



SAMAA

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SAMAA MISSION STATEMENT

"To evidence the Islamic spirit of love, compassion and charity in providing a range of services to the aged of South Asian Muslims in NSW that best meet the physical, spiritual, cultural and emotional needs of the individuals, their families and the Muslim community"

AGED-CARE OVERHAUL EMBRACED

THE GOVERNMENT'S plan to overhaul the aged care system to shift the focus from residential care to home care has been embraced across the sector.

The federal government will spend \$3.7 billion doubling the number of home care packages available, as well providing more support for dementia sufferers and measures designed to attract more workers to the sector.

The government will make it easier for seniors to remain in their own home by almost doubling the number of home-care packages to 100,000, from about 60,000, over five years. The proposed changes will require self-funded retirees to pay for a greater slice of their care.

However, care costs will be capped at \$25,000 per year and no more than \$60,000 over a lifetime for those in residential care and nursing homes.

For those receiving home care, the costs are capped at \$5000 per year for pensioners and \$10,000 – worked out on a sliding scale – for those with an income of more than \$43,000.

The cap also extends to a \$60,000 lifetime limit.

The 10-year plan was announced by Ms Gillard and the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, and will receive \$577 million of new government funding, with the remainder of the \$3.7 billion total to be drawn from redirected funds and means testing.

But Ms Gillard stressed that the million people already in the aged-care system would not pay more than they currently do as a result of the reforms. "They will be grandfathered," she said.



Julia Gillard and Mark Butler

The government will increase the number of tailored home care packages by 40,000 to 100,000 over the next three years, with the number to double to 80,000 by 2022.

Additionally, 40,000 new residential care places will be created, as well as the establishment of a single "gateway" to streamline aged-care services for better access by consumers.

The package includes a funding of \$270 million cash injection for dementia care and diagnosis, which falls well short of the plea from Alzheimer's Australia for \$500 million.

This includes \$164.3 million to be paid as supplements to sufferers in aged-care facilities and at home.

Carers will also receive \$54.8 million in funding for support services.

Mr Butler said that along with Health Minister Tanya Plibersek, he would push to have dementia added to the list of national health priorities - which already includes conditions such as heart disease.

The government will also establish an Aged Care Financing Authority, which is based on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority, that will approve accommodation charges.

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SAMAA CELEBRATED JASHNE BUZURG



South Asian Muslim Association of Australia (SAMAA) celebrated its annual event, Jashne Buzurg 2012, on 14 April at Auburn Town Hall. More than 250 people, including a number of parliamentarians, representatives from aged care agencies, representatives from South Asian community organisations along with a large number of elderly & their families, volunteers and well wishers attended the event. Federal Minister for Ageing Hon. Mark Butler sent a message while those in attendance included Hon Laurie Ferguson, the renowned labor politician and federal MP, Shadow Minister for Ageing and Disability Services and Auburn MP Hon Barbara Perry, Shadow Attorney General and Shadow Minister for Justice Hon Paul Lunch, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads MLC Hon John Ajaka representing NSW Minister for Ageing Hon Andrew Constance and Director of Geriatric Medicine at Prince of Wales Dr Gideon Caplan.

Hon. Mark Butler in his message said that the South Asian Muslim Association continues to make a highly valued contribution to caring for the elderly of the South Asian Muslim community. He said Australia's multicultural policy- 'people of Australia' – published in February last year, recognises the breadth and diversity of Australian policy and reaffirms the Government's support for a nation which is culturally diverse and socially-cohesive. It also acknowledges that government services and programs must be responsive to the needs of our culturally diverse communities. In recognizing needs of ethnic communities, he said that organizations such as the South Asian Muslim Association of Australia have a unique insight into their community issues and concerns. The Association has a critical role in representing the views of the community.

SAMAA official Mr Zahid Jamil briefed the audience about SAMAA's progress and programs over past year. He mentioned about successful holding of eight workshops in coordination with CareConnect under positive ageing grant 2011. He said that under SAMAA's benevolent services program, Sydney has been divided into seven regions, Wollongong being an additional region. Each region will have a volunteer coordinator who will arrange regular activities for local elderly with support of local volunteers.

Talking about SAMAA achieving tax deductible status, Zahid said that many major employers have the policy of matching donations of their employees. Thus if an employee donates a certain amount which is claimable through tax, the employer also donates the same amount to the same charity and thus the effective donated amount multiplies.

Mr Jamil also spoke about issues samaa faces at times due to our Islamic beliefs. Talking about recently available ClubGrant which is sourced from poker machine revenues in clubs, he said that some sources of funding may come from unethical sources which samaa would not accept on religious grounds. At times, we find ourselves in a difficult situation and are unable to apply for certain funding due to ethical issues of Muslims.

Dr Gideon Caplan gave a captivating talk on Osteoporosis. The gathering enjoyed a skit, ghazals and songs and delicious sub-continental cuisine. SAMAA members and volunteers helped in making yet another event highly successful.

