



MCCSA

Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia

2016/2017 ANNUAL REPORT

ACCOUNTABLE
FUTURE
CONNECTED
SUSTAINABLE
WELL
EDUCATE
EMPOWERMENT
REPRESENTING
CONNECTION
UNDERSTANDING
PASSIONATE
OPPORTUNITY
INNOVATION





Contributing

to a successful Multicultural Australia

Chairperson and Chief Executive Report

2016-2017 has been a year of drawing inspiration from our past history, celebrating our achievements, and moving forward to a stronger, innovative and responsive Multicultural Communities Council of SA (MCCSA).

Our prime objectives over the next few years will be to change the narrative of multiculturalism and to develop a more contemporary approach which meets the needs of our very diverse South Australians. We will work with all political parties and communities in advancing social cohesion in South Australia. As a community our diversity is our greatest strength and asset.

The MCCSA, from its humble beginnings in 1949 as a derivative of the Good Neighbour Council, is very proud to be recognised by our Governments, Ethnic Communities and the broader society as the Peak multicultural body. We fulfil an important leadership role helping to ensure that a stronger, inclusive and economically viable South Australia is supported. We do not take this position lightly, and we are committed to working with all to ensure that the best interests of our great society are met.

As the Peak agency we receive many requests to provide input and support on project development, research and advice for a broad range of organizations and groups.

Over the past few years we have seen an increase in demand for the use of our facilities. The State Government and the MCCSA have both financially contributed towards the refurbishment of 113 Gilbert Street to provide communities with a comfortable, well-resourced Gilbert Street Community Hub in response to this increased demand.

Our statistics show that our hall, training room and small offices have been utilised over 800 times by over 50 different groups undertaking a range of activities during this financial year. Some of these groups are under the auspice of the MCCSA, but the majority of groups who utilise our Community Hub do so as independent bodies contributing positively to our Nation and our State.

We are proud of the way our communities have embraced us as their Peak body supporting them through their individual journeys, and using our facility as their home for the time being.

We have continued to advocate for the needs of our multicultural

communities making submissions on Section 18 C of the Racial Discrimination ACT, proposed changes to citizenship requirements, State Government Select Committee on Elder Abuse and the Federal Government's new approach to diversity.

As a community based organisation which is continually expanding we are aware of the need to seek additional ways of supporting our work and our communities and broadening our funding base. We have now gained Deductible Gift Recipient status and are listed as a Public Benevolent Institution.

This organisation will be developing its Strategic Plan for the period 2018-2021 over the coming year. A key feature of this plan will be to seek and create alternative funding opportunities either independently or in collaboration with like-minded organisations.

The next few years will be an exciting time, with opportunities presented and challenges that will need to be addressed. This Council's primary challenge over the coming years will be to secure adequate financial, structural and human resources to support the increase in diverse community and stakeholder needs.

The Board of the MCCSA is committed to creating an organisation which is sustainable, innovative, responsive, transparent and remaining contemporary to the needs of the time.

Thank you for all the support offered to the MCCSA by our Volunteers, Communities, Governments, Board members and Staff, it is acknowledged and much appreciated. Our collective efforts contribute to a greater South Australia.



Miriam Cocking
Chairperson



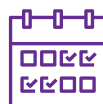
Helena Kyriazopoulos
Chief Executive Officer





Our programs

GILBERT ST COMMUNITY HUB



814
BOOKINGS

50
DIFFERENT GROUPS

Our hall and training room usage continues to expand as Communities make increased use of the multipurpose, flexible space. We were fortunate to have a grant from DCSI to upgrade our crockery and kitchen utensils. This has built on the grants from DCSI and MCCSA funds which have seen the introduction of new furniture, whitegoods, revamped kitchens and storage areas for communities.

Established and new and emerging communities use these spaces for a wide variety of community activities: seniors groups, art groups, community meetings, English classes, language classes in other languages for both children and adults, annual general meetings, dance classes, youth community events, women's groups, writing groups, playgroups, mental health support, Consul activities and Professional associations. In addition to this the Community Hub is used for multicultural activities such as SALA, International Women's Day celebrations, CALD research, meetings of the Council for Women of Diverse cultural background and Council for Human Rights Education, The Flourishing life Program, Community Visitors program, Forums for CALD leaders, transport meetings, the new RAH consultations, Transforming health, Knowing Your Rights sessions and Digital Life admin training sessions.

