



2024/2025

IMPACT REPORT
2024/2025



From the Chairperson and CEO

2025 marks an extraordinary milestone in the history of the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia – 50 years of standing beside, advocating for, and empowering South Australia’s diverse multicultural communities.

This golden anniversary is not just a celebration of MCCSA’s longevity, but a powerful reflection of the thousands of lives, stories, and journeys that have shaped our organisation. Throughout the year, we have hosted a series of vibrant, community-led events and tributes that honoured our founders, celebrated cultural diversity, and showcased the strength that comes from unity.

Our commitment to supporting communities remains stronger than ever. In 2024-25, we expanded our programs across a wide range of areas, including men’s health, women’s wellbeing and leadership, cultural adaptability, aged care and carer support, governance, and disability inclusion. This growth reflects not only the evolving needs of our communities, but also MCCSA’s ability to adapt, lead, and respond with purpose.

However, with this growth comes new challenges - particularly the pressing need for more space. Demand for community programs, meeting rooms, and collaborative spaces has outgrown our current facilities. Our Multicultural Hub is a hive of activity, but we are now constrained by physical limitations. As we look to the future, expanding our infrastructure is essential to ensure we can continue to meet the growing needs of those we serve.

We are deeply grateful to our funders, both state and federal and to our philanthropic supporters. We also sincerely thank our sponsors for the 50-year celebrations: Australian Gas Infrastructure Group, Australia Day Council of South Australia, SA Power Networks, EasAbility Care Australia and Serafino Wines. Your generosity and belief in our vision helped make this important milestone truly special.

To our staff, volunteers, member organisations, and partners who have stood with us throughout this incredible journey - thank you. Your commitment has been the foundation of our success.

As we reflect on the past 50 years, we do so with pride and joy, but also with a clear vision for the future. MCCSA will continue to be a voice for multicultural communities and a trusted partner in building a more inclusive, compassionate South Australia.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We look forward to building the next 50 years together..



Miriam Cocking
Chairperson



Helena Kyriazopoulos
Chief Executive Officer



Flourishing in Australia

Flourishing in Australia is a culturally grounded wellbeing and empowerment initiative that supported Arabic-speaking women in Adelaide to navigate life in a new country with confidence, resilience, and connection.

The program delivered 28 group wellbeing sessions, 15 skill-building workshops, and targeted leadership development activities co-designed with participants and delivered in Arabic.

These included storytelling, dabkeh dance, nature walks, mindfulness, parenting support, and networking events, all tailored to address the emotional, social, and cultural needs of participants.

Over 40 women and 25 children engaged in the program, with activities designed to reduce isolation, promote emotional wellbeing, and build transferable life skills.

Women reported improved mental health, stronger cultural identity, and greater awareness of services and systems in Australia. Importantly, several participants stepped into leadership roles, facilitating community sessions, contributing to public forums, and re-engaging with education and employment.

The program fostered a strong sense of belonging, transformed lives, and planted seeds for lasting community leadership and peer support networks.

Caring for Carers

Carers need someone to care for them as well, and MCCSA works closely with Carers SA Australia to provide essential support for people who are caring for a loved one. MCCSA shares with Carers SA the common objective: Improve the health, wellbeing and resilience of carers, so they can look after those whom they are caring for.

MCCSA primarily supports Carers SA from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, with particular specialisation in Arabic and Hindi carers, while also having registered carers from other diverse backgrounds.

Any person who is caring for someone with a disability, a mental illness, a chronic condition, an addiction, or frailty due to age, is eligible to register with MCCSA's carer support program.

The organisation provides a comprehensive range of services including counselling, facilitating peer groups, and emergency respite. MCCSA offers tailored support packages that may assist carers with access to electrical appliances, cleaning and gardening services, assistance with shopping and transport.

To date, MCCSA has over 210 carers registered with the program, including both adult carers and young carers who assist primary carers in their complex and demanding caring roles. The organisation continuously works to cater for their needs and provide the best possible service in collaboration with Carers SA.

MCCSA has three dedicated staff members who work on this successful project, and the organisation is continuing with the program for the next financial year.



