



FAIR CANBERRA INC
ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020



www.faircanberra.org.au

ABN 22337845713
Assoc Reg # AO5869

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Who We Are

Fair Canberra Inc was incorporated as a new community organisation on 21 August 2017.

Our Vision

That effective inclusive policies and programs exist across all sectors of the community so that all Canberrans can enjoy equitable treatment to allow them to fully participate in all aspects of community life and to reach their potential.

Our Mission

To advocate for, and represent the ideas and voices of, members of the Canberra community and, in particular, people from diverse culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, to shape relevant and effective inclusive policies and programs across all sectors of the ACT community.

The primary role of *Fair Canberra Inc* is to work as a policy think tank and networking organisation that exists to advocate for, and to influence, public, community, sporting, and educational organisations and the private sector on issues facing Canberrans and, in particular, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Fair Canberra Inc advocates for policies and decisions to better support marginalised Canberrans through mechanisms such as *direct individualised engagement, consultative fora, subject specific surveys, formally commissioned research* as well as responding to formal Inquiries and Hearings on relevant issues through representations and submissions.

Through its various activities and programs, *Fair Canberra Inc* involves people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds - especially women, youth and former refugees - who are excluded and marginalised and encourages and supports them to identify and rectify injustices, racism and other forms of discrimination.

We work closely with the leadership and membership of local multicultural and other community groups and service providers.

President's Report

The second part of the financial year (2019-20) was marked by a set of unusual and unprecedented circumstances for not only *Fair Canberra Inc* but also for many other local community organisations. Life in the time of COVID-19 is truly unique.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of Fair Canberra Inc, I send our thoughts and best wishes to all *Fair Canberra Inc* members who have been impacted by the measures and restrictions now in place to combat the challenges of COVID-19. I acknowledge that, as is often the case, many of these necessary measures impact the hardest on our most vulnerable community members. Fair Canberra Inc commenced 2019-20 with the promise of an exciting program of activities and events including: weekly 'Feeding the Homeless BBQ' program (commencing November 2019); Fair Canberra Community Rugby Cup (November 2019); Harmony Day Netball ACT event (March 2020); Return to School Supplies Program (March 2020); Reconciliation Touch Football competition (May/June 2020); a Kava Community Conference (May 2020); Fire and Ice Ball Fundraiser (June 2020); and a series of community fora planned to discuss issues of interest with Fair Canberra Inc members and others in our community.

Unfortunately, all *Fair Canberra Inc* activities planned for late March 2020 onwards were suspended for a time until it is safe for our members and general community. This decision ensured that Fair Canberra Inc complied with the measures and restrictions put in place for the safety and health of the community.

Prior to the COVID-19 challenge, *Fair Canberra Inc* was able to undertake some activities including the Annual General Meeting on 23 November 2019, the weekly 'Feeding the Homeless BBQ' program commencing in November 2019; and the Fair Canberra Community Rugby Cup in November 2019.

Despite the current restrictions, the Executive Committee continues to be kept informed by *Fair Canberra Inc* members of issues impacting on them and continues to receive recommendations as to how to resolve concerns. Many members also continue to reach out to the Executive Committee for support and assistance

I thank all the dedicated and enthusiastic members of the Executive Committee who have responded admirably to the needs of our members throughout the year. I also extend my appreciation to those Fair Canberra Inc members, volunteers and supporters who worked hard to make the few activities conducted late last year the success that they were.

These are unsettling times. It is challenging operating under the current restrictions, however, I am confident we will return to implementing our full program of activities in the not too distant future. I wish all *Fair Canberra Inc* members and your loved ones safe passage through this difficult period. Please take care, stay positive and healthy.

Nic Manikis PSM
President
Fair Canberra Inc

YEAR IN BRIEF - HIGHLIGHTS

During the reporting year, *Fair Canberra Inc* organised several activities which involved *Fair Canberra Inc* members as well as other members from several local multicultural community groups.

These activities included

FAIR CANBERRA INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2018-19)

The second Annual General Meeting (AGM) (2018-19) for Fair Canberra Inc members was held on 23 November 2019 in the Hall Room of the Gungahlin Uniting Church and Community Centre, Gungahlin Town Centre.

As office bearers and executive committee members are elected every two years, the 2018-19 AGM was not an election meeting – the next AGM to elect executive committee members will be held in October 2020.

The 2018-19 AGM provided an opportunity for the presentation and adoption of the Fair Canberra Inc Annual Report 2018-19 and the acceptance of the Treasurer's report and independently reviewed financial statements (2018-2019).

Approximately 120 members attended the AGM and enthusiastically participated in discussions around the issues confronting our multicultural community, in particular the lack of community facilities and services to support those isolated and the aged in our community. Other issues raised included: the need for consistent application of timing and eligibility rules for aged pension and other welfare support such as NEWSTART, lifting of import quantities for kava into Australia, increase in multicultural grants, more accessible and affordable community land, construction of a dedicated linguistic centre to service language schools and better car parking options for clients and staff at community centres in Canberra CBD.



The AGM was also an opportunity for members to reflect on the many activities and programs undertaken by *Fair Canberra Inc* during the 2018-19 reporting year. These included the 'Back to School Supplies Program', Harmony Day – Netball ACT, Canberra on Show.



The AGM also accepted a motion to advocate for, and support, the construction of a multi-purpose Gungahlin Multicultural Community Centre Complex in the Gungahlin Town Centre area.

Members enjoyed a free BBQ organised by Fair Canberra Inc Executive Member Toa Takiari and her team at the conclusion of the AGM.



AGED CARE QUALITY AND SAFETY

Mr Andrew Holt (Executive Committee Member and Chair of the *Fair Canberra Inc* Aged Care and Safety Sub Committee) was active during the reporting period on advocating on issues of concern to the aged in our community.

