



SAMAA

South Asian Muslim Association Of Australia Inc.

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"

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - APRIL - JUNE / 2015

COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAMME

On 1 July 2015, the transition to the new Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) will begin. The CHSP is one of the changes being made to help older people stay independent and in their homes and communities for longer.

The CHSP brings together four programs:

- Commonwealth Home and Community Care (HACC) Program
- National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP)
- Day Therapy Centres (DTC) Program
- Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged (ACHA) Program

The new CHSP is one consolidated programme that provides entry-level home support for older people who need assistance with daily living to keep living independently at home and in their community. Carers of these clients will also benefit from services provided through the CHSP. It will build on the strengths of the pre-existing programmes and continues to support around 550,000 older people and their carers, every

year. Importantly, people receiving services under the existing programmes will continue to receive the same level of support now and when the CHSP begins. CHSP funding will be around \$1.7 billion in 2015-16, which will continue to grow over the coming years, resulting in more services for more people.

Development process

The CHSP has been developed through a comprehensive consultation process, which has included advice from the National Aged Care Alliance (NACA) and its CHSP Advisory Group. NACA wrote a number of policy papers to inform the design of the CHSP, and was also involved in the reviews of some Commonwealth HACC service groups.

The design of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme is founded on a restorative approach that is to be embedded at all levels of the programme, including assessment, support planning and service delivery. The provision of wellness, reablement and restorative care services are complementary methods.

JASHNE BUZURG 2015 REPORT ON PAGE 4 & 5



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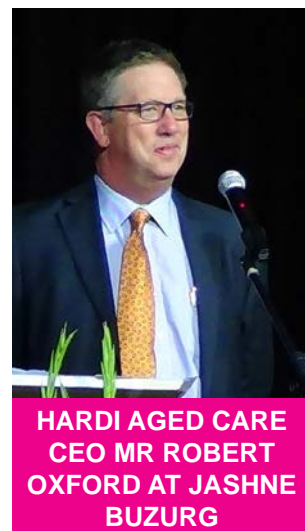


HARDI AGED CARE OFFERS ITS ACF SERVICES TO SAMAA ELDERS

After prolonged & protracted Negotiations, SAMAA was able to obtain HARDI AGED CARE to come on board with SAMAA. SAMAA Elders will find that its CALD (Culturally And Linguistically Diversified) Needs will be catered to, by Hardi Aged Care, at its Aged Care Facilities.

Imam Afroz Ali of Seekers' Hub Sydney gave a 1 hour Interactive Presentation to the Nursing Staff at Mountainview Aged Care Facility, Penrith. This Presentation was well received & removed any apprehensions & reservations which the Nursing Staff may have had, in caring for Muslim Elders in ACFs. SAMAA submitted a Document in the form of " Guidelines for Aged Care Facilities in caring for Muslim Elders ". (These Guidelines can be found in SAMAA's Website)

HARDI AGED CARE offered all of its Aged Care Facilities at Blacktown, Guildford, Manly Vale, Penrith, Seven Hills and Summer Hill & assured SAMAA that those Guidelines would be adhered to, in caring for SAMAA Elders, should ACAT (Aged Care Assessment Team) recommend an admission of any of our Elders into a Nursing Home.



**HARDI AGED CARE
CEO MR ROBERT
OXFORD AT JASHNE
BUZURG**

SAMAA SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH SUMMITCARE

South Asian Muslim Association of Australia (SAMAA) has entered into an agreement with another major Aged Care Provider, SummitCare by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

SAMAA representatives, Dr Ahad Khan, Mr Zahid Jamil, Mr Ejaz Ahmad and Mrs Mona Zahid attended a Meeting with SummitCare officials, Dr. Irene Stein, Operations Manager-Home Care & Margaret Russell, Relationships Manager and other Staff at SummitCare Head Office in Baulkham Hills on 5 May 2015.

