



FAIR CANBERRA INC
ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022



www.faircanberra.org.au

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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 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 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 or disadvantaged 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, 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 (2021-22) continued to be marked by a set of unusual and unprecedented circumstances 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 this reporting period and together achieving some great results in the context of difficult circumstances presented by the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

I should also mention that the Executive Committee has been actively supported to undertake activities by Nim Osborne, Kofi Bonsu, Gio Cano and Isaac Cotter who all made themselves available to assist the many activities conducted by Fair Canberra Inc during the reporting period. A special thank you also goes to the Hellenic Club of Canberra, University of Canberra, DR Print and Nim Osborne Real Estate for their continuing generous in-kind and financial sponsorship of Fair Canberra Inc activities.

The 2021-22 financial year saw Fair Canberra Inc financially support several members with their respective community activities: Tongan Tsunami Relief Effort, Africa in the Park, and the 50th anniversary of the Samoan Community Association.

Fair Canberra Inc also participated in support of the BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute in Australia at the ANU – see for more information www.research.baps.org. I thank Rod Little (Executive Member of Fair Canberra) for representing Fair Canberra Inc and presenting a special letter of commemoration to Mahamahopadhyaya (eminent scholar) Swami Bhadreshdas - he is currently travelling across the globe as part of the birth centenary celebrations of Pramukh Swami Maharaj to share his message of peace, love, and tolerance to foster global harmony.

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 of Fair Canberra Inc for their hard work and total commitment to achieving quality outcomes for our members, and dedication to the objectives of our organisation. I also thank members who have readily volunteered throughout the reporting year to support our activities and programs. I attribute the successful year for Fair Canberra Inc to a combination of strong commitment and dedication shown by our executive committee members, volunteers and general members together with the willingness of our network of supporters to become involved and contribute to our activities and programs.

I look forward to Fair Canberra Inc continuing its great advocacy and policy development work on issues of concern and interest to its members in the 2022-23 financial year.

Nic Manikis PSM
President
Fair Canberra Inc

YEAR IN BRIEF - HIGHLIGHTS

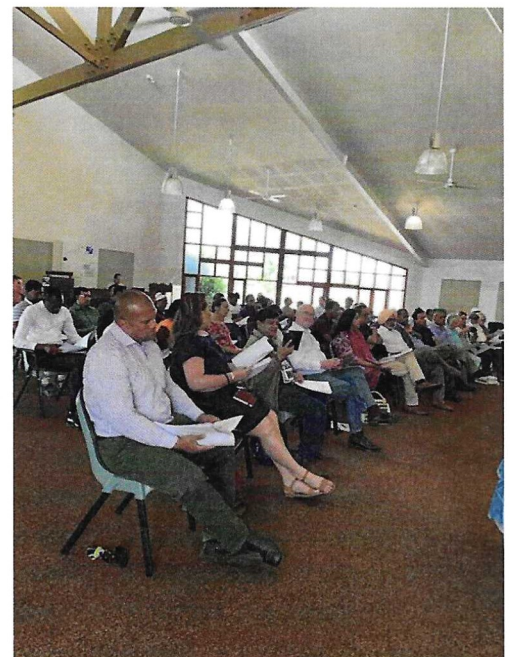
During the reporting year, *Fair Canberra Inc* organised several activities which involved *Fair Canberra Inc* members as well as other members from several local multicultural community groups.

These activities included:

FAIR CANBERRA INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2021)

The fourth Annual General Meeting (AGM) (2021) for *Fair Canberra Inc* members was held on 19 February 2022 in the Hall Room of the Gungahlin Uniting Church and Community Centre, Gungahlin Town Centre. The 2021 AGM was delayed to February 2022 due to imposed Covid restrictions in late 2021 – when the AGM was due.

As office bearers and executive committee members are elected every two years, the 2020 AGM was the last election meeting – the next AGM to elect executive committee members will be held in November 2022.



The 2021 AGM provided an opportunity for members to reflect on the limited number of activities and programs undertaken by *Fair Canberra Inc* during the 2020-21 reporting year.

The President reflected that most of 2021 had continued to be unsettling and that it was a challenge to operate under the then imposed restrictions.

