



Arab Council Australia Inc.

# Annual Report 2018



Arab Council Australia  
المجلس العربي استراليا

## About Us

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

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

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

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

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Council's Board, with Mark Morey (right) Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (2<sup>nd</sup> right) Sue Ismiel (left) and Hassan Awada (2<sup>nd</sup> left) at Council's 2017 AGM



Guest Speaker Mr Mark Morey, Secretary Unions NSW at Council's 2017 AGM



Nads founder and Global Brand Ambassador Ms Sue Ismiel MCing Council's 2017 AGM

The Hon David Coleman MP, Federal Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multiculturalism visiting Council's Bankstown office with staff and members of the Board, Aug 2018



Farewell event for outgoing Race Discrimination Commissioner Dr Tim Soutphommasane (4<sup>th</sup> right, front row) with members of the Board and community, Jul 2018

## Chairperson's Message

It is with great pleasure and pride that I present Arab Council Australia's 2018 annual report.

This last year has again been one of great achievements. Council remains the first port of call for information, resources and support on issues pertaining to the Arabic speaking community living in Australia. This is a testament to Council's continued commitment and responsibility towards Arab Australians and the broader community.

Since its inception thirty-nine years ago, Council has demonstrated and fulfilled its potential as a centre of excellence and development. A case in point is the Internship program; in the last few months Council's offices have been a buzzing, safe and nurturing environment, hosting numerous university students on placement. Students have been gaining practical experience in their chosen fields of study as they undertake valuable research for Council and report on key community issues.

Council has been successful in securing new funding under different Government initiatives, thus expanding its services for Domestic and Family Violence victims and people with disability. The latest successful grant was awarded by the Sydney Local Health District for a project that will engage Arabic speaking in physical fitness and healthy lifestyle activities. I am proud to particularly mention the successful implementation of Council's relatively new National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) services – The NDIS Gateway. This service supports people with a disability and their carers. Most of these new services are now fully operational and are accruing a waiting list. This expansion of services is a credit to Council's vision and the result of consistent research, consultation, planning, collaboration and partnership with other organisations.

After nearly two years of operating in two different locations, 2019 will see Council's staff again under one roof at the Fairfield East office with outreach services continuing in Bankstown and other locations. Planning the logistics has been ongoing with the core consideration of minimising disruption to the community.

It was with great enthusiasm and success that Council hosted a well-attended event to farewell Dr Tim Soutphommasane at the end of his tenure as the Race Discrimination Commissioner. The event recognised Dr Soutphommasane's significant contribution and work to ensuring that race does not diminish an individual's human rights. The work and collaboration with the Commissioner on racism is consistent with Council's commitment to social justice and equity for all.

I thank Board members for their dedication and support throughout the year. I sincerely thank the CEO, Ms Randa Kattan for her tireless work and remarkable leadership. Particular thanks to the staff who make it all possible.

Council enters its 40th year of serving the community in a very strong position and I know that we will continue to reach greater heights in the years ahead.

**Mary Shalhoub**  
Chairperson



Council's CEO at the launch of the Inclusive Communities Network, May 2018



The Hon David Coleman MP with Council's CEO during visit to Council offices, Aug 2018



Sydney Peace Prize Juror and Council's CEO with 2018 Sydney Peace Prize recipient Prof Joseph Stiglitz (centre front row) and Ann Porcino (front row left), Convenor of the Sydney Peace Prize Jury panel at Cabramatta High School's Another World is Possible celebration, Nov 2018



Members of the Board, the CEO Dr Soutphommasane along with Muslim Women Association's CEO, Maha Abdo, Michael Camit and Soprano Annie Regaliza

Council's CEO with former Senator Lee Rhiannon (left) Julia Finn MP (right) and Palestinian Ambassador to Australia H.E Izzat Abdul Hadi at the 70 years Nakba commemoration Iftar dinner, May 2018



Launch of Widows of Parramatta series (L to R) Fadia Abboud, Jamile Joseph, Layla Kisrwni, Danielle Fisher, Prof Hala Zreiqat, Geoff Lee MP, Council's CEO, and Genevieve Khawaji



## Chief Executive Officer

I have been with Council for half as long as it has been in operation. I first came with the intention that it would be a one-year stint; so, writing this report twenty years on has me reflecting on the organisation over the years, the world in which it operated, and wondering why I am still around. Two decades ago, the challenges facing the community were many. They were damaging and very pervasive; and they required intense attention and more resources than we could ever secure. At the time, we were a younger organisation with less experience in the politics of race and fear that dominated our reality. Despite this, Council along with the community stepped up to the plate and met the challenges head on. Nowadays the challenges continue to be many. They are more global and more brazen and felt ever more keenly at a local level. This is the new reality twenty years on and complacency is not an option. Now more than ever, the need to work collaboratively and diligently throughout civil society is paramount, and we at Council know this. So we stayed the course. We have matured as an organisation and as people. We have become more nuanced in our approaches and strategic directions. We are bold and determined. We are compassionate and optimistic. We are reflexive and reflective, remaking ourselves and consistently confronting new challenges as we work towards an inclusive and just future.

And it is for all these reasons – and then some – that I am still here.

This past year has seen a sharp increase in demand on our services and resources; and a period when we have worked in closer collaboration with other organisations and with diverse communities. We have continued to be relentless in our advocacy and representation. We have been strategic as well as responsive in how we address prevailing issues. We have been vocal in the media and in conferences on key matters including race, sexual identity, domestic violence and other issues of importance to the Arab Australian community. At the same time, our services and programs have continued to deliver strong and exceptional results.

We have also seen an expansion of some key programs with two new projects that will both be in full swing by 2019. This year, our NDIS Gateway Service continued to expand and complementing this will be our "AwarAbility" project which aims to inspire a positive change in community attitudes towards people with disability and mental health concerns. This is an exciting initiative that will run for two years, engaging the Arab community in the South West and Western areas of Sydney.

Another newly funded project is the "From the Ground Up to Equality". Coming out of our earlier work in the area of family and domestic violence it will deliver an Arabic specific awareness and prevention program for men and women. Building on the strengths of the community and culture that support and promote gender equality, this project will create a platform to address and challenge the gendered drivers of domestic and family violence.

Our collaboration and partnerships with community and government organisations, education and human rights institutions definitely stepped up in 2018. The "Canterbury Bankstown Connecting" project which began in the previous period, came to a conclusion this year. It made solid inroads in bringing together more than 50 diverse organisations from the merged Canterbury Bankstown LGA to engage and collaborate around shared community issues and to keep the community at the centre of our work. There is now a resource being launched in November 2018 and available to all those in the sector who value collaboration.

