmer; Council's Chairperson, Ms Fatima Ali; Deputy Chairperson, Ms Mary Shalhoub; Ms Leigh Cleave, Fundraising & Communications Director at the Salvation Army, Red Shield Appeal 2016 Multicultural Launch

Council's CEO with Sen Lee Rhiannon, Mehreen Faruqi MP and women leaders from diverse backgrounds at the Greens Iftar in June 2016



Video of the Flash Mob performed in Parramatta by the iConnect Project's participants. Video was shown at Council's 2015 AGM

Ms Melissa Johnston, Principal of Granville South Creative and Performing Arts High School accepting a token of appreciation from Council for active involvement in the iConnect Project



Some of Council's Staff

2016 has presented itself as both a challenge and opportunity. The challenges stem from the continued difficult settlement issues that many of our communities encounter. These have been influenced by both local and international factors. On the home front, our community continues to bear the brunt of unchecked media and political discourse which consistently seeks to paint the community in ways which are far from reality. Arab Council Australia has been focussed on marshalling our resources to supporting our community through the continued development of direct services as well as representing the community's perspectives and aspirations in the broader dialogue around immigration, settlement, service provision, education and combating racism, bigotry and discrimination.

Mainstream discourse continues to evolve in ways which exposes our community to attacks by politically motivated and quite often ill-informed cohorts. Some of the characterisations are not new and they include charges of crime, poor integration, radicalisation – a panoply of adverse and dishonest labels. Virtually, all lack any empirical basis and much is driven by hysteria and a prevailing culture of blame and exclusion.

The debate around Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act (RDA) has reemerged with strident albeit politically motivated actors seeking to influence the community by inventing non-existent threats to free speech. The Council and other community groups have consistently rejected any moves to undermine the RDA and indeed we believe that there are no popular grounds for any watering down of the Act. The RDA does not restrict free speech – rather it merely puts into place a framework that seeks to protect the public and especially the vulnerable from inaccurate and inflammatory attacks. The campaign to maintain Section 18C of the Act is in full swing and we will expand maximal effort in preserving this critical protection.

We have been tireless in our advocacy and representation. We have been strategic as well reactive in how we address prevailing issues. We have been vocal in the media and regularly commented on key issues including countering violent extremism, the RDA and refugee resettlement. We have sought to balance the needs of the community for harmony and inclusivity whilst aggressively confronting racialised accusations and exclusionary politics. We maintained a high profile at key conferences and events whereby we ensured that the experience and desires of the community were presented factually and free of bias.

I am pleased to report that our exhaustive search for appropriate and practical premises has concluded with the relocation of the Council to new offices in Bankstown and Villawood. For practical as well as cost reasons, we have split our operations into the above-mentioned locations. We are already yielding productive outcomes from this move whereby our team is able to more efficiently service the community across multiple geographies. The Bankstown office will act as the frontline service delivery location whilst the key administrative, governance, community development and policy functions will operate from Villawood.

The Arab Council's 2020 Strategic Plan was launched in March 2016 and acts as a blueprint for our directions moving forward. Its key visions are those that promote social inclusion and justice. The 2020 Plan was formulated following extensive discussions and feedback sessions with Council members, key stakeholders board and staff. I am optimistic that we have the necessary resources and resolve to execute the plan in accordance with our timeline.



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

We anticipate and accept that challenges will continue to accrue and yet our achievements are numerous. Our services have continued to deliver strong results for the community and the people we serve - the families, the elderly and the young, the Arabic speaking community and those beyond. Some of these achievements are outlined in the pages of this report. I direct your attention to last financial year's report as well. The 2015 Annual report was produced in March 2016 therefore contains details about this period's activities. The information outlined in both these documents are truly worthy of your attention.

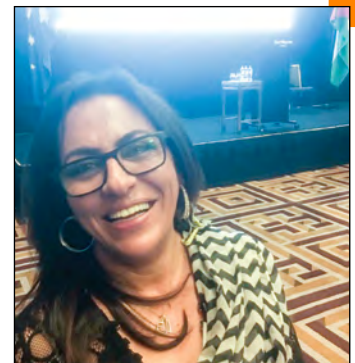
The Arab Council is a member driven organisation. We rely on the support of countless individuals, and organisations. For this, I say thank you. Thank you to our funding bodies for your confidence. We thank members of the media for the consistent support in promoting our services and causes. I thank the Council's members for your tireless commitment. Our openness, innovation and collaboration is what drives 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 deepest appreciation to the people and families we meet every day. I thank you for trusting us with your stories and your trials and tribulations. You are what inspire and drive us to help build the resilience and tenacity for a brighter and better future.

This organisation cannot serve the community without the commitment of our Board, staff and volunteers. My thanks go to each staff member and volunteer for your professionalism, hard work and dedication. My sincere gratitude goes to the Chairperson, Ms Fatima Ali 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 a cocktail reception celebrating Palestine National Day (L to R) Council's CEO, Ms Randa Kattan; Mr Hassan Moussa; Mr Eddie Zananiri and H.E. Izzat Abdulhadi, Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific*



▷  
*Women's Leaders Forum and lunch with the Mayor of Bethlehem, Dr Vera Baboun*





# Key Achievements

*In March 2016, the Arab Council Australia launched its' Strategic Plan 2016-2020 which articulates our direction over the next five years with a vision of promoting inclusion and social justice. The Strategic Plan was the result of several months of consultations involving a members' survey, one-on-one interviews with stakeholders, as well as workshops with the Council Board and staff.*

*Although it is still too early to report achievements against the strategic plan, the goals have been used below to align the activities undertaken by the Council in 2015-2016. This is a new approach to the structure of the Council's Annual Report.*

## 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 the 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 could be achieved in part through expanding outreach services through new partnerships and locations.