Despite the constraints imposed throughout the later part of 2020 and for most of 2021, Fair Canberra Inc successfully undertook the following activities in 2020-21:

- a. The Third Annual General Meeting on 20 October 2020 and held elections for office bearers and other executive committee members.
- b. Fair Canberra Inc partnered with the Hellenic Club to stage the successful 'Hellenic Festival' in the carpark areas outside the Hellenic Club.
- c. Continuation of the 'feeding the homeless BBQ' during only part of the year due to the COVID restrictions.
- d. Technical development work was finalised on the Homeless Assist App by students at the University of Canberra.
- e. Two fundraising sausage sizzles were held during the reporting period at Bunnings Belconnen to raise funds for Fair Canberra Inc activities.
- f. The successful staging of the National Kava Forum at the Hellenic Club in June 2021. The Forum provided an opportunity for the relevant Minister to explain the details about the proposed 'pilot program' lifting the limits of importing commercial quantities of kava commencing in January 2022. Over 250 members of the Pacific Island communities in Canberra (mostly members of Fair Canberra Inc) enthusiastically participated in the Forum. The relevant Federal Minister and all Pacific Island High Commissioners (with the exception of New Zealand) attended the Forum and made valuable contributions.
- g. A report arising from community discussions and suggestions at the Forum with 18 recommendations to ensure effective implementation of the 'pilot program' was presented to the relevant Federal Minister and to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

At the time of the 2021 AGM Fair Canberra Inc awaited a response to the 18 recommendations from the Federal Government and committed to circulate the Australian Government response upon receipt to community participants at the Forum.

'FEEDING THE HOMELESS BBQ' & COMMUNITY KITCHEN PROGRAM

The program comprised a BBQ and entertainment in a family-like and welcoming atmosphere for about 30-50 homeless Canberrans each Friday. The Program was introduced in November 2019 and catered for homeless Canberrans in Petrie Plaza in the city every Friday.

Unfortunately, during the first nine months of the reporting period (July 2021 to March 2022), *Fair Canberra Inc* suspended the BBQ program due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Fair Canberra Inc received the required ACT Government approvals in November 2021 to commence the BBQ program on a weekly basis to December 2022. The BBQ was undertaken to the delight of many participants on several occasions from April to June 2022. As assessment of the effectiveness of this initiative will be undertaken in late 2022.



NATIONAL KAVA ADVOCACY - Federal Government Response to *Fair Canberra Inc* Report

Fair Canberra Inc is proud to have organised the successful National Kava Forum on 18 June 2021 at the Hellenic Club in Woden.

The Report arising from the Forum contains 18 recommendations and insights which decision makers responsible for implementing policy on kava related matters would find useful.



The Report was distributed to relevant community organisations and government agencies and posted on the *Fair Canberra Inc* website by September 2021.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (on behalf of the Australian Government) responded to the 18 Recommendations of the Report in February 2022. The Report recommendations and the Australian Government responses are at Attachment to this Annual Report.

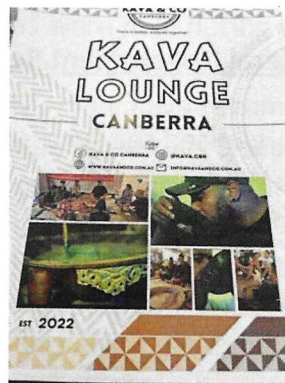


It is noted that many members of *Fair Canberra Inc* are Pacific Islanders who hold a deep cultural interest in the topic of kava.

Launch of Kava Lounge

Fair Canberra Inc was excited to have assisted one of its members, Mr Faonetapu Takiari, to launch Canberra's (and possibly Australia's) first kava lounge at the RUC Club in Turner ACT in April 2022. Mr Takiari is also the Managing Director *Kava and Co Australia*.

The recent decision by the Federal Government to lift restrictions on the commercial importation of kava into Australia on a two-year trial basis made it possible to establish a kava lounge that would serve as a central social and cultural hub for the local community – both for Pacific Islanders as well as for members of the general community.



Then Senator Zed Seselja, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, launched the Kava lounge and remarked that "...it was very exciting, particular for our Pacific Island community...who have been disconnected in the last couple of years from their homelands, and to be able to have that cultural connection though kava is very, valuable..."



Fair Canberra Inc is delighted to have assisted the launch of the kava lounge at the RUC Club. This action was an opportunity for Fair Canberra Inc to complete the kava community engagement process commenced last year (2021) with the National Kava Forum.