Over many years Andrew provided support, advice and assistance to senior members of our community, often in circumstances where they have been subjected to less than fair or just treatment.



Andrew wrote to the then Federal Minister for Aged Care, the Hon Ken Wyatt MP, directly in relation to the formation and formal appointment of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety seeking to ensure that its terms and scope extended beyond just institutional care. Andrew was keen to ensure that the Royal Commission's inquiry would be broad enough to recognise that elderly abuse is not only confined to institutional care but sadly can occur in many other settings and perpetrated by other people, including by members of a person's own family.

Following the establishment of the Royal Commission, Andrew was one of a few people to be invited by the Royal Commission to give a formal presentation at the Canberra community hearings on 25 November 2019. Andrew gave a forceful presentation at this forum bringing to the attention of the Royal Commissioners, 200 strong audience and media the unfortunate plight of Mr Eric Dwyer a 93 year old second world war veteran who had been subjected to horrific physical and financial abuse by some members of his own family. Both Eric's daughter and granddaughter were in attendance (both members of *Fair Canberra Inc*). Andrew's presentation was extremely well received and commented on by Commissioner Ms Lynnelle Briggs AO. Andrew subsequently attended the Royal Commission hearings that were held in Canberra during the following week.

The sheer volume and extent of the issues uncovered by the Royal Commission so far and the advent of COVID-19, has meant several extensions of time for it to hand down its findings to the Federal Government which is now expected to be sometime in 2021.



During the reporting period Andrew has continued to assist and advocate for and on behalf of members of *Fair Canberra Inc* who have had difficulties dealing with a wide range of issues.

Andrew has assisted several members deal with issues in relation to public housing. He has been involved in raising issues on behalf of Fair Canberra Inc members of fairness and disadvantage with both ACT Ministers and the ACT Opposition particular around COVID-19 and rental accommodation.

During the reporting period, Andrew also raised a number of issues of concern in relation to ongoing access to medical services, specialists and treatment of patients with medical conditions other than COVID-19. Again, through the Office of the ACT Chief Medical Officer, he was able to successfully make the point that a backlog of specialist appointments was a risky and highly problematic situation that needed to be corrected as many specialists were not seeing patients. This matter was also resolved in favour of common sense.

Andrew is pleased to report that despite the challenges throughout the reporting period – not least the COVID-19 – he was able to achieve successful outcomes for many *Fair Canberra Inc* members where he engaged with their issues. He is looking forward to assisting members in 2020/21.



FAIR CANBERRA COMMUNITY RUGBY

On 2 November 2019 Fair Canberra Inc was fortunate to support a community rugby exhibition match between the ACT Tongan Representative side, Malau Rugby, and the ACT All Stars (local Pacific Representative team). As the major sponsor of the event, which took place on the same day as the 'Tonga Day 2019' festivities in Canberra, Fair Canberra Inc sponsored the Malau Rugby team and also provided the winners trophy for the event – suitably named the 'Fair Canberra Cup'.



Fair Canberra Inc worked in collaboration with the ACT Tongan Association, Tu'ulakitau & McGuire Law Firm and various leaders of the local Pacific community. The event was deemed a roaring success. The event comprised two parts: the exhibition rugby match during the day; and the *Tonga Day 2019* celebrations during the evening at which prizes for the winning team and best players were presented. Guests of honour included both community leaders and Tongan dignitaries. The President of *Fair Canberra Inc* was present during all proceedings during the day including the rugby match, and the HRH Crown Prince Tupouto'a of Tonga made a special appearance for the formalities during the evening as main guest of honour.



Uele Tu'ulakitau (of Tu'ulakitau & McGuire Law Firm) hopes to make this an annual event to identify and promote local Pacific rugby talent in the community for advancement to state-level representation. Uele is keen to work with ACT based Pacific community organisations and *Fair Canberra Inc* so that more positive work can be carried out in the areas of health, well-being and sport particularly to benefit younger members of the community. In the longer term, Uele hopes that this initiative (Fair Canberra Cup) can be a stepping stone to larger Pacific community events which will see a community rugby tournament between representatives from the Tongan, Fijian and Samoan community groups culminating in a harmonious get together in the evening for the presentation ceremony and celebrations.

Fair Canberra Inc looks forward to working with the local Pacific community to support more events in the coming years.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS BBQ PROGRAM

During the reporting period, *Fair Canberra Inc* initiated a program for homeless people in the central business district of Canberra each Friday. The program comprised a BBQ and entertainment in a family-like and welcoming atmosphere. The Program was introduced in November 2019 and catered for up to 40 homeless Canberrans in Petrie Plaza every Friday.

In all, over 800 meals were served to homeless people during the period November 2019 to April 2020.

During each weekly BBQ, entertainment was generously provided by, among others, the impressive songstar, Johnny Huckle and talented Isaac Cotter. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the BBQ was suspended in April 2020 till further notice.



Toa Takiari (Executive Committee Member of *Fair Canberra Inc*) took the lead in organising the program and ensured it was a meaningful experience for those living on the streets of Canberra. Toa and her team created a welcoming atmosphere in Petrie Plaza each Friday for all attendees.

Fair Canberra Inc appreciates the following contributors to the weekly BBQ: weekly sumptuous Indian dishes provided by the Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association, Helping ACT (Mohammed Ali), and the Nepal Embassy (Prameed Timalisina).

Fair Canberra Inc also extends heartfelt appreciation to Dr Mahmoud Eid (Principal of the Islamic School of Canberra) for his leadership and support for the 'Feeding the Homeless Program'. The students and parents from the Islamic School of Canberra raised funds to support the weekly BBQ. While this fundraising effort supports the program, it also instills a sense of community in students and is an important part of their education which encourages them to be compassionate and caring towards those doing it tough in our community.



