



**Multicultural Community
Services of Central
Australia Incorporated**

2023-2024 **ANNUAL REPORT**





About MCSCA

Since 1985, MCSCA has been the only organisation in Central Australia that solely focuses on supporting culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities.

MCSCA works with new, emerging and established communities and provides outreach, settlement and support services and programs to help people settle and thrive in Central Australia.

MCSCA is a non-religious, non-partisan community-based not for profit organisation and registered charity.

What MCSCA does



Helps refugees and migrants settle and thrive in Central Australia.



Advocates for rights and needs of people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds.



Promotes multiculturalism, community understanding and acceptance of cultural diversity.



Chair Report



I am delighted to present MCSCA's annual report for 2023-2024.

Ground work for MCSCA's 5 year strategic plan

In the first half of the year, we continued the process of reviewing our current strategic plan and holding consultations and workshops to gather input from current members and stakeholders and potential stakeholders to guide us in our planning for the next 5 years.

Peak Body Review

As part of the NTG peak body review MCSCA held a workshop with representatives from CaLD (culturally and linguistically diverse) community associations in Alice Springs. MCSCA has been providing services to the multicultural community and community groups for over 30 years and is viewed locally and externally as the organisation providing support for migrants and CaLD communities and advocating for the rights and needs of CaLD people and groups in the region. Workshop participants considered that MCSCA should be formally recognised and funded as a peak body to consolidate this role. Participants also recognised that many migrants, refugees and multicultural community groups live in other parts of Central Australia and MCSCA is best placed to provide 'one-stop-shop' support for them too. With the support and encouragement from associations and MCSCA members, MCSCA has incorporated formalising our peak body role and expanding our services across Central Australia into our long term organisational, strategic and financial planning.

Our events

As a grassroots community organisation which is viewed as welcoming, safe and neutral, we continue to create opportunities to bring people together, through our regular social Meet and Greet events, actively welcoming those new to our community; our End of Year celebration, and the annual multicultural festival Big Day Out in Harmony. We also run information sessions, consultations and workshops and support local community groups and associations with their governance, cultural events and celebrations where we can.

Advocacy and Lobbying

MCSCA has continued to represent and advocate for the needs of local multicultural community through national multicultural sector organisations and Commonwealth, NT and local government, including the NT Government Ministerial Advisory Council for Multicultural Affairs (MACMA), through which we have successfully lobbied for a multicultural facility in Alice Springs.

We were delighted to host the MACMA meeting in Alice Springs on 31 May 2024, the first time the council has met here. MACMA members were able to stay and get a flavour of the diversity of Mparntwe Alice Springs at the 25th Big Day Out in Harmony, the next day.

Acknowledgements

I wish to acknowledge and thank our members and particularly those who have been active volunteers on the MCSCA board in 2023 and 2024. Your contributions to the governance of our organisation and your willingness to step up and take on many different tasks to support the work of our small yet dynamic organisation are greatly appreciated. I thank the 16 community associations and their members who contribute tirelessly to MCSCA events and activities. This has continually strengthened our collaboration and enhanced our collective work. I acknowledge our funding bodies and collaborators for their support.

I also acknowledge the work of our staff team, those outgoing / retiring and those incoming over the year. I welcome Apajok Biar as our new manager, coming on board in June and I value the productive relationship we are developing for MCSCA's growth plan. I also thank consultant, Joy Taylor for strategic guidance and management support during this time of transition.

Jamuna (Mona) Ulak, Chairperson





MCSCA Board 2023 -2024



Current Board and Manager

Back: Max Fonte, Navin Bhatnagar, Apajok Biar (manager), Gagandeep Ralh, Hellen Webster, Gunalan Sivachelvan. Front: Syed Ali, Mona Ulak, Hilda Reeder.