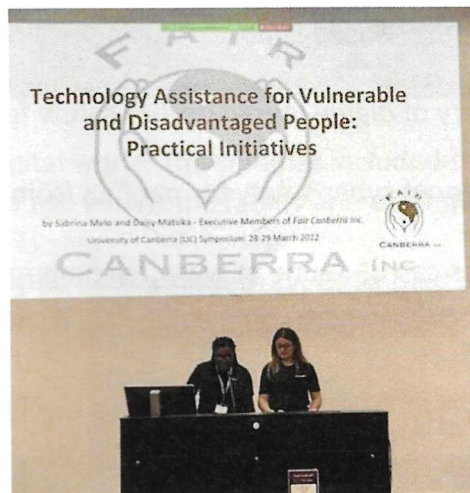


FAIR CANBERRA PRESENTATION TO THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DIGITAL INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE – 28-29 MARCH 2022

Sabrina Melo and Daisy Matsika (Executive Committee members of Fair Canberra Inc) gave a high impact presentation on behalf of Fair Canberra Inc at the *First International Symposium in Digital Inequality and Social Change – bridging digital inequality for a better and inclusive society* - held at the University of Canberra on 28-29 March 2022 and involving both national and international speakers.

Sabrina and Daisy provided audience with a brief contextual talk about the work undertaken by Fair Canberra Inc before presenting a more detailed presentation on four technology based initiatives that have an impact on the well-being of three cohorts in the community:

- people living on the streets of Canberra;
- senior Canberrans who wish to remain in their homes rather than going into institutional care and those seniors who wish to learn to navigate online access to services; and
- parents of children with access to internet wanting to know how to protect their children from online abuse and other undesirable actions over the internet.



In their presentation, Sabrina and Daisy identified problems that can be alleviated with the use of technological solutions as follows:

- parents not having the skills to regulate their children's online activities often exposing the children to adverse consequences
- people living on the streets not having adequate support to meet their basic needs due to increased number of homeless people competing for limited formal support resources which remain static, requiring a new way to respond to the need of this cohort in the community.
- Older people wishing to prolong their stay in their home as long as possible before they enter institutional care – this may be possible with the use of technology in and around the home but this presents another problem - many older people do not have the skills to be active online.



Sabrina and Daisy presented some of the work undertaken by Fair Canberra which provides practitioners' perspective involving tailored technological solutions to bridge the inequality divide while promoting inclusiveness particularly for the three cohorts mentioned above.

The technology solutions represented in four initiatives were developed by *Fair Canberra Inc* Working collaboratively with several teams of students from the technology faculty University of Canberra during the past several years.

The following four initiatives were presented by Sabrina and Daisy at the Symposium:

- Homeless Assist App
- A range of Technology Based Supports for Multicultural Seniors
- Design and delivery of digital literacy/cyber safety for multicultural safety
- Design and delivery of cyber safety for parents from diverse cultural backgrounds

The details of these initiatives can be found at www.faircanberra.org.au



Sabrina and Daisy noted in their presentation that there are many groups in the community who have been left behind in the adoption of technology to improve the quality of their lives. Both argued that all members of the community should be given the opportunity to reap the benefits of using technology.

They identified the challenge going forward to be about being creative in the way we motivate the elderly, some parents (and carers) and other groups in the community to recognise how technology can make an effective and positive impact on their lives, and to work out ways to impart that information to them in away that they find easy to digest and apply.

CYBER SAFETY SEMINAR FOR PARENTS FROM MULTICULTURAL & INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

It was great to see a big turnout, particularly on a Sunday morning, braving the cold Canberra winter to attend the Cyber Safety Seminar for parents of multicultural and indigenous children on 26 June 2022 at Lake Ginninderra College Auditorium, Belconnen.

The fully booked registration of the event speaks of parents' keen interest in the subject matter. Around 75 registered parents attended the seminar jointly organised by Fair Canberra Inc and the Research Cluster of Digital Inequality and Social Change from the University of Canberra, supported by the ACT Government and the ACT Language Schools Association.



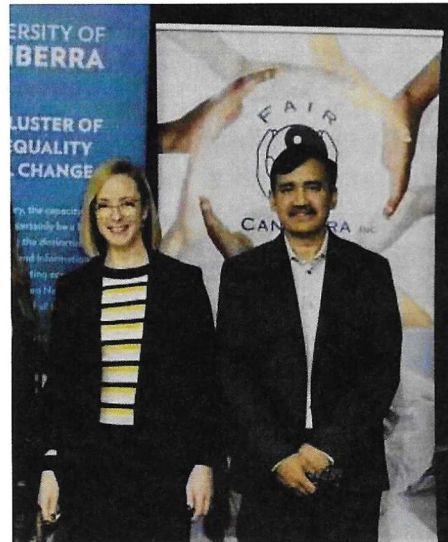
Focused on parenting in a digital world, the seminar included sessions on minimising conflict and negotiating digital media use within the family and coping with stress in a digital age.

