



Arab Council Australia  
المجلس العربي استراليا

ANNUAL REPORT  
**2025**

## ABOUT US

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

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

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

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We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work. This land always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

We support the Palestinian people in the attainment of these human rights and to exercise their right to self-determination and national independence, free from persecution, genocide, and occupation. Palestinian sovereignty was never ceded.

We uphold the human rights of all people to live a life of dignity and peace.

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## Chairperson's Message



Council's CEO and Board at the 2024 AGM



Council Staff at 2024 AGM



(L -R) Guest and Members at 2024 AGM



2024 AGM Chair Fatima Ali



Special Guest Dr Randa Abdel Fattah



Then ACA Chairperson Rana Saab



Then Treasurer Jamal Hamdan at 2024 AGM



Council CEO with guests and members taking moment of silence in honour of the victims of the war on Palestine, Lebanon and Sudan

It is with great pleasure that I present Arab Council Australia's Annual Report for 2025.

This year has been one of growth, transition, and reflection for Arab Council Australia (Council). It has also been a year that reminded us of our shared humanity and the deep responsibility we hold to continue supporting our communities with integrity and strength. The ongoing crisis in Gaza, alongside growing social and political instability across the world, has reaffirmed the importance of advocating for dignity, justice, and inclusion for all.

Despite global challenges, Council has continued to thrive as a trusted organisation delivering programs that make a tangible difference. Our work this year has reflected both continuity and innovation, under the steadfast leadership of CEO, Hassan Moussa, and the commitment of our dedicated staff and volunteers.

Among the many achievements this year, the Sawa Buddy Program for newly arrived Palestinians stands out as a vital initiative that embodies Council's values of solidarity and community. The program connected newly arrived Palestinians with trained volunteer buddies for social, emotional, and practical support as they settle into life in Australia. Through friendship and guidance, participants have been able to navigate complex systems, access essential services, and feel a genuine sense of belonging.

However, the Sawa Buddy Program represents only a small part of what needs to be done. The scale of need among newly arrived Palestinians is significant, and while community organisations like ours have stepped forward, government responses continue to fall short of meeting the level of support required. Sustainable, coordinated, and adequately funded programs are essential to ensure all new arrivals can rebuild their lives with dignity and security. A major milestone for Council this year was the transition from an Incorporated Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee. This historic step marked the beginning of a new chapter in the organisation's 45-year journey. The change enables us to strengthen governance, expand our funding base, and enhance our capacity to support community well into the future.

We are also pleased to launch the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan this year. The plan builds on our achievements and sets a clear direction for the future. It strengthens our focus on equity, sustainability, and community empowerment, ensuring that Council remains responsive to the changing needs of our communities and the broader social landscape. As we move into this new strategic phase, Arab Council Australia will continue to:

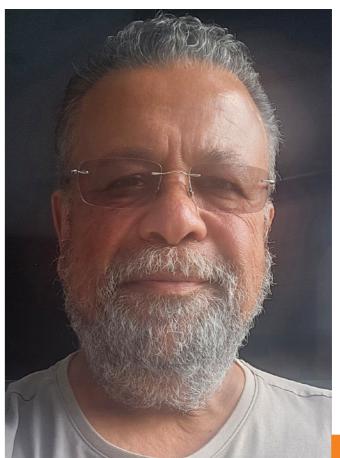
- Be a hub of support for families, young people, seniors, and vulnerable community members.
- Work in collaboration with partners, members, and local leaders.
- Innovate and advocate for a fair, just, and inclusive society.

I extend my deepest thanks to my colleagues on the Board for their guidance and commitment, to our CEO Hassan Moussa for his exceptional leadership, and to our dedicated staff for their professionalism and care. Together, they have ensured that Arab Council Australia remains a resilient, respected, and forward-looking organisation that continues to stand with its community through both triumphs and trials.

I thank all who have supported our mission and shared our vision of a more connected and inclusive society.

### Jamal Hamdan

Chairperson (Acting)



## CEO Report



2024 AGM's Returning Officer  
John Maait



Members voting on special resolutions



Guests at 2024 AGM



Board and Guests at 2024 AGM



Guest Author Reem Borrowes  
at 2024 AGM



Guest Author Fouad Charida  
at 2024 AGM



(L) Council CEO and (R) Staff at MLI's Our Common Future Summit 2025



Our DNA Community Information Session

Over the past twelve months, our organisation has been a hub of progress, collaboration, and impact. Guided by a shared vision and a strong commitment to meaningful change, we have continued to make significant strides across all areas of our work.

One of the most defining milestones of the year was our successful transition to becoming a fully established Company Limited by Guarantee. This achievement reflects not only our organisational maturity, but also our readiness to scale our impact in a sustainable and strategic way. This transition would not have been possible without the outstanding support of our pro bono legal team at HWL Ebsworth. My heartfelt thanks go to Laura Kilgour and Sandra Infante, under the tremendous leadership of Karen Keogh, for their meticulous and generous work. I also gratefully acknowledge the foundational contributions of my predecessor, Randa Kattan, whose vision and dedication laid the groundwork for this milestone.

Another key highlight has been the development and launch of our new five-year strategic plan. More than just a roadmap, this bold and aspirational framework will guide our priorities, shape our decisions, and anchor our values well into the future. It positions us to be more focused, more innovative, and more accountable to the communities we serve. I extend my sincere thanks to Reem Borrowes of Dreem Consulting for her thoughtful, timely, and expert guidance throughout this process.

Over the year, we deepened our engagement with some of the most pressing issues in our society. Our flagship programs—particularly in climate action and gender equality—gained renewed momentum, including the release of impactful, outcome-based reports. These reports not only inform stakeholders, but also drive action across sectors, highlighting our commitment to evidence-based advocacy and amplifying underrepresented voices.

At the grassroots level, our core programs continue to thrive. The Family Support Service and Seniors' Social Groups have expanded their reach, delivering high-quality care and connection where it's needed most. Our Health and Wellbeing Unit also launched two new initiatives—one focused on palliative care, and another promoting immunisation awareness. Despite lack of funding, our Sanadi (cancer support) volunteer group continues to grow, demonstrating the power of community-led action. We've also strengthened our evidence-informed approach by partnering in several university-led health research projects, building vital bridges between community insight and academic knowledge. Our community remains deeply impacted by the ongoing events in the Middle East. The senseless loss of innocent lives in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Libya, and Sudan is a tragedy that defies comprehension, leaving a profound emotional and moral impact. The live and active genocide in Gaza, in particular, resonates deeply with us, as we watch in horror and despair. The suffering and violence we witness are unbearable, yet the anguish is intensified by a concerted effort to silence our voices. There is an active campaign to discredit our morality and compassion, leaving many feeling powerless and ignored as we call for justice and accountability. The emotional toll of these events on the community in Australia is immense.

This year also marked the launch of our In-Conversation series—a platform fostering thought leadership, cross-sector collaboration, and deeper dialogue on issues of lasting impact. These sessions have sparked new ideas, strengthened partnerships, and reinforced our role as a convener and catalyst for change.

Recognising the importance of innovation, we established an AI Committee to explore how artificial intelligence can be applied positively within Council and community. Led by Secretary Akram Mardini and supported by a team of technical experts, this initiative reflects our forward-thinking approach. We also made a deliberate effort to amplify youth voices by dedicating an In-Conversation session entirely to young people. It was a vibrant event—by young people, for young people—meaningfully compered and shaped by the youth themselves. I'm especially grateful to Board Director Zizi Charida for championing this initiative.





Our visibility and influence have grown significantly. From active participation in national and regional networks to representation at major conferences and policy forums, we are ensuring our values and advocacy are heard in the places that matter most. The Community Update newsletter now reaches over 3,000 people, and with a refreshed website and growing social media presence, we're connecting with community in more dynamic and accessible ways than ever before.

This has been a year of strategic growth, deep reflection, and bold action. I'm incredibly proud of all that we have accomplished—thanks to the dedication of our staff, the leadership of our Board of Directors, the passion of our volunteers, and the trust of our funding bodies and of course the engagement from community.