The Council provided support and 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.

### Victims of Domestic and Family Violence

The Council secured federal funding to implement the Live Safe Feel Safe project which aims to increase the awareness of victims of domestic violence from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, particularly women and children, about existing services and programs with the view of preventing and reducing violence and increasing support to victims. It also aims to enhance coordination of service delivery and increase engagement between services and the broader community to improve outcomes for

domestic violence victims. Planning took place in 2015/16 with the project implementation to begin in late 2016 and to be rolled out over a 2-year period.

### People with a Disability

The Council continued to provide social support and Centre Based Day Care Services to people with a disability. They also provided support to carers caring for family members with an intellectual disability.

The Council is currently looking at trialling two service models under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to meet the needs of Arabic-speaking people with a disability. This is further explored under Goal 6.

### Older People

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

- **The Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network** which provided social support and information to older people of Arabic speaking backgrounds and their Carers in Auburn, Blacktown, Parramatta and Holroyd. Under the program over 100 participants met once a week to participate in activities and clients were provided transport to attend. Group activities included: outings, games such as bingo, gentle exercise, developing life skills, and education sessions. 25 education

sessions were held and covered a range of topics such as health and wellbeing, budgeting, gambling awareness, environmental protection and gardening, government services (i.e. Centrelink), 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.

One of the most significant achievement of the project this year was the development of the “Tell me about My Medicine” poster in English and Arabic detailing the correct ways to take medications. The resource was funded by Auburn Council and was distributed to seniors, General Practitioners (GPs), medical centres and chemists in the local area.

- **Housing support** – The 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** – The Council delivered 8 Walk Safely workshops in various Local Government Areas (LGAs) to build the skills and knowledge of older people from Arabic speaking backgrounds regarding road safety. Themes included road crossing risks and how to avoid accidents. The 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.

The Council also scoped the *Healthy Living project* and applied for funding under the Building Liveable Communities Grant to promote the benefits of healthy living to older Arabic Speaking people. It is envisaged that this will include evidence based promotional material distributed through community networks and services and through the Arabic and social media. Key messages will highlight the benefits of physical activity and good nutrition and the role of family and community in supporting older people to live healthy lives.

The project will identify health and fitness providers who run or maybe willing to run activities specifically for older Arabic speaking people and support them to promote, develop and trial and monitor culturally and linguistically appropriate programs.

### Carers

In partnership with CarerAssist, the 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 other Carers in similar circumstances. A group of 20 Carers met once a month and received valuable information on self-care and mental health first aid, education and shared their experiences as a Carer.



Walking Safety Workshop



The Parramatta seniors group at Blaxland Riverside Park

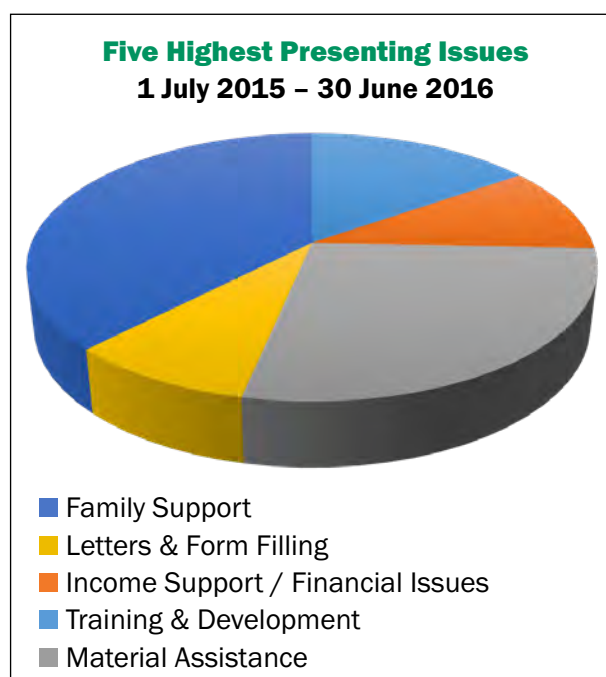
## Families

The Council supported 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 these included:

- **Family Support Service: Early Intervention and Placement Prevention Program** – The activities included:
  - Support and referral on issues such as child behavioural management, financial difficulties, employment, mental health and housing
  - Case management to young people and families who require additional and ongoing support to access appropriate services. This is provided for an average duration of three months
  - Parent support groups focusing on helping parents improve their capacity to build positive relationships with their children
  - Skills development groups for parents such as budgeting skills or cooking skills, or for youth such as social skills development and may include psychosocial support, relationship development, building connection with family and education
  - Home visiting where needed and include the provision of parenting information, family support and case management services.
- **Parents Support Group** – this involved providing information and building capacity relating to health, parenting skills and healthy lifestyle. Parents participated in several activities, training and events such as positive parenting, life skills workshops, International Women’s Day and Children’s Week Festival.
- **Casework, Advocacy and Referral** – this involved casework with families provided at the Council’s premises and in some cases in client’s homes in Bankstown, Liverpool and Fairfield LGAs. Staff assisted clients with their presenting issues and worked with them on achieving their goals. Clients provided positive feedback about the service they received and

their experience. The table below shows the presenting issues and the related number of occasions of service.

