



Arab Council Australia Inc.

Annual Report 2015



Arab Council Australia
المجلس العربي استراليا

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 this land was, is and will always 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

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T 02 9744 8979 F 02 9744 8032 E print@rmgregory.com.au W www.rmggregory.com.au

Council's Chairperson,
Ms Fatima Ali at
Council's 2014 AGM



The Hon Bob Carr interviewed by Journalist and Co-host of the
Ten Eyewitness News Mr Hugh Riminton at Council's 2014 AGM



With guests and
members at the
2014 AGM



Left to right:
Hajeh Maha Abdo,
CEO of United Muslim
Women's Association;
Ms Pam Batkin, WSCF
Chairperson; NSW
Premier Hon Mike
Baird; Council's CEO
and WSCF Deputy
Chair, Ms Randa
Kattan; Vice Chancellor
of Western Sydney
University, Prof Barney
Glover at the ZEST
Awards 2015



Council's CEO, Ms Randa Kattan presenting the
Keynote Address at the Inclusion Conference

Chairperson's Message

Today the Arab world is an area of vital concern to nations around the globe. The refugee crises, the mass displacement of Syrians, the loss of lives, destruction, and instability are catastrophic and tragic causing untold suffering to families and friends overseas and locally and impacted us in every aspect as peoples and as service providers.

During this period, Council stepped up its role in campaigning on several issues affecting the community including advocating with the Government to increase Australia's humanitarian intake from the Arab World in particular Syrian refugees. Moreover, Council has been proactive in voicing its concerns about the Government's Countering Violence Extremism policy. In particular, our attention was focussed on the limited genuine engagement with the Arab community by Government and the decisive narrative promulgated in the public discourse, which led once again to our community - Arab Australians in general and Muslim Australians in particular - becoming the centre of public attention facing an onslaught of negative commentary in the media and ugly racist incidents in the public space.

The Arab Australian identity has been an issue for some time, particularly so for young people. We believe however that the future is brighter given the level of maturity of people in our community including our youth who have taken on leadership roles in various fields.

Council has a strong base and platform to build from and the work it undertakes within its scarce resources is quite remarkable. Nevertheless, in this increasingly complex and challenging environment we find ourselves in and to meet the emerging needs of the community, a considered and a broad based approach was called for. Consequently, we embarked on reviewing our strategic plan and in developing Council's directions for the next five years. This work spanned over four months and involved members' survey, one-on-one interviews with stakeholders, as well as numerous sessions with the Board, Council staff and key partners. The outcome of these consultations culminated in the development of the Arab Council Australia Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

This Strategic Plan inspires us and reinforces the important role Council plays in encouraging and facilitating constructive dialogues within the community and between various sections of the broader community under these difficult circumstances. We will continue to work with all levels of government and the community to promote social inclusion, diversity and harmony. We remain committed to improving the lives of the most vulnerable in our community with a focus on Arab Australians particularly newly arrived refugees and migrants.

In my inaugural year as a Chair, I had the pleasure in serving the term with a highly committed Board. I would like to take the opportunity to thank each Board member for their support and efforts. I also would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Council staff for their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication during these difficult and challenging times.

Last, but not least I wish to thank our CEO, Ms Randa Kattan who continued tirelessly with her unwavering commitment and leadership to stand up for social justice.

Fatima Ali
Chairperson

▽ Council's Treasurer, Mr Amir Salem



▽ Members of Council's Board Mr Jamal Hamdan, Dr Ramzi Barnouti and Ms Wafa Jeha amongst guests and members



▽ Council staff: Ms Rhonda Issaoui, Ms Randa Moussa, Ms Wafa Ibrahim and Ms Lama Kilani and from the United Muslim Women's Association, Hajeh Wafa Zaim (2nd from right) at the 4 March 2015 Rally in Sydney



▽ Council's Rally Banners



△ Council's CEO presenting at the University of Sydney's 2015 International Women's Day Conference



△ Council staff with the Hon Bob Carr

Chief Executive Officer

This has most certainly been a year of numerous challenges for us as people and for this council. At a global level, the escalating conflicts have caused unimaginable suffering and mass displacement of people in search of a safer future. Locally, national security measures came to be at an all time high accompanied by harsher crackdowns on fast disappearing fundamental freedoms; the “us” and “them” rhetoric went from bad to worse; fast and furious and often apocalyptic fear mongering politics intensified. Meanwhile, Arab Australians struggled with the news and images of the colossal destruction and tragedies unfolding overseas while at the same time continued to face exclusion, racism and significant socio economic disadvantage on our shores.

During this period, we increased our campaigning and advocacy efforts. We were vocal in the media and regularly commented on the demonising narrative, government policies and on some complex and divisive issues, at the same time balancing the needs of the community for harmony and inclusivity. We were prominent in conferences presenting the unvarnished truth about our experience as a community during these challenging times. We were decisive and strong in raising our concerns about the Australian Government’s Countering Violent Extremism policy, the fear mongering politics and about the lack of any meaningful engagement with the community on these matters.

As an organisation with its roots and aspirations firmly embedded in the communities we serve, our task is not only to respond to the growing demand for our services and programs or to react to the increasing demand for media commentary and public discourse; but our task is to also ensure that we contribute to developing the resilience, health and cohesiveness of the community as a whole. From the services and programs we deliver to the way we deliver them and the partnerships we nurture and cherish, our goal is to always work together with others to achieve a society that is just and inclusive; a community that supports those who are disadvantaged and a community that is able to advocate for its own needs and aspirations.

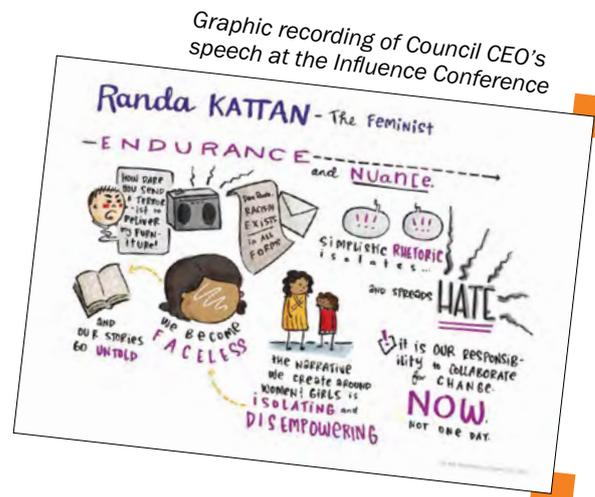
Consistent with our aspirations for building resilience and inclusion are a number of innovative projects and partnerships for which Council has long been recognised. Two such projects I will mention here.

- The first is our ground-breaking work on the Linked In Bankstown Project. Funded for two years

Presenting the keynote address at the Inclusion Conference



Graphic recording of Council CEO's Keynote Speech at the Inclusion Conference



Graphic recording of Council CEO's speech at the Influence Conference

until 30 June 2015, this project has engaged a wide range of local organisations to develop a better approach to community collaboration. Through a range of strategies such as regular facilitated forums and a leadership training program, the project achieved solid results; in that it built sustainable ways of using collaboration as a way of understanding, reframing and taking action on difficult issues. While the project funding has come to an end, the collaborating organisations have committed their own resources to continue in this space in the long term. (Please refer to the relevant section of this report for more information about the project).

- The second project is the IConnect. With one year funding from Multicultural NSW, we partnered with Granville South Creative and Performing Arts High School to build greater connections and unity amongst students, parents and the school community. Students and parents have been involved in some creative activities and have engaged deeply in learning, appreciating and digitally documenting each other's stories, gifts and talents thus helping build resilience we so yearn for. The project will come to a creative close at the end of March 2016 in the heart of Parramatta with a unity themed Flash Mob performance.

The creativity, energy and connections that have emerged from both these projects give us hope for a better future; a future that embraces and celebrates diversity in meaningful ways; a future that places the community and community building at the centre rather than individual groups self interest; and a brilliant future where we can truly say everyone belongs.

Our aspirations for an inclusive future are also reflected in our new Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020 which we embarked on in 2015. This year, we initiated a new process for the development of the Strategic Plan. We wanted to include diverse voices in this important planning tool. We facilitated consultations, surveys and interviews with our members, partners, our Board and staff and other key stakeholders to contribute to our future direction and strategic priorities for the next 5 years until 2020. The feedback we received was invaluable and incorporated into the final plan.

Going forward, our challenges are many. Not least of which is dealing with the current demonising climate and its impact on the community as well as strengthening our services for young people which took a hit during this period. After more than thirty years of running the youth projects, the Links to Learning Program's funding from the NSW Department of Education and Communities ceased on 31 December 2014. This is within a context of negative attention and targeting of Arab youth and the crucial need to keep this already disadvantaged cohort engaged in education and in meaningful initiatives. Though we greeted these cuts with deep disappointment, we remain unwavering in our mission to ensuring that vulnerable young people from our community receive the attention they need and deserve.

A task that has proven to be a lengthier process than anticipated has been the search for new alternative premises to house our offices. We have been searching for premises for over a year and have partnered with other community organisations with the intention to co-locate. And even with our combined budget allocations for rent, it appears that suitable and affordable premises in the Bankstown area are hard to come by. Nevertheless, we are hopeful that all our work and negotiations will produce the desired results.