Chairperson: Jamuna (Mona) Ulak *

Vice Chairperson: Hilda Reeder *

Secretary: Selesa Sa'anga (retired April 2024) *

Treasurer: Precy Taylor (retired June 2024) *

Treasurer: Syed Ali (from June 2024) **

Public Officer: Precy Taylor (retired November 2024)

General members

Apajok Biar (retired May 2024) *

Max Fonte *

Navin Bhatnagar *

Gunalan Sivachelvan *

Gagandeep Ralh *

Hellen Webster *

* Elected at AGM 2023

** Elected during 2023-2024

Left: Gagandeep Ralh, Selesa Sa'anga, Precy Taylor, Hilda Reeder, Mona Ulak, Max Fonte, Hellen Webster and Gunalan Sivachelvan.





Highlights of 2023 - 2024

NATIONAL ANTI- RACISM FRAMEWORK

Multicultural Community Consultation
Alice Springs

FACILITATED BY LEONY BOWEY,
ASSISTED BY JOVI PRICE AND ANILEEN BENSTED

Share your story to address racism
MULTICULTURAL FRAMEWORK REVIEW

Australian Government

Australia is looking at ways for Government and the community to work together to support a stronger and better connected multicultural society, and to progress a vibrant and prosperous future for all Australians.

The Panel
Dr Bulent Hass Dellal AO (Chair)
is visiting us in the NT!

Come and share your ideas and experiences about what is working well and what could be done better and what is important to you.

**Wednesday
November 1, 2023
5.30-7pm
at MCSCA**

Light snacks will be provided

EVERYONE BELONGS

MPARNTWE ALICE SPRINGS

BORN OVERSEAS?

LIVE, WORK OR STUDY IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA?

Share your thoughts and ideas as we plan how to support our community 2024-2025

Please help Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia (MCSCA) by letting us know

- WHAT'S WORKING WELL WITH SUPPORT FOR OUR MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY
- WHAT ISSUES YOU HAVE THAT YOU NEED HELP WITH IN LIVING, WORKING AND STUDYING HERE
- WHAT IDEAS YOU HAVE FOR SUPPORTING OUR MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY

HOW to share your information by 8th September 2023

BIG DAY OUT IN HARMONY 2024

Presented by

OVER **1100** ATTENDEES

128 PERFORMERS

12 ACTIVITIES

10 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

19 STALLS

OVER **20** CULTURES REPRESENTED

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
against gender-based violence

Community EVENT

Wednesday 6 Dec 2pm - 4pm
Andy McNeill Room
93 Todd Street

Free afternoon tea
Children's activities

#MeTooNT
#NoDisrespectFundingsnow

SUPPORTED BY

REFERENDUM COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

An information session to learn about the referendum process and how to make your vote count.

If you are an Australian citizen aged 18 years or older, you are required to vote in referendums!

You can also join us via a link.
Call 8952 8776 or email
info@mcsca.org.au

September 29, 2023
12:30—1:30 pm
MCSCA Office
5 B Wills Tce., Alice Springs

* connection * consultation * information *
* advocacy * collaboration * community *



Highlights of 2023 - 2024

Review of Multicultural Peak Bodies

Have YOUR SAY NT



Peak Body Community Associations Meeting

19 October 2023
MCSCA, 5B Wills Terrace Alice Springs



Tips for community associations

What tasks do we have after the end of our financial year?

- Prepare a financial report for the last financial year
- Plan your Annual General Meeting
- Submit your annual return

Call the MCSCA 8952 8776 to find out how we can help strengthen your multicultural community association



Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia Inc.



Strategic Plan

review and consultations

Hispanic Heritage Month
ISSEP-ISOCIT

EVENTS INCLUDE:

- 18 Sep 2023 Dance Exhibition @ Town Council Leases
- 22 Sep 023 bilingual Story Time @ Alice Springs Library
- 25 Sep 1920 Arts & Crafts for kids @ Alice Springs Library
- 27 Sep 1920 Latin Night-Dance Class @ Jump Inn
- 30 Sep 1920 Zumba Class @ Town Council Leases
- 10 Oct 1920 Tisha Night @ Bujangles
- 11 Oct 1920 Latin Night-Dance Class @ Jump Inn
- 28 Oct 1920 Day of the Dead Fiesta @ Jump Inn

BROUGHT TO YOU BY AND SPONSORED BY:
IBEROAMERICAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, INC. Local Volunteers

Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia invites you to attend

Meet & Greet

Hosted by the Alice Springs Indonesian Community Inc. and in partnership with the East Timorese in town. Come along and enjoy each other's company. Don't miss out this festive gathering with cultural presentation and exotic food!