As we look ahead, we do so with renewed confidence, a clear strategic vision, and a strong sense of shared purpose. We are not just responding to today's challenges—we are actively shaping a future that is more just, inclusive, and sustainable for all.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

**Hassan Moussa**

Chief Executive Officer



▲ Council's CEO with the Race Discrimination Commissioner and Community members at the National Press Club,



▲ Council's CEO with Sudanese community representatives at ACA's 2024 AGM



▼ Council's CEO with ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie and SSI CEO Violet Roumelliotis

# Key Achievements

This year marks the fifth and final year in ACA's Strategic Plan for 2021 to 2025 - our vision and direction in promoting inclusion and social justice. The activities outlined in this report reflect ACA's achievements against the strategic plan, and the goals have been used to align the activities undertaken during this reporting period.

## GOAL 1: Wellbeing

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

The Wellbeing goal encompasses ACA's work with specific client groups in the community. This strategic goal also embraces those occasions where ACA can play an increased role, such as providing support to women and children who are victims of domestic and family violence, and supporting migrants and refugees in the resettlement process. It also includes ACA's role in the ageing, disability and mental health fields, through partnerships and outreach service locations.

### Families

The pressures of the cost of living have continued to impact community, resulting in the continuation of increase in demand for support services – and in particular requests for crisis support. The Family Support service continued to provide direct support services, working with families and individuals, with a focus on a safe and healthy start to life for children and young people.

**Family Support Service:** Funded by the Department of Community and Justice (DCJ) under the Targeted Early Intervention Program, this service focusses on the wellbeing and safety of children, families and individuals and works to:

- ▶ Assess individual needs and circumstances to develop and implement appropriate goals and support plans through specialised case management.
- ▶ Connecting people to relevant and appropriate support networks and services relating (but not exclusively) to domestic violence, employment, mental health and housing.
- ▶ Advocate on behalf of the family or individual when engaging other services such as (but not exclusive to) Housing NSW, Service NSW, Victims Services and Legal Aid.
- ▶ Provide culturally appropriate and language relevant activities that support families and individuals, including parent groups that support building positive relationships with children.
- ▶ Ensure clients have access to secure housing and basic amenities including the facilitation or provision of material aid as required.
- ▶ Support education of children, and engagement with relevant support services including medical and therapeutic.

Through this service, Parents/carers participated in a series of information sessions that focused on a variety of issues including reducing cost of living pressures, mental health, parenting, law, employment, social inclusion and physical wellbeing. This service focused on families and individuals living in the Canterbury Bankstown, Liverpool and Fairfield LGAs. Staff continue to work closely with DCJ as part of the recommissioning process to ensure relevant issues impacting communities inform service targets and program delivery. Some specific presenting issues included (noting that other issues supported through this service are covered in other sections of this report):

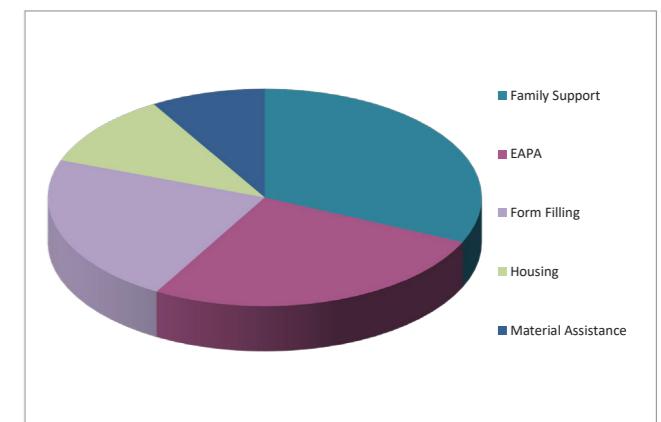
**Domestic Violence:** Domestic and family violence (DFV) is not a cultural or socio-economic issue, though it is newly arrived groups that face additional challenges and are therefore more vulnerable. Challenges include, but are not limited to: language barriers, limited awareness of and access to services, and increased risk of social isolation. Council has continued to provide direct support to families, women and children at risk of or experiencing DFV, through service delivery on the ground, and emergency brokerage services through the Start Safely program and Victim Services when required. Council also continued to promote and deliver projects to increase awareness in community and amongst front line workers through programs developed in the From the Ground Up to Equality project (refer to relevant section of this report for further details).

# Key Achievements

▶ **Housing:** Part of the holistic approach to client service is the assessment of housing needs of vulnerable people in the community. Council works with families and individuals to ensure all clients have basic amenities and secure housing access. Council worked with organisations such as the Housing NSW and Hume Housing to assist clients with their housing needs. Clients were supported with social housing applications, including assistance with applications for rental bond loans through Housing NSW. Support was also provided with referral to relevant tenancy support and advocacy services such as Tenancy Tribunal NSW and Tenancy Advice, and increasing understanding and awareness of tenancy rights.

▶ **Cost of Living:** Economic inflation has been putting added pressure on families and individuals, particularly those already experiencing financial hardship. The rising costs of housing, energy, groceries, and basic living essentials have consistently outstripped wage growth, leaving the average household budget stretched to breaking point. Council continues to work with other organisations including Dandelion, House of Sadaqa, Addison Rd Community Centre, Good360, and Foodbank to distribute groceries and basic essentials in addition to crisis relief support (refer to relevant section of this report for further details) as well as donations from family businesses.

Direct Supports to Families and Individuals	
1 Jul 30 - 2024 Jun 2025	
Area of Support	Occasion of Service
Housing	330
Home Visits	135
Domestic Violence	107
Energy Account Payment Assistance	806
Family Support	963
Work Development Order (WDO)	32
Form Filling & Support Letters	675
Mental Health	93
Brokerage/Financial Assistance	155
Supported referrals to other services	94
Material Assistance (incl Food Aid)	260
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,650</b>



▲ Council's Direct Services Unit Staff at CBC Mental Health Week



▲ Community Parenting Session



► Fairfield Children's Week



▼ At the Refugee Services Expo

# Key Achievements

## People with Disability

Council, through a number of projects and services, works towards supporting and promoting access to services for people with disability and mental health issues, their carers and family members.

**NDIS Gateway Service:** Council's NDIS Gateway service has continued to grow and has established a strong presence in the community. The Gateway Service, through funds from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), provides support coordination to Arabic-speaking clients with NDIS plans. Council continues to provide this service to support clients who are navigating an industry which is increasingly complex and often with competing interest. The service advocates on behalf of and supports clients to ensure they are receiving what they need. During the reporting period Council assisted clients to navigate the application and assessment process; advocated for appropriate plans and funding; and provided onwards referral to internal and external services as required. During the reporting period, 8 clients received NDIS support coordination services, seen on 110 occasions. Council is working to develop and grow the service to meet the increasing need for trusted support coordination.

## Older People

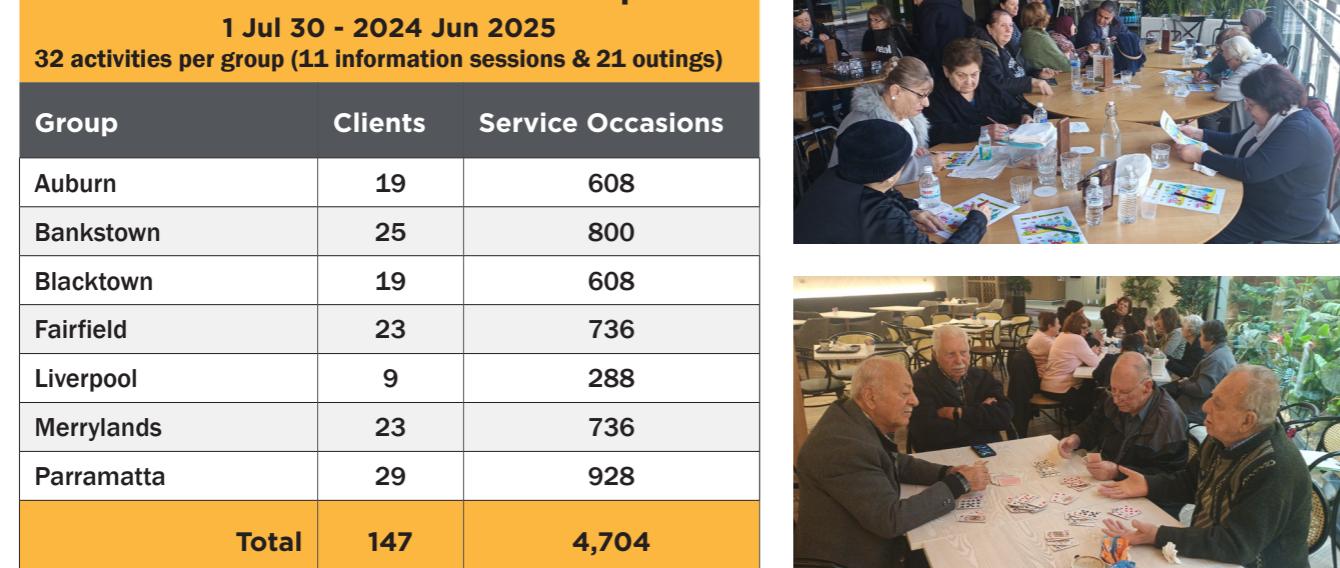
Council's services to support older people from Arabic-speaking backgrounds continued to grow, with programs that focus on reducing social isolation, encouraging healthy and active lifestyles, and providing culturally accessible information on key issues as well as available services and organisations.