While we anticipate and accept that challenges will continue, our achievements in this organisation are numerous. Our services continued to deliver strong results for the community and the people we serve - families, the elderly and the young, the Arabic speaking community and those beyond. Food Aid continues to deliver groceries to families in need and has faced significant demand as did the family services, financial counselling and problem gambling counselling services. All these and more are outlined in the pages of this report and are truly worthy of your attention.

As I reflect on the year, I am aware that we could not exist without the support of many individuals, and organisations. For this, I say thank you: to our funding bodies for your confidence in us; to the media for your consistent support in promoting our services and causes; to Council members for your commitment to this organisation; and to the many individuals and organisations we work with for your openness to collaborate, to innovate and to advocate for inclusion, social justice and human rights.

I offer warm regards to the people and families we meet every day. I thank you for trusting us with your stories and for inspiring us by your resilience and tenacity to build a better future.

It goes without saying that 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 dedication, professionalism and hard work. I extend sincere gratitude to the Chairperson, Ms Fatima Ali and the Board for your stewardship, commitment and unfaltering support. Council's standing in the community as a leading, inclusive and progressive organisation is a credit to you all.

Randa Kattan
CEO



A selfie with the Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr David Cameron MP; and Council Deputy Chairperson, Ms Mary Shalhoub



Inclusion Conference with former Play School presenter, singer and actress Ms Monica Trapaga who MCed the Conference



SBS 40 years Anniversary interview with Journalist, Ms Peggy Giakoumelos

Administration and Information

The Administration Unit plays a core part in the smooth operation of Council and continues to grow as Council's projects and activities expand.

The Unit is a hub of activity with Unit staff performing the necessary administration tasks which include general clerical and reception duties while managing a wide range of enquiries from within and outside Council. These enquiries ranged from inquiries about the Arab community, services in general and services about Council in particular such as: our two emergency relief services the Food Aid and the Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) Scheme, financial counseling and problem gambling counseling services to mention a few.

The Unit continued to revise and maintain a well resourced and up to date information database enabling staff to respond to requests efficiently in addition to providing clients, members, organisations and Board members with the required information.

In addition, the Unit provides administrative support to the Chief Executive Officer on a number of fronts. We also provide support to the Board by ensuring minutes of meetings and other governance records are maintained and up to date. A certain level of administrative support also extends to other Council Units with designing flyers, handling mail outs, budgeting, bookkeeping and reporting to funding bodies.

The Unit is responsible for monitoring the maintenance of Council's computers, furniture and other equipments. We continue to deal with services and goods suppliers and contractors from cleaners, security to electricians, IT consultants and to stationery and equipment providers. In all of our dealings, we always ensure that goods and services are cost effective, of high quality and environmentally friendly.

Our Unit liaised with agencies and groups enquiring about hiring our hall and library and ensured that requirements are met when holding activities (eg. workshops, training and information sessions etc).

Usage of Council Facilities 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015	
Type of Activity	Frequency
Major Events	8
Meetings	249
Training Sessions	16
Workshops, Sessions etc	53
Total	326



Police Induction Day

Emergency Relief Services

We continued to maintain all records for our two emergency relief services ie. Grocery parcels through the Food Aid Project and EAPA (Electricity and Gas assistance) vouchers.

1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015	
Food Aid Project	
Total number of families served	200
Total number of parcels given	800
EAPA vouchers	
Total number of clients served	351
Total number of vouchers given	980

1 July 2015 to 30 October 2015	
Food Aid Project	
Total number of families served	100
Total number of parcels	400
EAPA vouchers	
Total number of clients served	97
Total number of vouchers given	300

Accounting & Bookkeeping

We also continued to carry out the day-to-day financial bookkeeping which includes ensuring timely payments to suppliers, preparing wages, administering staff's salary packaging and allowances, maintaining the petty cash, preparing the taxation statements (BAS) and financial records as well as finalizing the books for yearly auditing. We also continued to monitor the various funding guidelines and agreements and provided information to the CEO on accountability requirements and deadlines.

Students on Placement & Volunteers

Our Unit is the first entry point for our valued volunteers and students on placements who have continued to play an integral part in our organisation. We have continued to liaise with Creating Brighter Career Connections (CBCC) to provide work experience and placement opportunities for students from high schools. We also received referrals from universities, TAFE and other education institutions for social sciences and welfare students. The names of students and volunteers are acknowledged in the relevant section of this report.

Thanks

We would like to thank Council's staff and Board members for all their work. We offer special thanks to the Treasurer Mr Amir Salem for his support and the Deputy Chairperson, Mr Jamal Hamdan for always being available.

The biggest thank you of all with deepest appreciation goes to our mentor, Ms Randa Kattan, the Chief Executive Officer. We thank her for her patience, understanding, guidance, encouragement, learning, and for her amazing leadership.

Pauline Oshana
Unit Manager

Nena Al-Bazi
Administration Officer

▷ Ms Chadia Gedeon Hajjar MC'ing Council's 2014 AGM



▷ Ms Rana Saab, Solicitor at Saab Law Group as Returning Officer at the 2014 AGM



▷ At the 2015 ZEST Awards supporting significant achievements and contributions of individuals and organisations



▷ Presenting at the 2015 Breast Cancer Network Australia Summit in Melbourne



▷ Left to right: Mr Samih Sayed representing AABC; Council's CEO; and Australia's Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr Glenn Miles at the Community Roundtable

▷ With the Race Discrimination Commissioner, Dr Tim Soutphommasane at the launch of his book "I'm Not Racist, but ..."

Linked in Bankstown Project

The Linked In Bankstown project was completed on 30 June 2015. It was a two year project that was funded under the *Better Futures, Local Solutions* initiative of the Australian government.

At the heart of the Linked In Bankstown was a desire to develop a better approach to community collaboration, building upon earlier work undertaken by the Arab Council Australia in a previous “Imagine Bankstown” project.

Consistent with its overall collaboration objective, the project practised collaboration from the outset. It engaged a wide range of local organisations and took a collaborative approach to the formulation of the model and the training, rather than just developing a paper model. This was achieved through regular leadership forums which took place with local agencies and service providers and several public forums with the community.

The forums helped develop the collaborative process as well as a training program and a community inventory of services, projects and networks. They also reinforced the value of the Collaborative Community Model and the enthusiasm within the sector for this approach. Key practicalities and hot issues were explored, diagnosed and underlying dynamics revealed that helped make sense of complex community problems and potential actions to improve partnerships and deepen relationships. This especially applies to the balance between policy/advocacy and service delivery with participating organisations expressing a new motivation to look at the longer implications of activities rather than just pursuing short term grants; which essentially shifts the focus away from “what is in it for me and my organisation” to broader questions of “what is best for the community”.



△ Linked In Bankstown Community Forum

A final tangible output of the project was a 32 page Community Collaboration Resource. The resource has been designed with the Bankstown community – joining both successful local practices and global best practice in collaborative leadership. It has also been designed to be able to be implemented by any citizen or organisation in Bankstown or elsewhere – so it focuses on being practical rather than complex long lists or theories. The resource is available on Council’s website.

The enthusiasm and commitment for the approach practiced in this project is evident on all fronts and is reflected in the final evaluation report. And while Linked in Bankstown came to an end on 30 June 2015, participating organisations committed their resources to continue in the collaboration space beyond the term of the funding.

Strengthening Communities Unit

The Strengthening Communities Unit role is to develop and implement projects and services aimed at strengthening communities. The following projects form parts of this Unit:

- *Gambling Help Recovery and Support Service including Financial Counselling, funded by NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing - Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF).*
- *Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network Project funded through Uniting Care by NSW Ageing, Disability & Home Care and the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.*
- *The IConnect project one year funded by Multicultural NSW*
- *Walking Safely workshops funded by the NSW Roads and Maritime Services*
- *Organ & Tissue Donation Multicultural Campaign project funded by Multicultural Communication Health Service*

Gambling Help Recovery and Support Service

This service offers the following:

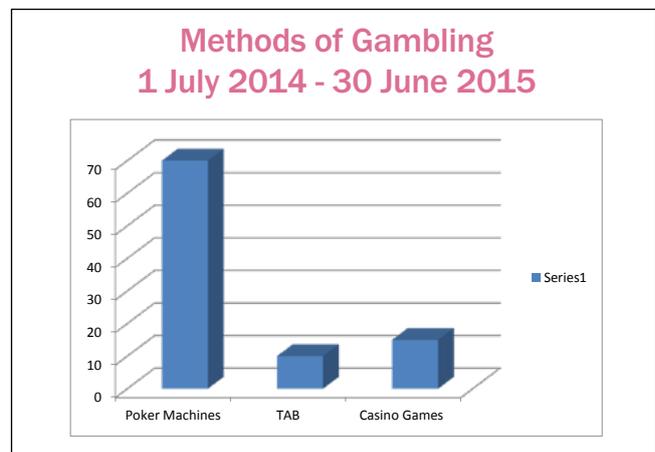
- Casework support to Arabic speaking individuals, their families and friends on gambling and other related issues (financial difficulties, relationships, mental health)
- Counselling using Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Mindfulness and Solution Focused Models as the main treatment therapies for clients and their families. Other therapy methods are also used depending on individual cases.
- Support Group to increase clients' mental health and wellbeing.
- Advocacy and referrals to relevant service providers.
- Cultural awareness training to clubs and other RGF funded services.
- Community education sessions to promote awareness about the impact of problem gambling.