<b>Casework 1 Jul 2015 – 30 Jun 2016</b>	
<b>Issues</b>	<b>Occasion of Service</b>
Aged Care	24
Child Care	37
Domestic Violence	25
Education	90
Employment	49
English Classes	43
Family Support	224
Housing	89
Income Support / Financial Issues	153
Immigration & Settlement Issues	70
Mental Health	66
Legal	27
Material Assistance	406
Physical Health	32
Letters & Form Filling	132
Social Support	93
Training & Development	554
<b>Total</b>	<b>2114</b>





## Goal 2: Inclusion and Social Justice

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

This Strategic Goal focusses on increasing the participation of groups to engage in the community. This includes a strong focus on young people and assisting them to exercise leadership as well as to 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.

### “iConnect” Project

The Council worked with Granville South Creative and Performing Arts High School to deliver the *iConnect* project that engaged students from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds, their parents and the school community with the objective of enhancing harmony and unity within the local community. It did this by training students how to interview people based on the ‘appreciative inquiry method’ and then the students interviewed parents of their peers. Students then collected the stories and devised a public performance based on these stories. Through this program, students gained a deeper understanding of intergenerational issues and challenges faced by families that are from different cultures and religious groups.

### Combatting Racism and Discrimination

Throughout the year the Council collaborated with other organisations to speak out against racism and discrimination both generally and in relation to specific events. For example, the Council joined over 120 organisations to release a joint statement in response to the racism directed at former Australian of the Year Adam Goodes.

The Council also campaigned against the renewed push by some Federal politicians in mid-2016 to make changes to the Racial Discrimination Act.

The Council was prominent at conferences and other forums where issues relating to the community’s experience of racism and its harms were presented. Examples: The Inclusion Conference, the Influence Conference, the Rotary Club (Drummoyne) to name a few.

As one measure to increase the understanding of diversity and work to combat discrimination in Human Services, the Council applied for funding to develop a cross-cultural training package to raise the cultural awareness of service providers working with Arabic speaking clients. This is further explored under Goal 6.

## 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.

### Emergency Relief Services

The Council continued to deliver emergency relief services including Food Aid and the Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (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.

Emergency Relief Assistance 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016	
<b>Food Aid Project</b>	
Total number of families served	280
Total number of parcels given	1120
<b>EAPA vouchers</b>	
Total number of clients served	328
<b>Total number of vouchers given</b>	<b>1010</b>

### Gambling Help Recovery and Support

The 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 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 by control or complete abstinence.

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

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

<b>Gambling Help Recovery and Support 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016</b>	
Clients serviced	185
Families/Friends of clients serviced	35
Number of counselling sessions	999



Gambling awareness session in Holroyd

The service also participated in over 50 consultations and awareness raising events to engage with the community. There include but are not limited to:

- participating in St George Migrant Information Day
- consultations with the funding body on new training and professional development changes and on communications and promotions
- connecting with local businesses and local shoppers in Bankstown Central during the Responsible Gaming Awareness Week
- completing the ‘Walk in My Shoes’ program in Bankstown Sports Club by shadowing the Club Manager in gaming areas
- meeting with TAFE counsellors and exchanging ideas on how to best assist students with gambling problems
- participating in the Bankstown Homeless Connect Hub and speaking to clients and workers about our service
- meeting with the Community Managers of the Bulldogs Leagues Team to promote the service and its aims
- participating in the Bankstown Wellness Festival
- participating in the Bankstown Public School Services Expo
- promoting the service through Arabic media.
- presenting to newly arrived migrants at NAVITAS English Learning Centres raising awareness regarding problem gambling
- consulting with Community Corrections staff and achieving mutual understanding regarding client referrals and pathways and how to assist them in rehabilitation before and after their release from prison
- meeting with the Clubs NSW regarding the Third-Party Exclusion Scheme and its policies and processes so that the Council is equipped with the knowledge to better support families regarding their options.

## 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.

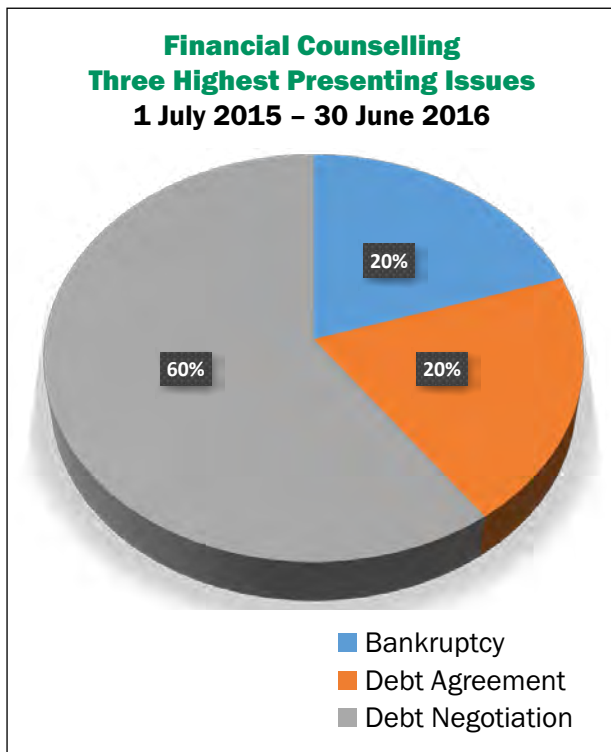
Services included:

- financial counselling and support 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.
- managing utility bills
- 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.