***If you give to charity seeking GOD's pleasure, these are the ones who receive their reward manifold.
(HQ 30:39)***

DR ZAKRIYA LAKHANY PASSED AWAY

The famous Gastroenterologist Dr Zakria Lakhany passed away on Thursday, 10 May 2012 at Calvary Hospital Kogarah Sydney. He was buried the same afternoon at Rookwood cemetery by close family members and a large number of community friends.

Dr Lakhany graduated from Sindh Medical college in Hyderabad Pakistan and received his FRCS from Edinburgh. He spent nearly 4 years in Abadan, Iran before travelling to Australia in 1978. He spent time in a few country hospitals at Cessnock, New Castle and Riverina before settling in Sydney in 1987. He ran a successful surgical practice and was well known amongst fellow doctors for his devotion as a professional.



Dr Lakhany was well known for his contribution to social life in Sydney. He also involved in charitable acts and visited Pakistan to offer his professional services free to poor sections of the society. He took much interest in studying religion and spirituality.

At SAMAA, we pray for the departed soul and extend condolences to the family members including his wife Mrs Farida Lakhany and daughter Mrs Suroor Arain.

REGISTER WITH SAMAA

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are the community's most valuable hidden asset.

SAMAA's volunteers extend a helping hand to the elderly by i) Carrying out home visits and spending time with them ii) Helping in general day to day shopping iii) Prepare food for them iv) Providing transport to mosques, libraries and social events. Iv) Providing transport to medical, dental, and hospital appointments v) Assisting in home maintenance and personal care.

To be part of this excellent opportunity of volunteering in a good cause, please register yourself by visiting SAMAA website or by sending us an email.

ELDERLY

Kindly register your elderly with SAMAA who may benefit from services offered by us. We also arrange placement in Nursing homes providing culturally appropriate care and home care by agencies caring for the sensitivities of our community beliefs.

Any one above 55 can register with samaa so that they may receive relevant information and invitations to various samaa events.

DONATE TO SAMAA

SAMAA is a Public Benevolent institution and your donations to SAMAA are tax deductible. Please donate to SAMAA by sending cheques or depositing your donations in SAMAA account.

A/C Name: South Asian Muslim Association of Australia Incorporated.

BSB: 012- 081 **Account Number:** 4877-20869

Please send us an email with your address to confirm your deposit so that a receipt could be send to you.

LAURIE FERGUSON APPLAUDS SAMAA



After attending Jashne Buzurg this year, the renowned Labor MP, Hon Laurie Ferguson commented on his website:

"This group are an extremely impressive organisation. One has the rare joy of executive members not wanting to be individually singled out and mentioned by title and praised for what they are doing.

They have undertaken invaluable work for Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi elderly citizens. This has ranged through obtaining gift status for their charity, conducting lectures on health issues, negotiating with two nursing homes to provide appropriate, culturally sensitive care, lobbying Government on aged care policy and working cooperatively with major groups in this policy sector.

I was especially impressed that out of principle, they had refused to seek money from club gambling profits. The stream of volunteers for the group is outstanding. "

CARER ASSIST

Mental illness is a growing epidemic in Australia, affecting one in every five Australians. 62% of people with mental illness receive no assistance at all or depend on informal support from carers and families. Specifically, studies show that Immigrant groups have increasing vulnerability to mental disorders in old age. Not only is there a lack of culturally tailored services for these communities which understand their needs and cultural issues but the South Asians tend to remain avoidant of mental health services due to their pre-conceived apprehensions and social stigma.

Carer Assist is one such organisation that caters for the cultural needs of carers of someone with a mental illness. It is a non profit organisation funded specifically to provide information, education, advocacy and support to carers. It is auspiced to the Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW Inc, and funded by the NSW Health Department (Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol office).

Carer Assist provides can assist families and friends by:

- Providing provision of information about mental illness, services and the mental health system to ensure that carers' needs are met and to assist them to better care for their friend or relative.
- Providing education to empower carers so that their needs can be met through programs such as Assisting Families and Well Ways.
- Advocating on behalf of carers to ensure that the carers have access to information and services that they require.
- Offering emotional support over the telephone, face to face and through support groups.
- Providing information on caring for self.
- Assisting with navigation of the mental health system.
- Sourcing extra support in times of crisis.

Carer Advocates work together with other non-government organisations, Area Health Services, community health organisations and other organisations or groups that are involved in a carer's life.

Carer Assist also employs multicultural and bilingual Carer Advocates including a Carer Advocate for South Asians speaking some South Asian languages who offer individual information, advocacy and support to families and friends of people with mental illness. For assistance please call 9750-9744

"Your Lord has commanded that you worship none but Him, and be kind to your parents. If either or both of them reach old age with you, do not say 'uff' to them or chide them, but speak to them in terms of honour and kindness. Treat them with humility, and say, 'My Lord! Have mercy on them, for they did care for me when I was little.'" (Qur'an 17:23-4)