Clients received face-to-face, telephone counselling and group support. A number of clients were referred to other Units within Council or to external service providers for further assistance related to issues on legal matters, mental illness, drug and alcohol counselling services, income support, etc.

Referrals were received from Gambling Helpline, Bankstown and Fairfield Probation and Parole, Centrelink, Multicultural Problem Gambling Service, South Western Sydney Mental Health service, Government and non-Government agencies, family and friends and self-referral.

1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015	
Total number of clients	143
Total number of Families/Friends of clients	27
Total number of counselling sessions	983
Total number of files closed	20

During this period, our service in partnership with Multicultural Problem Gambling Service provided eight cultural awareness training sessions to Bankstown Sports Club workers. The training



aimed to increase workers' knowledge and skills in providing culturally competent services and to identify and address patrons' issues by intervention or referral.

In addition, the service provided another cultural awareness training at Sydney University to RGF funded managers and staff at the "Multicultural Awareness and Competency in Treating Problem Gambling Conference" organised by Sydney University Gambling Treatment Clinic and MPGS. The training aimed at building counsellors' knowledge and skills when working with CALD clients and their families.

Service staff participated in the "Walk in My Shoes" program developed by Clubs NSW, to gain the opportunity to experience and appreciate the clubs managers' roles, and to closely observe gaming area environment and clients' interactions with electronic gaming machines.

Community Education related to Problem Gambling Counselling

Counsellors continued to conduct education sessions targeting the Arabic speaking background community. The topics covered were based on clients and community needs and on research conducted by universities and promotional campaigns developed by RGF. During this period over 25 information sessions were delivered with an overall 90 per cent positive feedback. The details of these sessions are listed in the table below covering both Problem Gambling and Financial Counselling topics.



Responsible Gambling Awareness Week at Miller TAFE

Community Education Sessions	Target group	Attendance
Impact of gambling on individuals and families- Bankstown Wellness Festival	Bankstown Community	538
Gambling and youths: Open Day Expo for the Responsible Gambling Awareness Week	Teachers, students and parents	300
Young people and gambling: Responsible Gambling Awareness Week presentation	Youth	40
Young people and gambling : Responsible Gambling Awareness Week presentations	Youth detainees	58
Impact of gambling on families and money management skills + Talking to Youths about Gambling: Responsible Gambling Awareness Week presentation	Parents	130
Technology Use in Gambling and Youth: Responsible Gambling Awareness Week presentation	Health workers, Government and non-Government workers	22
Information session at Auburn Library	Community	10
Impact of Gambling on families	Women	50
Introduction to problem gambling and available support at Bankstown NAVITAS	English language students from Arabic speaking background	192
Introduction to problem gambling and available supports at Fairfield NAVITAS	English language students from Arabic speaking background	101
Gambling consequences	Seniors	16

Promotion, Networking and Representation

The service was promoted through advertisements and media releases in Arabic newspapers such as Al Mustaqbal and El-Telegraph. In addition, four media interviews were conducted with the bilingual Counsellors: One by SBS' Arabic Program Sydney and Melbourne; two by Bankstown Community Radio 2BCAR for 45 minutes each; and one by Radio 2ME. The service was also promoted through the Gambling Hangover YouTube Channel in both Arabic and English which features our Counsellor in a video clip "Meet the Counsellor".

The service was actively involved in promoting the Responsible Gambling Awareness Week (RGAW) in May 2015 with the theme "Gambling and Young people". Activities included: presentations to young people from various organisations focusing on the impact of gambling addictions and on young people's relationships and future opportunities. Radio interviews were conducted with SBS and Radio 2Me to specifically raise awareness on the use of technology to gamble by young people eg. sports betting and casino online games as well as the support available to them and their families.

Staff attended various meetings during the year. The table below shows the types and purposes of meetings attended.

Meetings, Consultations etc	Purpose of Activity
Coastal Sydney RGF Forums & Western and South Western Sydney RGF Forums & CALD Stakeholders forum	To exchange information and build partnerships with services
NSW PG Counsellors Conference & Financial Counseling meetings at FCAN	Professional development and updates on the industry
'Walk in my Shoes" clubs NSW program with Bankstown Sports Club	Building relationships with local clubs
Club engagement collaboration committee meetings	Plan for relationship building with clubs
launch of the RGF Italian booklet "Help for Family and friends"	Participation and networking with counselling services
Launch of Aboriginal Gambling Help counseling training at Bankstown TAFE	Networking with Aboriginal services
St George Migrant Information day	Promotion of the service, networking and engaging the community
RGF launch of the 'You're Stronger Than You Think' in the parliament house, Sydney	RGF advertising campaign event launch
Kogarah Neighborhood Centre	To promote the service
GyMEA Interagency	To promote the service
CALD Stakeholders Forum	To exchange information and build partnerships with other services

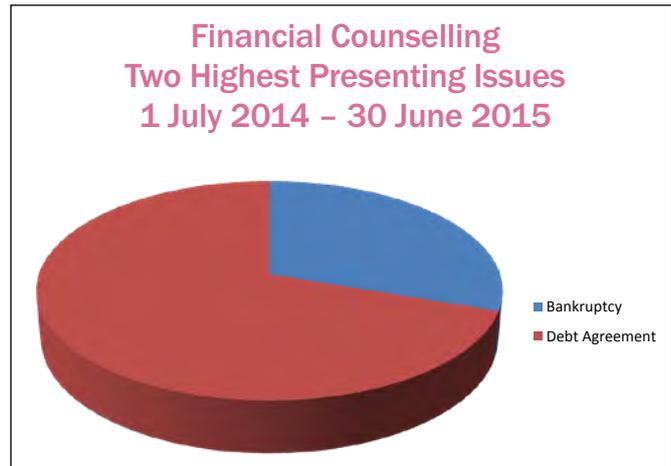
Financial Counselling Service

The Financial Counselling Service is 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 include:

- Financial counselling and casework support for individuals and families experiencing financial hardship.
- Negotiation with credit providers, government agencies and other services providers on client's behalf.
- Provision of information on credit laws, the debt recovery process, bankruptcy.

- Community Information sessions on budgeting techniques, money plans, consumer credit laws, bankruptcy, misuse of credit cards, contracts and the penalty involved plus other issues.
- Referrals to legal services, mental health and welfare services.

1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015	
Total number of clients	33
Total number of counselling sessions	285
Total of client's files closed	18



Community Education related to Financial Counselling

Community education sessions on financial literacy were delivered together with information about problem gambling with an overall 90 per cent positive feedback received. See the table on the previous page of this report titled “Community Education Sessions” which shows the sessions that were delivered during this period.



Gambling and Budgeting Awareness Session

Promotion, Networking and Representation

In addition to activities previously listed under the Gambling Help, the Financial Counselling service was promoted through advertising in Arabic Radio, Financial Counselling Association of NSW (FCAN) monthly meetings, and with service providers such as Mission Australia, Salvation Army and through the Council’s projects and networks.

Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network Project

This service provides social support and information to Arabic speaking background older people and their carers in four Local Government Areas (LGA) Auburn, Parramatta, Blacktown and Holroyd. Each of the groups meets once a week and clients are provided with transport to and from the respective community centre. Group activities provided to clients include gentle exercises, health talks, legal and general information, outings, games, arts and crafts etc.

Arabic Council Australia الجمعية العربية الأسترالية						
Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network Mount Druitt Group - Activity Plan for May 2015 (9709 4333)						
Date / Time	10:00-10:30	10:30-11:00	11:00-12:00	12:00-12:30	12:30-1:00	1:00-14:00
Friday 01/05/2015	Outing to: Cecil Park Wet Weather Plan: Morning Tea@MacDonalds Lunch: Penrith RSL club					
Friday 08/05/2015	Morning Tea	Gentle Exercise	Information Session Diabetes and prevention Presented by Multicultural Health Worker Mt Druitt Community Health.	Lunch	Mother's day history	Quiz: Spot the differences, Assorted Games
Friday 15/05/2015	Outing to: Parramatta Park Wet Weather Plan: Morning Tea@MacDonalds Lunch: Penrith RSL club					
Friday 22/05/2015	Morning Tea	Gentle Exercise	Information Session Diabetes and prevention Presented by Multicultural Health Worker Mt Druitt Community Health.	Lunch		Quiz: Spot the differences, Assorted Games
Friday 29/05/2015	Outing to: Cecil Park Wet Weather Plan: Morning Tea@MacDonalds Lunch: Seven Hills RSL Club					

Mt Druitt Group. May 2015 Activity Plan

Auburn Group	Blacktown Group	Holroyd Group	Parramatta Group
Meets every Wednesday at Auburn Centre for Community	Meets every Friday at the Mount Druitt Hub	Meets every Thursday at the Kiosk Merrylands Gardens	Meets every Monday at South Granville Community Centre

The main sources of referrals were from family and friends and community welfare organisations. The Council works in partnerships with the following local governments to run the groups ei. Holroyd, Auburn, Blacktown and Parramatta Councils.