Subject to gaining approvals from the relevant authorities for use of public space, Fair Canberra Inc is looking to commence the BBQ later in 2020. In the meantime, other ways of delivering food to the homeless in this COVID-19 environment are being explored.

PHOTOS TO BE PROVIDED

HOMELESS ASSIST APP

During the reporting period, Fair Canberra Inc worked with the University of Canberra to develop the *HomelessAssist App* that will assist vulnerable individuals in our community, in particular, Canberrans who are homeless.

Fair Canberra Inc recognises that Canberra lacks a digital solution to provide critical and dynamically updated and real time resource information to the homeless population and to those who are socially isolated and economically disadvantaged in our community.

The *HomelessAssist App* is a mobile application with a primary purpose of assisting homeless people in Canberra with information about free resources and supports available around them. The App will provide a platform for local businesses and individuals with the opportunity to promote and manage the resources they wish to make time available direct to homes and other disadvantaged Canberrans. They will have the ability to broadcast the availability of these resources in real time.

The main objectives of the *HomelessApp* are to have a technological system solution through which:

1. homeless and other disadvantaged Canberrans will be able to seek and receive services through an user-friendly system with dignity;
2. local businesses in Canberra will be able to offer their services for free to homeless Canberrans through the App as part of their social responsibility;
3. individual donors will be able to donate to support Fair Canberra Inc to help the homeless through this App;
4. important identity documents of homeless Canberrans can be stored on this App so that they can be readily accessible at all times by the respective individual. This will avoid the lengthy time and challenging processes of recreating these important documents if hard copies are lost; and
5. homeless Canberrans' needs can be quickly linked to relevant service providers in the ACT.

The *HomelessApp* is being delivered in three stages: Initiating and Planning; Development and Testing; and finally, Implementation and Monitoring. The first stage was delivered during the reporting period and work is progressing on the second stage – development and testing. It is anticipated that the *HomelessApp* will be available in early 2021.

Fair Canberra Inc thanks the University of Canberra for working collaboratively with our organisation to make this App a reality and, in doing so, improving the lives of hundreds of homeless people in Canberra.

OUR TEAM

Executive Committee Members (November 2018 – November 2020)

Members of the Executive Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting on 25 November 2018 have markedly different experiences and possess a range of different skills. These members come together as a diverse group in terms of age, gender, cultural backgrounds and education levels. Members also represent, and are connected to, numerous community groups across the Australian Capital Territory.

Their ongoing contribution to *Fair Canberra Inc* continues to be deeply appreciated.

Nic Manikis PSM – *President*

Nic Manikis served as a Senior Manager in the Commonwealth Government from 1980 to 1984 and as a Senior Executive in social policy and community affairs roles in the ACT Government from 1985 to 2016.

In 1998, Nic received the *Public Service Medal* in the Australia Day Honours List in recognition of his years of service and dedication to government and community. In 2000 he was awarded the *Centenary Medal*.

In November 2016, Nic retired from government service after a distinguished career of almost 40 years serving the community. Over the years, Nic worked with many local community groups to develop and provide programs, resources and services to those most disadvantaged and vulnerable in our community.

Nic is currently active in the private sector and continues his work supporting local community groups on a voluntary basis.

Anooshe Aisha Mushtaq – *Vice President*

Anooshe Mushtaq is a first generation Australian of Pakistan origin. She spent her early years in Pakistan and Libya on posting with her family.

Since her arrival in Australia 30 years ago, Anooshe has experienced first-hand the changing cultural landscape of Australia.

Today, Anooshe is a consultant and social commentator who regularly speaks at national security conferences and publishes on topics such as the prevention of violent extremism from the grass roots perspective and the analysis of Islamic State's online propaganda.

Anooshe is the Founder and Director of *Raqib Taskforce* – a Muslim-led diverse organisation that builds social inclusion through engagement across the Australian community in a manner designed to dispel extremist messages that exist within the public domain. Raqib is developing social inclusion narratives countering hate speech and racism.

Anooshe is an adviser to the *PAK Institute for Peace Studies in Counter Narrative Strategies and Counter Terrorism*. She is also an Associate Member of the *Australia Institute of Professional Intelligence Officers* and a *Research Associate at the Australian Security Research Centre*.

Anooshe has a passion for youth empowerment and continues to work with various local youth groups to assist them to reach their potential.

Borhan Ahmed – *Treasurer & Public Officer*

Borhan Ahmed is an accomplished community leader with over 30 years experience in community sector work in Australia and Bangladesh.

Over this time, he has held several high profile community roles including: President of the *Canberra Muslim Community*, President of the *Bangladesh Australia Association Canberra* and President of the *Bangladeshi Seniors Group*.

Borhan holds a *Master of Economics (specialising in Development Economics)*, *Master of Economics, Bachelor of Arts (with Honours in Economics)* and a *Post-Graduate Diploma in Social Science*. He is a *Colombo Plan* scholar with 40 years successful public service career experience with the Australian Federal and Bangladesh Governments. Borhan served as a member of the Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration Cadre), including as a First Class Magistrate with the Bangladesh Government. In 1978, he was trained at USAID HQs, US State Department on foreign aid administration and technical cooperation program. Before he retired in early 2018, he served his final 26 years in the Australian public service with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and AusAID, including as an Aid Diplomat in Port Moresby/PNG. From DFAT and AusAid, Borhan undertook several aid project-related work missions to PNG, Iraq, Jordan, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Palestine.

Borhan has a life-long passion for advocacy work around issues and challenges facing members of new and emerging multicultural community groups, new migrants, faith-based groups and former refugees in the ACT. In this context, he has served as a member of several high profile community service provider agencies boards and on government advisory committees (ACT Attorney-General's CCTV Review Committee). He currently serves as a board member of Migrants and Refugee Settlement Service Australia and of the Council on the Ageing ACT Policy Committee. Borhan continues to work closely with a diverse group of people to improve inclusiveness and respect in the ACT community.