This memorandum of understanding sets out a framework for the collaborative delivery of culturally appropriate aged care to the South Asian Muslim community.

SummitCare has several residential aged care facilities ('Nursing Homes') around Sydney which offer services to several culturally diversified groups. They have now agreed to cater to the Religious and Culturally specific needs of South Asian Muslim Elders. Their Facilities have quite a few staff members of South Asian background. The Facilities are located in several Western Sydney suburbs such as Canley Vale, Liverpool, Smithfield, St Marys, Penrith as well as Eastern suburbs of Randwick and Waverley.

SummitCare also offers In Home Care. But this Service incurs a Fees currently. The Fees is reasonable & SAMAA will be considering subsidising this Fees to an extent, for any Elder needing it..



Home Care is beneficial to those Elders who would like to remain living in their own home and community surrounded by family and friends, whilst availing Home Care Services.. SummitCare ensure you have the choice of services and support so you can continue to live independently in the comfort of your own home with family and friends.

SAMAA encourages all members of our South Asian Muslim Community to avail services offered by Aged Care providers who have entered into arrangements with SAMAA. These Facilities would ensure that the Religious and Cultural needs of our Elders are met as much as possible and that our Elders can lead a life of satisfaction and fulfillment, in their twilight years..

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY (WEAAD)

The 15th of June every year marks the United Nations internationally recognised day - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Several programmes are held across the nation to mark this event. NSW Elder Abuse Resource Unit is organising Talking Elder Abuse art competition.

What is elder abuse?

Elder abuse is mistreatment of an older person that is committed by someone with whom the older person has a relationship of trust such as a partner, family member, friend or carer. Elder abuse may be physical, social, financial, psychological or sexual and can include mistreatment and neglect. Elder maltreatment can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences. Sometimes family, friends and carers may not know that their actions amount to elder abuse.

The World Health Organization describes elder abuse as a violation of human rights and a significant cause of illness, loss of productivity, isolation and despair. (WHO 2002 Active Ageing Policy Framework). Older people have the right, just like people of all ages, to live safely free from harm, abuse, and exploitation. Any actions that breach this right are a form of abuse.

Elder abuse has been shown to affect women and men, people from different cultural backgrounds, people with different levels of education and wealth, and both city-dwellers and country folk.

NSW Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit

The NSW Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit commenced operation in February of this year. The helpline provides practical information, advice and referrals to help prevent or stop abuse of older people through:

- Empowering the caller to utilise existing supports such as family members, service providers and GPs.
- Providing information about powers of attorney and guardianship.
- Referrals to Centrelink to prevent financial abuse.

- Advising when to call NSW Police
- Linking caller to community care services.

To further support older people, a second stage will be undertaken to increase community awareness of elder abuse by developing and distributing resources to both the general public and frontline services.

For more information please call the NSW Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit (free call) at 1800 628 221.

I'M FINE, HOW ARE YOU?

There's nothing the matter with me,
I'm just as healthy as can be,
I have arthritis in both knees,
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak, my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

All my teeth have had to come out,
And my diet I hate to think about.
I'm overweight and I can't get thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I need for my feet.
Or I wouldn't be able to go out in the street.
Sleep is denied me night after night,
But every morning I find I'm all right.
My memory's failing, my head's in a spin.
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral of this as the tale unfolds,
Is that for you and me, who are growing old.
It is better to say "I'm fine" with a grin,
Than to let people know the shape we are in.

I'm fine, how are you ?

