



FAIR CANBERRA INC
ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023



www.faircanberra.org.au

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Table of Contents

Who We Are.....	3
President's Report.....	4
Year in Brief - Highlights.....	5
Our Team.....	30
Our Supporters and Partners.....	32
Get Involved.....	33
Contact Us.....	33



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 enable 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 (CALD) 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 CALD backgrounds.

Fair Canberra Inc advocates for policies and decisions to better support marginalised or disadvantaged Canberrans through mechanisms such as *direct individualised engagement and support as necessary, 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 CALD backgrounds - especially women, new and emerging communities, migrants, 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 in close partnership with the leadership and membership of local multicultural and other community groups and service providers.

President's Report

The financial year (2022-23) continued to be marked by a return to normal circumstances following a period of caution due to Covid-19 restrictions for not only *Fair Canberra Inc* but also for many other local community organisations and service providers.

It has been a delight to have worked with a group of professional and respectful people on the Executive Committee and the Sub-Committee in this reporting period and together achieving some highly engaging initiatives and activities on important issues.

I should also mention that the Executive Committee has been actively supported to undertake activities by a range of community volunteers and partners who all made themselves available to assist with the many activities conducted by *Fair Canberra Inc* during the reporting period. A special thank you also goes to our sponsors especially the Hellenic Club of Canberra, University of Canberra, DR Print, Iconic Mortgage Solutions, Region Media (RiotACT) and Nim Osborne Real Estate for their continuing generous in-kind and financial sponsorship of *Fair Canberra Inc* activities.

The 2022-23 financial year saw *Fair Canberra Inc* financially support several members with their respective community activities: Africa in the Park Festival and the Commonwealth Day Celebrations.

Fair Canberra Inc continues to make a positive impact in our community with the help of a range of organisations who have worked collaboratively to achieve great outcomes for our members and the community more generally. I particularly thank my colleagues on the Executive Committee and Sub-Committees of *Fair Canberra Inc* for their hard work and total commitment to achieving quality outcomes for our members, and for their dedication to achieving the objectives of our organisation.

I attribute the successful year for *Fair Canberra Inc* to a combination of strong commitment and dedication shown by our executive committee and Sub-Committee members, volunteers and general members together with the willingness of our network of supporters and patrons to become involved and contribute to our activities and programs throughout the reporting year.

I look forward to *Fair Canberra Inc* continuing its advocacy and policy development work on issues of concern and interest to its members in the 2023-24 financial year.

Kind Regards

Dr Krishna Nadimpalli OAM
President
Fair Canberra Inc

Year in Brief - Highlights

During the reporting year (2022-23), *Fair Canberra Inc* organised several activities which involved *Fair Canberra Inc* members as well as other members and volunteers from several local multicultural community groups.

These activities included:

Photographic & Cultural Exhibition

50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations Between

Australia and China 1972-2022

Fair Canberra Inc together with the *Australia-China Economic and Cultural Promotions Inc* and *Australian Guangxi Friendship Association Inc* organised the 'Photographic & Cultural Exhibition' to mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and China (1972-2022).

Emie Jiang (Executive Committee member of *Fair Canberra Inc*) was instrumental in the planning and ultimate success of the event.

The Exhibition was held from 28 to 30 October 2022 at the Ainslie Football Club

(52 Wakefield Avenue Ainslie ACT). The photographic and cultural exhibition reflected the significant achievements and friendships forged over the past 50 years in trade, education, tourism and cultural exchanges.





Over 250 people participated in the opening ceremony which was officiated by Ms Joy Burch MLA (Speaker ACT Legislative Assembly) and the Chinese Ambassador to Australia, Mr Xiao Qian. Also in attendance at the event were Ms Emma Davidson MLA and Mr Andrew Braddock MLA as well as many other community leaders.



FAIR CANBERRA INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2022)

The fifth Annual General Meeting (AGM) (2022) for *Fair Canberra Inc* was held on 19 November 2022 in the Hall Room of the Gungahlin Uniting Church and Community Centre, Gungahlin Town Centre.