This year the service undertook auditing by Uniting Care and recruited more clients to the groups. TARS participated in the deployment of Arabic Legal Tips cards resource funded by TARS.

Education Programs

Over forty sessions were organised for the ASSIN clients during this period. In addition to those outlined in the table below, the community care officer presented relevant topics on health, wellbeing and living skills.



Auburn Seniors Craft Activity

Program	Delivered by
Wills, Power of Attorney, Deceased Estate, Bullying, Advanced Care Directives, domestic harmony, Aged Rights Service, Administration and Enduring Guardianship	TARS
A six week Healthy Eating program which included information about Diabetes prevention and available services	Bilingual health educator from Mt Druitt Community Health Centre
How to make a Will	NSW Trustee & Guardian
Overview of the Department Of Justice NSW	NSW Department of Justice
Centrelink Payment changes for Elderly People and People on Disabilities Support Pension	Multicultural Services Department of Human Services
Arts and Craft training	Volunteer Art teacher
Tenancy, Shopping, and Scam	Office of Fair Trading
Composting and worm farming, Sustainable Living Project	Ethnic Communities Council of NSW
Community Garden	Ethnic Communities Council of NSW
Recycling of household items Sustainable Living Project	Ethnic Communities Council of NSW
Love Food Hate Waste Sustainable Living Project	Ethnic Communities Council of NSW
Depression and Anxiety in elderly people	Transcultural Mental Health Centre
Diabetes and prevention and available services	Blacktown Community Health centre
Seniors Week Celebration at Dooley's club with seniors from various cultural backgrounds; nominated Rita Gangi (Health Educator at Auburn Community Health centre) for Senior of the Year Awards	Auburn Council and Dooleys Club Lidcombe

Bridging the Gap for Seniors Program

The Auburn and Granville ASSIN groups participated and responded well to the "Bridging the Gap" program. This is a program that assists seniors from Arabic speaking background overcome social barriers and isolation.

Topics discussed included intergenerational differences that may complicate communications and changes and challenges that people from Arabic speaking background face in a new society and how to avoid social isolation which has negative impacts on health.

These changes are due to the increased migration and modernisation bringing a lot of social changes. Refugees and migrants have a low concept of the changes in society today, due to language barriers, and lack of communications that may affect them physically and emotionally.

Other topics discussed in the program: the differences in generations; ageing positively; Elder abuse; Falls; health management; Fitness; stress management & communications; positive relationships; domestic violence and mental health. This program was developed and delivered by Rita Gangi from the Auburn Community Health Centre.

Networking, Consultations and Representations for the Unit

The Unit continued to maintain links with government and non-government agencies and support networks in different LGAs. Staff actively participated in a number of relevant interagency meetings to build connections with services for the purposes of community development initiatives, further assisting our clients and providing relevant referrals. Other consultations and developmental activities that were conducted during this period include:

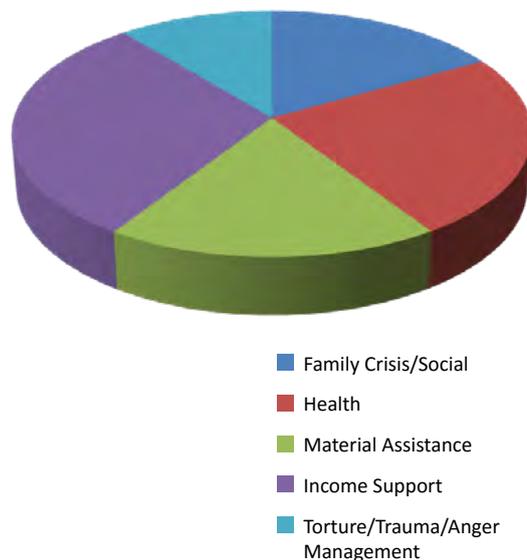
LGBTI consultation forum with Bankstown Council	To identify LGBTI needs and plan for services
National Day of Action	Participate in the 4March rally to voice our concerns on racism and funding cuts
International Women's Day	Introduction to Hamlin Fistula in Ethiopia and help provided by Australian women
St George and Sutherland shire MRC working group	Planning and Implementation of the "Working Together Forum" in St George TAFE and promotion of the service
Arabic DVD launch "Think Ability the power within", addressing Disability in the Arabic Community	Participation and networking with disability service providers
Timebanking meeting for managers.	Introduction to the Timebanking process and its Communities
Multilingual Information Stakeholders Forum "The Health Translation Debate, Human Versus Machine, Is there an option between?" organised by Multicultural Health Communication Service (MHCS)	Participate and provide feedback on the most effective ways to translations of health information to other languages
Translation of Disability services resources and advertisements	For the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care
The Mental Health Atlas consultation	Map the current service provisions in South West and West Sydney and identify gaps in service provisions
Consultation and feedback session with the Fair Work Ombudsman	The development of a training presentation for CALD workers in Australia
Focus Group of people of Arabic background with MHCS who met with a group	Discuss health issues related to doctor's visits and levels of comprehension
Consultation with TARS on developing a radio program in Arabic language for the Arabic speaking community	The radio program is part of the Borrowers Beware Project to increase awareness and capacity among Arabic and South Eastern European (Serbian, Macedonian, Croatian) older consumers of the risks of entering into financial products secured against their homes, and where they may obtain legal assistance

Additional Casework

The Unit continued to provide casework to individuals on a range of matters which are in addition to those mentioned previously in this report. The table below shows the occasion of service as they relate to presenting issues.

1 Jul 2014 – 30 Jun 2015	
Issues	Occasion of Service
Aged Care	256
Family Crisis/Social	459
Conflict Resolution	145
Education and training	35
Employment	17
Health	659
Housing	98
Material Assistance	506
Income Support	821
Learning English	21
Legal	118
Settlement Issues	85
Torture/Trauma/Anger Management	300
Advocacy/ Form filling	37
Total	3520

Five Highest Presenting Issues
1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015



Other Unit Initiatives

I Connect

The project aims to work with students and parents in Granville South Creative and Performing Arts High School to build and enhance connections and unity between the school and their local community. Appreciative enquiry skills training sessions were delivered to students by an experienced facilitator to build on their skills of positive communications.

Parents and students engaged in interviews and also in the planning and organising of performances during the school's 50th Anniversary in 2016. This is a one year project which will conclude at the end of March 2016.



I Connect Project – student interviewing a parent of his peer

Donate Life – Organ and Tissue Donation

The campaign is led by the Organ and Tissue Authority with the Donate Life Network and included presentations and a video of a real life story to people of Arabic speaking background. The presentations included information about what is involved in registering to donate and the discussions about one's decisions with family and friends. The presentations were funded by Multicultural Health Communication Service

Care for Carers

The project ran throughout 2014 and assisted carers in gaining opportunities to be part of a social group with other carers in similar circumstances. In 2015, The Unit in partnership with Carer Assist in Bankstown continued providing the same service and information to the carers despite the conclusion of funding for this project which had been initially provided by Bankstown City Council. Carers received valuable information on self-care and mental health education and took part in outings to local parks and cafes for light exercise and social networking.

Walking Safely Workshops for seniors

The Walking Safely Workshops assisted Arabic seniors in South, West and South West Sydney in gaining valuable knowledge and skills on road safety while crossing the roads. A total of eight sessions were delivered in various LGAs. Presentations included road crossing risks and how to avoid accidents and be safe at all times. The seniors enjoyed the discussions with the presenter. Seniors provided feedback on road safety issues particular to them which were communicated by staff to RMS for follow up.



Walking Safely Workshop for seniors

Mind Gallery Art Launch

Women from the seniors and Women's groups participated in a creative art workshop in October 2014 in the Bankstown Arts Centre which explored the importance of breast screening. The Unveiling of the final Art pieces took place in Parliament House Sydney at a launch organised by NSW Cancer Institute in March 2015. A total of 27 women attended and were provided with postcards of their Art works. One of the group members was a speaker at this event and delivered a short speech about her own experience with breast cancer, highlighting the importance of annual screenings for early diagnosis and prevention.



Women's Art Workshop for the Breast Screening campaign

Support to Seniors in Housing

Council has a longstanding partnership with Evolve Housing and Hume Housing. Both provide housing to older people of Arabic speaking background who are experiencing financial difficulties and health problems. The Unit provides support services to these tenants which are as follows:

- Case work
- Advocacy
- Providing appropriate referrals
- Assist clients to access mainstream services
- Home visits

Arab Workers Network

The Unit convenes 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 Arabic community. The AWN also provided a forum that encouraged and promoted skills development and information exchange amongst members. Some topics covered include: Child Safe Organisations, Department of Justice community services, Responsible Gambling Awareness Week, Domestic violence and legislations, strategic planning and AWN future directions.