MCCSA staff also use the Hub for internal meetings and meetings with external stakeholders such as Autism SA, SAPOL, Adelaide City Council, OFTA, Australian Multicultural Foundation CyberMum and Breast cancer and Breast screening SA. The Successful Communities program held numerous training sessions for community leaders in our hub and ethno specific aged service providers gathered for a variety of sessions including, focus groups, aged care sessions and a conversation with Alexandre Kalache on Active Ageing.

Our programs

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers made an extraordinarily valuable contribution to MCCSA over this financial year-

7354 hours: the equivalent of over 4.5 full time staff contributing the equivalent of \$375,000 to help maintain MCCSA's peak body roles.

They worked on a wide range of tasks including the transport program, community visitor scheme, playgroups, digital life admin training and resource development, office administration, research, successful communities' toolbox, harmony picnic and other events, mentor training for community leaders, community development work and the management of MCCSA.

78 VOLUNTEERS  **7354** HOURS
= 4.5 FULL-TIME STAFF

STUDENT PLACEMENTS

MCCSA continued its commitment to placing students who want to learn about the multicultural area

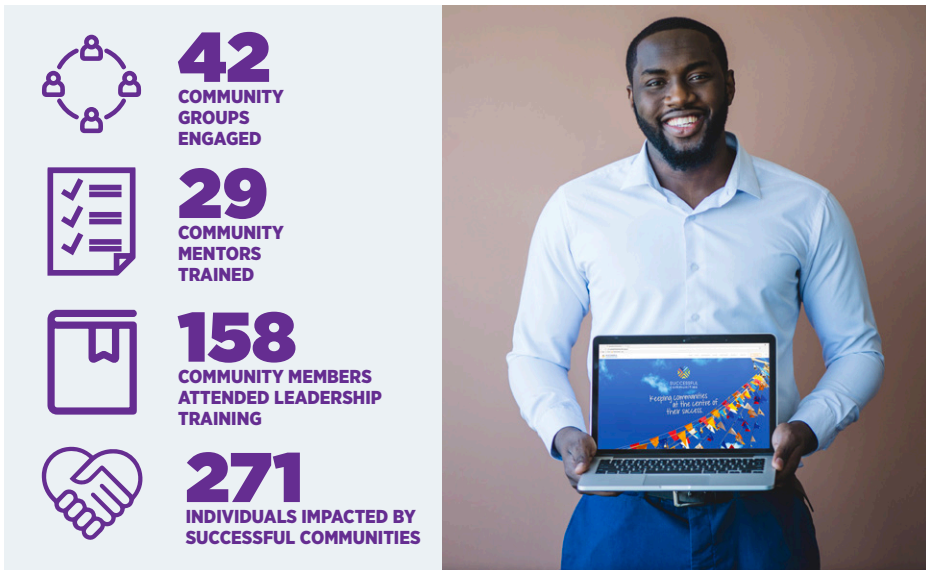
with 4 student placements totalling 1020 hours. We were fortunate to have a Chinese student completing her Master of Social work at Flinders University and two Kenyan students undertaking Diplomas of Community Services with Southern Cross Education Institute. The students contributed to our Community Visitors Scheme and a range of other projects. One student project led to a successful grant for a Swahili-speaking sewing, knitting, mending and alteration group. We also had a wonderful project looking at helping teenagers with bullying.

4 STUDENTS  **1020** STUDENT HOURS

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

MCCSA continues to work with a wide range of Stakeholders including ethno specific organisations, multicultural organisations, State and Federal Government Departments, Councils, Universities, schools and other not for profit organisations. A comprehensive list is available on our website - www.mccsa.org.au/stakeholders

150+ STAKEHOLDERS



SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES

Successful Communities is focussed on providing support to vulnerable and emerging communities and its members. It aims to assist groups to thrive and grow, plan for their futures, with both strong leadership and engaged volunteers. The program works with communities to determine what help they need to achieve their goals and facilitates access to free training, 1:1 Coaching, general support or professional mentoring.