SAMAA CELEBRATED JASHNE BUZURG

South Asian Muslim Association of Australia (SAMAA) celebrated the annual event of Jashne Buzurg at Bowman Hall, Blacktown on Sunday 12 April 2015. Well over 300 people including several dignitaries, health experts, representative from aged care agencies and providers, community leaders and a large number of SAMAA elders, volunteers and community members packed the hall and enjoyed the day with enthusiasm and joy. The longest serving parliamentarian Hon Philip Ruddock attended the event along with Hon John Robertson, former NSW Labor leader, the Parliamentary Secretary Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells also representing Hon Scott Morrison, The Minister for Social Services and Hon Mehreen Faruqi, the first South Asian Muslim MLC in NSW parliament. Other guests included Mr Talal Yassine, CEO Crescent Wealth, Mr Robert Oxford, CEO Hardi Aged Care, Caroline Collins, Deputy General Manager Operations, SummitCare, Cecilia Milani, PICAC NSW/ACT Manager and other representatives from other aged care agencies and providers.

A few important speeches captivated the audience. Hon Philip Ruddock applauded Australian multicultural character which has allowed communities from so many faiths, races, colors and cultures to live together happily. He paid tribute to SAMAA for providing services to the community elders. Ms Concetta Fierravanti-Wells conveyed best wishes to SAMAA of the Minister Scott Morrison and spoke about various aged care programmes relating to Culturally and Linguistically Diversified (CALD) communities. She assured support to SAMAA from the Minister's office. Hon John Robertson, ex NSW Labor leader, praised SAMAA for contributing to the community in such an important work. He was impressed by SAMAA's effort in providing volunteering services, in negotiating culturally sensitive care with aged care providers and its efforts towards building its own aged care facilities.

Mr Zahid Jamil, representing SAMAA, spoke of various SAMAA programmes and sought support

from the audience in fund raising at the event. The community members were requested to sponsor services to an elderly person at \$1000 per annum. For a two hours service, SAMAA incurs a total cost of \$30 which includes \$12 per hour of ex gratia payment to the volunteer and \$6 as petrol expense. SAMAA expects elder to pay \$10 and the rest \$20 is paid by SAMAA. Thus at \$20 per week, the total expense for the year comes to approx. \$1000.

The second item for fund raising was to support Respite Care for families who care for their elders. SAMAA is keen to engage in Respite Care programmes and is seeking grants to offer this service. However, the government grants are generally available to those CALD communities who are able to contribute part of the cost.

In long run SAMAA aims to build its own aged care facilities. Building a retirement village would be a self funded project of the community as no government grants are available for such a project. SAMAA is seeking expressions of interest from interested elders and pre-retirees who would be willing to be part of such a project. In coming months, SAMAA intends to work on various options and reach out to community with the best suited offers.

The fund raising began with an emotional presentation by two young children. Umrah El Syed described importance of serving parents and elders in Islam. Ali El Syed read a poem depicting the difficulties of old age in an extremely emotional manner which brought tears to many eyes. The fund raising was conducted by Mr Hussin Goss, the president of Gold Coast Islamic Society, a popular figure at fund raising events.

A souvenir was published to mark the event with the support of sponsors. It carried messages from Parliamentarians. Two seniors Dr Qazi Ashfaq Ahmad and Mr Ghulam Qutubuddin Siddiqui launched the souvenir to celebrate SAMAA's seven years journey and achievements.

Mr Afzal Hussain of SAMAA thanked the sponsors. The CEO of the main sponsor Crescent Wealth

Mr Talal Yassine introduced to the audience the first Sharia compliant Superannuation Fund. Mr Yassine requested South Asian Community members to join the fund which offered ethical investment in consideration of Islamic principles. Mr Yassine also spoke of his personal interest in aged care programmes of Muslim community and about the grant LMA had received for building a high care facility at Lakemba.

There were three recipients of SAMAA's annual Volunteering Awards this year. Dr Ahad Khan introduced Mr Robert Oxford, CEO, Hardi Aged Care who handed out the awards to Mr Riyaz Shah, the famous singer, for his contribution to entertaining SAMAA elders over the years, Mrs Asima Baig Ali-Khan for her efforts in campaigning for SAMAA events and Mr Rizwan Khan for the outstanding volunteering of serving the elders over past two years.