Please RSVP for catering purposes on: 08 8952 8776

Saturday, 9th September 2023
12:00 - 2:30 pm
Higgins Hall, Alice Springs Youth & Community Centre Complex

NORTHERN TERRITORY presents

7SEP PROGRAM 2023
"Celebrating Womanhood"

Venue: ALICE SPRINGS YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE INC., 5B Wills Terrace
Entry Fee: \$15 - Members | \$25 - Non-Members | Kids and Elders: FREE

FRIDAY 15.09.2023
TIME 6:00 TO 10:00

Supported by:
MCSCA, Flavours of India, MUFFIN BREAK

Contact: 0449 867 902 (Bibek) | 0420 850 550 (Manish)

SOUTH SUDANESE WOMEN'S SOCIAL

You're invited to come to a fun and safe environment where children and mothers from all areas South Sudan can build friendships, share knowledge and support one another!

SUNDAY, 5th November 2023
Alice Springs Youth Centre
5 Wills Terrace, Alice Springs NT 0870.
3pm-4pm
(Light lunch will be provided)

Children are welcome
RSVP To: Guel Majok on 043720493 or Martha Kur on 0401902530
Proudly Sponsored by:
MCSCA

SOUTH SUDANESE WELLBEING AWARENESS
A time to come together and talk about the wellbeing of the community.

CARE

5:30 - 7:00 pm, Friday 22nd March 2024

Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia (MCSCA) Office, 5B Wills Tc

RSVP 08 8952 8776 or email: info@mcsca.org.au
Contact: Apolok Biar 0413 628 864
Food will be provided.

Drop in @ Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia and PAMPER YOURSELF WITH A HAND MASSAGE as we celebrate you on 8TH MARCH 2024

INTERNATIONAL Women's day

Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm
Place: 5B Wills Terrace, Alice Springs

Snacks and refreshment provided

HINDU SOCIETY OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA (INC) Navratri 2023

"Recognizing one Divinity in every form and every name the celebration of Navratri."

Free Event
Strictly RSVP by 14 OCT 2023
PURE VEG FEAST BY ALL FOR ALL
SOFT DRINKS & WATER PROVIDED
NO EXTERNAL CATERING PROVIDED

EVENT ETIQUETTES:
Non-veg Social etiquette: Not feeling well, please
Littering strictly Prohibited.
Children activity must be Parents Supervised
All shall volunteer for leaving the premises

Dress Code: Traditional Outfit, Bunk for Poos and in the shell. Feet wear offered in the hall.
CONSUMING ALCOHOL & SMOKING STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Saturday 21 October from 5:30pm - till late
Venue: Higgins Hall, Alice Springs Youth Community Centre, Wills Terrace, Alice Springs

EVENT SPONSOR'S GRANTSNT: MCSCA; ASTC; ASYCC

For RSVP SMS / TEXT TO: ETHIR: 043558282
Uday: 0435582841
Rajesh: 0407727930
Neel: 0432436057

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* advocacy * collaboration * community *

Treasurer Report



Introduction

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia Inc for the fiscal year ending 30 June 2024. This report summarises our financial performance, key areas of income and expenditure, and acknowledges the contributions of key individuals.