After years of planning, this period saw Council's internship program come to fruition. In partnership with the Department of Social Work of Western Sydney University, we hosted a group of five enthusiastic master's degree students who undertook research for Council. The students worked together on developing and producing research papers that looked into such issues as mental health, domestic and family violence, education, racial discrimination, housing, unemployment, disability and the NDIS. Another research that is of importance to the community was undertaken by an anthropology student who examined Australia's political and socio-cultural response to the Israeli-Palestine conflict within a historical and contemporary context. The research papers will be launched next year, with the research developed going towards informing and shaping our service delivery and programs.

Continuing in our determination to represent the concerns of the community, Council joined with other organisations to respond to the government's proposed move of the Australian Embassy to Jerusalem. What at first seemed to be a last-minute election "sweetener" has quickly turned into a potential foreign policy decision.

At the time of writing this report, the merits of the relocation continue to be debated, with a decision to be made in what appears to be a matter of weeks. Council with other community groups released a statement that expressed our strong rejection of any such move or change in policy. We also issued other earlier statements that condemned Australia's position on matters relating to Palestine. Our commitment to social justice and promoting the voice of Arab Australians will continue on this and other such issues as they arise.

After five years as Race Discrimination Commissioner, Dr Tim Soutphommasane's tenure finished in 2018. Having worked in close collaboration with him over these years on all matters of race, particularly in relation to 18 C of the Racial Discrimination Act, and for all the solid and immense contributions to calling out racism no matter where it reared its head, I can honestly say that Tim will be very much missed. His work and fierce dedication to social justice was without question, and our position is a better and stronger one because of his time at the Australian Human Rights Commission. Towards the end of his tenure, Council hosted an event for Dr Southphommasane and the community had the opportunity to come together to farewell and thank him.

To make sure things stay fast paced in our offices, next year is the 40th anniversary of Council. Thinking of the first days and iterations of this organisation I am glad that I am still around to see Council reach this most significant milestone and I cannot wait to celebrate this achievement with our friends, members and the community.

We do so much with so little in this organisation and the information highlighted in this report is a testament to this and is truly worthy of your attention.

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

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

This organisation cannot serve the community without the commitment of our Board, staff volunteers and interns. My thanks go to each staff member, volunteer and intern for your professionalism, hard work and dedication. I offer deep gratitude to the Chairperson, Ms Mary Shalhoub and the Board for your stewardship, commitment and unwavering support. Council's standing in the community as a leading, inclusive and progressive organisation is a credit to you all.

**Randa Kattan**  
CEO

▶ With Siobhan Irving from Sydney Queer Muslims following panel discussion at the Sydney University Conference honouring 40 years of Mardi Gras, Jun 2018



▶ Council's CEO Panel discussion for Fairfield's In Other Words Festival, Feb 2018



▶ At APHEDA's Fundraising Dinner, Aug 2018



▶ At Council's 2017 AGM with David Barrow Sydney Alliance's Lead organiser and Asha Ramzan, EO of Sydney Community Forum

# Key Achievements

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

## Goal 1: Wellbeing

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

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

Council undertook research and planning to provide support to various groups within the community to assist them to lead well-functioning and healthy lives

## Domestic and Family Violence

Domestic and family violence (DFV) occurs with the same prevalence across all cultural, religious and socio-economic groups in Australia. Newly arrived groups, including Arabic speaking migrants and refugees however, are potentially more vulnerable as they often originate from nations where "gendered drivers" of violence against women are more commonplace. These include but are not limited to: men's control of decision-making; limits to women's independence; rigid gender roles and stereotyped constructions of masculinity/femininity and condoning of DFV.

Building on Council's two year Live Safe Feel Safe project, Council's application for the From the Ground Up to Equality project was successful. This three-year project will begin in the new financial year aiming to develop and deliver an Arabic specific prevention and strengths-based program for women and men. It will highlight aspects within Arab culture that support gender equality, challenge attitudes and beliefs and address gendered drivers which

increase the probability of DFV. The project will also involve exploring issues with the community and sharing learnings.

In addition, Council's Family Support Service continued to provide one to one support to families, women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

## People with a Disability

Council continued to provide social support and centre-based day care services to people with a disability along with support to the carers of family members with an intellectual disability.

- Through the Gateway Service, Council assisted members in the community transitioning onto the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) by providing information, supporting clients in navigating the application and assessment process, and providing direct support at meetings.
- Council also provided a support service for community members with an NDIS plan. Through the **Support Coordination Service** Council was able to work with clients to identify appropriate service providers, source sustainable accommodation and respite services, as well as implement, redevelop and monitor goals on individual NDIS plans.
- Council funding application for the **AwarAbility Project** was successful. The two year project is funded by NDIA under the Jurisdictional Information, Linkages and Capacity building Grant and will commence in the next financial year. The **AwarAbility Project** aims to drive position change in community attitudes, as well as promote greater community inclusion of people with disability and mental health concerns. The **AwarAbility Project** will also work to increase awareness within the Arabic community about disability and mental health and improve access to available services.

## Refugees

A four-year initiative by the NSW Government and managed by the NSW Department of Industry, the **Refugee Employment Support Program (RESP)** addresses the challenges that are experienced by refugees and asylum seekers in finding long-term skilled employment opportunities.

In partnership with Settlement Services International (SSI) Council's RESP is tailored to individuals from Arabic speaking background residing within the Western Sydney region with the long-term goal of attaining sustainable employment. Advocacy will be provided through the development of opportunities for further education and skill training, qualification recognition, work placement, overcoming transportation barriers, access to mentoring, and ultimately support with obtaining sustainable and skilled employment.

## Older People

Council continues to provide a number of services to support older people from Arabic speaking backgrounds, and their carers. The services are designed to engage clients with information on relevant services and organisations, encourage healthy and active lifestyles, whilst reducing social isolation.

- **The Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network (ASSIN)** runs four senior's groups in Auburn, Blacktown, Parramatta and Holroyd with 62 registered clients. The groups meet once a week and participate in a wide range of social and educational activities. Clients are provided with transport to and from the venue



Blacktown Seniors group at a Warwick Farm excursion

and partake in outings, games, gentle exercise, and tailored information sessions during the ASSIN workshops. More than 160 sessions were carried out with the groups which included information sessions on health and safety and legal matters (i.e. power of attorneys, wills, deceased estates) as well as excursions to various locations. Working in partnership with New Edge Performance the senior's groups participated in the "Still Standing" program – a six-month light exercise and nutrition to promote the importance of better health for seniors. In addition, one to one support is provided to group participants.