Dr Sunita S Dhindsa – *Secretary*

Sunita was born in India but has lived for most part in Australia, primarily in Canberra.

Sunita has a PhD from Punjab Agricultural University, India and also undertook a Graduate Diploma in Public Sector Management from Macquarie University North Ryde in 2003-04.

From 1990 to 2014, Sunita worked in a range of roles in various government departments, and also worked for a short time in scientific research, and in private sector.

Sunita has continued to positively support the Indian diaspora and to contribute to the broader Australian society and economy in various capacities. She is a member, Founder member, patron and Life Member of various community organisations as well as holding positions of Secretary, Coordinator and Executive member. Sunita is the Founder and was the Coordinator of *AusIndia Fair*, a platform for interacting, trade and showcasing shared values of Australia and India. Currently she is the President of the Federation of Indian Associations of the ACT (FINACT).

Sunita's passion is to work for, and with people, enable meaningful interactions, and encourage positive empowerment while fostering constructive and harmonious outcomes at all levels. Her vision is to make Canberra and the surrounding region more progressive, inclusive, culturally vibrant, environmentally sustainable and economically strong.

Francis Owusu – *Executive Committee Member*

Francis Owusu is an outrageously big dreamer, with an authentic passion to empower the lives of people he connects with through voice and movement. After struggling in his youth with his identity and self-esteem, and an early life of crime, his life had a dramatic change when he came to the realization that he didn't need to become someone, he *was* someone! This true personal discovery became the catalyst to helping others.

Since then, Francis has become the founder of a successful social enterprise – *Kulture Break*, as well as founder and director of *iinspire* leadership, and leading communicator in cultural change. Francis has been empowering individuals to reach their potential for over 16 years. He is credited for developing and having a positive impact on the lives thousands of local young people and also developing some of Australia's most successful performing artists such as *Timomatic* and several members of *Justice Crew*.

Francis has been publicly recognised through awards and appointments including: winner of the *2016 ACT Chief Minister's Social Inclusion Award*; winner of the Commonwealth Bank's *Australian of the Day 2016*; *2015 ACT Public Schools Alumni Ambassador*; *Diversity Champion ACT* Human Rights Commission 2015; and National Finalist of the *Australian of the Year Local Hero Award* in 2013. He was nominated by the ACT Government as 1 of 14 most influential Canberrans as a 'Champion' in the *Time to Talk 2030 - Shaping Canberra's Future Campaign*.

Francis' passion to assist in the transformation of individuals, workplaces and communities is stronger today than it has ever been.

Toa Takiari – *Executive Committee Member*

Toa Takiari has had long and successful business and voluntary community development careers in the ACT since the 1960s, with extended periods back in Tonga and New Zealand. Toa was educated as a professional hairdresser and established and managed many businesses in Canberra, training promising young hair stylists, and she dabbled in the fashion and music industries.

Over the years, Toa applied her 'can do' attitude to advancing the interests of many vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the Pacific Island communities in Canberra opening up opportunities for them to learn new skills and to learn more about their culture. She setup a Hair and Style Salon in Civic to provide opportunities for Canberra's homeless and low income earners to not only receive services but also training, as a pathway to permanent paid work.

Toa was instrumental in forming *The United Nesian Movement* as a platform for Pacific Islander young people to learn about and showcase their culture. She has assisted these young people to promote their culture through her program on Radio 2XX and, for several years, she co-ordinated the Pacific Island Showcase at the annual National Multicultural Festival. Toa is the current Public Officer (and Founder) for the *Pacific Island Showcase Association*. She also founded *The Niu Oceanic Cultural Centre* based at the ANU and organised the *Pacific Cultural Youth Day in 2017*. She also organised many Pacific and Indigenous Cultural Fashion shows.

Toa is a hard working, dedicated and strong community advocate for young Canberrans of Pacific Island background.

Andrew Holt – *Executive Committee Member*

In the mid to late 1990s Andrew served on CANTRADE – a high level Government business development body. Andrew made a strong contribution to this body providing strategic advice on projects such as the Bishop's Aus-trans light rail project. He helped craft initiatives to promote and market Canberra to the world such as the ACT Honorary Ambassador Program and Snapshot of Canberra publication.

Andrew has also many years of genuine, active support, assistance and interaction with the Multicultural communities, businesses and individuals of all walks of life throughout the ACT. He has a long and established record of accomplishment in management positions in private, government and community sectors.

Andrew founded the Canberra Inventors Association in 1992 after identifying a complete lack of real help to those wishing to commercialise innovative Australian projects. The Association soon became a peak organisation for Australian inventors and innovators. He was also instrumental in raising of over \$30 million of investment funding for members and their projects, many of which became nationally and internationally recognised and award winning projects.

Over the years Andrew has given talks and lectures to a wide range of groups and organisations, including schools, CSIRO, community groups and to staff at IP Australia. He has been frequently interviewed in local and national print, radio and television media on a multitude of subject matters and topics, including a monthly ABC 666 Canberra radio program on Australian Innovation which he presented for many years.

In 2016 Andrew stood as an Independent candidate in the ACT Legislative Assembly elections and after only three weeks of campaigning came a very respectable 71st from a

field of 141 candidates, most of which were from parties and had been running for a year or more.

Emie Jiang – *Executive Committee Member*

Emie Jiang is a well respected and active young member of the Canberra Chinese community. Apart from her active community work, Emie is a Director of JZ Property Investments Pty Ltd.

Emie has achieved a high level of academic qualifications in a number of finance and economic fields from the Australian National University. She has served as a commercial analyst for *Indigenous Business Australia* and as a financial analyst for *ACT Treasury*.