Financial Performance

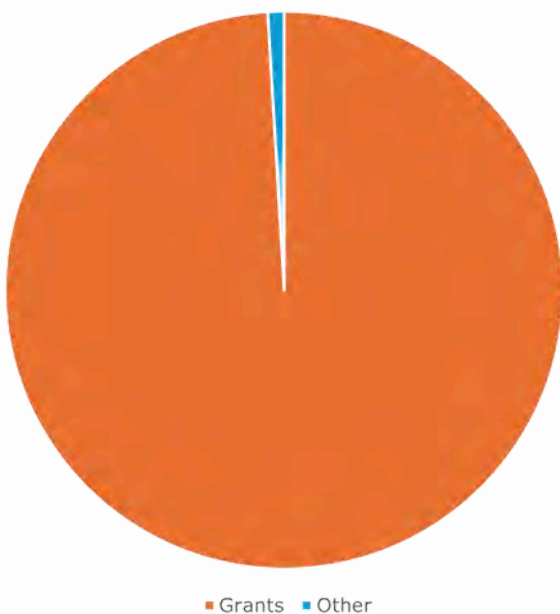
The Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2024 shows the following: Total Income: \$372,267 comprising Grant Income of \$368,745 and Other Income: \$3,523.

Total Expenses: \$382,575 comprising Employee Expenses: \$221,476, Operating Expenses: \$92,655, Emergency Support: \$33,209, Consulting Fees: \$18,849, Depreciation: \$2,927 and Insurance: \$13,460.

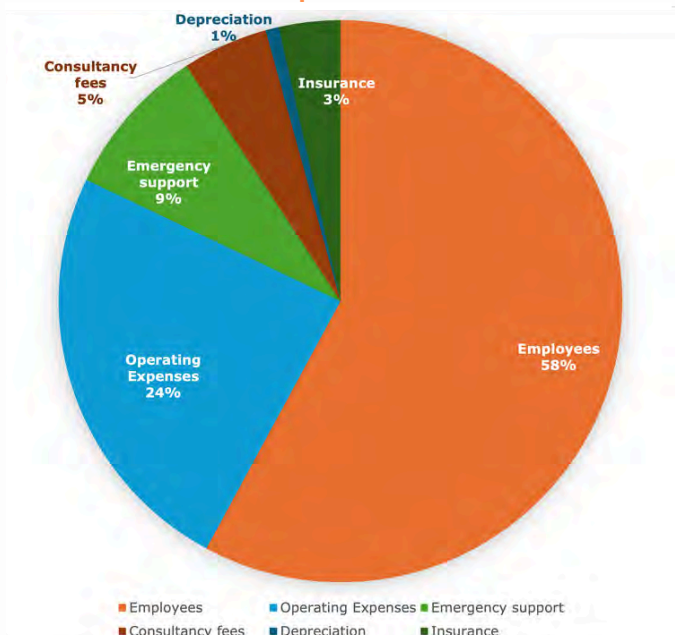
MCSCA had an Operating Deficit of \$(10,308) compared to a surplus of \$24,215 in 2023. This deficit is primarily attributed to the payout of long service leave to our former employee.

The financial year also saw a carry forward of unexpended grants at End of Year: \$(52,124). This indicates that we have substantial grant funding allocated for specific projects that will be carried over into the next financial year.

Income



Expenses



Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024 reveals: Total Assets: \$258,417 comprising Current Assets: \$246,457 and Non-Current Assets: \$11,960. Total Liabilities were \$97,492 comprising of Current Liabilities: \$97,492. The Accumulated Surplus was \$160,925 (2023: \$171,233).

Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Josefina Wahing our new bookkeeper, and to Criste Evangelista (past employee) for her significant contributions toward the financial management of our organisation over many years. Additionally, I wish to express my gratitude to Precy Taylor, our past Treasurer, for her dedication and support during her tenure. Lastly, I would like to thank Elna Dry, our auditor, for her professionalism and thoroughness in conducting the audit.

Conclusion

While we faced financial challenges this year, leading to an operating deficit, the organisation remains committed to its mission. The board of management is taking steps to address these financial concerns and ensure sustainability. Thank you to all our partners, donors, and community members for your continued support. For more detailed information, please refer to the complete financial statements.

Syed Shahzeb Ali, Treasurer





Management Report

Settlement Services

During 2023-2024, MCSCA continued to provide settlement services to new migrants and migrants new to Central Australia. MCSCA provided a one stop shop for migrants new to Alice Springs. Eligible newly arrived migrants accessed individual and family support through the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) program. MCSCA assisted other CaLD community members through our program to support the multicultural community in Central Australia.