**The Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network (ASSIN):** The ASSIN service continued to deliver activities and individual support services for participants and clients across a number of Local Government Areas, with groups for Arabic-speaking seniors in Auburn, Bankstown, Blacktown, Merrylands, Fairfield, Liverpool and Parramatta. For the social activities, each group meets weekly, and participants take part in both centre-based activities as well as outings. Information sessions included dementia awareness, bowel screening, healthy living including light exercise, pedestrian safety, hearing loss information and gender equality.

ASSIN - Arabic Seniors Groups		
1 Jul 30 - 2024 Jun 2025		
32 activities per group (11 information sessions & 21 outings)		
Group	Clients	Service Occasions
Auburn	19	608
Bankstown	25	800
Blacktown	19	608
Fairfield	23	736
Liverpool	9	288
Merrylands	23	736
Parramatta	29	928
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>4,704</b>



Seniors Groups outings and activities



# Key Achievements

## Refugees

All Council services assist refugees with their needs. Services include emotional, practical and material support such as income support, housing, form filling, advocacy and financial. Referrals were also facilitated for clients eligible for refugee support from other community agencies.

**Palestinians arriving from Gaza:** In late 2023 and into 2024 hundreds of Palestinians arrived from Gaza, and Council was well placed to be amongst the lead responders in the grassroots community initiatives that were established to provide relevant crisis and ongoing support to newly arrived Palestinians from Gaza. This year Council, along with other organisations and leaders in the community, continues to advocate for relevant support services to be available to facilitate self-sufficiency and capacity of this cohort to secure their wellbeing and place in local community.

► **Buddy Program:** The project, funded as part of the Community and Cohesion Support Program, connected newly arrived Palestinians from Gaza with volunteer individuals and families in their local community. The six-month project was called Sawa (Arabic for together) and connected 150 newly arrived Palestinians from Gaza and engaged 20 volunteers in a series of activities to create and build connections. Activities included big group trips to Taronga Zoo Sydney and SEALIFE Sydney Aquarium. Playgroup for young children, a women's camping trip in partnership with STARTTS, and a series of workshops that connected newly arrived Palestinians with available services. This project received enormous support from the community with donations that provided grocery hampers and gift vouchers for families, and supported the final event - a dinner that transformed Council's community room into a lively reception venue. With a dedicated team and ownership of the project by community, the outcomes of this project easily exceeded set targets, and the connections created set to continue well beyond the project term. We acknowledge and appreciate the dedicated team of volunteers who devoted their time to the project and continue to support their buddies beyond the program term.



Council Staff with volunteers and participants at Sawa's first big adventure - a day at Taronga Zoo, Sydney.

► **Employment and Education Expo - Continuum:** In 2024 Council, along with 18 organisations from across the community and education sector came together and organised the Employment and Education Expo - a day that brought together relevant services in one place to facilitate tailored supports for newly arrived Palestinians. The event was very well received with over 350 newly arrived Palestinians attending. Resettlement is a long-term process and the need for support continues for those already arrived and those who continue to arrive as the devastating impacts of the ongoing genocide also continue.

In 2025 Council continued to develop networks and collaborations with organisations and services that came together for the Employment and Education Expo. Working closely with Palestine Australia Relief and Action (PARA) Council organised a workshop to continue to assess and address needs of newly arrived and arriving Palestinians resettling in Australia, and to co-design a clear, collaborative strategy that combines existing services and resources that can provide timely and effective support.

## Key Achievements

### Community Health & Wellbeing

**■ Sanadi Foundation - Supporting Arab Australians affected by Cancer:** The Sanadi Foundation (Sanadi) is a Council project that aims to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for Arabic-speaking Background (ASB) people affected by cancer. Sanadi also aims to work on increasing accessibility to established services and providing a resource for organisations, researchers and health professionals to tap into. Until Sanadi, there was no Arabic specific cancer support service in NSW or anywhere in Australia. Where Arabic specific support is offered in a mainstream service, it is typically sporadic and short term in nature and largely underutilised for a variety of reasons. Meaning “my support” in Arabic, Sanadi is more than just a name – it embodies our commitment to providing tailored, consumer-centric and culturally safe assistance to those navigating the complexities of cancer and its ripple effects on loved ones. This year we have continued to expand Sanadi’s reach in the community. Some of the projects delivered under Sanadi during this period include:

► **Sanadi Volunteer Program:** Volunteers are core to the Sanadi Foundation. Funded through the Cancer Institute this 18month project commenced in May 2023 until February 2025 and established a strong foundation for the Sanadi volunteer program. Over its 18-month duration, the project recruited, trained, and managed 21 Arabic-speaking volunteers with personal cancer experience. These volunteers offered one-on-one social, emotional, and practical support to 34 clients and facilitated support groups and respite activities for carers and families. As well as other relevant training, all volunteers completed the tailored Sanadi Volunteer training program developed by Council in 2021 in consultation with the Ankali project of South Eastern Local Health District. By fostering strong, long-term relationships with Arabic-speaking background (ASB) trained individuals and their families, such initiatives support improved access and supported navigation of a complex health system and ultimately work to reduce health disparities over time. Though funding for this project has ended, the Sanadi Volunteer group continues to be supported as it is a crucial community service, and funding opportunities to build on the work achieved so far will continue to be a priority for Council.

► **Sanadi Social Support Group:** The Sanadi Social Support Group is made up of Arabic-speaking community members who have been impacted by cancer, their carers and trained Sanadi volunteers. They meet regularly for social and physical wellbeing activities, contribute to local council initiatives, and provide valuable input to cancer-related studies, research, and service improvement efforts. Sanadi social support group members participated in a variety of community health projects, medical research activities, and co-design sessions. The group, which at the time of writing comprised of 64 individuals, is also active in attending training programs focused on health literacy, service navigation, and community leadership, further strengthening their role as Health Ambassadors within the community.

► **Own it - Cervical Screening:** The Own It Cervical Screening Awareness Campaign was targeted towards Arabic-speaking women aged 25–40 in South Western and Western Sydney to prioritise the importance of cervical screening as part of standard health care. Cervical cancer is largely preventable, yet around 72% of cases in Australia occur in women who have never been screened or are not up to date with their screening. Funded through FECCA’s Multicultural Campaign Grant, this short-term campaign delivered culturally appropriate information through videos, an Arabic-language flipbook, social media, and face-to-face engagement sessions. With activities that trained community volunteers and provided engagement with experts in community Q&A events, this project supported increasing awareness, knowledge and confidence of women to take charge of their health.

Own It - Cervical Screening	
1 Jul 30 - 2024 Jun 2025	
Activity	Participants
Community information sessions	390
Social Media Campaign	100

## Key Achievements



Staff and participants at Council's combined Own it Community Information Session and Biggest Morning Tea.

**■ Immunity Boost - Community Connectors for Immunisation:** Funded by NSW Health, the Immunity Boost project commenced in late 2025 and aims to improve immunisation uptake among Arabic-speaking communities (ASB) across South-Western Sydney (SWS), Western Sydney (WS), and South-Eastern Sydney (SES). The project, which will run across two years will address barriers such as misinformation, cultural stigma, and limited access to immunisations through information sessions, outreach, and partnerships with trusted leaders and organisations. The project ultimately seeks to build community trust, improve understanding of vaccines and vaccination, and support the Arabic-speaking community to make informed vaccination decisions through inclusive and culturally appropriate community engagement.