ASSIN Groups 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018		
Activity Type	Number of sessions	Total Occasion of Service (number of sessions x number of participants)
Information sessions	84 sessions	3,360
Excursions	84 sessions	4,200

- **Road Safety Education** – Council delivered 10 Walk Safely workshops in various Local Government Areas (LGAs) to build the skills and knowledge of older people from Arabic and non-Arabic speaking backgrounds regarding road safety. Older people were actively engaged in the workshops and provided valuable feedback on road safety issues for older people that provided feedback to the Roads and Maritime Service to help inform policy development.



Parramatta Seniors group at a Walk Safely workshop



Parramatta Seniors group at a Walk Safely workshop



Playgroup Bunnies at a community garden visit

## Carers

In partnership with CarerAssist, Council continued to provide the Care for Carers service that promotes social participation for people from Arabic speaking backgrounds who care for a person with mental illness with others in similar circumstances. A group of 15 carers met once a month and received information on self-care and mental health, first aid, education and shared their experiences.

## Families

Through early intervention and prevention programs Council continued to support vulnerable children, young people and families so that children and young people have a safe and healthy start to life. Where necessary, casework

services were also provided. Some of the supports included:

- **Family Support Service:** Early Intervention and Placement Prevention (EIPP) Program – This program funded by FACS included activities such as:
  - Support and referral relating to issues including: child behavioral management, financial difficulties, employment, mental health and housing
  - Case management for young people and families needing additional and ongoing support to access appropriate services. Case management is provided for an average duration of three months
  - Organising and holding parent support groups that focused on helping parents improve capacity to build positive relationships with their children. Skill development groups for parents were also convened around issues such as building budgeting skills, and cooking skills.
  - Conducting home visits where required including the provision of parenting information, family support and case management services
- **Stronger Connections: Families, Children and Communities** – This service is funded through the Smith Family's and delivers the following:
  - **Playgroup** – The service provided activities for diverse cultural backgrounds children under the age of five and parents. Participants engaged in a range of early childhood activities, school readiness, speech pathology, nutrition, fitness and health education to parents and carers. Participants also took part in the annual Paint Bankstown ReAD, Bankstown Story Telling in the Garden, Harmony Day, Bankstown Library Step into School, Health & Wellness Expo, Bankstown International Women's Day and Greenacre Family Fun Day.
  - **Parents Support Group** – a service providing information and building capacity relating to parenting skills and healthy lifestyle. Activities included Positive Parenting Program, Play Power and life skills activities.

- **Vacation Care and Excursions** – an extension of the playgroup program that ran during school terms, the Vacation Care program this year engaged parents and children of pre-school, primary and early high school age during school holiday periods. Excursions and program locations included sports centres, zoos, animal farms, libraries, parks and other local attractions.

Stronger Connections: Families, Children and Communities 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018		
Activity Type	Registered participants	
Parenting Support	24 parents	
Playgroup	37 parents	63 children
Total Attendance	1,566 parents and children	

- **Housing Support** – Through our Early Intervention and Placement Prevention (EIPP) program, assessing the housing needs of vulnerable members in the community is one part of a holistic approach to client service. Council, through its longstanding partnership with Evolve, continued to provide support to people in the community for housing including support through social housing applications, brokerage services and support through emergency housing application processes.
- **Casework, Advocacy and Referral** – this involved the provision of casework with families at Council’s premises and in some cases in client’s homes in the Canterbury Bankstown, Liverpool and Fairfield LGAs. Staff provided support or referrals to clients and

Children enjoying playgroup activity whilst developing sensory and fine motor skills



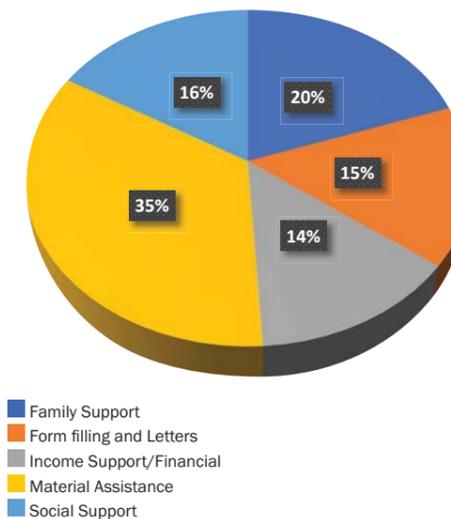
Playgroup Project Coordinator, Ms Josette Bechara during story telling

Playgroup excursion to Symbio Zoo

worked with them on achieving their goals. Overall, clients provided positive feedback about their experience and the services they received. The table below shows the area of support the related number of occasion of service.

Direct Services 1 Jul 2017 – 30 Jun 2	
Area of Support	Occasion of Service
Child Care	110
Domestic Violence	220
Education	158
Employment	128
Family Support	472
Form Filling & Support Letters	370
Housing	230
Income Support	336
Immigration & Settlement Issues	165
Legal	116
Material Assistance	831
Mental Health	132
NDIS support	121
Physical Health	134
Referrals out	484
Seniors Support	248
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,255</b>

Five Highest Areas of Service  
1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018



## Goal 2: Inclusion and Social Justice

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

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

### Equality and Inclusion

Throughout the year, Council worked with other groups and organisations to promote equality for all members of the community. Continuing the close work with the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) against racism, Council continued to be prominent at conferences and other forums where issues relating to the community’s experience of racism and its harms were presented, as well as professional development forums with service providers on recognising the need for and adopting culturally sensitive practices. The Race Discrimination Commissioner, Dr Tim Soutphommasane, who had worked closely with Council and other organisations in challenging race discrimination, completed his five-year term in 2018. In recognition of his outstanding leadership during his tenure, Council held a farewell event to honour Dr Soutphommasane and attended by Arab and other communities as well as representatives from government and community organisations. Representing diverse communities, Council’s CEO delivered an address at the official AHRC’s farewell function for Dr Soutphommasane.

Council also actively sought to increase equality and inclusion by addressing other areas of discrimination. Consistent with our values, policies and longstanding work for human rights, equality and social justice for all, Council publicly supported marriage equality when the Federal Government put this to a national survey. Council

continued to stand up for equality and joined with other organisations to form the South West Sydney Inclusive Community Network. This network focuses on the needs of vulnerable members of the South West Sydney area – in particular gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer, questioning communities (LGBTIQ), and identifies opportunities to work collaboratively on initiatives to increase inclusiveness and equality. Furthermore, in recognition of the 40 years since the first Mardi Gras protest, the CEO represented Council at the Sydney University Conference on the “78ers” and participated in a panel as part of the Mardi Gras events on the issue around queer migrants and refugees.