Leadership Training Courses included: Refining Your Grants, Advocacy and Public Speaking, Working in Teams, Social Media and Promotion, Mentoring Training, Skills for Boards and Committees, Strategic and Community Planning, Mentoring for Community Leaders, Grant Writing for Community Leaders, Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers, Introduction to Governance, Cultural Diversity and Inclusion - Representation through Community Leaders.

This project creates strong, long-term outcomes for the communities that participate, including increased knowledge in running a community group, leadership skills, succession planning and focus on the vision and plan for the community.

Communities were encouraged to increase their capacity and confidence to engage with the wider community through attendance and performance at the Harmony Day in the City Event at the Migration Museum, attendance and performance at the MCCSA Harmony Picnic in Whitmore Square, engagement and support of our Refugee Week “Refugee Stories and Q&A” event and Multicultural festivals grants session with successful grant outcomes.

The Successful Communities Toolbox (www.successfulcommunities.org.au/toolbox) was launched and a website created for Multicultural Community Leaders to access resources, tools and templates to assist communities in governance, taking action, advocacy and promotion of their community group.

Our programs

KICKSTARTING CHILDHOOD SUCCESS

20 SESSIONS  **31** PARTICIPANTS WITH THEIR CHILDREN

MCCSA delivered a pilot program with the support of Lutheran Community Care in 2016 for two groups of newly arrived CALD mothers. This program supported culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Women to better understand and engage with early childhood services directed at education, health, and family wellbeing.

This first group included women from a Middle Eastern Background - Afghani, Iraqi, Kurdish and Lebanese Women that had arrived in Australia in a variety of ways - including participants on Bridging visas, humanitarian entrants and those entering via family reunification.

The second group were Korean Mothers, mostly here as migrants, on spousal or student visas.

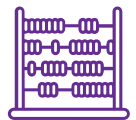
12 different early childhood and wellbeing service providers presented and discussed their services with the participants during the 10 week program.

The program focused on Building CALD women's knowledge of the services and supports available for them and their children; Explaining some of the Australian systems, including the Australian health and education systems, and to educate CALD women how to access such systems; and Increasing CALD women's likelihood to ask questions and seek services and support for themselves and their families. Since the conclusion of this project MCCSA has acted on the evaluation report recommendation to establish opportunities for social networks for CALD mothers. We continue to support the Korean Mums to conduct an ongoing playgroup that they value greatly.

PLAYGROUPS

2 PLAYGROUPS

50 CHILDREN **43** PARENTS



The desire of Multicultural mothers for stronger social connection was clear in the 'Kickstarting Childhood Success' project that was run by MCCSA in 2016. Following this project, two MCCSA

playgroups were established for children and their families. One playgroup is multicultural and one is Korean and English speaking. 23 parents with 27 children attended the Multicultural playgroup over this year and 20 parents with 23 children attended the Korean playgroup. Activities included Lego, playing with trains, ball throwing, matching activity, playing with a parachute, drawing, reading, singing and playing with a variety of toys. These activities all help with the development of cognitive emotional and physical skills. Parents have an opportunity to meet other parents, some of whom may become lifelong friends. Mothers, fathers and grandparents have the opportunity for active play with their child(ren) or grandchild.

RECONNECT

Our Reconnect program has been busy this year supporting young people at risk of homelessness and their families. MCCSA works with the Community Access and Services of SA (Vietnamese Community) and the Overseas Chinese Association to provide three youth workers that case manage individual vulnerable young people. This involves counselling, advocacy, practical support, goal setting, family mediation and referrals to specialized services. During the reporting period we individually supported young people from eight different cultural backgrounds from Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

In addition to individual support Reconnect youth workers also provide a range of group programs. During this period Reconnect staff:

- » supported a Northern youth group that meets weekly and focuses on positive social networks, connections to culture and language, and study support
- » supported a social basketball program for new arrivals
- » provided Money Smart training; and
- » delivered an annual youth camp.

Reconnect staff engage regularly with high schools across Adelaide through outreach, group programs and case management. This year they have been actively working with Craigmore High, Underdale High, Parafield Gardens High, Adelaide Secondary School of English, Adelaide High, Roma Mitchell Secondary College and Immanuel College. The Reconnect Team also works in partnership with three Western Councils to deliver a Youth Expo every April at the Titanium Area. This year around 700 students participated from approximately 12 schools.