<b>Financial Counselling 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016</b>	
Clients serviced	48
Number of counselling sessions	122
Number of community education events	25



Twenty five (25) community engagement and awareness events were also provided by the Counsellors. These focussed on budgeting,

personal money plans, consumer credit laws, misuse of credit cards etc. and included:

<b>Community Education sessions</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Gambling and financial issues awareness for Arabic speaking community members in Western Sydney, Coastal and South West Sydney	166
Gambling and financial issues awareness on Arabic Radio (SBS, 2ME) for community members	10,000s
Gambling and financial issues awareness for Parramatta Community Corrections	40
Gambling and financial issues awareness for High School students in Auburn	200
Responsible Gambling Awareness Week event presentations to community in various locations in South West and Coastal Sydney	572
Responsible Gambling Awareness Week event Media Release	1000
Gambling issues forum presentations to community welfare workers and counsellors	369
Gambling issues community event presentations to community members	500

## Goal 4: Capacity Building

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

This Strategic Goal focusses on building the capacity of communities and achieving cohesive communities through strengthening connections and representation of Arab organisations and communities and through the provision of community building events and educational activities to build the capacity of 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

The Council ran events and educational activities using a strength- based approach to develop community capacity and address needs in the community. 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:

- **Physical Health program** – The Council organised fitness classes for women to assist them to integrate physical activity a part of their daily lives. This program aims to achieve health and social benefits including wellbeing and increased social connections.
- **Road Safety– Graduated Learner Scheme (GLS) and Child Restraints Workshops** – The Council ran eight (8) Graduated Learner Scheme (GLS) workshops which provided information to families, relatives or friends of learner drivers about laws and requirements to becoming safer drivers (81 participants in total). The Council also ran eight (8) Child Restraint Workshops delivered to families with young children 8 years of age or under (75 participants in total). The feedback was positive.



GLS workshop at Birrong Boys High School

- **Community Kitchen** – Our Community Kitchen at the Hub of Banksia Road Primary School has continued to operate for its third year where more parents have participated in cooking classes and other activities. The aim

of this project is 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 where they share the meals they have prepared in the community kitchen and practice their English language skills assisted by one of our staff. Group outings were also organised. Twenty six (26) classes have been conducted and attended by 179 parents/ carers. The feedback received was positive.

- **White Ribbon Day** – We partnered with several services in Bankstown to organise two events to Say No To Domestic Violence Against Women. The first one was a Tug O' War Cup in John Mackay Indoor Sports Centre where around two hundred (200) people attended. The second event was a musical showcase involving High School Students who performed at Bankstown train station. This was attended by one hundred (100) people at any one time with many passersby watching the event.
- **Parenting programs including Triple P in both English and Arabic language** – These seminars were aimed at parents/carers who have children in their care aged between 2 and 12 years. Several parenting styles were covered in these sessions which provided parents with information on how to address challenging and complex behaviours of children among other topics. The program has been delivered in several locations including Bankstown, Fairfield and Liverpool. We conducted eighteen (24) workshops conducted where and 43 parents participated and positive feedback was received.
- **Arabic Workers Network** – We continued to convene the Arabic Workers Network (AWN) which is a forum for workers from across NSW who either speak Arabic or work with the Arabic speaking community. The forum created greater awareness about issues affecting the Arabic speaking community in NSW and provided information to workers with the view of increasing access and equity to the community. The AWN also provided a forum that encouraged and promoted skills development and information exchange amongst members.
- **International Women's Day** – This year's theme was 'Pledge for Parity'. The Council celebrated International Women's day on two different days this year. The first was by holding

two stalls at the Banksia Road Public School event; one of the stalls hosted the Clever Cookie's women's group who ran a fundraiser by selling cupcakes they had baked; the other stall was for conducting art and craft sessions for children. The second day for this occasion included an excursion for our women's group ten (10), where they got involved in several educational, artistic and entertaining activities such as sewing, picking up medicinal plants and drawing.

- **Activities and Information sessions** – Based on the identified needs of families through both consultations and casework, the Council provided 106 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	81
Positive Parenting Program	Parents	43
Fitness Class	Parents	46
How to use food leftovers	Community	9
Child Restraint Workshop	Community	75
Introduction to ACA Services	Services	105
Art and Craft Workshop	Children	30
International Women's Day	Women	45
Better Parent as Grandparent	Grandparents	10
NDIS	Community	24
Open Day for homeless people	Community	100
Cooking Classes	Parents	179
Settlement	Community	10
Tug O' War Cup	Community	200
Show Case	Community	100
AWN	Workers	73

## Consultations and Advisory Role

The Council has continued to act as a resource and provided a consultative role relating to issues for Arabic speaking communities.