This project will build on Council's previous projects that focussed on community vaccination awareness and strengthening trust in public health messaging, as well as recent collaborations during the reporting period. In response to the rising severity of flu and other seasonal illnesses, Council collaborated with South Eastern Sydney Local Health District in the Winter Wellness project in collaboration with which engaged community through bilingual outreach sessions promoting the importance of flu, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines. Council also worked with Cultural Perspectives in the Influenza Vaccination Campaign, in which Council delivered an online Arabic-language session on flu prevention and vaccine awareness, with a focus on

**■ B'inaya (With Care) - Palliative Care:** The healthcare system is complex, and many people face significant barriers when trying to navigate, access, and engage with health and community support services. These barriers can be further complicated by language and cultural differences. Palliative care, an essential yet widely misunderstood component of healthcare, is frequently underused at the expense of the quality of life for those people with life-limiting illness. The lack of awareness of and misconceptions around palliative care is prevalent across community, including how, when and why it should be considered. Commencing in late 2025 and funded by the NSW Ministry of Health, the B'inaya Project will span two years and will support ASB people to access culturally appropriate palliative care and bereavement support.



Staff and Sanadi Volunteers at the SWSLHD Multicultural Week's Natural Helper Celebration

# Key Achievements

## GOAL 2: Inclusion and Social Justice

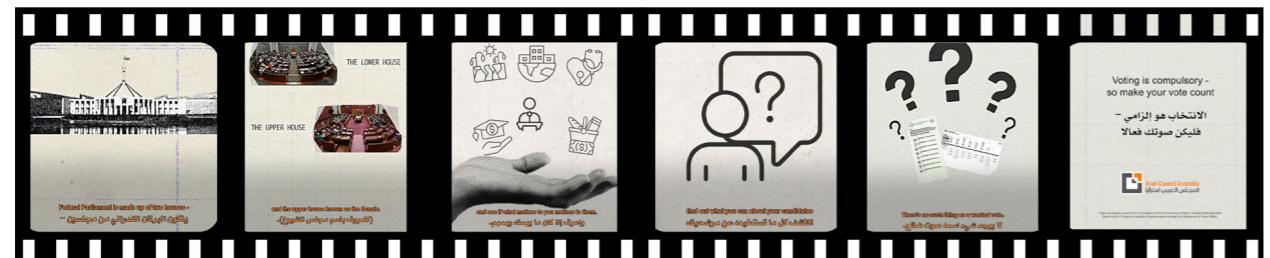
Promote inclusion and social justice, access and equality for all.

This Strategic Goal focuses on increasing the participation of people to engage in the community. This goal encompasses the work of combatting exclusionary factors such as racism and discrimination, and increasing inclusion and fair and equal treatment for all.

### Equality, Inclusion and Social Justice

Council continues to connect and collaborate with other groups and organisations to promote equality and inclusion for all in the community. Consistent with our values, policies and longstanding work for human rights, equality and social justice, Council continued to design and implement programs that directly challenge stigma, isolation, inaccessibility, inequity and oppression.

**Community and Civic Connections:** Funded by the Department of Home Affairs through the Fostering Integration Grants, this project was delivered over two years aimed to increase the connectedness to services for people from CALD and migrant backgrounds living in Australia. Over the two-year term, the project targeted people from Arabic-speaking as well as diverse and migrant backgrounds from the Canterbury Bankstown, Fairfield, Bayside, Cumberland, and Liverpool LGAs and over 900 participants across the two years engaging directly in workshop sessions. In the second and final year, as well as continuing the delivery of information sessions on navigating services and civic education, two animation videos were produced in English and Arabic. The first video provided a brief introduction about federal government, and the second provided instructions on how to vote at a federal election. Shared across social media platforms and messaging apps, the animation videos gained over 16,000 views across Council's platforms alone and were shared across hundreds of other accounts. These videos, which are a valuable resource that will continue to be relevant and utilised well beyond the project term, reached participants and communities and exceeded the scope of the project. In collaboration with Multicultural Leadership Initiative and Browns For Better, the videos were also translated in five additional languages – Tamil, Punjabi, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Hindi.



► **Stills from the "How Government Works" animation video available on Council's website and social media platforms**

► **(left) Community sessions on how to access various services and the structure of governments in Australia.**

**From the Ground Up to Equality Project:** Commencing in 2018 and concluding in August 2025 this project was delivered to hundreds of men and women across the term of the project. This project was a strong example in how to build a program with and for community that can support attitudinal change through a strengths-based and culturally relevant approach. To ensure the continuation of the program beyond the funding term, the project ran a number of train the trainer sessions to a strong network of community and frontline workers to continue delivering the project created gender equality program, as well as the development and distribution of a number of resources including a six-episode podcast that goes through the key elements of the Musawat program,

# Key Achievements

and bilingual resources on coercive control. In the final year of the project, additional training was developed specifically on coercive control to address the gap between community and frontline worker awareness and the legislation.

The From the Ground Up to Equality project demonstrated that when programs are developed through a cultural framework, are delivered by trusted organisations, and that can meet communities where they are, transformative change is possible—even in the face of systemic, social and cultural barriers.

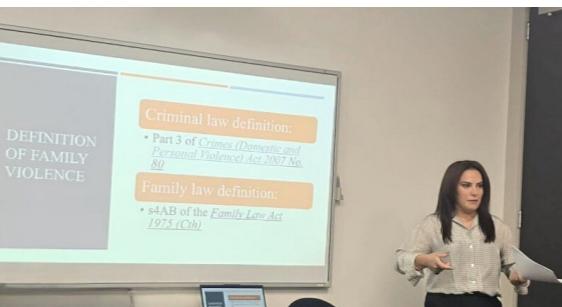
### From The Ground Up to Equality 1 Jul 30 - 2024 Jun 2025

Activity Type	Participants
Community Workshop - Women's Groups	104
Community Workshop - Men's Groups	93
Community Leaders and Solicitors	218



► **Fairfield men's Group at a Musawat workshop**

► **From the Ground Up to Equality's Project Manager at Coercive Control Training at Bankstown**



► **At the Solicitor's Event hosted by Uniting**

**Climate Action:** Understanding that with any crisis it is vulnerable members of the community that bear the heavier burden of impacts, Council's climate action work is a critical part of our social justice work. Climate justice is a social justice issue because climate change threatens to further exacerbate existing inequalities. Climate change is already causing a multitude of impacts on community including on physical health and economic security. The skyrocketing energy bills is only one very clear indicator of the sorts of impacts already being felt by far too many. As well as climate dedicated projects as listed below, Council is collaborating with the Multicultural Leadership Initiative and other diverse community organisations to establish a coalition dedicated to advancing sustainable climate solutions. Through collaborations and community engagement, Council continues to support and lead crucial climate action initiatives across the Arabic-speaking community, with a particular focus on Western Sydney.

► **Tabiea Campaign:** Continuing for a second year and in partnership with Nature Conservation Council of NSW, the Tabiea Climate Action campaign aims to raise awareness of climate change and mobilise community support for effective climate action. The campaign has engaged the community through more than 850 direct conversations, leading to widespread participation and awareness. This includes hosting over 11 community events and forums, securing more than 60 climate action pledges, welcoming 13 new volunteers, and collecting almost 550 survey responses.

## Key Achievements

Tabiea Climate Action Campaign	
1 Jul 30 - 2024 Jun 2025	
Activity Type	Participants
Event / Forum (11 sessions)	340
Survey	335
Volunteer Sign-Up	13
Pledges	60



► **Community Action Plan:** Funded by Boundless Earth, Council's Community Action Plan project also known as Tabiea – Masiruna, complements the Tabiea project. Commencing in February 2025, the initiative has already gathered valuable insights into climate concerns, levels of awareness, attitudes toward climate solutions, and barriers to engagement through a series of community consultations with the Arabic-speaking community.