Emie is currently the Vice President of the Australian Guangxi Friendship Association (AGFA), a non-profit organisation to foster friendship and a relationship between the ACT and Guangxi Province of China. Locally, AGFA runs weekly cheongsam practice and tai-chi classes as well as conducting aged care seminars for members of the local Chinese community. Through her role in AGFA, Emie has engaged broadly across the local Chinese community forging strong working relationships with people in government, education and aged care sectors.

Emie enjoys the community work that she undertakes and has contributed generously to various activities and events across the ACT during the past few years. In particular, Emie has made an enormous contribution to the annual National Multicultural Festival through her role as the coordinator for the Chinese Community Showcase. As a Volunteer leader, she recruited over 100 volunteers for the event and managed one of the numerous stages at the event.

Emie is a valuable young member of the Executive Committee of *Fair Canberra Inc*.

Sabrina Melo – *Executive Committee Member*

Sabrina Melo is a first generation Australian who has recently completed her academic studies while incorporating her international travels to better comprehend global societies.

Harbouring a desire to actively apply her knowledge in the global humanitarian field, Sabrina completed a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies at the University of Canberra and a Master of Diplomacy at the Australian National University in 2018. Sabrina's involvement with the local Pacific Islander community together with her broader understanding of the contemporary world, through her education and travel, has further inspired a deeper perspective of the importance of intercultural awareness and relations.

Sabrina looks forward to contributing to the work of *Fair Canberra Inc* particularly from a youth and intercultural perspective.

Our Voluntary Staff

Mohd Tareq - *Executive Officer (membership & database management)*

Tareq brings more than fifteen years of experience to the operations of *Fair Canberra Inc* having worked in the public and private sectors in Australia and overseas. He is a seasoned corporate affairs and office administration professional with expertise in human resources. Tareq is highly skilled in organisational development, corporate management, workforce development and recruitment.

Tareq has gained his diverse professional experience in organisations such as: the Operations Specialist Group Australia; Canada Border Services Agency; ACT Government; Australian National University; European Union, DFAT (Australian High Commission – overseas); Save the Children; Concern Worldwide; and served in IUCAN-The World Conservation Union and ACCENTURE in various capacities. Tareq has served two consecutive terms as Vice-president of the *Bangladesh Australia Association of Canberra*. He is also the director of *Autistic Children's Welfare Foundation of Bangladesh* and Life Member of *BIHRM* – an affiliated body of Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resources Management and of *SHRM (USA)*.

Tareq is passionate about serving the broader community. He strongly believes in the concept of 'multiculturalism' as a unifying force that recognises and empowers all Canberrans to work for the common good of our community.

Valerie Bichard - *Executive Officer (community engagement, issues management & media)*

Valerie was born in New Zealand and made the journey to and from Fiji before becoming a part of the first wave of migrants, post White Australia Policy, to arrive in Australia in the late 1960s. She grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney in a bi-cultural family. Her mother is I-Taukei Fijian and father is from Guernsey. Her biological father's family originate from an African slave descendant who arrived on a whaling ship in the Pacific in the 1830s and an early pioneering family who settled in Fiji pre-deed of cession (1874). Valerie continues to maintain close relationships with her large extended family and ancestral home of Fiji.

From the 1970s, Valerie grew up with the development of Multiculturalism in Australia. These social, political and ancestral influences continue to shape her passion for social and environmental justice issues within the region.

Valerie has worked successfully as a political and cultural adviser, educator, independent broadcast journalist, media consultant and multidisciplinary arts practitioner. As a writer her work has been published in a number of Pacific anthologies. Valerie's broad experience includes work with the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the Australian National University, the University of Canberra, SBS Radio/TV, Ngaanyatjarra Media and civil society. She has studied at the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts, the Australian Film TV and Radio School, the University of Canterbury in New Zealand and at the Australian National University.

TREASURER'S REPORT

I have pleasure to present our third reviewed financial report as attached for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

This is all about giving a true and fair account of the financial position and performance of Fair Canberra Inc, including cash flows, profit and loss, net assets, and liabilities for the reporting period.

Due to COVID-19, we were constrained and unable to raise funds or improve our financial position during the reporting period. If the circumstances permit, we will endeavour to improve our financial position next financial year and beyond to progressively raise funds from an expanded range of sources to support our on-going activities and programs.

Most funds received by Fair Canberra Inc during the reporting period have been from Executive Committee members by way of individual donations or contributions which are not expected to be paid back. This was the single source of income to support the activities of the Association during the reporting period.

It is with these donations that we continue to directly cover the significant cost of overheads generated by Fair Canberra Inc. These overheads include: a comprehensive suite of insurance cover (public liability, directors' and volunteers' insurances), venue hire, statutory fees, general administration (eg. maintenance of Post Office Box, printing and catering), and annual technology fees (eg. Website hosting and email addresses).

We remain committed to continue our work to attract funds from several sources, including from donors, private sector grant programs, sponsors and philanthropic individuals in our community. Achieving the financial viability of the organisation remains a priority together with maximizing opportunities to improve our sustainability through income generation and cost minimisation efforts.

In these challenging times, I am pleased to see Fair Canberra Inc continue to grow and operate with the help and support from our valued members, patrons and many others in our community.

I commend this financial report to the Annual General Meeting for approval.

With thanks

Borhan Ahmed
Treasurer
Fair Canberra Inc.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Fair Canberra Inc greatly appreciates the support that was provided by The Hellenic Club of Canberra, for its programs and activities throughout 2019-20.

Appreciation is also extended to the many multicultural groups and individuals who volunteered their time to make the limited number of programs and activities facilitated by *Fair Canberra Inc* great successes in the reporting period.