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

Advisory Groups, Representations, Partnerships
Australian Taxation Office
Bankstown Homelessness Connect
Bankstown TAFE
Bankstown Police
BCRG
CALD Stakeholder Resources and Communication Project with NSW Liquor and Gaming
Cancer Council of NSW
Canterbury Bankstown Migrant Interagency
Centerlink
Community Corrections NSW
Families NSW
Financial Counselling Association of Australia
Greenacre Area Community Centre
Multicultural HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis C Service
NAVITAS
NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service
PaintRead Bankstown
Salvation Army
SBS Radio, Arabic program
Settlement Services International
Smith Family
Sydney Alliance
TAFE NSW
Training & Induction for problem gambling counsellors in NSW Advisory Group
University of Sydney
Wellness Festival working party
Western Sydney University

<b>Networking, Consultations, Focus Groups</b>
Arabic Reference Group – ADHC
Arabic Workers Network
Auburn Girls High School
Bankstown Children and Families Hub
Bankstown City Council
Bankstown Public School
Banksia Road Public School
Benevolent Society
Catholic Care
Chester Hill North Public School
Clubs NSW
Condell Park Public School
Creating Links
Crisis Support Services
Fairfield High School
Family Relationship Centres
Department of Community Services
Georges Hall Public School
Legal Aid
Melkite Welfare Association
Mission Australia
Responsible Gambling Forums
Third Party Exclusion Scheme for NSW
Uniting Care Burnside

## 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 of the Arabic-speaking community.

The Council worked collaboratively with other agencies and across sectors on numerous initiatives, some of which are highlighted elsewhere in this report. Examples of collaborative approaches include:

## Collaborative Approaches

The 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.

The Council also participated on the HOPE Steering Committee with other NGOs and the Department of Health to identify effective ways to reach out to the Arabic speaking community to promote prevention and testing relating to Liver Cancer and Hep B.

The Council collaborated with the Liquor and Gaming NSW on the CALD stakeholder resources and communication project and provided input and identified effective and culturally appropriate advertising and campaigns resources.

In collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, on 2 May 2016, the Council hosted a lunch and a Women's Forum in honour of the Mayor of Bethlehem Dr Vera Baboun. This was an opportunity for some twenty key women leaders to meet with Dr Baboun and discuss the challenges facing Bethlehem and the Palestinian Territories, collaboration and cooperation on grassroots issues; gender equality and the role of women as leaders.

## Taking a Public Stand

The Council has also taken a public stand on issues affecting the community through the media and by presenting at forums, conferences and other gatherings. For example, in October 2015, Randa Kattan, CEO of the Council delivered a keynote address at the Ethnic Community Services Cooperative's Inclusion Conference Celebrating Diversity, about the importance of inclusion, diversity and collaborative practice and highlighted the discrimination and exclusion faced by the Arab community in Australia.



## Goal 6: Sustainability

*Build a strong, representative and sustainable organisation.*

This Strategic Goal highlights the importance of building the sustainability of the 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

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

- **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**
  - The Council undertook small-scale research and consultation to see how it can continue to deliver and at the same time expand the delivery of quality services to people with disability under the NDIS which is the new national scheme that provides supports to people with disability rolling out across New South Wales between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2018.

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.

It is envisaged that these services would benefit the Arabic-speaking community by providing accessible services in Arabic as well as connecting clients to services that provide culturally appropriate disability supports. This newly scoped role for the Council will also hopefully enable it to connect many people with disability in the Arabic speaking community to the required services that have traditionally not used them.

These services will be further scoped and operationalised in the coming year.

- **Cross Cultural Training** – The Council scoped a potential role and applied for funding to develop a cross-cultural training package and test and roll out to be able to eventually offer fee for service training to organisations that provide services to the Arabi-speaking community.

## 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 the Multicultural NSW COMPACT Grants Program 2015-16. (Unsuccessful)
- Funding application to Bankstown Communities for Children to provide parenting support through playgroups. (Successful)
- Funding application to the Department of Social Services to support the work of volunteers with seniors and in the Food Aid project. (Successful)
- Funding application to Settlement Services International for SSI Future Ability Business Development Initiative for NDIS readiness. (Successful)
- Funding application to National Disability Services Quality Team for NDS Quality Subsidy. (Successful)
- Funding application City of Canterbury Bankstown for the renovation of Council's premises - Bankstown office under the 2016-2017 Council Grants & Event Sponsorship. (Successful)
- Funding application to Community Building Partnership 2016 for renovation of Council's premises - Bankstown office. (Awaiting response)
- Funding application to Road and Maritime Services for 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 Sear Check". (Successful)
- Funding application to Multicultural NSW for Cross Cultural Awareness Engagement and Training project under 2016/17 Unity Grants Program. (Awaiting response)
- 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. (Awaiting response)
- Funding applications to NSW Department of Education and Communities for Links to Learning - Year 9 to Year 10 students. (Awaiting response)
- Funding application to Department of Family & Community Services for "Healthy Living Project" under Liveable Communities Grants

2016/17. (Awaiting response)

- Funding application to the City of Canterbury Bankstown for “Canterbury Bankstown Connecting Project” under Canterbury Bankstown Stronger Communities Fund. (Awaiting response)

## 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 the 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
- Child Protection Mandatory Reporting
- Child Restraint
- Graduated Learners Scheme
- NDIS Ready
- Foster Care Training
- Mental Health First Aid Course
- Financial counselling training and monthly supervision
- Gambling counselling monthly supervision
- Annual Financial Counselling Conference
- Liquor and Gaming managers training
- Bankruptcy and small businesses
- Disability awareness training
- Annual Gambling counselling conference
- Journal Clubs at Sydney University Gambling Treatment Clinic
- The role of attachment in adult recovery and trauma
- Managing performance supervision skills
- Dynamics of effective collaboration and networking with purpose
- Induction gambling counselling training
- Citrix online training
- National Association of Gambling Studies conference

- Working with survivors of sexual violence in the context of refugee trauma
- Veda Advantage
- When CBT fails: using schema therapy to formulate and overcome common roadblocks

Staff also participated in planning days including strategic planning.