MCSCA was also able, through additional funding, to provide case management and outreach support to those working in Central Australia on Pacific Area Labour Mobility (PALM) visas, and to migrants who were experiencing domestic or family violence.

MCSCA has provided support to well over 740 individual clients over the 12 months. Areas of assistance have included: referrals to other MCSCA services eg access to computers, internet, printing and copying services, assistance with preparing for and applying for jobs, assistance with applying for citizenship, English language tutoring support, information sessions, multicultural groups, social gatherings, emergency relief, and linking with local community associations and groups. MCSCA offered spaces for community associations meetings, cultural activities and rehearsals and events, on site and in collaboration with the Alice Springs Youth and Community Centre.

MCSCA provides 'warm referrals' to other specialist services. Over the year this included domestic/family violence (DVFV), financial counselling, migration/visa advice, legal advice and services, general and specialist counselling, interpreting, (PALM) support line, health services, education and training, English language development, emergency relief, consumer affairs, parenting skills.

Our people 2023 -2024

Anileen Bensted * Apajok Biar
(from June 2023) * Jessye
Blake * Criste Evangelista *
Ann Foley * Shalini Hemraz *
Josefina Wahing



Consultation, Research and Advocacy

MCSCA has undertaken and participated in a number of major reviews and research projects this year including the national multicultural framework review and the NT peak body review. In partnership with Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA), MCSCA ran consultations on the national anti-racism framework which also helped inform our local campaign 'Everyone Belongs'.

Key issues MCSCA has been advocating for during 2023-2024 included:

- Affordable local childcare services.
- Re-establishing a multicultural playgroup in Alice Springs
- More support for local cultural festivities to develop as tourism products.
- Easy and affordable transport to other parts of Australia.
- A multicultural events facility in Alice Springs.
- Outdoor children's activities such as water activities in Alice Springs.
- Anti-social behaviours in our community.
- Addressing low levels of access of primary health services.

Connection, Collaboration and Outreach

MCSCA maintains regular contact with Commonwealth, NT and local government agencies, and all the NGOs and businesses that can offer referral services and/or provide support to migrants and CaLD communities. MCSCA contributed to Central Australian Family Violence and Sexual Assault Network (CAFVSAN), Alice Springs Accommodation Action Group, NTCOSS, and worked with other migrant and refugee and support organisations in NT and interstate to assist where there were unmet needs in Alice Springs, eg for trauma counselling and legal services due to shortage of local migrant and other law specialists. MCSCA partnered with specialists to offer information sessions to meet local needs eg consumer rights, mental health, and civic responsibilities.

MCSCA has continued to reach out through our website, e-newsletter 'Multicultural News', social media and through participation in local events and markets and information sessions with local service providers, to build awareness of our services and programs to our ever-changing local population.





Acknowledgements

Thank you to MCSCA's members, volunteers, and the local incorporated associations and community groups who are our key partners. We thank our funding bodies for supporting the work we do, and for the organisations we collaborate with so together we can achieve more.

Associations and Groups

- African Association of Central Australia
- Alice Springs Hindu Community in Central Australia
- Alice Springs Indian Association
- Alice Springs Islamic Society
- Alice Springs Malayalee Association Inc
- Central Australian Sikh Cultural Centre Inc
- Central Australian Sudanese Community Inc
- Fiji Multicultural Community Alice Springs Inc
- Iberoamerican Cultural Heritage Association
- Indonesian Society
- Kenyan Association Alice Springs
- Mabuhay Multicultural Association
- Nepalese Community Alice Springs Inc
- Nuer Association of Central Australia
- South Sudanese Association
- Sri Lankan Association of Alice Springs
- Desert Paradise Inc
- Lion Heart Association

Funding Partners

- NT Government Office of Multicultural Affairs
- Australian Government Department of Home Affairs
- Australian Government Department of Social Services
- Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia
- NT Major Events Company
- NT Community Benefit Fund
- Alice Springs Town Council



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ABN 90639917989 Registered Charity