The seminar was delivered by Dr Catherine Jeffrey, Dr Ahmed Imran and Dr Suzi Keser from the University of Canberra which also made a financial contribution. Sabrina Melo from Fair Canberra Inc assisted to MC the proceedings. Dr Fuxin Li, President of the ACT Languages Schools Association, also made a special contribution at the seminar.



Parenting in the digital age posed a new challenge for parents. It requires new knowledge and 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. This is particularly difficult for some parents from multicultural and Indigenous backgrounds who come from different backgrounds, ethnicities and value systems, battling to cope with this new phenomenon they did not experience when they grew up.

Research shows many parents are not able to assess or not sure how to assess the danger posed by internet use. Research also shows many parents, particularly from different multicultural backgrounds, are not aware of the existence of government policies that support children's online protection. The seminar attempted to bridge this gap and benefit the parents by providing the relevant information.



According to some parents at the seminar: ".....it was an ice breaker and eye opener to hear not only from the researchers and experts but also from many other parents dealing with the issue on a day-to-day basis".

Dr Emma Davidson MLA, ACT Minister for Mental Health and Professor Janine Deakin, the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Canberra, were the special guest for the occasion. Dr Fuxin Li, Chair ACT Community Language Schools Association and Nic Manikis President of Fair Canberra Inc also spoke at the seminar.

Fair Canberra Inc was able to successfully implement this seminar as a result of the logistical support undertaken by Manu and her son, Ben, from the ACT Languages Schools Association, Borhan Ahmed, Rod Little, Daisy Matiska and other members of the Executive Committee. Toa Takiari provided an exceptional lunch for all participants.



HOMELESS ASSIST APP

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 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.

During the reporting period (2021-22), *Fair Canberra Inc* continued its work with the University of Canberra to fine tune the technical aspects of the *HomelessAssist App* that will assist vulnerable individuals in our community, in particular, Canberrans who are homeless.



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

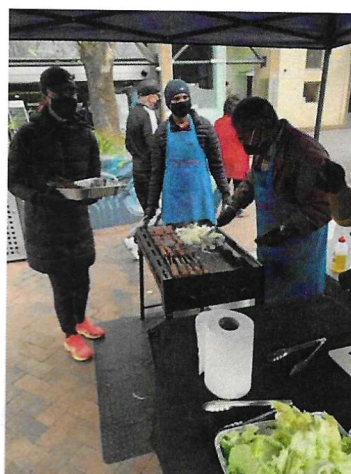
1. homeless and other disadvantaged Canberrans will be able to seek and receive services through a user-friendly system with dignity;
2. local businesses in Canberra will be able to offer their services for free to homeless Canberrans through the App as part of their social responsibility;
3. individual 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.

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.

The *HomelessApp* is being delivered in three stages: Initiating and Planning; Development and Testing; and finally, Implementation, Evaluation and Monitoring. The first stage was delivered in 2019 and the second stage was delivered in 2020.

The third and final stage (Implementation, Evaluation and Monitoring) will be delivered when financial resources can be identified and applied to operationalising the App. It is anticipated that the *HomelessApp* will be operationalised in 2023.

Specifically, appreciation is extended to Dr Ahmed Imran and his team from the Faculty of Technology as well as the students at the University of Canberra who worked hard to develop the technical aspects of the *HomelessAssist App*.



FAIR CANBERRA SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

Inauguration of the *BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute in Australia*.

Rod Little representing Fair Canberra Inc joined other guests to learn more about this new Institute at the Australian National University.

The Institute is dedicated to advancing research, learning and the expression of scholarship and culture. Through various educational initiatives it will seek to promote the highest level of academic excellence in world religions, festivals, vedic scriptures, musical instruments, Indian traditional dance, vedic philosophy, vedic rituals, and languages.



Tonga Tsunami Relief Effort

Fair Canberra Inc was delighted to support its members who have a Tongan background by providing a small donation towards the fundraising efforts designed to raise funds for families in Tonga following the devastating tsunami. Fair Canberra Inc also purchased a table at the key fundraising event at the Hyatt Hotel. Executive Committee members attended the event.