The CEO undertook an Executive Coaching program Coaching Australia Pty Ltd and a Mediation Theory and Practice course with the University Of Sydney. Both courses lead to accreditation in the relevant fields.

## Capable Governance

In March 2015, a new Board of Management was elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Board consists of 11 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 the Council’s organisational objectives.

# Treasurers Report

I am pleased to present Council's audited financial report for the 2015/2016 financial year. It provides an overall picture of our financial position and performance for this period. It includes the Auditor's Statement, Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure and Cash Flow Statement in addition to Notes that form part of the accounts.

All Council's projects have operated within budget and the audited financial statements have been forwarded to our funding bodies as required.

During this financial year, we maintained the funding for our existing long term projects which include the problem gambling and financial counselling services, Child, Youth and Family Support services and the Community Builders. We have continued to apply for additional funding grants and been successful in receiving funds for a one year Playgroup project under the Communities for Children through The Smith Family and a two-year Domestic Violence project called Life Safe Feel Safe from the Department of Social Services. We have also received other small grants to run activities including funding to support volunteers and to run Organ and Tissue Donation Information sessions.

Two other grants we received this year were from Settlement Services International (SSI) for the NDIS Future Ability Business Development project and the second for developing a community education strategy and generating interest in Arabic Speaking communities to become authorised Foster Carer with SSI.

Our long-standing partnership with the NSW Roads and Maritime Services has continued and we entered a new funding agreement for the next financial year to deliver 30 workshops relating to the Graduated Learners Scheme, Walking Safely and Child Restraint.

Overall, the Council's net assets remain strong with total funds of \$293,526 which represents the proportion of assets in relation to liabilities further highlighting the strength of the current balance sheet. This financial position is particularly crucial to Council's relocation expenses to the new premises and which will require innovative revenue raising in the long term.

This is my last term as Treasurer of this organisation. I wish take this opportunity to Council have absolute confidence in its future directions; not just financially but in terms of its achievements.

Behind this great organisation are many people and organisations I wish to thank. My thanks and appreciation go to: our funding bodies for their continued trust and support; our administration staff for their work and dedication in the running the day-to-day tasks; our Accountant, Mr George Silvino for his advice; and to our Auditor, Mr Edward Chahoud, for finalising the audits.

Thank you to the Chairperson, fellow Board members, Council's professional staff and volunteers for their commitment, devotion and hard work throughout the year.

Last but by no means least, I wish to thank our CEO, Randa Kattan, for her leadership, energy and vision that are the drive behind the success of this organisation.

It has been a privilege to serve as Treasurer and I look forward to continuing my involvement with this Council and the very important work it undertakes in the community.

**Amir Salem**

*Treasurer*





Edward D. Chahoud  
is a CPA Practice

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

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**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 2016**, the income statement and cash flow statement for the year ended **30 June 2016**, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement of the Board of Management members.

***Responsibility for the financial report***

The Board of Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have 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 of Management's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining such internal control as they determine is 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 2016** 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 of Management'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 15th day of November 2016



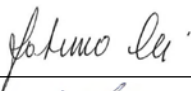

**Arab Council Australia**  
المجلس العربي استراليا

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Email: info@arabcouncil.org.au  
Website: www.arabcouncil.org.au  
ABN 65 538 322 175

## **STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

In the opinion of the Board of Management:

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 **30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016** 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 the 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
Fatima Ali		16 Nov 2016
Amir Salem		16 Nov 2016

# ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

ABN 65 538 322 175

Suite 2, Level 2, 44-46 Mandarin Street Villawood NSW 2163 Australia

PO BOX 1103 Bankstown NSW 2200 Australia

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## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Commonwealth Bank a/c 10737766	315,337.68	317,828.70
Commonwealth Bank a/c	229,479.41	226,416.36
Commonwealth Bank Term deposit a/c	96,010.18	94,054.53
Petty Cash	501.50	501.50
	<u>641,328.77</u>	<u>638,801.09</u>
Deposits	9,579.60	9,579.60
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>650,908.37</u>	<u>648,380.69</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Corporate Credit Card	1,214.60	314.00
GST payable	29,610.03	8,244.11
Superannuation Payable	11,569.31	5,703.67
PAYG Withholding	11,340.00	9,114.00
Provision for Program costs	22,294.14	128,594.35
Provision for Annual leave	15,174.55	65,924.90
Provision for Annual Leave Loading	10,793.57	11,693.57
Provision for Parental Leave & relief staff	5,296.80	5,296.80
Provision for Community Bus	10,017.36	24,822.59
Provision for Equipment	16,303.81	11,627.72
Provision for Relocation & Repairs	96,512.44	97,414.37
	<u>230,126.61</u>	<u>368,750.08</u>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	99,982.03	96,268.73
Provision for Program costs	13,263.19	-
Provision for Community Bus	14,000.00	-
	<u>127,245.22</u>	<u>96,268.73</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>357,371.83</u>	<u>465,018.81</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>293,536.54</u>	<u>183,361.88</u>