Professional Development

Training attended by staff during this period:

Financial Counselling Training and monthly supervision	Seniors Network Forums professional development
Problem Gambling Monthly Supervision	Trauma and interventions strategies
Annual Financial Counselling 4 day Conference	Case notes and documentations
Annual Problem Gambling Counselling 2 day conference	Engaging young people and gambling
Grant writing workshop	Journal Club trainings at Sydney University
Working effectively in the problem gambling sector	RGF managers training on leadership skills
Assessment in the problem gambling sector	Mandatory Reporter Training
Legal Aid training “ Debt issues and Law for community sector	First Aid Training
Helping clients with credit and debt issues	NDIS for Community Workers
Fines and Work & Development Orders	Organ and Tissue Donation for facilitators
Linked In Bankstown Collaborative Leadership	Counseling clients with problem gambling issues



Seniors Mt Druitt exercise class



Art launch event at Parliament House

Parramatta Seniors Information session

Randa Moussa
Unit Manager

Heshmat Shahid
Problem Gambling and Financial Counsellor

Zeinab Hourani

Zeinab Jawad (Sep 15 – current)
Problem Gambling Counsellors

Rhonda Issaoui
ASSIN Community Care Officers

Nehme Mrish
ASSIN Community Bus Driver

Maram Ismail
I connect project officer (May 15 – Oct 15)

Hanan Ousseili
Student, University of Western Sydney

Salwa Ayoub
Student, Macquarie Fields TAFE

▽ At a Donate Life event with officials and guests



▽ Council Staff with the NSW Premier, Hon Mike Baird at the ZEST Awards 2015



▽ Police Induction Day at Council

▷ At the Commonwealth Bank Annual Iftar with officials and guests



▷ With other members of the NSW State Library's Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Advisory Board



▷ At the launch of the Canterbury Bankstown Multicultural Family Homelessness Support Service with Hon Victor Dominello, Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation (the then Minister of Citizenship and Communities)

Strengthening Families Unit

The Strengthening Families Unit provides assistance to Arabic speaking background families in the community. Client groups include children, youth, women and men. The Unit promotes social inclusion, wellbeing and advocacy by providing support services, casework and community development activities which are aimed at strengthening families. The main services provided by this unit are funded by the NSW Family and Community Services. Other funding received includes grants from the Roads and Maritime Services to run the Graduated Learners Scheme and Child Restraint workshops.

Early Intervention and Placement Prevention Program

Through this program, the unit delivers a range of activities to meet the needs of vulnerable children, young people and families and to ensure that children and young people have a safe and healthy start to life. Activities include:

- Support and referral on issues such as child behavioural management, financial difficulties, unemployment, 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 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.

Community Builders Program

Community Builders is a program that contributes to building stronger community by adopting a strengths-based approach, developing community capacity and alleviating disadvantage. Community Builders service activities covers:

- Community capacity building activities – include community workshops, community networks/groups and social inclusion programs and events.
- Community sector development activities – include organising skills/training program, resources development, community sector capacity building, sector planning, consultations workshops and partnership projects.



Fruit Picking Trip



Community Consultation about food waste



Cooking Class

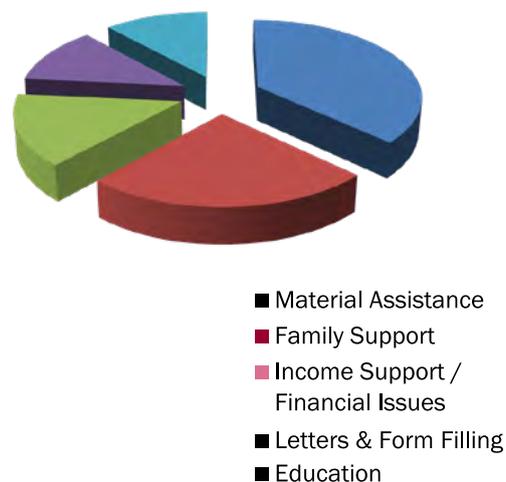
Casework And Case Management

Casework with families is provided at the council's premises and in some cases home visits are conducted in Bankstown, Liverpool and Fairfield LGAs. Staff assisted clients with their presenting issues and worked with them on achieving their goals. Approximately 10 percent of the clients have presented with complex cases which were case managed over a longer period.

Feedback from clients about the service they received and their experience was overwhelmingly positive.

1 Jul 2014 – 30 Jun 2015	
Issues	Occasion of Service
Aged Care	9
Child Care	29
Conflict Resolution	19
Domestic Violence	31
Drugs and Alcohol	12
Education	221
Training & Development	185
Employment	28
English Classes	26
Family Support	392
Physical Health	11
Mental Health	33
Housing	61
Immigration & Settlement Issues	49
Isolation and Alienation	115
Income Support / Financial Issues	223
Legal	34
Letters & Form Filling	178
Material Assistance	601
(EAPA & Food Aid)	556
Torture / Trauma	8
Total	2220

Five Highest Presenting Issues 1 Jul 2014 – 30 Jun 2015



Children's Reading Group

Case study

In 2015, a single mother with three children from an Arabic speaking background was referred to our Unit. The family was released from a detention centre some months back and was on a bridging visa. The client was a victim of domestic violence and was attending mental health counselling. She presented to our unit with a number of other concerns including ongoing financial difficulties, parenting issues, inability to travel and language barriers. The client was experiencing difficulty accessing programs and activities. She was isolated and had no support network in this new environment. The client was also concerned about the change of behaviour of her 9 year old daughter since residing in the

detention centre; the daughter had become increasingly anxious and attached to her mum where she does not leave her side.

With ongoing follow up and support by our case worker for a 6 months period, the client started to make changes in her life. She learnt and implemented techniques that gradually minimised her daughter's physical attachment to her. She joined a local parenting playgroup where they shared stories and learnt the importance of singing and playing with children. This helped the client develop her daughter's sounds, pictures and rhythms skills. The daughter came to socially interact with other children and the mother gained the opportunity to meet others mothers and share information about child learning and parenting. The client also joined free English conversation classes and developed basic language skills as well as friendships which increased her self esteem and sense of confidence. Our caseworker also assisted the client with her outstanding utility bills and helped her obtain other material support such as clothes and food parcels. Importantly, the casework provided the client with practical assistance in using public transport.

Community Development Activities

The Unit has participated in a number of community building and development initiatives throughout the year. A number of courses and activities been successfully delivered, some of these are included below:

Women's Groups

The women's group gained more information and experience on women's health issues, parenting skills and healthy lifestyle. They participated in a number of activities, trainings and occasions such as fitness training, support group, cooking and craft classes and International Women's Day celebration. They also participated in the Children's Week Festival where they joined their children in some of activities such as child and parent bonding reading sessions.

The women's group also participated in a community art workshop run by Cancer Institute NSW at Bankstown Arts Centre where the importance of receiving a mammogram every two years for women over 50 was discussed. Participants later incorporated the message "30 minutes every 2 years could save your life" into the artwork. This artwork was created to inspire other women within the community to understand the importance of getting a mammogram.

By the end of this year most women expressed more confidence, increased sense of self esteem and support as a result of their participation. The women have become a strong example of focusing on their strengths, talents and skills to achieve their goals.

International Women's day

Year 2015 theme was 'Make it happen' which focused on greater awareness of Women's Equality, more women's in leadership roles, increased financial independence of women, more women in science, engineering and technology as well as fairer recognition of women in sport. This year, Council took a different approach in celebrating International Women's day by holding the event at a local park where women participated in programs focusing on health and sports by exercising alongside a fitness instructor. Women were supplied with a healthy lunch, water, sunscreen and educational materials to encourage a healthy lifestyle approach.



Breast Cancer Awareness art class



International Women's Day

Reading Groups

A number of reading groups were conducted for children and parents to support early literacy development and to encourage parents to bond with their children. In addition, we took part in the planning of Bankstown City Council's Paint Bankstown REaD project and participated in the event that took place at Paul Keating Park in Bankstown where hundreds of people attended. The aim of this event was to encourage parents and children to read with a focus on children from birth and throughout primary school years.

Physical Health Program

We organised fitness classes for women to increase their awareness about the health and social benefits of making physical activity part of their daily lives. This was a highly popular program and continues to be in high demand. A total of thirty four (34) fitness classes were held and attended by 245 women.



Fitness Class

Knitting Classes

A short course has been conducted for women in order to give them the opportunity to learn basic knitting techniques such as knitting patterns, different yarns and their use, how to change ball of yarns, how to read a simple pattern and basic finishing. The course was very successful and was attended by 15 women. It was an opportunity for women to learn new skills and connect with others.

RMS Workshops – GLS and Child Restraint

We ran a total of 16 workshops during this period. These were: 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 (104 participants in total); Eight (8) Child Restraint Workshops delivered to families with young children 8 years of age or under (88 participants in total). The feedback we received was highly positive.



Child Restraint Workshop

Parenting programs including Triple P in both English and Arabic languages

These seminars were aimed at parents/carers who have children in their care aged between 2 and 12 years. A range of parenting styles was covered in these sessions which provided parents with information on how to address challenging and complex behaviours of children. The program has been delivered in a number of different locations from Bankstown, Fairfield and Liverpool. We conducted eighteen (18) workshops conducted where and 79 parents participated and positive feedback was received.