60th Anniversary of the Samoan community organisation

Fair Canberra Inc celebrated with its Samoan members the 60th Anniversary of the Samoan community organisation at the special event at the Hyatt Hotel. Executive Committee members attended the event.



Africa in the Park is a special activity on Canberra's calendar of events. Fair Canberra Inc financially supported the African members of Fair Canberra Inc to participate in the event in early 2022. Several Executive Committee members also attended.



OUR TEAM

Executive Committee Members (November 2020 – November 2022)

Members of the Executive Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting on 24 October 2020 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 and networks across the Australian Capital Territory.

Andrew Holt resigned from the Executive Committee during the reporting period. The Executive Committee approved Daisy Matsika to take his place on the Executive Committee.

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.

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.

Toa Takiari – *Vice President*

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.

Borhan Ahmed – *Treasurer & Public Officer*

Borhan Ahmed is an accomplished community leader with over 35 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 over 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 Acting Chair of the Migrants and Refugee Settlement Service Australia and serves on 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.

Mohd Tareq - *Secretary*

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 – Bangladesh); 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.

Dr Sunita S Dhindsa – *Executive Committee Member*

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.

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

Rod Little – Executive Committee Member

Rod Little has a long employment history in the Australian Public Service for over 18 years where he held senior management and leadership positions across several social policy areas, including Indigenous Education and Employment.

Rod was the Chief Executive Officer of ACT Aboriginal Justice and was a National Development Coordinator at Principals Australia Inc where he enhanced school community leadership development for improving education outcomes for Indigenous students.

Rod was the inaugural Chair of the ACT Aboriginal Elected Body and currently holds directorship positions serving on numerous for-profit and not-for-profit management boards.

Rod is a consultant specialising in engagement and facilitation in improving social, economic and health opportunities for first peoples. He is a member of the *Australian Institute of Company Directors* and is a certified *Institute of Executive Coaching and Leadership Level 1* organisational coach.

Rod participated in the World Indigenous Peoples Forum held in January 2021. It is a virtual forum for Indigenous entrepreneurs and businesses who come together from around the world to discuss opportunities for a fairer future. Rod was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the recent World Indigenous Forum as a winner in the Governance, Coaching and Empowerment category.

Rod is keen to advocate issues that are of concern and interest to Australia's first peoples at every opportunity.

Daisy Matsika - Executive Committee Member

Daisy Matsika is a young changemaker with a passion for youth representation in government policies and business. She is director of 'The Influencers Network' (now 'United Legends') which focusses on collaboration with professional industries, events and digital marketing. She was a nominee for Australian of the Year 2019 and served as a youth advisor for Senator David Smith MP and Nicole Lawder MLA.

Daisy was also a member of the marketing and performance management committee in the South-Fest Planning Team 2018 and 2019 and is an Executive Member of the Tuggeranong Community Council. Daisy was involved in TEDx Canberra talk and is the Chair of the Committee for Youth Engagement.

Daisy has been an active participant in many *Fair Canberra Inc* events and activities including Harmony Day Netball ACT, Hellenic Festival and the National Kava Forum. She also was involved in Sing China, Chinese Pageant, Alliance de Frances French Film Festival and a variety of local Indian Australia Events.

Daisy's hard work has been recently recognised through a Community Services Award, a Student Leadership Award, and an Indian Australian Association Appreciation Award. She has served as an ambassador for *KultureBreak*.

Daisy has studied nursing with a major in psychology, is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Business and Communications Media and she has a Diploma in Marketing. She has expanded her skills over the years working in early childhood education, workshop presenter, marketing influencer, political adviser, Brands ambassador, marketing coordinator, communications officer, training officer and campaign officer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

I have pleasure to present our fifth reviewed financial report as attached for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. The report, giving Fair Canberra Inc's financial accounts for the year has been prepared by Mr Chisty Ahmed and independently reviewed by Mr Thomas David MacDonald. On behalf of *Fair Canberra Inc*, I extend my appreciation and thanks for their valuable work.

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

One of the main highlights included the ongoing volunteer efforts by Fair Canberra Inc members and the increased involvement of more people at activities and programs during the reporting period which have been highly recognised and valued. However, it is often difficult to quantify in true financial terms these voluntary contributions for the purposes of this report.