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## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

INCOME	2016	2015
Grants - Note 2	1,178,324.95	1,211,851.90
Donations	630.00	655.00
Administration Charges	-	1,222.99
Hall Hire	905.00	1,113.64
Interest	5,018.70	7,446.60
Membership	813.64	577.28
Other misc. receipts	3,546.26	3,053.55
Transfer from Provision-Program Costs - Note 2	6,000.00	16,500.00
Management Charges	53,365.02	-
	<u>1,248,603.57</u>	<u>1,242,420.96</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Advertising - Staff recruitment & publicity	324.55	872.73
Annual leave Loading	9,451.92	2,367.98
Audit	4,450.00	4,450.00
Bank charges	1,258.43	1,145.62
Bookkeeping Fees	600.00	640.00
Books,reports & Resources	83.09	145.45
Bus running costs	11,938.87	10,400.37
Childcare	-	218.18
Cleaning	19,427.31	19,700.61
Computer purchase & maintenance	19,597.18	13,936.00
Conference	569.26	-
Consultancy & supervision	14,494.55	28,944.18
Electricity	11,434.57	15,303.17
Equipment	4,636.37	214.45
Food aid	3,680.08	3,103.78
General expenses	- 1.50	0.14
Hall and Venue Hire	1,877.72	7,679.09
Insurance - General & public liability	7,876.91	7,592.53
- Workers Compensation	16,205.49	16,269.96
Internet	5,481.12	5,659.10
Management & Supervision Fees	3,174.83	-
Meeting exp.	6,427.93	5,853.06
Newspapers & Periodicals	413.82	366.54
Program activity costs	35,153.20	56,625.06
Postage	788.93	624.74
Printing	2,765.02	5,507.50
Rent	73,834.83	84,528.40
Repairs & maintenance	4,747.29	6,013.47
Salaries & Wages	758,060.70	827,973.64
Security	1,494.47	752.37
Staff Amenities	2,436.84	2,763.60
Stationery	2,787.70	2,246.19
Subscriptions & Membership	5,534.82	5,763.37
Superannuation	76,270.21	77,337.73
Telephone	14,817.64	17,780.87
Training	7,415.38	12,806.49
Travel	8,919.38	8,411.91
	<u>1,138,428.91</u>	<u>1,253,998.28</u>
Operating surplus / (deficit ) for year	<b>110,174.66</b>	- 11,577.32
Brought Fwd Surplus/(Deficit) last year	183,361.88	194,939.20
<b>Accumulated Surplus/Deficit @ 30.6.16</b>	<b><u>293,536.54</u></b>	<b><u>183,361.88</u></b>



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## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

2015	INFLOWS / (OUTFLOWS)	2016
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
1,234,974	Receipts Grants	1,243,585
1,224,348	Payments to suppliers & employees	1,246,076
<u>10,626</u>	Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>- 2,491</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
7,447	Interest received	5,019
-	Payment for property ,plant & equipment	-
<u>7,447</u>	Net cash used for investing	<u>5,019</u>
18,073	Net increase / (decrease) in cash held	2,528
620,728	Cash at beginning of reporting period	638,801
<u>638,801</u>	Cash at end of reporting period	<u>641,329</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO OPERATING PROFIT</b>		
- 11,577	Operating profit after tax	110,175
	Add/(less) items classified as Non-operating activities	
7,447	Interest received	- 5,019
<u>- 19,024</u>	<b>Cash derived from operating activities</b>	<u>105,156</u>
	Add / (less) non cash items	
21,692	Provision for accrued leave	- 47,937
<u>2,668</u>		<u>57,219</u>
<b>Changes in assets &amp; liabilities</b>		
314	(Decrease) / Increase in Corporate Credit Card Deposits p	901
- 5,184	(Decrease) / Increase in GST Payable	21,366
231	(Decrease) / Increase Superannuation Payable	5,866
- 8	(Decrease) / Increase PAYG withholding	2,226
5	(Decrease) / Increase Salary Packageing	-
- 5,721	(Decrease) / Increase in program costs	- 93,037
609	(Decrease) Increase in provision for relief staff	-
- 3,743	(Decrease) Increase in provision for community bus	- 805
-	(Decrease) / Increase in provision for equipment	4,676
21,456	(Decrease) / Increase in provision for Relocation & repairs-	902
<u>10,627</u>	Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>- 2,491</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 2016**