Council played an active part in calling for an end to domestic violence and in channelling and building on its resources to develop services towards this end. Activities included participating in the One Billion Rising flash mob event and developing the From the Ground Up to Equality project.



Council's CEO with members of the Mardi Gras Refugees Queer Thinking Panel, Feb 2018



Council staff: Hiba Ayache and Hala Al Duleimi participating in the flashmob event organised by Immigrant Women's Speakout Association as part of the One Billion Rising movement calling for an end to violence against women and children, Feb 2018

### Goal 3: Poverty Relief

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

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

#### Emergency Assistance

Council continued to deliver emergency relief services including the Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) Scheme. Working in partnership with House of Sadaqa, Council was able to facilitate the provision of essential household furniture and appliances to low income families and people facing financial hardships, as well as facilitate brokerage services for emergency moving expenses and home establishment.

#### Work and Development Order

Council hosts clients who undertake counselling to pay fines held with the State Debt Recovery Office. Eligible clients attend either gambling or financial counselling and where necessary referrals to other host organisations and health care providers are made. The Work and Development Order has been very successful in assisting clients paying off fines and completing their WDO through counselling.

Emergency Relief Assistance 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018	
<b>Work and Development Order</b>	
Clients assisted	130
<b>EAPA</b>	
Clients assisted	831
<b>Vouchers given</b>	<b>4080</b>

### Gambling Help Recovery and Support

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

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

Gambling Help Recovery and Support 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018	
Clients serviced	229
Families/Friends of clients serviced	46
Number of counselling sessions	1238



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

- St George Multicultural Network stakeholder meetings
- Regular meetings with the Parramatta community corrections with Council service updates
- Consultations with the funding body on planned marketing campaigns targeted to the Arabic speaking community on sports betting and gambling • Consultations with Burwood and Sutherland Legal Aid; St George Leagues Club; Bankstown Sports Club; Bankstown RSL; St George Hospital Mental Health Centre; Rockdale Community Centre; Hurstville Community Mental Health Centre; Arncliffe Chemist; Arncliffe Mosque; Rockdale Library; Sutherland TAFE; Bankstown TAFE; and Punchbowl Church
- Presentations at community centres in all regions
- Liverpool Multicultural Wellness Festival and Rockdale Community Festival attended by over 1,000 people

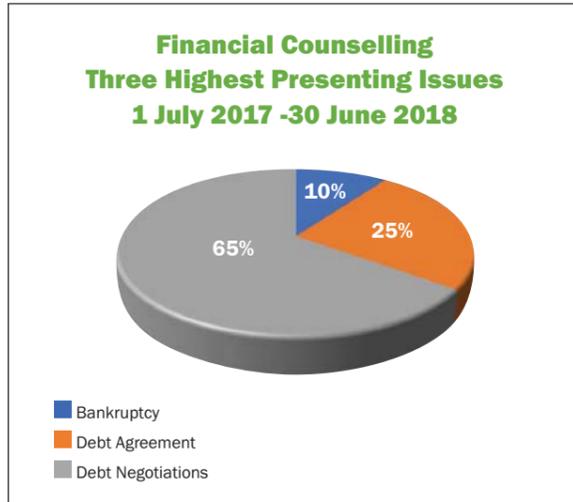
#### Financial Counselling

Council's financial counselling service makes a difference in the community and assists people with financial problems related to gambling to alleviate the anxiety of financial difficulties. As part of the Gambling Help Recovery and Support Service, financial counselling was provided to clients with problem gambling as well as to their families by accredited staff. Council's services included:

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

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

Financial Counselling 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018	
Clients serviced	69
Number of counselling sessions	348
Number of community education events	35



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

Community Education sessions	Attendance
Gambling and financial issues awareness sessions to Arabic speaking community members in Western Sydney, Coastal and South West Sydney	350
Gambling and financial issues awareness on Arabic Radio, SBS, 2ME for community members	100,000
Presentations to newly arrived migrants at Navitas English Learning Centres raising awareness on budgeting and problem gambling	240
Gambling issues forum presentations to community welfare workers and counsellors	300

## Goal 4: Capacity Building

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

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

### Community Building and Development

Council facilitated events and educational activities using a strength-based approach to develop community capacity and address community issues. These activities included community workshops, community networks/groups, social inclusion programs and events, skills/training programs, resources development,

sector planning, consultation and partnership projects. Some specific examples include:

- Canterbury Bankstown Connecting** – Promoting and developing sustainable collaboration amongst community organisations in the newly merged Canterbury Bankstown LGA, Council's Canterbury Bankstown Connecting (CBC) project continued the series of forums in 2018 that engaged over fifty (50) community organisations across the not for profit and community sector. Participants came together to explore ways of working together to leverage skills and resources to better serve the community. The CBC resource was launched on November 27, 2018 and is available on our website.
- Road Safety**– Graduated Learner Scheme and Child Restraints Workshops – Council ran eight (8) Graduated Learner Scheme workshops which provided information to families, relatives or friends of learner drivers about laws and requirements to becoming safer drivers. Council also ran eight (8) Child Restraint Workshops for families with children from 8 years of age or under, raising awareness of safety requirements for children travelling in cars.



Gambling Awareness community sessions



Council's Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers information table at Bankstown Public School

Child Restraint Workshop at Chester Hill Community Centre

- Parenting programs including Triple P** – Held both Arabic and English Council convened a series of seminars for parents and carers of children aged between 2 and 12 years of age as part of the parenting program. Several different parenting styles were explored along with different approaches to managing challenging and complex behaviors in children. The program was delivered in a number of locations including Bankstown, Fairfield, and Liverpool. Twenty-four (24) workshops were conducted and more than sixty (60) parents participated.
- Arab Workers Network (AWN)** – Council continues to convene the AWN for workers from

across NSW with an Arabic speaking background or who work with the Arab Australian community. AWN continues to highlight a vast array of issues affecting the community and provides valuable information with the view to increase access and equity for the community. AWN also provides a platform for skills development and information exchange amongst its members.