Some of the parents after a Triple P workshop

Clever Cookies Cooking Classes Program

The Clever Cookies Cooking Classes Program is run at the Banksia Road Primary School hub. The program is in its second year with more parents participating in cooking classes and other activities. The aim is to help parents overcome daily stress and isolation and to practise basic English. Each week during school terms, the parents learn 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 unit staff. Group outings were also organised. Activities have been filmed and included into a short educational film for future promotion. Twenty seven (27) classes have been conducted, attended by 161 parents and the feedback received was positive.



Parents during a Cooking Class

Youth workshops

We formed a partnership with Bankstown Police to deliver three workshops targeting high school students from different schools around Bankstown. The workshops covered the following topics: Motivation to success, Communication skills and Healthy Relationship skills. The workshops also explored the sense of belonging of young people, knowledge of and ability to seek out resources in the community, awareness of how their personal actions impact the larger communities. The intended outcomes from this workshop were to enhance young people's confidence and sense of self-worth in relation to their own physical and mental status, build quality relationships with adults and peers, develop their interpersonal skills and ability to build trust, how to handle and resolve conflict, listen actively, value differences and communicate effectively. Twenty students participated in the workshops and were very engaged.

Think Ability DVD and Disability Resources

As a member of the Arabic Reference Group on disability, we partnered with a number of organisations from South Western Sydney, Sydney and South Eastern Sydney regions including Metro Assist and the South Western Sydney District of the NSW Family and Community Services – Ageing, Disability and Home Care on the production of a DVD titled “Think Ability: The Power Within”. The video aims to raise awareness and address the stigma about disability as a barrier to social inclusion. The participants in the video were people with disability and their families and friends and included key community service providers and medical practitioners.



In addition, we worked on developing a webpage with information on disability services on our website. The webpage provides links to relevant organisations' websites and to already available resources on disability in the Arabic language.

Activities, Community Education and Information Sessions

Based on the identified needs of families through both consultations and casework, we have developed and provided educational projects and activities. During this period there were a total of 122 information sessions and/or activities which were held. 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	104
Healthy Workers are Happy Workers	Community workers	25
Family Week	Community	85
Positive Parenting Program Seminar	Parents	79
Fitness Class	Women's group	245
Sewing Class	Women's group	15
Child Restraint Workshop	Community	88
Introduction to ACA Services Presentation	Hubs, college and school students	23
Hepatitis B Workshop	Families/Community	11
Hepatitis C Workshop	Families/Community	16
Food waste Consultation	Women's group and Community	28
International Women's Day	Women's group	25
Community Reading Day	Community	120
Harmony Day	Community	15
Motivation to success	Youth	8
How to dispose Household Chemicals	Community	7
Child and Parent Bonding Reading Sessions	Parents	23
Bankstown Wellness Festival	Community	100
Healthy Relationship skills	Youth	9
Communication skills	Youth	9
Cooking Classes	Women's group	127
Community Mind Focus Group	Women's group	30
How to use food leftovers	Community	11
Domestic Violence Information Session	Women's group	9
Eat it to Beat it Information Session	Women's group	4

Healthy Relationships workshop





GLS workshop in Campbelltown



Eat it to Beat it

Partnerships, Promotion, Networking and Representation

Meetings, focus groups and consultations were conducted during the financial year where information was exchanged in order to increase networking with other services. Also community issues were addressed in order to raise awareness and create solutions.

Advisory groups, representations, partnerships
Australian Taxation Office
Bankstown TAFE
Bankstown Police
BCRG
Cancer Council of NSW
Canterbury Bankstown Migrant Interagency
Centerlink
Families NSW
Greenacre Neighbourhood Centre
Multicultural Health Communications
Multicultural HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis C Service
NAVITAS
PaintRead Bankstown
Salvation Army
SBS Radio, Arabic program
Settlement Services International
Smith family
Sydney Alliance
University of Western Sydney

Networking, consultations, focus groups
Arabic Reference Group
Arabic Workers Network
Auburn Girls High School
Bankstown Children and Families Hub
Bankstown City Council
Banksia Road Public School
Benevolent Society
Catholic Care
Chester Hill North Public School
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

Students and Work Experience

The Unit continues to provide opportunities for students from high schools, TAFE, colleges and universities to complete their work placements. During this period one welfare students from TAFE and 4 high school students completed their work placements with our unit and participated in unit projects and activities.

Professional Development

Staff have attended various training in order to develop their skills and knowledge on a range of issues including training related to working with children, youth and families. The training attended includes:

- Child Protection Mandatory Reporting
- Child Restraint
- Fundamentals of Appreciative Inquiry
- HSNet Road Show
- Graduated Learners Scheme
- Guiding Children Behaviour
- Linked In Bankstown
- Mental Health First Aid Course
- Mental Health Introductory Training
- Tobacco Cessation Training Skills



Children's art activity



Parents on a picnic outing

Hany El Helu
Unit Manager

Wafa Ibrahim
Child, Youth and Family Support Officer

Lama Kilani (Mar 14 - present)
Child, Youth and Family Support Officer

Hala Al Duleimi
Child, Youth and Family Support Officer

Maram Ismail (Jun 15 - Jul 15)
Child, Youth and Family Support Officer

Naziha AbdelKader (Jun 14 - Feb 15)
Child, Youth and Family Support Officer

Nada Miski (Aug 14 - Oct 14)
Child, Youth and Family Support Officer

Zizi Charida (Apr 14 - Jul 14)
Child, Youth and Family Support Officer



Breast Cancer Awareness art class

Links to Learning participants during one of the program's excursions



Staff, parents and children during a Reading and Bonding Session



Responsible Gambling Counsellors, Ms Zena Jawad and Mr Heshmat Shahid at the Auburn Girls High Expo



Responsible Gambling Counsellor, Ms Jawad at the Rockdale Migrant Information Day 2015

Council Staff with Professor Sahar Amer and Journalist, ABC Presenter Ms Linda Mottram



Council's CEO with other leaders at the Western Sydney Community Forum (WSCF) for the then CEO, Ms Mary Waterford's farewell

Youth and Leadership Unit

The Youth and Leadership unit works on developing and implementing projects that empower young people and develop their leadership skills through involvement in educational and social initiatives.

Links to Learning Program

This is the final report for our Links to Learning Program which concluded on 31 December 2014 as the funding to the NSW Department of Education and Communities was not successful. This is indeed a sad end to a very effective project that had been in operation for three decades. The cessation of this fund not only means that the expertise we have built over the years are not been utilised but that despite significant barriers to staying engaged in education, vulnerable young people from our community and other CALD groups are being underserved and disadvantaged.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all partner schools, teachers and students for their participation and contribution over the years. We are hopeful that future initiatives and funds will provide us with other opportunities to work together on ensuring that vulnerable young people receive the attention they need and deserve.

The Links to Learning (L2L) Program is designed to assist students at risk to re-engage with, or remain engaged with learning and return to their base school or to another agreed educational option at the end of their involvement with the program.

Our partner schools throughout 2014 in this program were Auburn Girls High, Belmore Boys High, Birrong Boys High and Punchbowl Boys High and we established a strong working relationship with each and every one of them. This and the fact that the program was integrated within existing in-school curriculum and support programs enabled partner schools to identify and refer the relevant students.

During this period, we worked with 71 students, 61 of whom completed the L2L program and 15,543 hours were delivered. The following tables show the services provided to the students Links to Learning from 1 July until 31 December 2014 (which is the date the project ended):

Service 1 Jul – 31 Dec 14	# of Participants	Occasion of service
Group Excursions	61	1
Group Workshops	61	8
Preparation and liaison	34	15
Individual support	61	122
Follow up	71	71
Literacy and Numeracy	71	51



Workshop with Auburn Girls High School students



Session with Belmore Boys High School students



Session with Birrong Boys High School students



Session with Punchbowl Boys High School students

Workshops

During the reporting period, a number of workshops were organised which assisted in developing cohesive relationships between participants and project staff and enhanced social interaction amongst students and other relevant stakeholders. The following workshops were delivered during this period:

Workshop	Service Provider	Objective
Anger Management	Arab Council Australia, Links to Learning Project	How to express self and share feelings and emotions respectfully.
Harm Minimisation	Multicultural HIV/ADIS & Hepatitis C Service	Build awareness & gain knowledge and understanding of Hepatitis C
Keep 'em' Safe	RailCorp	Create awareness about safety precautions needed to prevent injury or death
White Ribbon making	White Ribbon Ambassadors from Arab Council, Art Centre and LifeCare in Bankstown	Educate students in domestic violence against women and involving them in making white ribbons for White Ribbon Day.
Youth Step Up	Arab Council Australia, Links to Learning Project	Assistance for young people in identifying employment needs and skills

Links to Learning Graduation 2014

To conclude the year, the End of Year Graduation for the Links to Learning participants of 2014 was held at the Royal National Park - Georges River. The Graduation was an occasion to celebrate the achievements of sixty one participants who have made it right to the finish line.

These students enjoyed a social day at the park with sports activities and sausage sizzle followed by a graduation ceremony. The students were presented with Certificates of Achievement as an acknowledgment of their efforts, willingness to improve themselves, both academically and socially. Congratulations to all Participants of the L2L 2014!