GET INVOLVED

Fair Canberra Inc encourages members and Canberrans generally to support the organisation in the following ways:

- **Become a member** – application forms are available at www.faircanberra.org.au
- **Volunteer your time** – contact the Secretary niamian.homestead@gmail.com
- **Make a donation** – contact the Treasurer (borhan_ahmed@hotmail.com)
- **Support an event or fundraising activity** – contact Executive Member Toa Takiari (pacificislandsc@gmail.com)
- **Become a corporate partner** – contact the Treasurer (borhan_ahmed@hotmail.com)

Further information on how to support or participate in activities and programs organised by *Fair Canberra Inc* visit www.faircanberra.org.au.

CONTACT US

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The Secretary

Sunita Dhindsa

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Fair Canberra Inc

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The main objectives of the *HomelessApp* are to have a technological system solution through which:

1. homeless and other disadvantaged Canberrans will be able to seek and receive services through an user-friendly system with dignity;
2. local businesses in Canberra will be able to offer their services for free to homeless Canberrans through the App as part of their social responsibility;
3. individual donors will be able to donate to support Fair Canberra Inc to help the homeless through this App;
4. important identity documents of homeless Canberrans can be stored on this App so that they can be readily accessible at all times by the respective individual. This will avoid the lengthy time and challenging processes of recreating these important documents if hard copies are lost; and
5. homeless Canberrans' needs can be quickly linked to relevant service providers in the ACT.

The *HomelessApp* is being delivered in three stages: Initiating and Planning; Development and Testing; and finally, Implementation and Monitoring. The first stage was delivered during the reporting period and work is progressing on the second stage – development and testing. It is anticipated that the *HomelessApp* will be available in early 2021.

Fair Canberra Inc thanks the University of Canberra for working collaboratively with our organisation to make this App a reality and, in doing so, improving the lives of hundreds of homeless people in Canberra.

OUR TEAM

Executive Committee Members (November 2018 – November 2020)

Members of the Executive Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting on 25 November 2018 have markedly different experiences and possess a range of different skills. These members come together as a diverse group in terms of age, gender, cultural backgrounds and education levels. Members also represent, and are connected to, numerous community groups across the Australian Capital Territory.

Their ongoing contribution to *Fair Canberra Inc* continues to be deeply appreciated.

Nic Manikis PSM – *President*

Nic Manikis served as a Senior Manager in the Commonwealth Government from 1980 to 1984 and as a Senior Executive in social policy and community affairs roles in the ACT Government from 1985 to 2016.

In 1998, Nic received the *Public Service Medal* in the Australia Day Honours List in recognition of his years of service and dedication to government and community. In 2000 he was awarded the *Centenary Medal*.

In November 2016, Nic retired from government service after a distinguished career of almost 40 years serving the community. Over the years, Nic worked with many local community groups to develop and provide programs, resources and services to those most disadvantaged and vulnerable in our community.

Nic is currently active in the private sector and continues his work supporting local community groups on a voluntary basis.

Anooshe Aisha Mushtaq – *Vice President*

Anooshe Mushtaq is a first generation Australian of Pakistan origin. She spent her early years in Pakistan and Libya on posting with her family.

Since her arrival in Australia 30 years ago, Anooshe has experienced first-hand the changing cultural landscape of Australia.

Today, Anooshe is a consultant and social commentator who regularly speaks at national security conferences and publishes on topics such as the prevention of violent extremism from the grass roots perspective and the analysis of Islamic State's online propaganda.

Anooshe is the Founder and Director of *Raqib Taskforce* – a Muslim-led diverse organisation that builds social inclusion through engagement across the Australian community in a manner designed to dispel extremist messages that exist within the public domain. Raqib is developing social inclusion narratives countering hate speech and racism.

Anooshe is an adviser to the *PAK Institute for Peace Studies in Counter Narrative Strategies and Counter Terrorism*. She is also an Associate Member of the *Australia Institute of Professional Intelligence Officers* and a *Research Associate at the Australian Security Research Centre*.

Anooshe has a passion for youth empowerment and continues to work with various local youth groups to assist them to reach their potential.

Borhan Ahmed – *Treasurer & Public Officer*

Borhan Ahmed is an accomplished community leader with over 30 years experience in community sector work in Australia and Bangladesh.

Over this time, he has held several high profile community roles including: President of the *Canberra Muslim Community*, President of the *Bangladesh Australia Association Canberra* and President of the *Bangladeshi Seniors Group*.

Borhan holds a *Master of Economics (specialising in Development Economics)*, *Master of Economics, Bachelor of Arts (with Honours in Economics)* and a *Post-Graduate Diploma in Social Science*. He is a *Colombo Plan* scholar with 40 years successful public service career experience with the Australian Federal and Bangladesh Governments. Borhan served as a member of the Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration Cadre), including as a First Class Magistrate with the Bangladesh Government. In 1978, he was trained at USAID HQs, US State Department on foreign aid administration and technical cooperation program. Before he retired in early 2018, he served his final 26 years in the Australian public service with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and AusAID, including as an Aid Diplomat in Port Moresby/PNG. From DFAT and AusAid, Borhan undertook several aid project-related work missions to PNG, Iraq, Jordan, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Palestine.

Borhan has a life-long passion for advocacy work around issues and challenges facing members of new and emerging multicultural community groups, new migrants, faith-based groups and former refugees in the ACT. In this context, he has served as a member of several high profile community service provider agencies boards and on government advisory committees (ACT Attorney-General's CCTV Review Committee). He currently serves as a board member of Migrants and Refugee Settlement Service Australia and of the Council on the Ageing ACT Policy Committee. Borhan continues to work closely with a diverse group of people to improve inclusiveness and respect in the ACT community.

Dr Sunita S Dhindsa – *Secretary*

Sunita was born in India but has lived for most part in Australia, primarily in Canberra.

Sunita has a PhD from Punjab Agricultural University, India and also undertook a Graduate Diploma in Public Sector Management from Macquarie University North Ryde in 2003-04.

From 1990 to 2014, Sunita worked in a range of roles in various government departments, and also worked for a short time in scientific research, and in private sector.