The event featured a short play 'Ammi Tum Kahan Ho' which received tremendous applause from

the audience. It depicted the challenges, families face in caring for their elders and how charitable bodies such as SAMAA become helpful in providing relief to elders and their families. The script of the play was written by journalist, poet and writer Mr Ashraf Shad and was produced and directed by veteran director Mrs Saba Zaidi Abdi. The cast included the famous Hindi poet Rekha Rajvanshi, the radio artist Aparna Vats, Nisar Sirguroh and Farjad Mahmood. The contributors to the play received token SAMAA gifts from the first South Asian Muslim MLC Mehreen Faruqi, who also applauded SAMAA for the service it is providing to the community elders.

The audience enjoyed the South Asian cuisine. The event also provided elders an opportunity to meet their contemporaries and other community members. Under guidance of Ayesha Ahmad and Mona Zahid, SAMAA volunteers were ever present in big number to cater for everyone's needs.



OBITUARIES

**Mr Ali Kunhi**

The well known South Asian senior Mr Ali Kunhi Mailanji, 92, left us for heavenly abode on 21 Feb 2015. A large number of community members attended the funeral prayers at Gallipoli mosque the next day and he was later buried at Rookwood Cemetery.

Lt Commodore Kunhi, arrived in Sydney, Australia in 1970 representing Pakistan International Airlines, PIA for Australia and New Zealand. He later worked as General Manager, Saudi Arabia for Aquila Steel before he retired. Originally from the Indian state of Kerala, Kunhi Saheb migrated to Pakistan before finally settling in Australia.

He contributed immensely to the South Asian Muslim community. He was an eloquent speaker, very proficient in English language and regularly gave talks on Islam specially to non-Muslims in Churches etc. He used to lead Juma prayers at Surry Hills mosque for many years in 70s.

He was active and popular member of the Pakistani community, established the first Pakistan Association in Sydney and used to host dinners for Pakistani diplomats, dignitaries and politicians. He was looked after by his daughters at his home in his old age till he passed away.

He is survived by his daughters Shaheen and Shama, son Shahid, daughter in law Hasna and grandson Mohammad Ali and granddaughter Sabeeha.

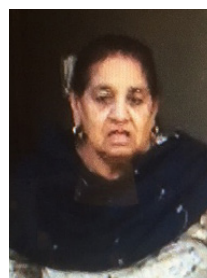
**Mr Asif Saleem**

Another well known figure of Pakistani and South Asian Muslim community and Ex Consul General of Pakistan Mr Asif Saleem passed away on 12 April 2015.

Late Mr Asif Saleem had a distinguished career as a public servant in the Government of Pakistan until his last posting in Sydney as the Consul-General / Trade Commissioner in 1981.

He later joined AFIC (Australian Federation of Islamic Council) as Administration Manager. He also served as Halal Services Manager with SICHMA (Supreme Islamic Council of Halal Meat in Australia) until being struck down with the debilitating dementia condition a few years ago.

He left behind his wife, Qudsia, two sons, a daughter and a number of grandchildren.

**Begum Bismillah**

Begum Bismillah Khan, aged 85, passed away on 18 April after brief illness. The mother of famous business man, Mr Saode Khan, Begum Bismillah was among the first arrivals in Australia from Pakistan in 1949. She had lost her husband in 1972. She raised her children in an exemplary manner. She adored visitors, helped everyone around her and had pleasing nature. She is survived by 8 children, 24 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren, MashaAllah.

At SAMAA, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and dear ones of three deceased elders and pray for their maghfirat.

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR APPEAL 2015

30 June, End of Financial Year is fast approaching. It is an opportunity to make tax deductible donation that will go towards serving our elders. You can deposit your donation into the account.

Bank: ANZ, A/C Name: South Asian Muslim Association of Australia Incorporated.
BSB: 012-081 Account Number: 4877-20869

If you wish to pay thorough credit card, please email us a request and we will send you the Authority Form. Cheques should be payable to South Asian Muslim Association of Australia Incorporated and sent to SAMAA's address.

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