- **Activities and Information sessions** – Based on the identified needs of families through both consultations and casework, Council provided more than 100 educational activities



Auburn Seniors group participating in a Walk Safely Road Safety workshop



Parent Fitness Class at Chester Hill Public School playgroup



Council staff with internship students from Western Sydney University at Paint Bankstown REaD festival, Sep 2018

and partnered with other service providers in organising events. The table below includes information on the type of activity conducted and the specific groups the activities targeted.

Topics	Target Group	Attendance
Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers	Community	95
Positive Parenting Program	Parents	200+
Fitness Class	Parents	100
Greenacre Family Fun Day	Community	150
Child Restraint Workshop	Community	100+
Liverpool Wellness Festival	Community	1000
Walk Safely Road Safety	Seniors	210+
Paint Bankstown Read	Community	200
NDIS Consultation	Community	60
Open Day For People At Risk Of Homelessness	Community	100
Settlement-Upskill Café	Community	100+
Carer Group	Carers	50
Employment Skills-Upskill Café	Community	100+
Granville South Performing Arts High School Expo	Community	200
AWN	Workers	95
Elder Abuse Consultation	Community	80
EAPA information sessions	Community	60
WDO Information Sessions	Community	60
Financial Counselling	Community	111
Gambling Information sessions	Community	138

## Consultations and Advisory

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

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

Partnerships	
Arab Workers Network	Koorana
Auburn Diversity Services	Learning Links
Bankstown Canterbury Community Transport	Legal Aid
Bankstown Child & Family interagency	Metro Assist – Campsie
Bankstown Children and Families Hub	Multicultural HIV and HEP C
Bankstown Community Health centre	Multicultural Youth Affairs Network
Bankstown Community Resource Group	Navitas English language centres
Bankstown Homelessness Connect	Recreation Sports and Aquatic Club
Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service	Responsible Gambling Forums
Bankstown Police	Riverwood Community Centre
Baranados	Roads and Maritime Services
Breakthrough Media	Safe Work NSW
Cancer Council of NSW	Salvation Army
Canterbury Bankstown Council	SBS Radio, Arabic program
Canterbury Earlwood Caring Association	Settlement Services International
Canterbury City Community Centre	Sing and Grow
Catholic Care	Songroom
Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre	State and Debt Recovery
Chester Hill North Public School	Sydney Alliance
Clubs NSW	Sydney South West Area Health Service
Community Corrections NSW	TAFE NSW
Creating Links	The Gathering
Crisis Support Services	The Multicultural Network
Disability Services Australia	The Smith Family
Fairfield City Council	United Muslim Women Association
Family and Community Services	Uniting
Financial Counselling Association of Australia	Western Sydney Community Forum
Greenacre Area Community Centre	Western Sydney University
Inner South-West Community Development Org	Woodville Alliance

## Goal 5: Advocacy

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

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

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

### Collaboration

- **Sydney Alliance** – Council works as a member of the Sydney Alliance which is a citizens’ coalition that brings together diverse community organisations, unions, universities and religious organisations with an understanding and agenda for the common good. Recognising the ongoing stress of housing and lack of housing security,

the Alliance continued in 2018 to focus on the issue of inclusionary zoning targets for affordable housing rentals with a particular focus on the Canterbury Bankstown area going ahead in 2019.

- **Canterbury Bankstown Connecting** – as mentioned earlier the Canterbury Bankstown Connecting project collaborated with numerous local community organisations to enhance the service delivery across the newly merged local government area.
- **Arabic Healthy Lifestyle project** – Council collaborated with other NGOs and the Department of Health to identify effective ways to reach out to the Arabic speaking community to promote healthy eating habits and reduce the incidence of chronic diseases that can occur as a result of unhealthy eating.
- **Organ and Tissue Donation** – Council worked closely with the NSW Organ and Tissue Donation service and NSW Multicultural Health Service to continue to raise awareness of the important role organ and tissue donation has in saving the lives of others. Council actively participated and promoted the launch of Widows of Parramatta, a four-part series directed by Arab Australian Fadia Abboud that focussed on the lives of three Arab Australian women.
- **Multiculturalism** – Council hosted a roundtable discussion with David Coleman MP, the Federal Minister for Immigration,

Citizenship and Multiculturalism. Council along with community members came together to discuss issues of importance to the Arabic speaking community and present the community’s concerns around the increase of attacks on multiculturalism and specifically against Muslim and Arabic speaking communities.

- **Community Council for Australia (CCA)** – As a member of the CCA Council, along with other organisations across the country, is actively promoting the advocacy role of charities and not for profit community services. The CCA is working to provide a voice to the development of government policy and ensure that a more inclusive approach that benefits communities is adopted.
- **Advocacy** – Council worked closely with other Arab organisations in publicly condemning Israeli violence against Palestinians protesting in Gaza for their right of return and the lack of Australian Government response to the crisis. When the Federal Government announced it was considering following the US administration’s Israeli embassy move to Jerusalem, Council joined with a large number of Arab organisations in Sydney and issued a joint statement expressing the concerns of the community at the statements, and calling on the Australian government to consider international law and affirm that Australia will not relocate its embassy to Jerusalem.
- **Zest Awards** – Council participated in the annual Western Sydney Community Forum’s (WSCF) Zest Awards event and Council’s CEO presented some of the winners. The CEO sits on the WSCF’s Board and is the Deputy Chairperson.
- **Internships** – To continue developing and improving our services as well as provide an opportunity for students to experience work and research in a community organisation, Council initiated an internship program with Western Sydney University’s School of Social Work. Students on placement at Council worked on community profile projects researching issues affecting the Arabic speaking community in Australia such as discrimination, housing, employment, education, domestic and family violence

and disability. The research undertaken by the interns will support Council’s work and service delivery in the community. Also in 2018 a student on placement from Western Sydney University’s School of Anthropology conducted research on the representation of the Palestine/Israel conflict in the Australian media and how that has impacted community understanding of the issues.