71
ACTIVE
CLIENTS

452
INDIVIDUAL
SESSIONS

700
STUDENTS AT
YOUTH EXPO

ACTIVE AGEING

Following on from our Positive Ageing grant 3 groups have continued. The Lebanese Maronites are still continuing to exercise and happily using the exercise bands. Two art groups have continued. The Russian art group have moved from collages to painting and Buena Amistad the Spanish speaking art group have undertaken a variety of activities including art-related outings, weaving and mosaics.



Our programs

KILBURN EXPRESSION SESSIONS

20
SESSIONS



30
PARTICIPANTS

In May 2017 MCCA began work on a series of creative arts youth programs with the support of the Kilburn Community Centre. To date we have delivered a visual art and a digital media program to approximately 30 local multicultural young people, predominately from African backgrounds. Participants meet weekly to work on their respective project and we are working to enhance their wellbeing and resilience by:

- » Using thoughts, feelings and emotions to express their talents
- » Improved understanding of 'self' and 'place' leading to a greater sense of inclusion in community
- » Experiencing personal success, sparking enthusiasm and confidence
- » Increasing positive influences and social grouping - cross culturally
- » Connecting with consistent peer/ role models from diverse age groups and backgrounds.

This project will continue into the next financial year and include music and hip hop as well as expression through fashion. MCCA staff will support the young people to host a launch event for all of their collective work in December 2017. This work has also led to students contributing to the Kilburn Community Centre's new look. They were invited to participate in two Aerosol Art sessions as part of a program that led to the entire Centre being covered in Art. We hope to find additional funding to build on this work beyond 2017.

KOREAN WOOD CARVING

15 PARTICIPANTS

The MCCA Korean Wood Carving project was managed by MCCA and financed by a Seniors Grant from the Office for the Ageing, Department for Health and Ageing. This project was facilitated for Koreans aged 50 and over under the supervision of an expert with 35 years of experience. Through this project, the participants got together once a fortnight to learn the traditional skill of Korean wood carving and enjoy a social outing at the same time. In these artistic activities, participants could not conceal their excitement and joy in collaborating in such creative activity with each other and it is restoring vitality to their lives. Following this project the MCCA Korean Wood Carving Group was established with MCCA support. The participants have become even more harmonious, as their mental well-being and self-expression are enhanced.

DIGITAL LIFE ADMIN



16 TABLETS & IPADS

MCCSA was fortunate to get a seniors grant from OFTA to purchase Ipads and tablets for our Digital life admin courses which we are in the process of developing. In an increasingly digital society older people need access to digital skills to be fully engaged and to undertake activities without undue hardship. Organisations such as Centrelink actively promote the use of technology. Simple tasks such as informing Centrelink you are going overseas to visit relatives can be daunting when seniors are sat down at a computer and told to enter information without knowing what they are doing. By teaching Life admin skills and encouraging the use of a tablet on a regular basis it is hoped that basic computer skills will be reinforced and seniors will learn the range of ways in which they can use digital technology to enhance their life. We are currently developing 7 training units.

KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS

5 COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS | **3 TRAINING SESSIONS**

In an innovative program OFTA has partnered with MCCSA to bring information about the Rights of older people to five ethno-specific organisations. Based on the 'Knowing Your Rights' publication, sessions this financial year have included:

- » Safeguarding your rights
- » The rights of grandparents with regards to their grandchildren
- » The Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner
- » The Legal Services Commission on health issues.

TREASURED STORY

Last year, MCCSA and St John Flourishing Life Program worked in partnership for the 'Treasured Story Project'. This project provided participants with a way to transform and share their most meaningful memories with others. MCCSA worked with two Chinese seniors and a Korean senior to help them share their treasured life stories. The participants had a diverse range of life experiences, accumulated knowledge, wisdom and strength of character and embraced the joy of life. The project culminated in a presentation event where life stories were shared. This project gave MCCSA the opportunity to acknowledge the meaning and value of our elders and their life stories and it will be a precious treasure for younger generations from a multicultural background born and raised in Australia.