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 challenges, this year saw the continuation of our work activities. Revenues during the reporting period were mainly due to individual donations, fundraising and a one-off ACT Government grant.

Like the last few years, our Executive Committee members continue to generously provide significant personal financial support to cover expenses incurred by Fair Canberra Inc without the expectation that these funds would be paid back.

It is with these donated funds that Fair Canberra Inc continues to directly cover the significant costs of ongoing overheads generated by the organisation. These overheads include: a comprehensive suite of insurance cover (eg. Public Liability, directors and volunteers' insurances, venue hire, statutory fees, general administration (eg. Maintenance of post office box, stationery and printing, catering) and annual technology fees (eg. Website hosting and email address).

The 2021-22 financial year commenced with \$4031.45 in the bank account. Fair Canberra Inc reported the total income of \$17,257.10 and expenses of \$19,850.71 for the financial year ending in June 2022. The cash balance in the bank as at 30 June 2022 was \$1459.86.

Despite the decrease in the revenue on past years, this however, represents a consistent level of expenses in the year mainly because of undertaking high profile activities and programs.

I note that Fair Canberra Inc has been able to meet the challenges of this year. The organisation has no debt and a loyal and enthusiastic membership, particularly consisting of people from a range of culturally diverse backgrounds and of life experiences, which augers well going forward and provides a solid foundation for the future.

I note Fair Canberra Inc has matured over the past six years. It is now a well-run, highly regarded and influential policy and advocacy organisation in the ACT.

I commend this financial report to the 2021-22 Annual General Meeting for approval.

With regards

Borhan Ahmed
Treasurer
Fair Canberra Inc.

OUR SUPPORTERS/PARTNERS

Fair Canberra Inc greatly appreciates the support that was provided by The Hellenic Club of Canberra, for its programs and activities throughout 2021/22.

Fair Canberra Inc appreciates the support provided by Dobinson Bakery Belconnen, by The Brumbies Rugby Team (Men and Women) who assisted *Fair Canberra Inc* with the weekly BBQ for the homeless.

We greatly appreciate the financial and in-kind support provided throughout the reporting period by DR PRINT and NIM Osborne Real Estate.



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 : m.tareq@faircanberra.org.au
- **Make a donation** – contact the Treasurer (borhan_ahmed@hotmail.com)
- **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 (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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Australian Government response to the National Kava Forum report recommendations

February 2022

Number	Recommendation	Response
1	<i>The Australian Government pilot program include trialling a licensing system that provides for interested community organisations, among other entities, in each State and Territory to hold a license to import commercial quantities of kava.</i>	Noted – The Australian Government will operate a permit system to allow for the commercial import of kava into Australia. Importers will need to be a registered business and have an ABN. Information on how to make an application will be made available on the Office of Drug Control website Office of Drug Control (odc.gov.au)
2	<i>The Australian Government pilot program include trialling the establishment of a kava lounge/bar in an interested community club in the Australian Capital Territory for the duration of the pilot program.</i>	Not accepted – This will be a decision for the ACT Government. More generally, states and territories will manage the sale and distribution of kava and kava products.
3	<i>The Australian Government, in collaboration with the Northern Territory Government, lead meaningful consultation and engagement with all Yolngu and Anindilyakwan communities and homelands in the East Arnhem Land Region to develop a regulatory, commercial and monitoring system regarding the legal sale of kava and its health and social effects, in line with the wishes of the communities involved.</i>	<p>Noted - The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre and Indigenous owned organisation Ninti One (who have been engaged to support the evaluation of the pilot) will consult with the Northern Territory Government and communities in the East Arnhem Land Region over the course of the pilot, to support the monitoring and evaluation of the pilot.</p> <p>The Australian Government will seek advice from the Northern Territory Government on your request for engagement with Indigenous communities in the Territory.</p>
4	<i>The Australian Government assist the East Arnhem Regional Council to gain a better knowledge of the cultural significance and health related practices of kava from Pacific community members.</i>	Refer to our response to Recommendation 3
5	<i>The Australian Government roll out the consultation and information programs (as tested in the Yolngu and Anindilyakwan communities and homelands in East Arnhem Land Region) to all relevant Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander communities.</i>	Refer to our response to Recommendation 3