MCCSA Men's Council

The MCCSA Men's Council has worked on a number of key programs throughout the year, in particular, the Multicultural Men's Mental Health Community Connections Project, the LDAT Community Action Plan and the Men's Health Checklist.

Following the successful 2024 Multicultural Men's Mental Health Community Connections project with four community groups, MCCSA and the Fay Fuller Foundation have formed a two-year strategic partnership to translate the project's learnings into systemic advocacy and change. Our shared agenda focuses on three priorities: creating culturally safe spaces that foster wellbeing and prevention; improving inclusivity and accessibility so systems meet diverse community needs; and advocating for sustainable funding to support long-term, proactive initiatives over short-term crisis responses. This partnership builds momentum for lasting impact.

As a Local Drug Action Team with the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, MCCSA co-designed and delivered a 12-month Community Action Plan themed "Strengthening capacities of multicultural communities through enhancing wellbeing and building social connections." Activities included information sessions, weekly futsal, women's walks and interactive sessions, men's social events, and a multicultural soccer carnival. Held in familiar spaces and led by trusted facilitators, these activities strengthened protective factors by boosting connectedness, inclusion, knowledge, reducing isolation, and encouraging early conversations about risk, support, and help-seeking.

In partnership with the University of Adelaide's Freemasons Centre for Men's Health and Wellbeing, MCCSA culturally adapted Professor Gary Wittert's Men's Health Checklist with funding from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Consultations across six language groups via MCCSA's Men's Council translated the tool, gathered feedback, and ensured cultural relevance. With a 100% approval rating, community input refined the questions and information, empowering CALD men to take control of their health. Trials are underway to develop the checklist into an app.



Connect Access Belong: Strengthening Inclusion Across Cultures and Communities

In 2024–25, MCCA introduced Connect Access Belong (CAB), a community inclusion initiative supporting people with disability, mental health challenges, and their families and carers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The project focuses on increasing participants' sense of belonging by connecting them to mainstream community activities. This is achieved through three key components: trained Community Connectors—peer leaders with lived experience who assist individuals in finding and accessing local opportunities; Intercultural and Disability Inclusion Training for community organisations to strengthen their confidence and capability in offering accessible and inclusive programs; and Disability Inclusion Networks, which bring together stakeholders from the arts, sport, recreation, service provision, and community sectors to share knowledge and take collective action towards a more inclusive South Australia.

To date, CAB has successfully engaged people from 17 different cultural backgrounds, increasing social participation and strengthening community connection. The project continues to reduce social isolation, promote inclusion, and foster cross-cultural understanding, with its impact growing as more individuals and organisations work together to build an accessible and welcoming South Australia.

The New Mainstream: Connecting Industry with Australia's Diverse Communities

In 2024–25, the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia launched The New Mainstream – a multicultural market research and insight service that connects businesses, industries, and researchers with culturally diverse communities across Australia.

This service responds to a clear need. More than half of Australia's population comes from a culturally diverse background, yet many organisations continue to overlook these communities in their planning, marketing, and service design.

Through The New Mainstream, MCCA provides tailored research, advisory, and partnership services that reflect the needs, preferences, and lived experiences of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The organisation has already delivered work for clients seeking to improve service reach, test new ideas, and build trust with communities that have traditionally been underrepresented in mainstream research.

What sets this service apart is MCCA's deep community relationships, cultural expertise, and multilingual team, combined with professional research capabilities across qualitative and quantitative methods. The organisation's work helps clients make informed decisions while contributing to more inclusive, responsive, and equitable business and service practices.

The New Mainstream is already making a measurable difference and MCCA looks forward to expanding its impact in the years ahead.



Multicultural Playgroup: Learning, Belonging, and Inclusive Play

In 2024–25, MCCSA's Multicultural Playgroup continued to offer a welcoming, inclusive space for families from diverse backgrounds to connect, learn, and grow. Held weekly during school terms, the program engaged 38 families and 42 children from cultural backgrounds including Chinese, Hong Kong, Taiwanese, Sri Lankan, Filipino, Indian, Saudi Arabian, Japanese, Korean, Afghan, and Australian. Languages spoken included English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Sinhalese, Arabic, Hindi, Telugu, Japanese, Korean, Hazaragi, and Filipino.