The project undertook a comprehensive consultation process to ensure inclusivity and depth. In September 2025, a community forum brought together over 43 Arabic-speaking community members to collaboratively co-design the Community Action Plan, to be launched at the Arab Council Australia 2025 Annual General

Tabiea – Masiruna Community Action Plan	
1 Jul 30 - 2024 Jun 2025	
Activity	Participants
Individual Conversation (Survey)	294
Co-design (5 sessions)	42



## Key Achievements

### GOAL 3: Poverty Relief

*Alleviate poverty and promote greater equity for those in need.*

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

#### Emergency Relief and Material Assistance

Council delivered emergency relief and material assistance services through a range of supports including:

► **Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA):** through this scheme, Council assists people experiencing financial hardship in the payment of home energy bills. The high demand for this service was sustained by the increased energy prices exacerbating the impacts of the ongoing cost of living crisis, with 806 clients assisted in the reporting period and a total of 4,750 vouchers allocated. Council continues to work closely with the NSW Government EAPA team to ensure that provisions for assistance continue to be extended to those experiencing financial hardship.

► **Food Aid:** The increase in costs for basic grocery items continues to overwhelm many families and households. With funds through Canterbury Bankstown's Community Grants program, Council will be commencing a short-term Food Aid project at the start of 2026 which will provide grocery hampers to up to 70 families and individuals. With donations from community and local businesses we are expecting to double the number of grocery hampers that can be distributed to families and individuals experiencing significant financial stress due to the ongoing cost of living crisis.

► **Brokerage/Financial Assistance:** Funds continued to be raised through Council's Support for families arriving from Gaza. This year, through the Sawa Buddy Program, community donations included grocery and goods hampers, as well as financial donations that helped to fund the end of activity Iftar dinner as well as direct financial assistance to families engaged in the program.



► *Grocery Hamper Collection from Addison Road Community Centre*

### GOAL 4: Capacity Building

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

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

#### Community Building and Development

Connecting with community is critical to the work that Council does in supporting and advocating for Arabic-speaking communities. As well as improving service delivery, building connections and networks strengthens the capacity for our organisation to engage with the challenges community, and specifically Arabic-speaking background communities, continue to face in Australia. Council runs workshops to engage with frontline workers and service providers as well as organises forums and utilises social media and other online platforms to connect with members and community.

# Key Achievements

**Community Update:** The Community Update is one of Arab Council Australia's key communication tools, designed to keep our community, partners and stakeholders informed and connected. Its primary purpose is to ensure that individuals, families, service providers and community organisations stay up to date with what's happening across Arab Council Australia and the broader community. Delivered directly to subscribers' inboxes, each edition features a Spotlight on Council, highlighting our latest programs, initiatives and advocacy efforts. It also includes details about Council services and projects, updates on upcoming events, and a curated selection of community events shared by partners and community groups. The update provides informative articles and useful resources that support community wellbeing, engagement and participation. The Community Update continues to grow in reach and impact, with a subscriber base of 1,050 by the end of 2025 and shared across our social media platforms reflecting the strong interest in Council and the relevance of the community information shared.

**Community Events and Workshops:** Council organises and facilitates events, workshops and community forums with a focus on building and developing community connections and capacity as well as addressing community issues. Some specific activities include:

► **In Conversation Series:** This year Council initiated the In Conversation series that feature guided conversations with experts, public figures, and community members on a range of social and cultural issues. The series was launched with a session on Artificial Intelligence and an exploration into how AI and virtual learning are reshaping the education landscape across the Arab world and the globe. The second in the series was an in-depth discussion that could only begin to scratch the surface, and looked at the Role of the Australian Media in Shaping Anti-Arab Sentiment. The third and final session for 2025 was Young Sparks, Big Impact, which focused on youth engagement and explored how young people are using their passions, talents, and lived experiences to lead, uplift their communities, and spark real change.



*In Conversation Events with guests and speakers Dr Sebaaly and Mutaz Abu Ghazaleh, Rania Omar, Wissam Samad, Anhaa Kareem, Ali Dirani and Dahnoon Dabke Group*



► **AI Committee:** The purpose of the "AI and Virtual Education" Committee is to develop innovative strategies that advance the understanding and application of artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual education, with a particular focus on the Arabic-speaking community in Australia and its intersections with global advancements. This committee will serve as a collaborative space for tech enthusiasts, academics, and industry professionals to share knowledge, generate ideas, and drive initiatives that shape the future of AI and virtual education within the community and Council. The inaugural term of the committee was convened by the Secretary of the Board, Mr Akram Mardini.

► **Seen and Heard:** Arab Council Australia partnered with The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) and held a Community Engagement Session as part of the AHRC's Seen and Heard Project. The session consisted of facilitated small group conversations, aimed at providing insights into the impact of discrimination on individuals and as a community. The insights from these consultations will inform a report and a social media campaign being developed by the AHRC to combat the dehumanisation and isolation affected community groups are facing due to the increased racism and vilification following the escalation of aggression in Palestine since October 7 2023.

# Key Achievements

► **Arabic Workers Network (AWN):** The AWN forum for workers from across NSW with an Arabic background or who work closely with the Arabic-speaking community continues to be an important space to improve service delivery and guide collaborations that truly benefit community. AWN is a space that facilitates communication, builds trust and deep engagement around a common purpose, provides an opportunity to share information and forge connections.

► **Parenting Programs:** Held both in Arabic and English, Council convened a series of parenting programs including 1-2-3 Magic, Emotion Coaching and Bringing Up Great Kids for parents and carers of children aged between 1 and 12 years of age. Stages of child development and different parenting styles were explored along with various approaches to managing challenging and complex behaviours in children, healthy eating, mental health, and physical wellbeing.

► **Musawat - Gender Equality program:** Developed by Council, this program was delivered to groups across South West, South East and Western Sydney LGAs. Whilst the program challenges participant views on gender roles and expectations, community leaders need to continue spotlighting the issue in order for genuine change to occur.

► **Coercive Control Awareness Training:** Council developed and delivered training to frontline workers on the newly recognised and legislated laws, as part of the From the Ground Up to Equality project. Information pamphlets were developed and distributed to support community awareness of coercive control and its role in domestic and family violence.

## Consultations, Advisory, Meetings and Networks

Council has continued to provide a consultative role and has been resourceful in addressing issues communities. During this period, Council participated in several advisory groups, meetings and networks, representations and partnerships. These are shown in the following table:

Addison Rd Community Centre	Fairfield Child Protection Network	Palestinian Australian Welfare Association
Afford Employment	Fairfield City Council	Palestinian Christians In Australia
Alliance for Gambling Reform Sydney	Fairfield Community Action Group	Positive Partnerships
ANROWS	Family and Community Services	Refugee Advice & Casework Service
Ashcroft Public School	Family Planning Australia	Refugee Advice & Casework Service
Asylum Seekers Centre	Family Relationships	Royal Life Saving
Auburn Diversity Services	FAMS	SBS Radio, Arabic program
Australian Arab Business Council	Federation of Ethnic Communities Council	Service NSW
Australian Arab Cultural Forum	Greenacre Community Centre	Services Australia
Australian Arab Women Advocacy Group	GROW	Settlement Services International
Australian Care Foundation Limited	Headspace	South Eastern Sydney Local Health District
Australian National University	Homes NSW	South West Sydney Area Health Service
Bankstown Canterbury Community Transport	Inclusive Communities Network (LGBTIQ+)	South West Sydney Legal Centre
Bankstown Child & Family Interagency	Iraqi Health Professionals Association Australia	South West Sydney Local Health District
Bankstown Community Health Centre	Islamic Women's Association of Australia	St George Hospital Cancer Care Centre
Bankstown Hospital	Lebanese Community Council	STARTTS
Bankstown Mental Health Network	Lebanese Community Council of NSW	Sydney Alliance
Bankstown North Public-School	Lebanese Muslim Association	Sydney Community Connect
CanRevive	Liverpool Child & Family Interagency	Sydney Local Health District
Canterbury Bankstown Council	Liverpool Women's Health Centre	Sydney University Facing Dementia
Canterbury Bankstown Multicultural Interagency	Liverpool Women's Resource Centre	Sydney Multicultural Services
Chester Hill Community Hub	Mandaean Resource Centre	TAFE NSW
Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre	Mental Health Coordinating Council	The Australian National University
Chester Hill Public School	Metro Assist	The Multicultural Network
Community Corrections NSW	Mt Druitt Hub	The NSW Transcultural Mental Health Centre
COMPACT Alliance	MTC	Think+ Do Tank Foundation
CORE	Multicultural Health Communication Service	Thrive Refugee Enterprise
Creating Links	Multicultural Health Service	University of Sydney
Crisis Support Services	Multicultural NSW	WayAhead Mental Health
Cultural Perspectives	Muslim Women Australia	Western Sydney Community Centre
Dementia Australia	NAPCAN	Western Sydney Community Forum
Department of Health	Nature Conservation Council of NSW	Western Sydney Local Health District
Diabetes Australia	Navitas	Western Sydney Migrant Resource Centre
EAPA Scheme Provider Advisory Group	NSW/ACT Multicultural Advisory Service	Western Sydney University
Ethnic Communities Council of NSW	One Door Mental Health	Women's Health Centre – Bankstown
Fairfield Child & Family Interagency	Palestine Australia Relief and Action	Woodville Alliance