6	<p><i>The Australian Government establish a body to bring together community groups, Pacific diplomatic missions, and government departments to share information and counsel on the kava Pilot Phase 2: Allowing the commercial importation of kava.</i></p>	<p>Accepted - The Australian Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), welcomes the opportunity to bring together Pacific diplomatic missions, government departments and relevant community groups to discuss Phase 2 of the kava pilot.</p> <p>DFAT will facilitate an annual 'Pacific kava pilot consultative meeting' in 2022 and 2023, and will organise additional meetings as required.</p> <p>The purpose of these meetings will be to discuss the progress of the kava pilot and address any issues that may arise.</p>
7	<p><i>The Australian Government Health Department make a statement recognising the distinction between kava and 'designer kava preparations'.</i></p> <p>"Designer kava preparations' are medicinal extract/modified tablet/capsule-kava together with pop-culture foods and beverages containing <i>kava</i>.</p> <p>A statement by the Australian Government Health Department would benefit policy makers, researchers and commentators who often misapply research findings and anecdotal commentary deriving from studies that utilised 'designer kava preparations' to <i>kava</i>.</p> <p>That overlay and conflation has led to a misrepresentation and misunderstanding concerning the effects and health aspects of <i>kava</i>.</p>	<p>Noted – The Australian Government can provide public advice regarding the definition of kava under the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Food Code. This advice can be provided following the commencement of the pilot. This will be provided on the Office of Drug Control website Office of Drug Control (odc.gov.au)</p>
8	<p><i>The Australian Government Health Department make a statement that kava in all States and Territories is regulated under the Australian New Zealand Food Standard Code (the Food Standard).</i></p> <p>Specifically, <i>Standard 2.6.3 of the Food Standard states:</i></p>	<p>Not accepted – The Food Standards Code is one mechanism by which kava as a food is regulated in Australia. The Code is incorporated in State and Territory Food Acts. However, there are other regulations and legislation, in particular within the states and territories, that would apply to the supply of kava as a food. As such making the recommended statement could be misleading as it could be interpreted that the Food</p>

	<p>1. a beverage obtained by the aqueous suspension of <i>kava</i> root using cold water only, and not using any organic solvent, or</p> <p>2. dried or raw <i>kava</i> root.</p>	Standards Code is the only regulation that would apply to kava.
9	<i>The Australian Government Health Department request States and Territories to align their Boarder Force regulations with the Food Standard, and therefore treat kava as a standard food item at the border.</i>	Noted – The Australian Government has engaged with state and territory Governments throughout the implementation of Phase 2 of the kava pilot. The Australian Government has been clear in outlining what the Prime Minister’s commitment on kava means to Australia’s relationship with Pacific island countries and Pacific communities in Australia. While ongoing engagement with states and territories will occur prior to the pilot commencing, there is a possibility that states and territories may impose their own restrictions on kava.
10	<i>The Australian Government include representatives from Pacific Island countries at future meetings on Australia and New Zealand Food Standards when kava is on the agenda.</i>	Noted – Food Standards Australia New Zealand consults publicly on all potential changes to the Food Standards Code requirements for kava. This process is open to everyone in the community and is widely advertised. Groups and individuals can also register with Food Standards Australia New Zealand to receive regular updates on changes to the Food Standards Code. These processes will provide the opportunity for Pacific Island countries and communities in Australia to comment on any changes to the Food Code before they are made.
11	<p><i>The Australian Government Health Department make a statement, and action, delinking of kava from The Poisons Standard.</i></p> <p>The basis for this recommendation is as follows:</p> <p>1. A search of <i>The Poisons Standard</i> shows only ‘alcohol’ contained in medicines is listed, whereas alcohol (as used in socialisation) is not listed.</p> <p>2. The Australian drug-harm ranking study found that, ...”Overall, alcohol was the most harmful drug when harm to users and harm to others was combined...”. That combined score is 77 harm points for alcohol, whereas</p>	Not accepted - Changes to the current Customs (Prohibited Imports) Act will allow for kava to be imported commercially as a food. Following these changes kava products will need to comply with all relevant regulations in line with other foods in Australia. Should you wish to change the Poisons Standard entry for kava an application, containing the relevant evidence, can be made to the TGA. There is no fee charged for lodging an application. However, the Government notes that kava and alcoholic beverages used in socialisation that are food are exempt from the Poisons Standard.