**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 all 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 2016**

<b>NOTE 2. GRANTS RECEIVED</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>		
1. Arabic Welfare Centre Co-ordinator	101,385	97,456
2. Child, Youth & Family Support Project	349,062	330,541
3. One Off Funding	-	5,196
<b>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES</b>		
Links To Learning	-	2,324
<b>DEPARTMENT OF GAMING &amp; RACING</b>		
1. Problem Gambling - South west Sydney	189,060	147,671
2. Problem Gambling - Coastal Sydney	80,010	62,493
3. Problem Gambling - Western Sydney	79,648	62,211
<b>MULTICULTURAL NSW</b>		
I Connect	-	30,000
<b>LOCAL SOLUTION FUND</b>		
Linked in Bankstown	6,727	131,000
<b>DEPARTMENT OF AGEING, DISABILITY &amp; HOME CARE &amp; DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES</b>		
Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network	180,563	298,951
<b>DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES</b>		
Life Safe Feel Safe	75,000	-
<b>THE SMITH FAMILY</b>		
Stronger Connection: Family, Children & Communities	55,604	-
<b>SETTLEMENT SERVICES INTERNATIONAL LTD</b>		
Future Ability Project's Business Development Initiative	15,000	-
<b>MINOR GRANTS</b>		
DSS - Volunteer Grant	4,310	
RMS - Helping Learner Drivers workshops	14,060	13,361
RMS - Child Restraint workshops	8,861	13,691
RMS - Seniors' Walking Safety workshops	16,080	13,956
MHCS - Organ Tissue Donation information session	2,500	-
Club Grants - Dooley's Lidcombe	455	-
MHCS - Health Week 2014	-	3,000
	<u><b>1,178,325</b></u>	<u><b>1,211,852</b></u>
<b>Transfer from Provision for Program Costs</b>		
Food Aid Project	6,000	16,500
	<u><b>6,000</b></u>	<u><b>16,500</b></u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS AS AT 30 JUNE 2016</b>		
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Links to Learning	2 0.32	811.32
Dept FACS - One Off Grant	5 -	5,195.59
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	14,077.23
RMS GLS Workshop	23 0.94	0.94
Imagine Bankstown	26 -	7,403.05
Youth Quiz 10	29 -	1,875.64
Website	30 -	300.02
ADHC - Arabic Resources Project	35 477.45	2,195.45
Volunteer Grant	38 4,310.00	-
Fundraiser - Families & Elderly	41 5,247.45	5,247.45
Life Safe Feel Safe	101 75,000.00	
Multicultural NSW - I Connect Project	106 -	30,000.00
Problem Gambling - Coastal Sydney	111 16,236.00	-
Problem Gambling - Western Sydney	112 16,162.00	-
Future Ability Project	113 8,525.00	-
Arabic Seniors Social & Information Network	116 -	59,790.25
Linked in Bankstown	117 -	6,727.27
Stronger Connection: Family, Child. & Communities	119 55,604.00	-
	<u><b>293,536.54</b></u>	<u><b>183,361.88</b></u>



## Board of Management

Fatima Ali	Chairperson
Jamal Hamdan	Deputy Chairperson
Mary Shalhoub	Deputy Chairperson
Amir Salem	Treasurer
Rita Almohty (Dr)	Secretary
Ramzi Barnouti (Dr)	Board Member
Nikolai Haddad	Board Member
Wafa Jeha	Board Member
Brian Mubaraki (Dr)	Board Member
Tia Sayed Hawli	Board Member
Randa Kattan	Chief Executive Officer & Public Officer

## Personnel

Randa Kattan	Chief Executive Officer & Public Officer
Pauline Oshana	Administration & Information Unit Manager
Hany El Helu	Strengthening Families Unit Manager Operations Manager (Dec 15 – Present)
Randa Moussa	Strengthening Communities Unit Manager
Hiba Ayache	Problem Gambling Counsellor/Casework Officer (Apr 16 – Present)
Zeinab Hourani	Problem Gambling Counsellor/Casework Officer
Zeinab Jawad	Problem Gambling Counsellor/Casework Officer (Aug 15 – Apr 16)
Heshmat Shahid	Problem Gambling Counsellor/Casework Officer
Hala Alduleimi	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer
Wafa Ibrahim	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer
Rima Keyrouz	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (Apr 16 – Present)
Lama Kilani	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (Mar 14 – Oct 15)
Fadi Nemme	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (On leave from Oct 16)
Rhonda Issaoui	Community Care Officer
Nehme Mrish	Community Bus Driver
Leonie Williams	Playgroup Coordinator (July 16 – Nov 16)
Jossette Bechara	Playgroup Coordinator (Nov 16 – Present)
Nena Al Bazi	Administration Officer
Maram Ismail	Project Officer – iConnect (Jul 15 – Oct 15) Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (Feb 13 – Jul 15)

## Consultants and Contractors

Lopitta Fares	Web Editing
Nash Partners	Consultancy Strategic Planning
Paul Porteous	Consultant, Linked In Bankstown Project
Paula Masselos	Consultant, funding proposal
Roxana Rascon	Consultancy Services, funding proposals
Westwood Spice	Consultancy, Evaluation Linked In Bankstown Project



## Volunteers

Zeinab Jawad  
Aya Alwan  
Tony Krissakis  
Bachar Wilio  
Nurjus Al-Modafer

## Students on Placements

Marwah Abbas	Bankstown Senior College
Rouqaya Habra	Bankstown Girls High School
Wafa Addouj	Beverly Hills Girls High School
Malak Asad	Beverly Hills Girls High School
Ayah Boussi	Beverly Hills Girls High School
Mariam Cheikhall	Beverly Hills Girls High School
Sarah Abbas	Beverly Hills Girls High School
Christina Saade	Holy Spirit College
Yasmin Darwiche	Wiley Park Girls High School
Haneen Zreika	Strathfield South High School
Rima Kaurouz	Bankstown TAFE
Slawa Ayoub	Macquarie Fields TAFE
Habiba Roshan	Think Education College
Hanan Osseili	University of Western Sydney

## 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  
Bankstown Region Communities for Children Facilitating Partner – The Smith Family  
NSW Transport – Roads and Maritime Services  
City of Canterbury Bankstown  
Multicultural NSW



*Celebrating International Women's Day*

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



## Arab Council Australia المجلس العربي استراليا

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