Sawa Welcome Event



Sawa Farewell Event



## Key Achievements

### GOAL 5: Advocacy

*Advocate on issues affecting the community and promote community interests.*

*This Strategic Goal highlights the importance of advocacy and the role Council plays to engage both individuals, members and organisations in identifying and lobbying to protect the interests and uphold the rights of Arabic-speaking communities. Council worked collaboratively with other agencies and across sectors on numerous initiatives, some of which are highlighted elsewhere in this report.*

#### Collaboration

- **Australian Centre for Cancer Equity and South West Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD):** Participants took part in the Optimising Lung Cancer Screening Uptake project, which seeks to engage CALD communities, identify barriers, guide culturally appropriate education strategies, and ultimately boost screening awareness and participation.
- **SWSLHD Multicultural Health Services:** The “Cancer Prevention: A Comprehensive Health Education Approach” project which will deliver in-language cancer screening education for Arabic, Chinese, Greek, and Lao communities in South Western Sydney. The partnership aims to improve cancer screening participation, equity, and health outcomes among CALD communities. Council will be participating in the project through provision of strategic input, bilingual worker training, promotion, and evaluation support to ensure culturally appropriate program delivery.
- **Bankstown Mental Health Network:** Council participated in the workshop “Join the Conversation: Mental Health in Bankstown” event in partnership with Bankstown City Council. The session brought together 50 professionals, and the program focused on networking, information sharing, and group discussions to identify network priorities, strengthen collaboration, and shape the future of mental health support in Bankstown.
- **OurDNA:** Council facilitated a community information session which introduced the OurDNA program while capturing expressions of interest, and gathered feedback to inform future engagement activities. The OurDNA Project is a national health initiative that aims to improve community understanding of DNA and genomics and how they relate to personal and family health. Council will continue to deliver activities in partnership with the OurDNA project to continue to engage Arabic-speaking participants in a culturally safe environment.
- **Cultural Perspectives:** Council recruited and delivered “train-the-trainer” sessions to bilingual facilitators to deliver information sessions to improve community health service accessibility. The information sessions provided information and in-language resources on the newly introduced **60-day prescription policy** as well as sharing information about **Urgent Care Clinics** and when to utilise them in order to address urgent but non critical medical needs.

#### Representation

Council, and by extension the community, is represented at various levels as illustrated throughout this report. Council also has active memberships with several organisations including Settlement Services International (including their Active Skills Campaign), Community Council for Australia, Sydney Alliance, Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, Western Sydney Community Forum and the Australian Arab Business Council.

Council continues to engage with other organisations, government and media (including social media) to advocate and represent issues facing or impacting the Arabic-speaking community. These activities included advocacy and representation to federal and state ministers and members of parliament, interviews with media for television and radio broadcast on current issues, and participation on community, government and non-government working groups and advisory boards.



Sawa family day at Sydney Sea Life Aquarium



Staff at the Expo 4 Schools Event



Mental Health Literacy Workshop for Community Leaders



Senior's Group Outing



## GOAL 6: Sustainability

*Build a strong, representative and sustainable organisation.*

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

### Applications for Funding

Council is committed to proactively securing resources that support community. We actively pursue a diverse range of grant opportunities from all levels of government and philanthropic partners to fund innovative projects and services that are designed to enhance community wellbeing and directly address real needs, and ultimately supporting individuals and families across all stages of life.

Grant submissions focus on critical areas including improving access to health services, increasing capacity to provide emergency and crisis support, youth development and support, combating social isolation and social disengagement, promoting gender equality, addressing domestic and family violence, and supporting resettlement.

This coming year we look forward to commencing projects already secured (detailed in this report) as well as seeking new opportunities for projects that align with our strategic plan and meet the growing and evolving needs of the Arabic-speaking and broader community.

### Transition to Company

At the 2024 Annual General Meeting the membership passed a special resolution that approved the transfer of Arab Council Australia's registration from an Incorporated Association in NSW to a Company Limited by Guarantee under the name of Arab Council Australia. The transition from an incorporated association to a company limited by guarantee was a strategic decision for the organisation which has grown significantly in reach, size and operation, since registering as an incorporated association some forty five years ago.

Council's continued registration as an incorporated association was no longer appropriate, and the transition to a company limited by guarantee will provide Council with greater opportunities to expand, increase its funding base and future operations and enhance public perception of the organisation.

At the start of 2025 the process for implementing this decision began, and a Special General Meeting was held in May 2025 for membership to approve the updated constitution for the new entity. With thanks to the support and work from HWL Ebsworth for their pro bono services, Arab Council Australia Inc became Arab Council Australia Ltd on August 4, 2025.



**Council's CEO, Board, Staff, Members and guests at the combined Special General Meeting & In Conversation event with Nick Hanna, Nour Haydar and Jan Fran.**



All members of the Incorporated Association were asked to consent to transfer their existing membership to the new company. At the time of writing this report, 90% of members successfully transferred membership.

### Council Membership

Council's membership ranges from individuals to community organisations interested in the successful advancement of Arab and Arabic-speaking people living in Australia. It includes people from a range of backgrounds, fields, age groups and religions. This membership provides Council with a cross section of views and ensures a broad representation of community's interests.

### Professional Development

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

- STARTTS: When the Client is the Victim of Coercive Control: Challenges and Tips for Working with Refugee Families and Communities
- Australian Childhood Foundation: Bringing Up Greater Kids Facilitator Accreditation
- Lifeline: MWS Annual Mental Health Forum
- ARACY: Building a secure future: Australian children and young people's safety, security and protection
- Fairfield Health Alliance: Prayers and More – Mental health and Wellbeing in Arabic Community
- Trauma prevention and early intervention approaches with children and young people
- CDAT REGIONAL FORUM - NSW Hunter, Central, Southern Western Sydney Region: Effective Community and Volunteer Engagement Workshop
- DCJ: Paint by numbers: Creating a clear picture as a mandatory reporter
- eSafety Commissioner: The Digital Web: How technology weaves into the cycle of DFV
- MHFA: Accredited Mental Health First Aider
- SSI: Sector workshop coordinating housing support for refugees arriving in NSW from Gaza
- Coercive Control Training: Fundamentals and Supporting those experiencing coercive control
- Hearing Children's Perspectives on Domestic Violence
- FAMS: Safe, Strong, Supportive Conference 2025

### Capable Governance

In December 2024 a new Board was elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Board consists of 10 members and they collectively bring extensive and valuable knowledge, skills and experience to the Council. These include but are not limited to: financial, management, information technology, health, media, program implementation both within Government and the not-for-profit sector and extensive experience on boards, private sector experience in business and legal sectors, education and training delivery; community development and advocacy for human rights and vulnerable groups including disability, LGBTIQ+ and refugees.

With the transition to company, the Board became a Board of Directors with the unchanging commitment to social justice, promoting cross cultural dialogue, and working towards an equitable, fair, secular and transparent society. CEO and public officer Hassan Moussa's extensive experience across a range of sectors including diplomatic, government, business combines with his passion for community and social justice provide an added layer of governance capability. Hassan continues to lead the dedicated team of staff and board to meet the organisational objectives including advocacy and addressing the needs of community.