Our programs

COMMUNITY VISITORS SCHEME (CVS)

Over the last year our 35 volunteers were busy sharing their warmth

and happiness with 50 CALD elderly people in aged care facilities. They visited people from the following backgrounds: - Ukrainian, Chinese, Polish, Hungarian, Bosnian, Serbian, Spanish, German, French, Italian, Greek, Dutch, Russian, Indian, Syrian, Croatian and Tanzanian. MCCSA regularly hosted CVS support meetings for our volunteers holding information sessions on Grief and Loss, Dementia, First Aid Training, Sustaining Friendships at End of Life, Driving awareness for elderly people and an information session on MyGov. Our activities included meditation, breathing exercises, yoga, and a Xmas lunch. Five volunteers were awarded the Premier's Certificate of Recognition for outstanding volunteer service and we gathered to sincerely celebrate the recipients. At the ceremony a longstanding volunteer with over 20 years CVS service, told his story.

We surveyed our CVS volunteers and this survey formed the basis of a Conference presentation "Beautiful dedication makes a profound impact on the lives of elderly people". The MCCSA Community Visitors scheme is a wonderful scheme which is a treasure to the residents living in aged care facilities who speak languages other than English.



CARERS RETREAT

MCCSA supports community organisations to deliver great outcomes for their community

members that care for their aged and frail. Community groups apply directly to MCCSA to access funding for carer retreat outings across the State. Some of the amazing places that carers were able to visit this year included Mannum, Barossa Valley, Cleland Wildlife Park, Goolwa and the Monarto Zoo. Both organisations and carers constantly provide positive feedback around these lovely retreat experiences. It is exciting that MCCSA can now provide this same funding for carers who are supporting people with a disability and will be welcoming community groups that work with these groups next year.



TRANSPORT

It has been a good year for MCCSA Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) community transport service. Our funding has

been extended to 2020 and we secured funding from DCSI for a new bus to replace one of our older buses. Our much needed transport service to disadvantaged members of the CALD community helped older people, new and emerging communities and people with disabilities participate in community life, access services and supported their overall wellbeing. In most cases our clients do not drive or cannot access public transport. Our service provides much needed transport assistance for them to remain connected with their communities.

The invaluable support of our volunteer drivers enables us to deliver this much needed service to our communities. Regular drivers, coordination and mutual trust have helped to build a sustainable program that helps to improve the health and wellbeing of our users.

MCCSA is looking at rebranding our transport service to increase usage and destination points. The MCCSA Going Places initiative will be looking at collaborating with aged care service providers and multicultural groups to organize outings, picnic and social event for our CALD communities.

Thank you to all our volunteers and staff including our community users for working together on such a wonderful program.



456
BOOKINGS



40,240
KMS TRAVELLED

**ACCESSED BY
SA CALD
COMMUNITIES
3,554
TIMES**



Our events

Some of MCCSA's major events this year included:

SALA

Mohamed Evans held a wonderful exhibition of modern Arabic art for our annual SALA exhibition at MCCSA's Community Hub. The opening was well attended with around 50 people enjoying what was possibly the largest exhibition of Islamic calligraphy held in South Australia. Communities using the Hub enjoyed the display for the month it was open and numerous people dropped into Gilbert Street to enjoy the display.

50
ATTENDEES
ON OPENING
NIGHT

A CONVERSATION WITH THE RACE DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER

With a lot of political discussion around proposed changes to the Race Discrimination Act, MCCSA invited Dr Tim Soutphommasane, the Race Discrimination Commissioner to Adelaide to talk to our members around what the proposed changes to section 18c and 18d were and what they might mean for them. Significant question time allowed for a full and robust discussion within our member communities.

90
GUESTS

HARMONY PICNIC IN THE PARK

Light Square once again resonated to the sound of music and dance in this year's Harmony day picnic. MCCSA welcomed approximately 400 people into Whitmore Square during the day where they enjoyed a free BBQ, face painting, and henna tattoos ; had a go at some fun sports and games including soccer, basketball, netball, chess and a mix of picnic games; and celebrated with some wonderful performances from around the globe. Rotary South once again cooked us a wonderful BBQ.

400
PLUS
PARTICIPANTS

We were honoured to have His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le and Mrs Le, the Hon Zoe Bettison - Minister Multicultural Affairs speak at the picnic before a range of performers including poet, Manal Younas, Hope of Africa, Australian Tamil Arts, Nepalese children and Kurdish dancers took to the stage. In the true spirit of Harmony everyone was on their feet sharing the limelight with a colourful Brazilian dance troupe finale.