Nine dedicated volunteers from diverse communities created a culturally safe environment, supporting themed sessions, cultural celebrations, and activities that encouraged early learning and cross-cultural exchange. Events such as the Mid-Autumn Festival, Harmony Week, Easter, Halloween, and Christmas featured activities like Harmony Picnics, Easter hunts, and festive performances. Term themes such as Favourite Song in My Language and Show and Tell boosted children's confidence and school readiness.

In July 2024, MCCSA became formally recognised as an Inclusive Playgroup under Playgroup SA's PlayTogether initiative, following completion of Inclusive Playgroup Training. This milestone enhanced the group's ability to welcome children with additional needs, with volunteers gaining certificates to strengthen their skills.

A highlight in June 2025 was securing SA Water funding for the upcoming Splash! Water Storytelling Project. Launching in Term 3, this 10-week creative program will guide families in co-creating a multicultural storybook exploring the theme of water through storytelling, art, and play. The publication will be shared with families, libraries, and community centres, celebrating children's voices, cultural identity, and environmental awareness.



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MCCSA 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebrations

The Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia marked its 50th Anniversary Jubilee in 2025 with three memorable celebrations and significant community events honouring this milestone year.

Government House Reception

The celebrations began with a special reception hosted by Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Frances Adamson AC, at Government House on the 4th of February 2025. Her Excellency warmly acknowledged MCCSA's legacy as "a uniting force for community-driven, culturally diverse activity in our state," and commended the organisation's role in fostering inclusion, cohesion, and opportunity for 50 years. MCCSA is grateful for the Governor's continued support and proud to have begun the anniversary year with this moment of recognition.

Harmony Day Lecture

On the 18th of March, MCCSA proudly partnered with Reconciliation SA, The Don Dunstan Foundation, and Equal Opportunity SA to host the annual Harmony Day Lecture – commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Bradley Forum at UniSA was filled with community leaders, policymakers, and citizens united by a shared commitment to fostering equity and inclusion. Mr Giridharan Sivaraman, Race Discrimination Commissioner from the Australian Human Rights Commission, delivered a powerful keynote on eliminating racial discrimination. A thoughtful Q&A session, led by Commissioner for Equal Opportunity Jodeen Carney, invited meaningful discussion on translating dialogue into action.

Community Celebration at Torrens Parade Ground

On the 18th of May 2025, over 300 guests gathered at Torrens Parade Ground to celebrate MCCSA's 50th Anniversary. The event brought together community leaders, members, and supporters for speeches from MCCSA's Patron, the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC, Premier Peter Malinauskas MP, and MCCSA Chairperson Miriam Cocking. The afternoon featured cultural performances, ceremonial cake cutting, and networking over refreshments.

Parliament House Reception

On the 12th of June 2025, MCCSA continued the commemorations with a distinguished reception in Parliament House, generously hosted by the Honourable Zoe Bettison MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Tourism. The event brought together Life Members, Board Members, staff, and supporters, with distinguished guests including Mr Peter Doukas OAM, Chairperson of FECCA, and MC Cressida O'Hanlon MP. A highlight was a Scottish Highlander and bagpipe performance by the Scottish Associations of South Australia.

MCCSA sincerely thanks everyone who joined these memorable occasions and looks forward to continuing the jubilee celebrations throughout 2025.

Visit the MCCSA website for more highlights: mccsa.org.au/50-years





Current MCCSA Board 2025

Back row: Suren Edgar, Helena Kyriazopoulos OAM – CEO, Zainab Jimie, Patrizia Kadis, Manju Khadka, Nasir Hussain, Ranielson Santana de Silva
Front row: Dr Ian H rmstorf OAM BVK – Deputy Chairperson, Miriam Cocking – Chairperson, Gosia Skalb n OAM, Silvio Iadarola – Treasurer