According to the *Fair Canberra Inc* Constitution, office bearers and executive committee members are elected every two years (the 2020 AGM was the last election meeting) – new executive committee members and office bearers were elected at this AGM (19 November 2022).



The 2022 AGM provided an opportunity for members to reflect on the limited number of activities and programs undertaken by *Fair Canberra Inc* during the 2021-22 reporting year.



At the AGM the departing President (Mr Nic Manikis) highlighted the following activities undertaken by *Fair Canberra Inc* in 2021-22:

- a. conducted the fourth Annual General Meeting on 19 February 2022 (deferred from November 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions) and held elections for office bearers and other executive committee members;
- b. the successful staging of the 'Cyber Safety Seminar' for parents from multicultural and Indigenous communities. The seminar was conducted on 26 June 2022 at the Lake Ginninderra College Auditorium Belconnen. Approximately 75 registered parents attended the seminar which was jointly organised by *Fair Canberra Inc* and the Research Cluster of Digital Inequality and Social Change (RCDISC) from the University of Canberra, supported by the ACT Government and the ACT Language Schools Association.





- c. Sabrina Melo and Daisy Matsika (Executive Committee members *Fair Canberra Inc*) delivered an excellent presentation to the *First International Symposium on Digital Inequality and Social Change* held at the University of Canberra on 28-29 March 2022. The presentation provided the audience with a brief contextual talk about the work undertaken by Fair Canberra Inc before outlining a more detailed account on four technology based initiatives that have an impact on the well-being of three cohorts in our community – people living on the streets, senior Canberrans who wish to learn to navigate access to online access to services, and parents of children with access to internet wanting to know how to protect them from online abuse and other undesirable actions over the internet.



- d. At the AGM, the President outlined the range of members' cultural activities supported by *Fair Canberra Inc* through the provision of promotion and funds:
- Africa in the Park on 23 April 2022
 - 60th Anniversary celebrations of the local Samoan community
 - Tongan Tsunami Relief Effort

The President also outlined some activities for the remainder of 2022 and into 2023.

At the conclusion of the AGM the meeting was handed over to Mr Kanti Jinna OAM, Chair of the election committee, who described the process that was put in place to ensure that every member had an opportunity to nominate or be nominated for the vacant Executive Committee positions, including for Office Bearers.

Mr Jinna informed members that the election committee had received nominations for one person for each of the vacant Office Bearer positions and five additional nominations for the vacant positions by the due date.

Mr Jinna read out the names of those nominated as follows:

Office Bearers:

President:	Dr Krishna Nadimpalli OAM
Vice President:	Toa Takiari
Treasurer:	Nim Osborne
Secretary:	Kofi Osei Bonsu

Executive Committee Members:

Sabrina Melo
Daisy Matsika
Prasonjit Dastidar
Sohail Khan
Emie Jiang

In addition, as per the Constitution, Mr Jinna acknowledged Mr Nic Manikis (Founder & Inaugural President *Fair Canberra Inc*) as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

Borhan Ahmed (founding Member & former Treasurer) was appointed as the Public Officer for *Fair Canberra Inc* for the period 2022-2024. Dr Ahmed Imran was appointed as Chair, Advocacy, Strategic Policy and Program Sub Committee.



PARENTS AND CHILDREN CYBER SAFETY – YARNING CIRCLES

Fair Canberra Inc in partnership with the University of Canberra embarked on a project in late 2022 and early 2023 to hear from parents and grandparents of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children about their concerns and suggestions about keeping children safe online.

Parenting in the digital age poses a new challenge for parents.

It requires a new knowledge, shared experiences and appropriate strategies to get the best out of the digital world and to also safeguard against its negative effect and consequences for children.

There is a need for effective parental interventions appropriate for Indigenous parents.

The project is addressing this critical gap through the design and development of appropriate intervention for Indigenous communities. More about the project can be found at:

https://www.canberra.edu.au/about-uc/facilities/SciTech/research/rc-disc/CIRI-Project-Flyer_v4.pdf



A series of yarning circles involving parents and grandparents were organised in December 2022 and February 2023 to provide an opportunity to discuss concerns about protecting children online. The yarning circles were designed to be safe places for a frank discussion

between parents about the concerns they may share about how to protect their children in cyber space.