This event was supported by DCSI, SA Water, ANZ Bank, Lenswood Apples and Rotary Club of SA.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2017

MCCSA joined in the global celebrations on 8 March 2017, with over 70 community representatives attending a free morning tea held at the MCCSA Gilbert St Hub.



Guests were treated to a presentation by the President of the Russian Women's Association of SA, Lily Michailov, on how International Women's Day is celebrated in Russia. There was live music by Indigenous guitar performer Nancy Bates, and a photo exhibition of women from around the globe "Atlas of Beauty" by photographer Mihaela Noroc. "Atlas of Beauty" is a world-wide exhibition promoting global diversity captured through portraits of women.

Guests included Multicultural Affairs Minister Zoe Bettison MP, Shadow Minister for Human Services Michelle Lensink MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs Jing Lee MLC, and South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Chair, Grace Portolesi along with a diverse range of communities.

REFUGEE WEEK

Real stories of real people who make a difference

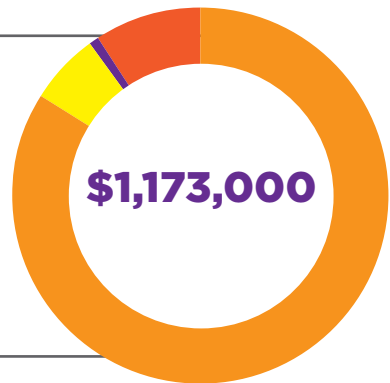
MCCSA partnered with the Adelaide City Council hosting an intimate Q&A discussion at the Minor Works Building during refugee week. Approximately 50 local residents enjoyed a light supper and the chance to hear from some amazing people that honoured us by sharing their individual journeys to Australia and the incredible contributions they are currently making to South Australia. Four brave people conveyed details of their diverse experiences coming to Australia and answered questions from the audience. The audience was enthralled and enjoyed chatting into the evening as they got to know each other.



Finances and Governance

REVENUE

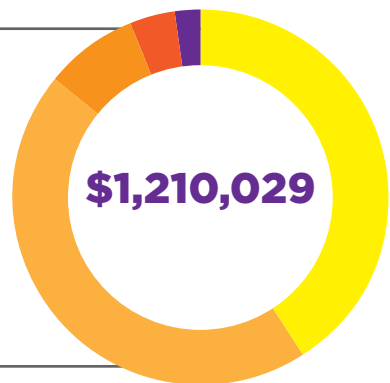
- Grants **84%**
- Operating income **6%**
- Bank interest **1%**
- Hire fees & miscellaneous income **9%**



For full audited statement provided by Randolph Alwis and Co Pty Ltd visit www.mccsa.org.au

EXPENDITURE

- Project expenditure **41%**
- Employee Remuneration **45%**
- Administration costs **8%**
- Building operating costs **4%**
- Depreciation **2%**



Our team

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE

MRS MIRIAM COCKING
Chairperson

DR IAN HARMSTORF OAM
Deputy Chair

SILVIO IADAROLA
Treasurer

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MEGAN HILL
Manager, Programs

MEGS LAMB
Successful Communities

SIDIQUE BAH
Transport and Communication

SAVRY OUK
Cambodian Reconnect

HEE YOUNG LIM
Community Visitors Scheme

UKASH AHMED
Project Officer

LJUBO ALYMPIC
Transport Support

MARIA GIGOS
Administration Manager
(retired March 2017)

LENA GASPARYAN
Administration/Project Assistant

New members 2016-2017

INDIVIDUAL

Amir Salim

Patrick Jeremy Lim

Bernard Khaw

Shahla Rostami

David Nyamirandu

Xiaohui Liu (Abby)

Martha Dayan
Gutierrez Perez

Zolantie Smilia
Ramirez Torres

Joumana Norris

COMMUNITY

Adelaide Folkloric Society Inc.

Adelaide Bangladeshi Cultural Club (ABACC)

Bosniaks Association of SA - Bosniak's Masjed Adelaide

Council of Human Rights Education, SA Chapter Inc.

The Dante Alighieri Society of SA

Fiji Seniors Club of SA

Indian Australian Association of SA)

Persian Cultural Association of SA

Russian Women's Association of SA

Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc

Zahra Foundation



Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia

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