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

- Funding application to Road and Maritime Services for the following three programs: Senior Pedestrian Safety “Walk Safely”, Graduated Licensing Scheme “Helping Learners Drivers Become Safer Drivers” and free fitting for child restraint seat “Child Car Seat Check” (Successful)
- Funding application to the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ELC) – ILC National Readiness Grants for the “Arability” project (Unsuccessful)
- Funding application to the National Disability Insurance Scheme /Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) for the “AwarAbility” project under the Community Grants Hub (Successful)
- Round 2 EOI to Women NSW under the Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund “From the Ground Up to Equality” project (Successful)
- Funding application to the Youth Opportunity



Participants from numerous organisations across the Canterbury Bankstown LGA during forum series for Canterbury Bankstown Connecting

Program 2018/2019- Round 7 for the “Teams In Pop Ups” project (Unsuccessful)

- Funding application to the Office of Responsible Gambling for the “Nadi Arab Australia” project- (Awaiting decision)
- Funding application to the Sydney Local Health District’s Connecting Communities Challenge (Successful)
- Funding application to the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) for the Client Service “One to One Empowerment” project through Community Grant HUB (Awaiting decision)

### Council Membership

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

### Professional Development

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

- Family Law – Legal Aid
- Financial Counselling Conference
- Financial Counselling training and monthly supervision
- First Aid training
- Gambling counselling monthly supervision
- Induction gambling counselling training
- Journal Clubs at Sydney University Gambling Treatment Clinic
- LifeLine- Recognise and Respond Appropriately to Domestic & Family Violence
- Liquor and Gaming managers training
- Mental Health First Aid Australia – Standard Mental Health First Aider
- National Association of Gambling Studies conference
- 123 Magic
- Recognise and respond appropriately to domestic and family violence – Lifeline
- RESP Training – Refugee Employment Settlement Program

- Roads and Maritime Services Training
- Safe Talk – Suicide Alert Australian Childhood Foundation – Bringing Up Great Kids
- Safety Assessment Management – The Community Hub Burwood
- Seasons for Growth Training – Good Grief
- 3 A Abecedarian Approach Practitioner
- 3 A Abecedarian Approach Affiliate Trainer
- Westpac Refugee Loans
- Work and Development Order Training – Legal Aid

### Capable Governance

In November 2017, a new Board was elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Board consists of 10 members and they collectively bring extensive and valuable knowledge, skills and experience to the Council. These include but are not limited to: management experience and major program implementation both within Government and the not-for-profit sectors in community services and health; extensive experience on Boards; private sector experience in business and legal sectors, education and training delivery; community development; advocacy for human rights and vulnerable groups, research, developing innovative initiatives such as the Australian Arab Business Network, Sydney Alliance and the Pro Bono Medical Program for Asylum seekers and volunteer experience both in Australia and abroad.

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

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

Sydney Alliance Affordable Housing Action Day in Penrith, Mar 2018



Council’s CEO with the Hon Bob Carr, former Premier of NSW and former Foreign Minister; Senator Rhiannon; H.E Izzat Abdul Hadi and members of the Palestinian Community at the Iftar Dinner, May 2018



Council’s stall at the Paint Bankstown REaD festival, Sept 2018



At the Muslim Women Association’s 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration (L to R) Astrid Perry, SSI; Melissa Monteiro CMRC; Maha Abdo, MWA; Violet Roumeliotis, SSI, Council’s CEO; Michelle Rowland MP; Pino Migliorino, CULPER. Nov 2018



Council’s staff at the 2017 AGM (back row L-R) Hiba Ayache, Heshmat Shahid, Hala Al Duleimi, Zahia Charida front row L-R) Josette Bechara, Rhonda Issaoui, Nena Al-Bazi



Senior’s Group visiting Parramatta Park, Sep 2018

## Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present Council's 2018 audited financial report.

The statements within this report provide a true and fair view of our financial position and performance for this period. They have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and include 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 have operated within budget and have been expended in accordance with funding guidelines. At the date of these financial statements, we have reasonable grounds to believe that Council will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

I am pleased to report that we have maintained our funding for the various projects and have recently been approved funds for two new projects: the "AwarAbility" and "from the Grounds Up to Equality". These new funds provide essential resources for the community through our organisation and will be reflected in next financial year's report.

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

I thank our administration staff for their devotion and assurance to undertake Council's day-to-day tasks. Thanks also to our Auditor, Mr Edward Chahoud, for finalising the audits and our Accountant Mr George Silvino for his sound advice.

I offer my gratitude to the Chairperson, Ms Mary Shalhoub, my fellow Board members, our Council's staff and volunteers for their commitment, dedication and hard work.

This has been another active year in Council's long journey, leading towards our 40th anniversary in 2019. Looking ahead, we will no doubt continue to see more innovative, dynamic and pioneering work from this organisation. This requires exemplary and visionary leadership which our CEO, Ms Randa Kattan has in spades and is reflected in Council's standing and all the work it carries out. Randa has my humble and utmost admiration and I thank her deeply.

**Jamal Hamdan**  
Treasurer



**Arab Council Australia**  
المجلس العربي استراليا

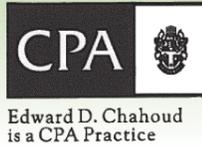
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www.arabcouncil.org.au  
ABN 65 538 322 175

### STATEMENT OF THE BOARD

In the opinion of the Board:

1. The accompanying financial statements have been drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of **ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INC.** as at **30th June 2018** and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.
3. All funds have been invested in accordance with the terms and conditions of funding agreements.
4. All funds have been expended in accordance with funding guidelines.
5. At the date of the statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

NAME OF MEMBER	SIGNATURE	DATE
Mary Shalhoub		12 Nov 2018
Jamal Hamdan		12 Nov 2018



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

ABN 28 958 252 950

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

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## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

ABN 65 538 322 175

We have audited the accompanying special purpose financial report of **Arab Council Australia Inc.** which comprises the Balance sheet as at **30 June 2018**, the Income & Expenditure statement and cash flow statement for the year ended **30 June 2018**, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement of Board members.

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

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

### **Auditor's responsibility**

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

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

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

### **Independence**

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

### **Electronic publication of the audited financial report**

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

### **Audit Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report

- 1) presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Arab Council Australia Inc. as at **30 June 2018** 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 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.