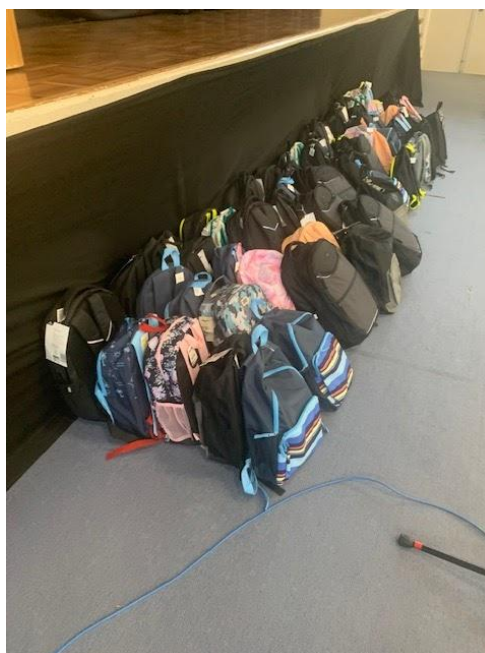
Dr Wayne Applebee (Kamilaroi man and a senior lecturer in Indigenous Specialisation at the University of Canberra) facilitated the yarning circles. He was supported by Daisy Matsika and Dr Ahmed Imran from *Fair Canberra Inc.*

Back to School Supplies Program

Fair Canberra Inc was delighted to respond to a request from Dickson College to provide back packs with school supplies to 60 migrant students. The back packs with back-to-school supplies were handed over at an event at Dickson College on 9 February 2023.



Fair Canberra Inc gave an undertaking to provide much needed school supplies to migrant students as they enrol at Dickson College throughout 2023.





Dr Krishna Nadimpalli OAM, Nic Manikis and Daisy Matsika (Executive Committee members *Fair Canberra Inc*) and Cay Merritt (member *Fair Canberra Inc*) participated in the handing over event along with 60 students, the Principal and teachers of Dickson College. Thank you to Dr Nadimpalli who hosted the luncheon for the students and guests at this event.



Mental Wellness Workshop

For multicultural communities

Fair Canberra Inc (in partnership with The Art of Living and Born to Shine – Cay Merritt) hosted the ‘Mental Wellness Workshop’ on 25 February 2023 for some 80 members of various multicultural community Groups.



The Workshop explored ways different cultures maintain mental well being in their respective populations. Participants enjoyed interactive presentations on the positive benefits of Tai Chi (Chinese), yoga (Indian), meditation and kava (Pacific Islands).

The Workshop also heard from people with lived experience of mental illness and from mental health experts. Participants also appreciated a brief presentation by Nim Osborne (Executive Committee member) on the causes and treatment of Lymphoedema.





Participants provided positive feedback about the Workshop and asked for it to be held again later in 2023.



Bunnings Fundraiser for Fair Canberra Inc

Sabrina Melo (*Fair Canberra Inc* Executive Committee Member) organised a successful sausage sizzle fundraiser for *Fair Canberra Inc* at the Bunnings Belconnen on 18 March 2023.



A big thank you to the Executive Committee members (Sohail Khan, Toa Takiari, Daisy Matsika, Sabrina Melo and Prasonjit Dastidar) and other *Fair Canberra Inc* volunteers who assisted and enjoyed a team building activity on the day. Over \$3,000 was raised for *Fair Canberra Inc* activities. A special thank you to Johnny (Prasonjit Dastidar) for providing cans of drinks for the fundraising effort.



Legal Aid & Appreciative Leadership Workshop

Fair Canberra Inc in partnership with the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services Australia Inc hosted the 'Legal Aid and Appreciative Leadership Workshop; on 17 June 2023 at the Hellenic Club.



Kofi Bonsu (*Fair Canberra Inc* Executive Committee member) organised the Workshop. Approximately 100 participants enjoyed interactive and informative presentations by Legal Aid representatives (JasKiran Rekhraj and Emily Muir) and by Dave Simpson who presented the 'Appreciative Leadership' component of the Workshop.