	<p><i>kava</i> was ranked the least most harm at 3 harm points.</p> <p>3. It is argued that alcohol (as used in socialisation) as opposed to <i>kava</i> should be listed in <i>The Poisons Standard</i> as alcohol is 'technically' a poison.</p>	
12	<p><i>Kava packaging and labelling recommendations and standards (for retail purposes) be directed and driven by the Food Standard and not The Poisons Standard.</i></p>	<p>Noted – Kava as a food for retail sale is currently regulated by the Australia and New Zealand Food Standards Code. The Code requirements for kava as a beverage include requirements for the form of kava and labelling requirements. These requirements are currently being reviewed by Food Standards Australia New Zealand to ensure they are up to date and clear. State and territory governments may also impose certain labelling requirements.</p>
13	<p><i>The Australian Government Health Department make a clear statement in all discussions, written material or reports on kava acknowledging the harm ranking of kava when compared with alcohol and other substances as ranked by the Australian drug ranking study.</i></p> <p>The basis for this recommendation is as follows:</p> <p>1. The Australian drug ranking study and findings was undertaken by a panel of 25 drug experts, some being Australian Government drug advisors. This provides meaningful, simple to understand, important, necessary and transparent information from Australia's leading health body concerning <i>kava's</i> level of harm.</p> <p>2. It is suggested, although not recommended, that the Statement requested in this recommendation also include reference to the recent <i>kava</i> and health paper published in the triple peer reviewed 'Journal of Drug Science, Policy and Law' aimed at informing policy and medical professions about <i>kava</i> safety.</p>	<p>Noted - The results of the monitoring and evaluation activities, which will be informed by a literature review of relevant studies, will help inform the Department's communication on kava.</p>

14	<p><i>The Australian Government Health Department make a clear public statement regarding all and any health concerns they have concerning kava use to provide clarity, transparency and consistency across States and Territories.</i></p> <p>Currently, Australian Government kava 'health concerns' are vague and inconsistent. Clearly defined and detailed <i>kava</i> health concerns will allow researchers to investigate and understand the specific concerns of the Australian Government while also providing space to address misinformation.</p>	<p>Noted - The impact of kava, including health impacts, will be considered in the context of the monitoring and evaluation component of the pilot.</p> <p>The monitoring and evaluation project will report progress on a six-monthly basis. The final report from this work, due by the end of 2023, will detail the health, social, cultural and economic effects of the pilot.</p> <p>Any health concerns identified through this process will be raised with states and territories where appropriate.</p>
15	<p><i>The Australian Government Health Department continue to cite in all its statements the 2016 World Health Organisation's kava risk assessment, particularly the statement '...On balance, the weight of evidence from both a long history of use of kava beverage and from the more recent research findings indicates that it is possible for kava beverage to be consumed with an acceptably low level of health risk'.</i></p>	<p>Noted – The Australian Government will refer to the World Health Organisation's kava findings where it is appropriate to do so, assessed on a case-by-case basis.</p>
16	<p><i>The Australian Government Health Department make a clear statement that kava has been misrepresented as a key driver to socio-cultural disharmony and disfunction in Aboriginal communities (as inferred in numerous studies and media reports).</i></p>	<p>Not accepted – The monitoring and evaluation of the kava pilot will help inform the Australian Government of the impact of kava use in Australia. Considering this, the Australian Government will not make a public statement regarding whether kava has been misrepresented as a key driver to socio-cultural disharmony and disfunction in Aboriginal communities.</p>
17	<p><i>The Australian Government appoint a kava researcher, experienced in both kava health and the social use of kava, to the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre kava importation evaluation team.</i></p> <p>This appointment will ensure best practice and transparency, and aid balanced accuracy of assessment and monitoring.</p>	<p>Noted - The Australian Government does not have the authority to directly create employment opportunities within the National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC). NDARC may consider whether a designated kava researcher is required. Jioji Ravulo from the University of Sydney is leading engagement with Australian Pacific Islander communities as part of the pilot.</p>

<p>18</p>	<p><i>The Australian Government appoint a designated researcher (PhD holder) with kava cultural, health and sociocultural expertise, with a track record of collaborating with international kava researchers; and motivated to recruit and supervise post-graduate students to research kava health and social issues.</i></p> <p>This position should be funded and positioned within an academic setting tasked with measuring the health, social, and economic and regulatory impacts of <i>kava</i> in Australia.</p>	<p>Noted - Jioji Ravul from the University of Sydney is leading the engagement with Australian Pacific Islander communities in regards to the monitoring and evaluation of the pilot. Recruitment and supervision of post-graduate students is the responsibility of the University of Sydney.</p>
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