Snap shot for 2024/2025



223

MEMBERS



178

VOLUNTEERS

8000 HOURS



2,413

HALL & TRAINING
ROOM BOOKINGS



270

BUS TRIPS

2,262 PASSENGERS



6

ADVOCACY
SUBMISSIONS



93

PEOPLE TRAINED

37 AGENCIES

Our Finances

REVENUE

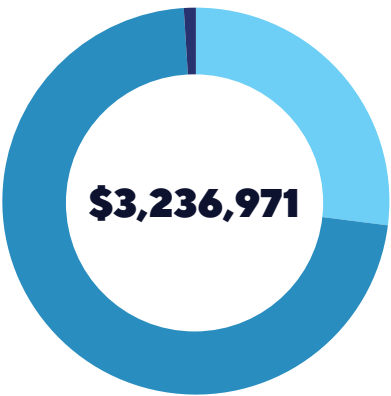
- Grants **88%**
- Miscellaneous income **9%**
- Bank interest **3%**



For full audited results provided by HLB Mann Judd visit www.mccsa.org.au

EXPENDITURE

- Employee Remuneration **72%**
- Operation Expenses **27%**
- Depreciation **1%**





Honorary Life Members

For over ten years of significant contribution to the multicultural communities of South Australia

Cav. Dr Antonio Cocchiaro AM
Mr Bruno Krūmiņš AM*
Dr Daniela Costa
Mr Dilip Chirmuley AM
Dr Ian Harmstorf OAM BVK
Mr József Garamy AM*
Mr Jurek Dnistrjanski
Ms Malgorzata (Gosia) Skalban OAM

Mrs Maria Dnistrjanski OAM
Mr Michael Schulz AM*
Mr Milinko Rakich*
Mrs Miriam Cocking
Mr Petar (Zed) Zdrakovski*
Mr Randolph Alwis AM*
Mr Ron Tan OAM*
Mrs Sofija Kanas OAM*

**denotes deceased*

Our Team

Patron

Hon Hieu Van Le AC

Board Executives

Mrs Miriam Cocking Chairperson
Dr Ian Harmstorf OAM BVK Deputy Chairperson
Mr Silvio Iadarola Treasurer

Staff

Helena Kyriazopoulos OAM Chief Executive Officer
Sharyn Mooney Accountant
Annie Barone Office Coordinator
Ling Giang Finance Officer
Julie Hoare Manager, Programs
Vicky Arachi Manager, Multicultural Community Connections Program, culturalQ Facilitator
Alian Mohamed Communications Officer, Development and Design
Aveen Muhamad Project Officer
Aymambi Acosta de León Connector Marketing Officer, Connect, Access and Belong (CAB) Project
Chinami Klenovsky Connector, (CAB Project)
Florine Dsouza Project Officer, ACVVS and Carers
Geoffrey Brown Transport Coordinator, Project Officer, Building Employer Confidence in Disability & Inclusion
George Gouzounis Project Coordinator CHSP Sector Support & Development, culturalQ Facilitator
Hanaa' Grave culturalQ Coordinator
Katherine Greer Disability Program Coordinator
Katie Trinh Project Officer
Kwol Bol Reconnect Youth Officer

Board Members

Mr Lenard Sciancalepore (until July 2024)
Ms Malgorzata (Gosia) Skalban OAM
Mrs Manju Khadka
Mr Nasir Hussain
Mrs Patrizia Kadis
Mr Suren Edgar
Mr Ranielson Santana
Mrs. Zainab Jimie (from April 2025)

Lena Gasparyan JP Senior Project Officer
Lenard Sciancalepore Communications Officer, Project Officer Men's Health and Wellbeing
Luis Cohen Project Officer, ACVVS and Ageing Well Coordinator
Maggie Asaad Project Officer, ACVVS and Carers
Mechell August Connectors Team Leader
Milan Andelkovic CVS Coordinator
Mohammad Safi Connector, Connect, Access and Belong (CAB Project) (til May 2025)
Omar Ahmad Project Officer, Building Employer Confidence in Disability & Inclusion
Perrin Abbas Disability Inclusion Project Lead, culturalQ Facilitator
Samer Madbak Project Officer
Savry Ouk JP – Reconnect Youth Officer
Sisaleo Philavong Disability Program Officer
Somi Lindsay Community Development Coordinator, culturalQ Facilitator
Stefano Pratola Project Officer
Ukash Ali Ahmed Program Coordinator, culturalQ Facilitator
Veronica Davila Communications Officer (til February 2025)
Xiaohui (Abby) Liu Project Officer, Playgroup Coordinator



**Multicultural Communities Council
of South Australia**

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www.mccsa.org.au