**Edward Chahoud**, CPA 841305

Dated this 8th day of November 2018

## ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

ABN 65 538 322 175

Suite 2, Level 2 44-46 Mandarin Street, Fairfield East NSW 2165 Australia  
PO BOX 1103 Bankstown NSW 2200 Australia  
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### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
<b>Current Assets</b>		
C'wealth Bank a/c 062334 10737766	6,618.34	90,619.15
C'wealth Bank a/c 062334 10752309	102,437.51	231,175.41
C'wealth Bank Term deposit a/c 233450125705	99,343.80	98,720.89
C'wealth Bank Term deposit a/c 233450181694	17,714.13	17,714.13
Petty Cash	500.00	500.00
	<u>226,613.78</u>	<u>438,729.58</u>
Securoty Bonds	5,434.00	5,434.00
Debtors	11,421.76	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>243,469.54</u>	<u>444,163.58</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Corporate Credit Card	40.00	376.75
GST payable	5,772.97	14,587.99
Superannuation Payable	8,178.72	8,463.68
PAYG Withholding	8,252.00	11,463.00
Provision for Program costs	5,247.46	87,397.09
Provision for Annual leave	38,548.63	60,000.00
Provision for Annual Leave Loading	-	12,000.00
Provision for Long Service Leave	-	30,363.87
Provision for Community Bus	7,000.00	7,000.00
Provision for Equipment	2,590.00	1,000.00
Provision for Relocation & Repairs	36,121.21	36,071.21
	<u>111,750.99</u>	<u>268,723.59</u>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	83,305.33	72,305.33
Provision for Program costs	-	25,000.00
Provision for Community Bus	14,000.00	14,000.00
	<u>97,305.33</u>	<u>111,305.33</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>209,056.32</u>	<u>380,028.92</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>34,413.22</u>	<u>64,134.66</u>

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### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants	note 2 1,152,963.48	1,215,134.22
Administration Charges	37,653.45	28,800.31
Centrelink Paid Parental Leave	2,436.87	2,762.13
Donations	55.00	30.00
Events / Seminars / Training	3,100.05	-
Hall Hire	81.82	-
Interest	2,365.47	4,411.71
Membership	1,163.65	162.72
NDIS Income	2,139.87	-
Other misc. receipts	4,966.56	8,138.05
	<u>1,206,926.22</u>	<u>1,259,439.14</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Advertising - Staff Recruitment & Publicity	-	1,083.33
Annual leave Loading	698.25	10,213.97
Audit	5,450.00	4,945.00
Artwork & Design	1,120.00	920.00
Bank Charges	1,470.95	1,867.44
Bookkeeping Fees	1,485.00	1,216.67
Books, Reports & Resources	-	109.09
Bus Running Costs	9,328.64	8,035.56
Childcare	-	30.00
Cleaning	7,535.90	11,232.57
Computer Purchase & Maintenance	-	1,810.33
Conference	920.27	-
Consultancy & Supervision	7,020.00	155,254.55
Dietician, Fitness and Speech Therapy services	4,185.00	-
Electricity	9,288.12	8,775.48
Equipment Purchase & Hire	1,955.70	9,659.53
Food Aid	-	10,419.17
General Expenses	1.50	1.85
Hall and Venue Hire	3,560.35	3,201.80
Insurance - General & public liability	7,591.45	8,372.04
- Workers Compensation	15,866.62	15,421.14
Internet and Networking	28,458.02	30,162.69
Management & Supervision Fees	-	6,730.83
Meeting expenses	6,704.13	8,605.47
Newspapers & Periodicals	-	76.18
Program & Project Activity Costs	29,808.01	77,153.84
Postage	299.12	601.19
Printing	3,096.50	4,242.00
Prizes & Awards	1,385.27	-
Rent	105,463.09	94,673.00
Repairs & Maintenance	3,442.50	6,679.96
Salaries & Wages	837,947.68	878,018.42
Security	-	175.08
Staff Amenities	1,535.76	1,966.87
Stationery	2,561.79	2,789.59
Subscriptions & Membership	7,094.46	4,471.81
Superannuation	83,032.20	79,438.43
Telephone	37,789.74	29,499.23
Training	1,261.33	1,554.55
Travel, Transport & Parking Fees	9,290.31	9,432.36
	<u>1,236,647.66</u>	<u>1,488,841.02</u>
Operating Surplus / (deficit ) for year	- <b>29,721.44</b>	- 229,401.88
Brought Fwd Surplus/(Deficit) last year	64,134.66	293,536.54
<b>Accumulated Surplus/Deficit @ 30.6.18</b>	<u>34,413.22</u>	<u>64,134.66</u>

**ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED**

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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

2017	INFLOWS / (OUTFLOWS)	2018
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
1,255,027	Receipts Grants	1,204,561
1,462,038	Payments to suppliers & employees	1,419,042
<b>- 207,011</b>	<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>- 214,482</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
4,412	Interest received	2,365
-	Payment for property ,plant & equipment	-
<b>4,412</b>	<b>Net cash used for investing</b>	<b>2,365</b>
- 202,599	Net increase / (decrease) in cash held	- 212,116
641,329	Cash at beginning of reporting period	438,730
<b>438,730</b>	<b>Cash at end of reporting period</b>	<b>226,614</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO OPERATING PROFIT</b>		
- 229,402	Operating profit after tax	- 29,721
	Add/(less) items classified as Non-operating activities	
4,412	Interest received	- 2,365
<b>- 233,814</b>	<b>Cash derived from operating activities</b>	<b>- 32,087</b>
	Add / (less) non cash items	
- 48,719	Provision for accrued leave	- 52,816
<b>- 185,095</b>		<b>- 84,902</b>
<b>Changes in assets &amp; liabilities</b>		
4,146	Decrease / (Increase) in Deposits recoverable	-
-	Decrease / (Increase) in Debtors	- 11,422
- 838	(Decrease) / Increase in Corporate Credit Card Deposits p	- 337
- 15,022	(Decrease) / Increase in GST Payable	- 8,815
- 3,106	(Decrease) / Increase Superannuation Payable	- 285
123	(Decrease) / Increase PAYG withholding	- 3,211
76,840	(Decrease) / Increase in program costs	- 107,150
- 5,297	(Decrease) Increase in provision for relief staff	-
- 3,017	(Decrease) Increase in provision for community bus	-
- 15,304	(Decrease) / Increase in provision for equipment	1,590
- 60,441	(Decrease) / Increase in provision for Relocation & repairs	50
<b>- 207,011</b>	<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>- 214,482</b>

**ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INC**  
**ABN 65 538 322 175**

**NOTES TO & FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2018**

**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:

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

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

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

# ARAB COUNCIL AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

ABN 65 538 322 175

## NOTES TO & FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2018

NOTE 2. GRANTS RECEIVED	2018	2017
<b>DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY &amp; COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>		
1. Arabic Welfare Centre Co-ordinator	107,609.53	104,186.04
2. Child, Youth & Family Support Project	364,977.85	353,366.42
<b>DEPARTMENT OF GAMING &amp; RACING</b>		
1. Problem Gambling - South west Sydney	157,940.00	115,086.00
2. Problem Gambling - Coastal Sydney	66,204.00	48,702.00
3. Problem Gambling - Western Sydney	65,906.00	48,483.00
<b>CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN COUNCIL</b>		
Connecting Project	-	50,000.00
Better Community	-	5,000.00
<b>DEPT. OF AGEING, DISABILITY &amp; HOME CARE</b>		
Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network	9,791.47	74,763.91
<b>DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES</b>		
Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network	161,893.68	167,038.92
Live Safe Feel Safe	-	75,000.00
<b>DEPT. OF HEALTH</b>		
Arabic Seniors Social and Information Network	39,954.14	6,563.99
<b>THE SMITH FAMILY</b>		
Stronger Connection: Family, Children & Communities	107,000.00	30,000.00
<b>SETTLEMENT SERVICES INTERNATIONAL LTD</b>		
Future Ability Projects Business Development Initiative 1	-	15,000.00
Future Ability Projects Business Development Initiative 2	35,000.00	35,000.00
Foster Carer	-	10,000.00
<b>MINOR GRANTS</b>		
Scanlon Foundation-Connect, Upskill, Engage	-	20,000.00
Cultural Partners- Breast Screening	-	20,000.00
NDS - Quality Subsidy	-	4,500.00
RMS - Helping Learner Drivers Project	12,323.00	10,973.64
RMS - Child Restraint workshop	10,179.09	10,848.80
RMS - Seniors Walking Safety Workshop	14,184.72	10,621.50
	<b>1,152,963.48</b>	<b>1,215,134.22</b>

### ACCUMULATED FUNDS AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

Project Name	2018	2017
F&CS - Community Builders	1	-
F&CS - Child, Youth & Family Support	7	-
General a/c	9	63,192.21
Problem Gambling - South West Sydney	10	-
RMS - GLS workshop	23	-
RMS - Child Restraint	33	-
RMS - Walking Safety	34	-
Fundraiser - Families & Elderly	41	5,247.45
Life Safe Feel Safe	101	-
Problem Gambling - Coastal Sydney	111	-
Problem Gambling - Western Sydney	112	-
Future Ability Project BDI 1	113	-
Future Ability Project BDI 2	114	35,000.00
DSS Fund - ASSIN	116	-
ADHC Fund - ASSIN	118	-
Stronger Connection: Family, Child. & Communities	119	5,000.00
Connecting Project	120	35,695.00
DOH - ASSIN	121	-
	<b>34,413.22</b>	<b>64,134.66</b>



## Board

Mary Shalhoub	Chairperson
Imad Berro (Dr)	Deputy Chairperson
Rana Saab	Deputy Chairperson
Rita Almohty (Dr)	Secretary
Jamal Hamdan	Treasurer
Ramzi Barnouti (Dr)	Board Member
Nikolai Haddad	Board Member
Wafa Jeha	Board Member
Amir Salem	Board Member
Randa Kattan	Chief Executive Officer & Public Officer

## Personnel

Randa Kattan	Chief Executive Officer & Public Officer
Rebecca Semaan	Administration & Information Unit Manager (Aug 2018 - Present)
Nena Al Bazi	Administration Officer (Apr 2018 - Present) Administration & Information Unit Manager (Jul 2017 - Apr 2018)
Hala Al Duleimi	Community & Business Development Manager (Sep 2017 - Present) Child, Youth and Family Support Office (Sep 2015 - Aug 2017)
Djimi Barber	ASSIN Coordinator (Feb 2018 - Present) Child, Youth and Family Support Officer and Counsellor/Casework Officer (Jun 2017 - Feb 2018)
Jossette Bechara	Stronger Connections Project Coordinator
Nehme Mrish	Community Bus Driver
Hiba Ayache	Direct Services Manager
Mary-Ely Bechara	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (May 2017 - Present) RESP Casework officer (Jun 2018 - Present)
Zeinab Hourani	Problem Gambling Counsellor/Casework Officer
Reem Khalil	Counsellor/Casework Officer (May 2017 - Present) NDIS Support Coordinator (Aug 2018 - Present)
Heshmat Shahid	Problem Gambling Counsellor/Casework Officer
Dallal Zonino	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer
Amira Shahid	AwarAbility Project Manager (Oct 2018 - Present)
Zahra Cheikh Ali	AwarAbility Case Coordinator (Nov 2018 - Present)
Wafa Ibrahim	Youth, Child & Family Support Officer (Maternity Leave)
Hany El Helu	RESP Coordinator (Apr 2017 - Jun 2018) Administration Unit Manager (Jun 2018 - Aug 2018)
Sadie Arida	NDIS Support Coordinator (Oct 2017 - July 2018)
Victor Ishak	Administration Unit Manager (Apr 2018 - Jun 2018)
Rhonda Issaoui	Community Care Coordinator (Feb 2013 - Feb 2018)
Randa Moussa	Communities and Business Development Manager (Jun 2017 - Resigned Sep 2017. Started 2013)
Zahia Charida	Canterbury Bankstown Connecting Project Manager (Apr - Nov 2017)

## Consultants and Contractors

Robyn McEwan                      Consultancy Services  
 Lopitta Fares                      Web Editing and Information Management  
 Nash Partners                      Consultant Strategic Planning and proposals  
 Paul Porteous                      Consultant, Canterbury Bankstown Connecting Project

## Volunteers

Zaid Hanoody  
 Victor IshaK  
 Daad Karaali  
 Tony Krissakis  
 Julienne Maher Dimon  
 Yorka Manja  
 Fadia Samia  
 Halima Shmait  
 Helene Trad

## Students on Placement

Western Sydney University		Western Sydney University – STARTTS program	
Josephine Ajuyah	Merve Keuser Genc	Safa Bakhtiari	Malak Shakhtour
Bijon Basnet	Sarah Moukhallalati	Anthony Ebere Nwaokorie	Waterloo Suge
Zahra Cheikh Ali	Sonia Okafor		
Daniella Johnson	Ann Sirji		
REACH College		Australian College of Applied Psychology	
Marwa Ahmed		Rima Baba	
Rawa Hamze		Hania Masoud	
Iman Merhi			

## Funding Bodies

Bankstown Region Communities for Children Facilitating Partner – The Smith Family  
 Canterbury Bankstown Council – Stronger Communities Fund  
 Department of Family and Community Services – EIPP and Community Builders  
 Department of Family and Community Services – Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund  
 Department of Health – Commonwealth Home Support Programme  
 Department of Social Services – through Uniting  
 National Disability Insurance Agency – ILC Jurisdictional Based Round 2 Grant Round.  
 NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing – Responsible Gambling Fund  
 NSW Transport – Roads and Maritime Services  
 Settlement Services International – RESP  
 Sydney Local Health District – Connecting Communities Challenge



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