△ On Graduation Day



△ L2L staff and students



L2L students playing soccer



Creative Art



Sausage Sizzle during Graduation Day

Local Advisory Group (LAG)

Although our funding applications for the 2015 – 2016 was not successful, a great deal of preparation was involved ahead of submitting the application. One of these requirements was to establish a Local Advisory Group (LAG) which we did. One of the LAG's aims was to work together with senior school staff to provide strategic direction and leadership for the L2L project. The LAG was a great opportunity to meet and form relationships with principals and/or delegates from potential partner schools and the meetings and discussions we had were quite useful leading up to the announcement of results. As the funding successful, the LAG did not continue to operate.



LAG meeting

Other Unit Services

The Youth & Leadership Unit also provided the following services to young people:

- Case work and Advocacy
- Referrals
- Support and supervision to students in work placement
- Liaison between students and educational institutions

In addition, we participated in assisting clients with emergency relief as follows:

Issues Jul 14 to Jul 15	Occasion of Service
Food Aid	30
EAPA Vouchers	43
Total	73

Networking, Consultations and Representations

During 2014 the Youth & Leadership Unit also participated in a number of advisory groups, meetings and networks, representations and partnerships. The following table shows the unit's involvement with other organisations:

Advisory groups, representation, partnerships	
Auburn Girls High School	Legal Aid NSW
Australian Department of Human Services	Melkite Catholic Welfare Association
Bankstown City Council	Multicultural HIV/ADIS & Hepatitis C Service
Bankstown Youth Development Service	Multicultural Youth Affairs Network NSW
BaptistCare	Muslim Women Association
Belmore Boys High School	NSW Police Force – Bankstown LAC
Benevolent Society	Punchbowl Boys High School
Birrong Boys High School	RailCorp
Birrong Public School	Settlement Services International
Chullora Public School	Sydney Alliance
Community Migrant Resource Centre	TAFE Western Sydney Institute
Department of Education & Communities	The Great Western Sydney Giants NRL
Granville East Public School	The Multicultural Network
Greenacre Area Community Centre	Unions NSW



Certificates of Achievement on Graduation Day

Fadi Nemme

Unit Manager (until Dec 14)

Hiba Ayache

Youth Development Officer (Until Dec 14)

Mariam Kourouche

Munther Al-Hinti

Project Officers/Tutors (Oct 12- Dec 14)

Dalie Mourad

Yasmine Sindian

Project Officers/Tutors (Mar 14- Dec 14)

▽ Managing Household Waste Community Consultation



▷ Child Restraint Workshop - Campbelltown



Mt Druitt Seniors' Group



▽ Auburn Seniors' Group



△ Holroyd Seniors' Group

△ Parramatta Seniors' Group

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present Council's audited financial report for the 2014/2015 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 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 most of our government funding for existing projects; problem gambling and financial counselling services and Child, Youth and Family Support services. Also, we have been successful in being granted funding for the IConnect Project from the Multicultural NSW until the March of 2016. We have also received other small grants to run activities including Mind Gallery Art, Multicultural Health Week 2014.

Our long standing partnership with the NSW Roads and Maritime Services has continued and we entered into a new funding agreement for the next financial year to deliver 24 workshops relating to the Graduated Learners Scheme, Walking Safely and Child Restraint.

Our two year funding for the Linked In Bankstown project concluded on 30 June 2015 with exceptionally outstanding results which will continue beyond the term of its funding.

You will note that Council's 2014/2015 audited financial statements shows total revenue of \$1,234,974M which is less than the \$1,338,994M recorded for 2013/2014. This decrease is directly related to our unsuccessful application for the 2015 Links to Learning Program from the Department of

Education and Communities. While this decision may be due to the Department's shifting priorities over recent years, the loss of this grant meant that sadly after close to three decades of providing this service we will no longer be able to support the educational needs of students at risk.

Overall however, Council's net assets remain strong with total funds of \$183,361, which represents the proportion of assets in relation to liabilities, further highlighting the strength of the current balance sheet.

I take this opportunity to thank our funding bodies for their continued support and for recognising the value of Council's services to communities.

My thanks to our administration staff for their work and dedication in the running of Council's day-to-day tasks. I also thank our Accountant, Mr George Silvino for his advice and our Auditor, Mr Edward Chahoud, for finalising the audits.

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

I am extremely proud of Council's achievements and express absolute confidence in its future directions particularly in light of our new five year strategic plan. Council is a leading organisation that continues to innovate and support the community. This is driven and guided by our incomparable CEO, Randa Kattan, whose leadership; efforts and commitment continue to inspire many within and outside the community. Randa is constantly building on our strengths, consistently raising the bar and leading the change with excellent support to the Board to reach its goals.

Amir Salem
Treasurer

FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Several funding applications for new projects were submitted during this period:

- Funding application for the Multicultural NSW COMPACT Grants Program 2015-16. (Awaiting response)
- Funding application to Scanlon foundation under Community Grants 2015 to provide support to Syrian Youth refugees. (Unsuccessful)
- Funding application to the NSW Family and Communities Services under the Youth Opportunities Program – Round 3 and Round 4 for a Youth Empowerment Project. (Unsuccessful)
- Funding application to the 2016 Medibank Community Grants program to promote a healthy lifestyle targeting young people. (Unsuccessful)
- Funding application to the Department of Social Services for the Building Safe Communities for Women grant under the Families and Communities Programme. (Successful)
- Funding application to Bankstown Communities for Children to provide parenting support through playgroups. (Awaiting response)
- Funding application to the 2015 Commonwealth Bank Community Grants program for a project to support young

students (8-12 year old) educational and behavioural needs. (Unsuccessful)

- Funding application to the 2015 NRMA Insurance Community Grants program to run safety and security workshops with older people. (Unsuccessful)
- Funding application to the NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service to conduct information talk as part of the Organ and Tissue Donation Campaign. (Successful)
- Funding application to the Department of Social Services to support the work of volunteers with seniors and in the Food Aid project. (Awaiting response)
- Funding application to DOOLEYS Club for 'Tell Me About My Medicine' promotion campaign for Arabic Seniors. (Successful)
- Funding application to the 2016 NSW Seniors Week grants program to run an activity during Seniors Week. (Unsuccessful)
- Funding application to the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW for a Unity Grant. (Successful)
- Three funding applications to NSW Department of Education and Communities for Links to Learning – Year 6 to Year 10 students. (Unsuccessful)



Edward D. Chahoud
is a CPA Practice

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

ABN 28 958 252 950

489 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 2015**, the income statement and cash flow statement for the year ended **30 June 2015**, 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 2015 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 9th day of November 2015



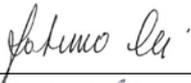
Arab Council Australia المجلس العربي استراليا

Level 1, 194 Stacey Street, Bankstown NSW 2200
Tel: 9709 4333 Fax: 9709 2928
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 **30th June, 2015** and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.
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		18 Nov 2015
Amir Salem		18 Nov 2015

ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA Inc.
ABN 65 538 322 175

Level 1, 194 STACEY STREET, BANKSTOWN NSW 2200
Tel 9709 4333 FAX 9709 2928

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

Current Assets	2015	2014
C'wealth Bank a/c 10737766	317,828.70	307,202.04
C'wealth Bank a/c	226,416.36	221,582.57
C'wealth Bank Term deposit a/c	94,054.53	91,441.72
Petty Cash	501.50	501.50
	<u>638,801.09</u>	<u>620,727.83</u>
Deposits	9,579.60	9,579.60
Total Assets	<u>648,380.69</u>	<u>630,307.43</u>
Current Liabilities		
Corporate Credit Card	314.00	-
GST payable	8,244.11	13,428.04
Superannuation Payable	5,703.67	5,472.46
PAYG Withholding	9,114.00	9,122.00
Salary Packaging	-	- 5.00
Provision for Program costs	128,594.35	134,315.35
Provision for Annual leave	65,924.90	62,915.90
Provision for Annual Leave Loading	11,693.57	11,011.49
Provision for Long Service Leave	96,268.73	78,267.99
Provision for Parental Leave & relief staff	5,296.80	4,688.04
Provision for Community Bus	24,822.59	28,565.87
Provision for Equipment	11,627.72	11,627.72
Provision for Relocation & Repairs	97,414.37	75,958.37
Total Liabilities	<u>465,018.81</u>	<u>435,368.23</u>
Net Assets	<u><u>183,361.88</u></u>	<u><u>194,939.20</u></u>

