



Sydney, NSW, Thursday 31 March 2016

## Arab Council launches its five year Strategic Plan and elects a new Board

Arab Council Australia reconvened its 2015 Annual General Meeting today and launched its 2016- 2020 Strategic Plan. The meeting was attended by well over 90 distinguished guests and included government officials, representatives of community organisations and government departments; members of the media; colleagues and members of Council.

Council's Chairperson, Ms Fatima Ali presented information about the new Strategic Plan and said that in developing the Plan Council took a considered and a broad based approach which captured "the increasingly complex and challenging environment we find ourselves in while at the same time staying responsive to the emerging needs of the community".

Ms Fatima said that "Council plans to continue to advocate and to deliver the services that support the most vulnerable in our community. We also want to innovate, explore new partnerships and funding opportunities and to listen more to our members, workers and partners. Council's strategic direction for 2016 – 2020 include: expanding service delivery and advocacy to deal with the wellbeing of people in the community; promoting inclusion and social justice, access and equal opportunities for all; alleviating poverty and promoting greater equity for those in need; building capacity; and ensuring organisation sustainability".

The Strategic Plan was launched by the Hon David Clarke MLC, Member of the Legislative Council, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice and representing the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Multiculturalism the Hon John Ajaka. In launching the Strategic Plan, Mr. Clarke commended Council for the work it undertakes and for producing "this comprehensive and all encompassing plan that has a clear vision of inclusion and social justice".

The Strategic Plan was the result of several months of consultations involving members' survey, one-on-one interviews with stakeholders, as well as numerous sessions with the Board, Council staff and key partners. The Strategic Plan is available on Council's website.

In addition to the launch of the Strategic Plan, Council's 2015 AGM was reconvened at which the executives presented their reports about the work of the organisation and a Board of Management was elected. A list of Board members is attached.

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### Media Enquiries

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media release