Sunita has continued to positively support the Indian diaspora and to contribute to the broader Australian society and economy in various capacities. She is a member, Founder member, patron and Life Member of various community organisations as well as holding positions of Secretary, Coordinator and Executive member. Sunita is the Founder and was the Coordinator of *AusIndia Fair*, a platform for interacting, trade and showcasing shared values of Australia and India. Currently she is the President of the Federation of Indian Associations of the ACT (FINACT).

Sunita's passion is to work for, and with people, enable meaningful interactions, and encourage positive empowerment while fostering constructive and harmonious outcomes at all levels. Her vision is to make Canberra and the surrounding region more progressive, inclusive, culturally vibrant, environmentally sustainable and economically strong.

Francis Owusu – *Executive Committee Member*

Francis Owusu is an outrageously big dreamer, with an authentic passion to empower the lives of people he connects with through voice and movement. After struggling in his youth with his identity and self-esteem, and an early life of crime, his life had a dramatic change when he came to the realization that he didn't need to become someone, he *was* someone! This true personal discovery became the catalyst to helping others.

Since then, Francis has become the founder of a successful social enterprise – *Kulture Break*, as well as founder and director of *iinspire* leadership, and leading communicator in cultural change. Francis has been empowering individuals to reach their potential for over 16 years. He is credited for developing and having a positive impact on the lives thousands of local young people and also developing some of Australia's most successful performing artists such as *Timomatic* and several members of *Justice Crew*.

Francis has been publicly recognised through awards and appointments including: winner of the *2016 ACT Chief Minister's Social Inclusion Award*; winner of the Commonwealth Bank's *Australian of the Day 2016*; *2015 ACT Public Schools Alumni Ambassador*; *Diversity Champion ACT Human Rights Commission 2015*; and National Finalist of the *Australian of the Year Local Hero Award* in 2013. He was nominated by the ACT Government as 1 of 14 most influential Canberrans as a 'Champion' in the *Time to Talk 2030 - Shaping Canberra's Future Campaign*.

Francis' passion to assist in the transformation of individuals, workplaces and communities is stronger today than it has ever been.

Toa Takiari – *Executive Committee Member*

Toa Takiari has had long and successful business and voluntary community development careers in the ACT since the 1960s, with extended periods back in Tonga and New Zealand. Toa was educated as a professional hairdresser and established and managed many businesses in Canberra, training promising young hair stylists, and she dabbled in the fashion and music industries.

Over the years, Toa applied her 'can do' attitude to advancing the interests of many vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the Pacific Island communities in Canberra

opening up opportunities for them to learn new skills and to learn more about their culture. She setup a Hair and Style Salon in Civic to provide opportunities for Canberra's homeless and low income earners to not only receive services but also training, as a pathway to permanent paid work.

Toa was instrumental in forming *The United Nesian Movement* as a platform for Pacific Islander young people to learn about and showcase their culture. She has assisted these young people to promote their culture through her program on Radio 2XX and, for several years, she co-ordinated the Pacific Island Showcase at the annual National Multicultural Festival. Toa is the current Public Officer (and Founder) for the *Pacific Island Showcase Association*. She also founded *The Niu Oceanic Cultural Centre* based at the ANU and organised the *Pacific Cultural Youth Day in 2017*. She also organised many Pacific and Indigenous Cultural Fashion shows.

Toa is a hard working, dedicated and strong community advocate for young Canberrans of Pacific Island background.

Andrew Holt – Executive Committee Member

In the mid to late 1990s Andrew served on CANTRADE – a high level Government business development body. Andrew made a strong contribution to this body providing strategic advice on projects such as the Bishop's Aus-trans light rail project. He helped craft initiatives to promote and market Canberra to the world such as the ACT Honorary Ambassador Program and Snapshot of Canberra publication.

Andrew has also many years of genuine, active support, assistance and interaction with the Multicultural communities, businesses and individuals of all walks of life throughout the ACT. He has a long and established record of accomplishment in management positions in private, government and community sectors.

Andrew founded the Canberra Inventors Association in 1992 after identifying a complete lack of real help to those wishing to commercialise innovative Australian projects. The Association soon became a peak organisation for Australian inventors and innovators. He was also instrumental in raising of over \$30 million of investment funding for members and their projects, many of which became nationally and internationally recognised and award winning projects.

Over the years Andrew has given talks and lectures to a wide range of groups and organisations, including schools, CSIRO, community groups and to staff at IP Australia. He has been frequently interviewed in local and national print, radio and television media on a multitude of subject matters and topics, including a monthly ABC 666 Canberra radio program on Australian Innovation which he presented for many years.

In 2016 Andrew stood as an Independent candidate in the ACT Legislative Assembly elections and after only three weeks of campaigning came a very respectable 71st from a field of 141 candidates, most of which were from parties and had been running for a year or more.

Emie Jiang – *Executive Committee Member*

Emie Jiang is a well respected and active young member of the Canberra Chinese community. Apart from her active community work, Emie is a Director of JZ Property Investments Pty Ltd.

Emie has achieved a high level of academic qualifications in a number of finance and economic fields from the Australian National University. She has served as a commercial analyst for *Indigenous Business Australia* and as a financial analyst for *ACT Treasury*.

Emie is currently the Vice President of the Australian Guangxi Friendship Association (AGFA), a non-profit organisation to foster friendship and a relationship between the ACT and Guangxi Province of China. Locally, AGFA runs weekly cheongsam practice and tai-chi classes as well as conducting aged care seminars for members of the local Chinese community. Through her role in AGFA, Emie has engaged broadly across the local Chinese community forging strong working relationships with people in government, education and aged care sectors.