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

INCOME	2015	2014
Grants - Note 2	1,211,851.90	1,326,894.42
Donations	655.00	345.00
Administration Charges	1,222.99	-
Hall Hire	1,113.64	1,865.54
Interest	7,446.60	8,536.71
Membership	577.28	827.72
Other misc. receipts	3,053.55	1,415.91
Transfer from Provision-Program Costs - Note 2	16,500.00	7,000.00
Translations	-	645.45
	<u>1,242,420.96</u>	<u>1,347,530.75</u>
 EXPENSES		
Advertising - Staff recruitment & publicity	872.73	-
Annual leave Loading	2,367.98	-
Audit	4,450.00	3,900.00
Bank charges	1,145.62	1,134.23
Bookkeeping Fees	640.00	880.00
Books, reports & Resources	145.45	387.14
Bus running costs	10,400.37	10,822.40
Childcare	218.18	-
Cleaning	19,700.61	20,162.88
Computer purchase & maintenance	13,936.00	13,698.00
Consultancy & supervision	28,944.18	56,628.17
Electricity	15,303.17	16,927.00
Equipment	214.45	4,880.73
Food aid	3,103.78	5,052.64
General expenses	0.14	1.10
Hire of Equipment & Hall	7,679.09	3,141.81
Insurance - General & public liability	7,592.53	8,392.45
- Workers Compensation	16,269.96	18,000.61
Internet	5,659.10	5,777.28
Meeting exp.	5,853.06	6,115.70
Newspapers & Periodicals	366.54	342.45
Program activity costs	56,625.06	59,390.79
Postage	624.74	693.99
Printing	5,507.50	8,265.91
Rent	84,528.40	71,862.94
Repairs & maintenance	6,013.47	67,230.80
Salaries & Wages	827,973.64	834,927.87
Security	752.37	926.42
Staff Amenities	2,763.60	2,927.12
Stationery	2,246.19	2,416.00
Subscriptions	5,763.37	3,929.09
Superannuation	77,337.73	72,825.61
Telephone	17,780.87	16,398.33
Training	12,806.49	904.55
Translations	-	116.82
Travel	8,411.91	14,117.02
	<u>1,253,998.28</u>	<u>1,333,175.65</u>
Operating surplus / (deficit) for year	-	14,355.10
Brought Fwd Surplus/(Deficit) last year	194,939.20	180,584.10
Accumulated Surplus/Deficit @ 30.6.15	<u>183,361.88</u>	<u>194,939.20</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

2014	INFLOWS / (OUTFLOWS)	2015
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
1,338,994	Receipts Grants	1,234,974
1,242,106	Payments to suppliers & employees	1,224,348
<u>96,888</u>	Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>10,627</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
8,537	Interest received	7,447
-	Payment for property ,plant & equipment	-
<u>8,537</u>	Net cash used for investing	<u>7,447</u>
105,425	Net increase / (decrease) in cash held	18,073
<u>515,303</u>	Cash at beginning of reporting period	<u>620,728</u>
<u>620,728</u>	Cash at end of reporting period	<u>638,801</u>
RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO OPERATING PROFIT		
14,355	Operating profit after tax	-
	Add/(less) items classified as Non-operating activities	11,577
8,537	Interest received	7,447
<u>5,818</u>	Cash derived from operating activities	<u>-</u>
	Add / (less) non cash items	19,024
38,568	Provision for accrued leave	21,692
<u>44,386</u>		<u>2,668</u>
Changes in assets & liabilities		
-	(Decrease) / Increase in Corporate Credit Card Deposits paid	314
- 5,469	(Decrease) / Increase in GST Payable	- 5,184
576	(Decrease) / Increase Superannuation Payable	231
1,822	(Decrease) / Increase PAYG withholding	- 8
- 5	(Decrease) / Increase Salary Packageing	5
13,120	(Decrease) / Increase in program costs	- 5,721
1,142	(Decrease) Increase in provision for relief staff	609
- 5,965	(Decrease) Increase in provision for community bus	- 3,743
- 10,687	(Decrease) / Increase in provision for equipment	-
<u>57,967</u>	(Decrease) / Increase in provision for Relocation & repairs	<u>21,456</u>
<u>96,888</u>	Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>10,627</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 2015**

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 2015**

NOTE 2. GRANTS RECEIVED	2015	2014
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES		
1.Arabic Welfare Centre Co-ordinator	97,456	94,258
2.Child, Youth & Family Support Project	335,737	319,695
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES		
1.Links To Learning	2,324	198,397
DEPARTMENT OF GAMING & RACING		
1.Problem Gambling - South west Sydney	147,671	143,859
2.Problem Gambling - South west Sydney	62,493	60,880
3.Problem Gambling - South west Sydney	62,211	60,605
MULTICULTURAL NSW		
I Connect	30,000	-
LOCAL SOLUTION FUND		
1.Linkd in Bankstown	131,000	135,000
DEPT. OF AGEING,DISABILITY & HOME CARE		
Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network	298,951	256,271
MINOR GRANTS		
RMS - Helping Learner Drivers Project	13,361	13,588
RMS - Child Restraint workshop	13,691	17,346
RMS - Seniors Walking Safety Workshop	13,956	13,450
Bankstown City Council- LGBTI Project	-	4,500
Bankstown City Council-Care for carersProject	-	4,500
MHCS - Health Week 2014	3,000	-
ADHC - Arabic Resources Project	-	4,545
	<u>1,211,852</u>	<u>1,326,894</u>
Transfer from Provision for Program Costs		
Food Aid Project	16,500	7,000
Imagine Bankstown Project	-	-
	<u>16,500</u>	<u>7,000</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AS AT 30 JUNE 2015		
Project Name	2015	2014
Links to Learning	2 811	104,060
Child, Youth & Family Support	7 5,196	-
General a/c	9 63,192	63,192
Food Aid Project	16 14,077	2,192
Sydney Alliance	17 -	955
Imagine Bankstown	26 7,403	7,403
Youth Quiz 10	29 1,876	1,876
Website	30 300	300
ADHC - Arabic Resources Project	35 2,195	2,195
Bankstown City Council- LGBTI Project	36 -	3,058
Bankstown City Council-Care for carersP	37 -	4,460
Fundraiser - Families & Elderly	41 5,247	5,247
Multicultural NSW - I Connect Project	106 30,000	-
Arabic Seniors Social & Information Netw	116 59,790	-
Linked in Bankstown	117 -	-
	<u>183,361</u>	<u>194,938</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
Elias Jahshan	Board Member
Wafa Jeha	Board Member
Brian Mubarak (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) (Feb 15 – May 15)
Randa Moussa	Strengthening Communities Unit Manager Operations Manager (Jun 15 – Nov 15)
Fadi Nemme	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (OCT 15 – Present) Operations Manager (Jul 14 – Jan 15) ASSIN Project Manager (Jan 15 – Jun 15) Grants Development Manager (Jul 15 – Sep 15) Youth & Leadership Unit Manager (Apr 11 – Dec 14)
Heshmat Shahid	Problem Gambling Counsellor/Casework Officer
Zeinab Hourani	Problem Gambling Counsellor/Casework Officer
Zeinab Jawad	Problem Gambling Counsellor/Casework Officer (Started Aug 15 – Present)
Nena Al Bazi	Administration Officer
Rhonda Issaoui	Community Care Officer
Nehme Mrish	Community Bus Driver
Wafa Ibrahim	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer Acting Strengthening Families Unit Manager (Feb 14 – Feb 15)
Hala Alduleimi	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer
Hiba Ayache	Youth Development Officer (Maternity Leave from Dec 14)
Maram Ismail	Project Officer – I Connect (Jul 15 – Oct 15) Project Officer – Linked In Bankstown (Jan 15 – Jun 15) Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (Feb 13 – Jul 15)
Lama Kilani	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (Mar 14 – Oct 15)
Naziha Abelkader	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (Jun 14 – Feb 15)
Nada Miski	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (Aug 14 – Oct 14)

Consultants and Contractors

Lopitta Fares	Web Editing
Mohamad Mashkoor	Allware Technology, IT Services
Roxana Rascon	Consultancy Services, funding proposals
Paul Porteous	Consultant, Linked In Bankstown Project
Nash Partners	Consultancy Strategic Planning
Westwood Spice	Consultancy, Evaluation Linked In Bankstown Project

Volunteers

Razaq Al Ebadi
Saira Starr
Huda Jbeile
Zeinab Jawad
Eman Wehba
Aya Alwan
Tony Krissakis

Students on Placements

Susan Abdelhalem	Auburn Girls High School
Saafi Abdullahi Osman	Auburn Girls High School
Eli Eldahr	Holy Spirit College
Pierre Wahhab	La Salle Catholic College
Kahil Aicha	Wiley Park Girls High School
Malake Ali Ahmad	Wiley Park girls High School
Rima Kaurouz	Bankstown TAFE
Slawa Ayoub	Macquarie Fields TAEF
Hanan Osseili	University of Western Sydney

Funding Bodies

NSW Education and Communities
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
Multicultural NSW
NSW Transport - Roads and Maritime Services
Multicultural Health Communications Services

Two of the Auburn Seniors' Group members
at the Deepwater outing



Community Kitchen



Session with
the Mt Druitt
Seniors'
Group



Cake decorating class



GLS
workshop in
Canterbury



Walking
Safely
workshop in
Parramatta

▽ GLS workshop in St George



▽ Parents on a trip to the farm



▷ Two of the Holroyd Seniors Group members



▷ Members of the Parramatta Seniors' Group on a shopping trip

▷ Members of the Auburn Seniors' Group



▷ Some members of the Mt DrUITT Seniors' Group

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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Level 1, 194 Stacey Street
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PO Box 1103
Bankstown NSW 1885

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E info@arabcouncil.org.au

W www.arabcouncil.org.au