The Workshop provided an opportunity for newly arrived migrants and refugees to learn about their rights in relation to 'visas' and 'tenancy' and to ask questions about any specific issues they may have in these two subject areas.



Participants were also provided with information during the second part of the Workshop about productive patterns of interactions and how to identify the working and stakeholder relationships important to their success, including identifying roles, responsibilities and expectations.



Participants provided feedback that they enjoyed the Workshop and found it informative and were particularly appreciative of the answers they received from presenters to their many questions on visa and tenancy issues.



Thank you to the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services for the provision of lunch to the participants at this event.

FAIR CANBERRA SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

Commonwealth Day Celebrations. *Fair Canberra Inc* was delighted to financially support the celebrations for the Commonwealth Day on 13 March 2023. The event included choirs and participation of faith organisations including, Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh and Bahai’.

The celebration took place in the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture chapel in Barton ACT and was attended by Nic Manikis and Toa Takiari (Executive Committee Members of *Fair Canberra Inc*).

Fair Canberra Inc supports the celebration as it aligns with the values of *Fair Canberra Inc* – that is, the objective of the Commonwealth Day celebration is to demonstrate that the Commonwealth is an inherently diverse and inclusive institution, both multicultural/multi-ethnic and multi-religious.





Africa in the Park is a special activity on Canberra's calendar of events. *Fair Canberra Inc* once again financially supported the African members of *Fair Canberra Inc* to participate in the event in early 2023. Several Executive Committee members (Toa Takiari and Daisy Matsika) also attended the event.



Our Team

Executive Committee Members (November 2022 – November 2024)

Members of the Executive Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting on

19 November 2022 have markedly different backgrounds and experiences and possess a range of different skills and expertise. 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 and networks across the Australian Capital Territory.

The ongoing contribution of all members of the Executive Committee to the work of *Fair Canberra Inc* continues to be deeply appreciated and valued. The Executive Committee represents a diverse decision-making body, with both young and senior members, from a variety of ethnic backgrounds represented, range of life and work experiences, as well as a gender balance in the membership.

Dr Krishna Nadimpalli OAM – *President*

Toa Takiari – *Vice President*

Nim Osborne – *Treasurer & Public Officer*

Kofi Bonsu - *Secretary*

Sohail Khan – *Executive Committee Member.*

Emie Jiang – *Executive Committee Member*

Sabrina Melo – *Executive Committee Member*

Prasonjit Dastidar – *Executive Committee Member*

Daisy Matsika - *Executive Committee Member*

Borhan Ahmed – *Public Officer*

Nic Manikis PSM (*Fair Canberra Inc Founder & Ex-Officio Member*)

Dr Ahmed Imran – *Chair, Advocacy, Strategic Policy & Program Sub Committee*

Our Supporters and Partners

Fair Canberra Inc greatly appreciates the support that was provided by The Hellenic Club of Canberra, for its programs and activities throughout 2022/23.

Fair Canberra Inc appreciates the financial and in-kind support provided throughout the reporting period by DR PRINT, Iconic Mortgages, Region Media (RiotACT) and NIM Osborne Real Estate.



**Hellenic Club (Canberra), DR PRINT, Iconic Mortgages, Region Media (RiotACT) and
NIM Osborne Real Estate.**

Appreciation is also extended to the many multicultural groups and individuals who diligently volunteered their time and efforts to make the 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 valued member** – application forms are available at www.faircanberra.org.au
- **Volunteer your time** – contact the Secretary : nanabonsu25@yahoo.com
- **Make a donation** –contact the Treasurer (nim@nimosborne.com.au)
- **Support an event or fundraising activity** – contact Executive Members Toa Takiari (pacificislandsc@gmail.com); Sabrina Melo (sabrina.melo@faircanberra.org.au)
- **Become a corporate partner** – contact the Treasurer (nim@nimosborne.com.au)

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

Contact Us

Contacts:

The Secretary

Kofi Bonsu

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