Emie enjoys the community work that she undertakes and has contributed generously to various activities and events across the ACT during the past few years. In particular, Emie has made an enormous contribution to the annual National Multicultural Festival through her role as the coordinator for the Chinese Community Showcase. As a Volunteer leader, she recruited over 100 volunteers for the event and managed one of the numerous stages at the event.

Emie is a valuable young member of the Executive Committee of *Fair Canberra Inc*.

Sabrina Melo – *Executive Committee Member*

Sabrina Melo is a first generation Australian who has recently completed her academic studies while incorporating her international travels to better comprehend global societies.

Harbouring a desire to actively apply her knowledge in the global humanitarian field, Sabrina completed a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies at the University of Canberra and a Master of Diplomacy at the Australian National University in 2018. Sabrina's involvement with the local Pacific Islander community together with her broader understanding of the contemporary world, through her education and travel, has further inspired a deeper perspective of the importance of intercultural awareness and relations.

Sabrina looks forward to contributing to the work of *Fair Canberra Inc* particularly from a youth and intercultural perspective.

Our Voluntary Staff

Mohd Tareq - *Executive Officer (membership & database management)*

Tareq brings more than fifteen years of experience to the operations of *Fair Canberra Inc* having worked in the public and private sectors in Australia and overseas. He is a seasoned corporate affairs and office administration professional with expertise in human resources. Tareq is highly skilled in organisational development, corporate management, workforce development and recruitment.

Tareq has gained his diverse professional experience in organisations such as: the Operations Specialist Group Australia; Canada Border Services Agency; ACT Government; Australian National University; European Union, DFAT (Australian High Commission – overseas); Save the Children; Concern Worldwide; and served in IUCAN-The World Conservation Union and ACCENTURE in various capacities. Tareq has served two consecutive terms as Vice-president of the *Bangladesh Australia Association of Canberra*. He is also the director of *Autistic Children's Welfare Foundation of Bangladesh* and Life Member of *BIHRM* – an affiliated body of Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resources Management and of *SHRM (USA)*.

Tareq is passionate about serving the broader community. He strongly believes in the concept of 'multiculturalism' as a unifying force that recognises and empowers all Canberrans to work for the common good of our community.

Valerie Bichard - *Executive Officer (community engagement, issues management & media)*

Valerie was born in New Zealand and made the journey to and from Fiji before becoming a part of the first wave of migrants, post White Australia Policy, to arrive in Australia in the late 1960s. She grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney in a bi-cultural family. Her mother is I-Taukei Fijian and father is from Guernsey. Her biological father's family originate from an African slave descendant who arrived on a whaling ship in the Pacific in the 1830s and an early pioneering family who settled in Fiji pre-deed of cession (1874). Valerie continues to maintain close relationships with her large extended family and ancestral home of Fiji.

From the 1970s, Valerie grew up with the development of Multiculturalism in Australia. These social, political and ancestral influences continue to shape her passion for social and environmental justice issues within the region.

Valerie has worked successfully as a political and cultural adviser, educator, independent broadcast journalist, media consultant and multidisciplinary arts practitioner. As a writer her work has been published in a number of Pacific anthologies. Valerie's broad experience includes work with the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the Australian National University, the University of Canberra, SBS Radio/TV, Ngaanyatjarra Media and civil society. She has studied at the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts, the Australian Film TV and Radio School, the University of Canterbury in New Zealand and at the Australian National University.

TREASURER'S REPORT

I have pleasure to present our third reviewed financial report as attached for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

This is all about giving a true and fair account of the financial position and performance of Fair Canberra Inc, including cash flows, profit and loss, net assets, and liabilities for the reporting period.

Due to COVID-19, we were constrained and unable to raise funds or improve our financial position during the reporting period. If the circumstances permit, we will endeavour to improve our financial position next financial year and beyond to progressively raise funds from an expanded range of sources to support our on-going activities and programs.

Most funds received by Fair Canberra Inc during the reporting period have been from Executive Committee members by way of individual donations or contributions which are not expected to be paid back. This was the single source of income to support the activities of the Association during the reporting period.

It is with these donations that we continue to directly cover the significant cost of overheads generated by Fair Canberra Inc. These overheads include: a comprehensive suite of insurance cover (public liability, directors' and volunteers' insurances), venue hire, statutory fees, general administration (eg. maintenance of Post Office Box, printing and catering), and annual technology fees (eg. Website hosting and email addresses).

We remain committed to continue our work to attract funds from several sources, including from donors, private sector grant programs, sponsors and philanthropic individuals in our community. Achieving the financial viability of the organisation remains a priority together with maximizing opportunities to improve our sustainability through income generation and cost minimisation efforts.

In these challenging times, I am pleased to see Fair Canberra Inc continue to grow and operate with the help and support from our valued members, patrons and many others in our community.

I commend this financial report to the Annual General Meeting for approval.

With thanks

Borhan Ahmed
Treasurer
Fair Canberra Inc.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Fair Canberra Inc greatly appreciates the support that was provided by The Hellenic Club of Canberra, for its programs and activities throughout 2019-20.

Appreciation is also extended to the many multicultural groups and individuals who volunteered their time to make the limited number of programs and activities facilitated by *Fair Canberra Inc* great successes in the reporting period.

GET INVOLVED

Fair Canberra Inc encourages members and Canberrans generally to support the organisation in the following ways:

- **Become a member** – application forms are available at www.faircanberra.org.au
- **Volunteer your time** – contact the Secretary niamian.homestead@gmail.com
- **Make a donation** – contact the Treasurer (borhan_ahmed@hotmail.com)
- **Support an event or fundraising activity** – contact Executive Member Toa Takiari (pacificislandsc@gmail.com)
- **Become a corporate partner** – contact the Treasurer (borhan_ahmed@hotmail.com)

Further information on how to support or participate in activities and programs organised by *Fair Canberra Inc* visit www.faircanberra.org.au.

CONTACT US

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