# 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT



Board Members with Race Discrimination Commissioner Giridharan Sivaraman



Council's CEO with STARTTS CEO Jorge Aroche



ACA Staff at the Community Roundtable Forum on Gambling Related DFV



Combined ACA and STARTTS Women's Camp for newly arrived Palestinians from Gaza



Sawa Participants and Volunteers enjoying a big day out



At the Multicultural Leadership Initiative Conference



ACA Board, Staff and Guests at the 2025 Zest Awards Ceremony

I am pleased to present Council's Audit Report for the 2025 Financial Year.

This report provides a true and fair view of Council's financial position and performance for this period, and has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. It includes the Auditor's Certificate, Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure and Cash flow statements in addition to Notes that form part of the accounts. All funds and grants have been expended and acquitted in accordance with funding guidelines.

At the date of issue of these financial statements, we have sufficient grounds to believe that Council continues to be a strong position to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

I thank all our funding bodies and government departments for their continued support, and for recognising Council's momentous work in the community.

My thanks to our Administration staff for their diligence in undertaking Council's day-to-day bookkeeping tasks, with all the comings and goings that continue to be sent our way. I also would like to thank our Accountant Mr George Silvino and our Auditor Mr Edward Chahoud, for their work and professionalism.

Despite the ongoing challenges faced by community organisations and by our community, I am proud to say that Council not only confronted the challenges head on but continued expanding and diversifying services and programs to meet the growing social needs of the community. The new projects that have commenced only recently, the plans for new projects and services and of course the continuation of programs and services that are much needed and well received by the community are a testament to the importance of this organisation.

I extend my deep gratitude to the former Chairperson, Rana Saab for her tenure and to Jamal Hamdan who took on the role following Ms Saab's resignation. Both continue to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to community and to the organisation and it has been a privilege working alongside them and my fellow Board members - now Board of Directors. I also extend my gratitude to Council's CEO, staff and volunteers for their consistent commitment and hard work which has set standard well above expectations.

I look forward to the new year with a robust Council that will continue to strengthen in the service of community.

## Wafa Jeha

Treasurer



ABN 65 538 322 175

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## STATEMENT OF THE BOARD

In the opinion of the Board:

1. The accompanying financial statements have been drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of **ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INC** as at **30 June 2025** and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.
3. All funds have been invested in accordance with the terms and conditions of funding agreements.
4. All funds have been expended in accordance with funding guidelines.
5. At the date of the statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

NAME OF MEMBER

SIGNATURE

DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamal Hamdan

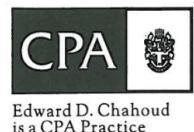
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Jamal Hamdan*

19/08/2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wafa Jeha

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Wafa Jeha*

19/08/2025



*Edward D. Chahoud*  
B.BUS., CPA

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANT

Edward D. Chahoud  
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**INDEPENDENT REVIEW REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF  
ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED**  
ABN 65 538 322 175

We have reviewed the accompanying special purpose financial report of **Arab Council Australia Inc.** which comprises the Balance sheet as at **30 June 2025**, the Income & Expenditure statement and cash flow statement for the year ended **30 June 2025**, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement of Board members.

**The Board's Responsibility for the financial report**

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

**Auditor's responsibility**

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

A review involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the reviewer'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 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. A review 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 review evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our review opinion.

**Independence**

In conducting our review, 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 reviewed financial report and Review 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 review of the financial report.

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**Review Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report

Based on our review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report of Arab Council Australia Inc. for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 does not give a true and fair view of the financial position of Arab Council Australia Inc as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance 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 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Board's reporting responsibilities under the constitution. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

*E. Chahoud.*

Edward Chahoud, CPA 841305  
Dated this 11th day of September 2025



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## ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA Inc.

ABN 65 538 322 175

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	2025	2024
<b>Current Assets</b>		
C'wealth Bank a/c 062334 10737766	331,035.47	129,752.61
C'wealth Bank a/c 062334 10752309	-	1,385,299.43
C'wealth Bank Term deposit a/c 233450125705	-	100,837.30
C'wealth Bank Term deposit a/c 233450181694	14,300.41	14,300.41
Arab Bank Term Deposit 700080124	1,000,000.00	-
Arab Bank Term Deposit 700080125	359,005.52	-
Petty Cash	500.00	500.00
	<b>1,704,841.40</b>	<b>1,630,689.75</b>
Security Bonds	923.00	923.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,705,764.40</b>	<b>1,631,612.75</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Corporate Credit Card	239.99	22.39
GST payable	51,740.21	5,748.34
Superannuation Payable	14,991.24	15,264.39
PAYG Withholding	22,458.00	22,466.00
Provision for Program costs	90,000.00	90,000.00
Provision for Annual leave & Leave Loading	128,152.46	101,535.26
Provision for Long Service Leave	97,798.52	163,227.63
Provision for Legal Costs	5,000.00	5,000.00
Provision for Relocation & Repairs	5,000.00	45,000.00
Provision for Furniture and Equipment	10,000.00	10,000.00
	<b>425,380.42</b>	<b>458,264.01</b>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	20,631.13	22,909.21
Provision for Community Bus	25,308.51	25,308.51
Provision for Relocation & Repairs	10,000.00	20,000.00
	<b>55,939.64</b>	<b>68,217.72</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>481,320.06</b>	<b>526,481.73</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b><u>1,224,444.34</u></b>	<b><u>1,105,131.02</u></b>

## ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA Inc.

ABN 65 538 322 175

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	INCOME	2025	2024
Grants and other Funds	<b>Note 2a</b>	2,084,906.94	1,837,119.58
Administration Charges		-	10,318.00
CentreLink Paid Parental Leave		16,484.40	-
Consultancy		18,027.27	12,400.00
Interest		55,601.33	18,134.18
Membership		2,051.42	894.85
Other misc. receipts- Reimbursements		11,836.43	1,634.52
Participant Contribution		32,054.00	24,392.00
Project Management		-	187,574.44
Rent		-	20,000.00
		<b>2,220,961.79</b>	<b>2,112,467.57</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>2,220,961.79</b>	<b>2,112,467.57</b>
	EXPENSES	2025	2024
Administration & operational costs		94,478.93	2,780.00
Audit		4,700.00	3,400.00
Artwork & Design		2,900.00	1,650.00
Bank Charges		1,390.01	1,645.89
Bookkeeping Fees		360.00	360.00
Books, Reports & Resources		31.81	55.09
Bus Running Costs		17,128.54	18,070.71
Brokerage / Financial Assistance		6,336.32	73,590.00
Cleaning		10,277.89	8,455.54
Computer Purchase & Maintenance		7,921.30	-
Centrelink Paid Parental Leave		10,989.60	8,936.95
Consultancy & Supervision		11,680.00	13,290.92
Electricity		3,575.28	3,407.61
Equipment & Furniture Purchase & hire		6,060.59	3,631.92
Facilitators		8,000.00	1,445.45
Rounding Up / down		0.27	1.31
Hall and Venue Hire		514.54	6,895.77
Insurance - Workers Compensation,General & Public Liability		22,648.17	22,516.76
Internet and Networking		40,325.20	34,283.36
Meeting Expenses		8,267.32	3,705.72
Program & Project Activity costs		80,474.60	169,221.86
Postage		261.81	138.59
Printing & Photocopying		10,150.00	9,408.76
Prizes, Gifts & Awards		-	435.82
Rent		93,223.95	97,461.03
Repairs & Maintenance		851.46	450.00
Salaries & Wages		1,445,699.89	1,340,254.28
Staff Amenities		1,313.68	971.42
Stationery		1,484.44	1,413.84
Subscriptions & Membership		5,604.73	5,118.21
Superannuation		175,632.80	134,618.13
Telephone		12,752.00	12,276.41
Translations		680.00	-
Travel, Transport & Parking Fees		9,380.73	6,196.64
Website		6,552.60	19,600.00
		<b>2,101,648.46</b>	<b>2,005,687.99</b>
Operating surplus / (deficit ) for year		<b>119,313.33</b>	106,779.58
Brought Fwd Surplus/(Deficit) last year		<b>1,105,131.01</b>	<b>998,351.43</b>
<b>Accumulated Surplus/Deficit @ 30.6.2025</b>		<b><u>1,224,444.34</u></b>	<b><u>1,105,131.01</u></b>

## ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

ABN 65 538 322 175

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

2024	2025
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Receipts Grants & other	2,165,360
Payments to suppliers & employees	2,146,810
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>18,550</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Interest received	55,601
Payment for property, plant & equipment	-
<b>Net cash used for investing</b>	<b>55,601</b>
71,134	74,152
1,559,556	1,630,690
<b>Cash at beginning of reporting period</b>	<b>1,704,841</b>
1,630,690	
<b>RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO OPERATING PROFIT</b>	
Operating profit after Tax	119,313
Add/(less) items classified as non-operating activities	- 55,601
Interest received	63,712
<b>Cash derived from operating activities</b>	<b>22,622</b>
106,780	
- 18,134	
88,646	
38,932	
127,578	
<b>Changes in assets &amp; liabilities</b>	
- 463	-
387	-
- 601	218
- 27,487	45,992
4,757	- 273
3,774	- 8
- 114,944	-
5,000	-
-	-
10,000	-
45,000	- 50,000
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>68,550</b>



Arab Council Australia  
المجلس العربي استراليا

## ARAB AUSTRALIA COUNCIL INC.

ABN 65 538 322 175

### NOTES TO & FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

NOTES 2a. GRANTS	2025	2024
<b>DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES &amp; JUSTICE</b>		
From the Ground Up to Equality	199,237.26	131,840.00
<b>DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES &amp; JUSTICE</b>		
Family Support - Targeted Early Intervention	616,174.83	593,903.46
<b>DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (via Uniting)</b>		
Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network (ASSIN) - West Syd.	852,168.55	650,120.80
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH</b>		
Community Home Support Program - ASSIN	94,031.10	83,447.29
<b>OTHER FUNDING</b>		
Canterbury Bankstown City - Food Aid Project	10,000.00	-
NDIA - Gateway (Support Coordination)	11,060.49	12,842.97
Multicultural NSW - COMPACT Reconnecting East and West	-	50,000.00
Dept Home Affairs - Community and Civic Connection	-	100,000.00
UNSW - Shisha No Thanks	-	14,000.00
CESPHN - VaxAware	-	40,000.00
Cancer Institute NSW - CanScreening	750.00	2,250.00
Cancer Institute NSW - Sanadi Volunteer	5,000.00	10,000.00
Sydney Local Health District - Sanadi Volunteers	-	60,000.00
Donations & Fundraising-Supporting Palestinians arriving to Australia	1,126.81	87,833.82
Sydney Local Health District - Qahwa ' W ' Dardasha	10,000.00	-
Community Donations - Sanadi Foundation	-	881.24
Boundless - Community Climate Action Project	200,000.00	-
CCSP - Buddy Program ( Sawa )	40,000.00	-
Community Donation ( SAWA )	15,177.90	-
FECCA - Multicultural Health Own It Project	30,000.00	-
ACA - Community Room Hire	180.00	-
	<b>2,084,906.94</b>	<b>1,837,119.58</b>



**NOTES TO & FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

**NOTES 2b. ACCUMULATED FUNDS AS AT 30 JUNE 2025**

Project Name	2025	2024
General Account	1,081,165.04	1,000,420.59
From the Ground Up to Equality	50,000.00	-
Community and Civic Connection	-	100,000.00
Can Screening	-	750.00
Sanadi Volunteer Project	-	10,000.00
Supporting Palestinians arriving to Australia Donatic	4,379.30	5,460.43
Qahwa 'W' Dardasha	-	- 10,000.00
Community Climate Action	98,900.00	-
CCSP - Buddy Program	- 10,000.00	-
	<b><u>1,224,444.34</u></b>	<b><u>1,105,131.02</u></b>

## Board

- Jamal Hamdan Chairperson (from Aug 2025 - formerly Deputy Chairperson)
- Rana Saab Chairperson (resigned Aug 2025)
- Sawsan Bakir Deputy Chairperson (from Aug 2025)
- Widad Farhan Deputy Chairperson
- Akram Mardini Secretary
- Wafa Jeha Treasurer
- Zahia Charida Member/Board Director
- Lubna Kalache Member/Board Director
- Samih Sayed Member/Board Director
- Mary Shalhoub Member/Board Director

## Personnel

### Executive

- Hassan Moussa Chief Executive Officer
- Randa Kattan Chief Advisor (June 2024-June 2025)

### Operations and Administration Unit

- Rebecca Semaan Operations Manager
- Nena Al-Bazi Administration Officer
- Raghda Habib Reception and Administration Support Worker

### Community & Service Development Unit

- Josette Bechara Community & Service Development Unit Manager (resigned Aug 2025)
- Abir Moukahal Seniors Project & Unit Manager (from Aug 2025)
- Wafa ElEsh Seniors Group Coordinator (resigned Sep 2025)
- Waseem Kattan Seniors Group Coordinator
- Fadia Samia Seniors Group Coordinator
- Ron Moukhallalti Driver and Coordinator Support Worker

### Casual Driver and Coordinator Support Workers

- Tamam Abukhousa
- Zaid AlHanoody
- Ahmed Alsammak
- Samia Gabrael
- Yasameen Shanah

### Direct Services Unit

- Hiba Ayache Direct Services Unit Manager
- Alda Barkho Family Support Worker (from Apr 2025)
- Zeinab Hourani NDIS Support Coordinator/Family Support Worker
- Reem Khalil Family Support Worker (from Mar 2025)
- Lina Merdawi Family Support Worker
- Abir Moukahal Project Coordinator - Buddy Program (Oct 2024 - Apr 2025)
- Hana Moukahal Family Support Worker (maternity leave from Feb 2025)

### Equity and Gender Equality

- Ahlam Hijazi Project Manager - From the Ground Up to Equality (until Sep 2025)

### Health & Wellbeing Unit

- Hala Alduleimi Health and Wellbeing Projects Manager
- Bedron Moses Project Coordinator - Community Action Plan & NCC Tabiea Project

### Media and Information

- Lopitta K Fares Media and Information Manager

## ACA Interns and Volunteers

Volunteers and interns supported projects including Senior's Groups, Sanadi, Sawa- Buddy Program, and Tabiea.

Thank you for your time and hard work - and for making a difference

► Wissam Abdel Samad	► Lujain Deeb	► Layth Meghaizel
► Siham Aboud	► Hana El Kheir	► Sanchi Meshram
► Sana Abu Khalil	► Janan Elias	► Bassma Mesto
► Fatimah Aldinawi	► Mahmoud Fahmy	► Adam Moukahal
► Jasmine Alfas	► Dima Fasi	► Mageda Mourad
► Fatima Alkhechen	► Giliana Hanna	► Samih Mousa
► Hiba Alquraishi	► Raffah Hasan	► Georgette Mrish
► Inaam Alsaffar	► Souhair Helmey	► Sanchi Nagesh Meshram
► Dr Zahra Al Sultany	► Ayman Helmy	► Rana Najjar
► Hanan Atiyeh	► Nadera Jankeel	► Idwer Nekoqws
► Sabeha Balios	► Ziad Jawad	► Maysa Saddik
► Sanaa Barbour	► Daad Karaali	► Yvonne Semaan
► Arlette Barich	► Hassan Kaskas	► Youssif Shito
► Magi Bastouri	► Abdulkaseem Kato	► George Tarazi
► Bushra Botrous	► Sueha Kebbi	► Dr Adulmajid Wehbi
► Zainab Dabousi	► Jamal Makki	► Zaya Youkhanna
► Asma Dais	► Khali Matar	► Wafaa Yousef

## Consultants and Contractors

■ Reem Burrows	Dreem Consulting
■ Zahia Charida	Zahia Pty Ltd – Community Consultation services
■ Moe Faisal	Nomad Tribe - Graphic Design
■ Robyn McEwan	Consultancy Services
■ Roy Sherfan	XS Developments - Website Services
■ George Silvino	Megaplus Business Services - Accountant

## Funding Bodies (2024-2025FY)

■ Boundless Earth
■ Canterbury Bankstown City Council
■ Cancer Institute NSW
■ Department of Communities and Justice
■ Department of Health
■ Department of Home Affairs
■ Uniting – (for Department of Social Services)
■ Department of Social Services - National Disability Insurance Agency
■ Federation Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia
■ The Social Policy Group



**Arab Council Australia**  
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