



# LMA Annual Report 2017





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*Our Community, Our Future*

For more information contact the LMA:

- p:** +61 2 9750 6833
- e:** [info@lma.org.au](mailto:info@lma.org.au)
- w:** [www.lma.org.au](http://www.lma.org.au)
- a:** 71-75 Wangee Road, Lakemba NSW 2195
- f** [lebanese.muslim.association](https://www.facebook.com/lebanese.muslim.association)
- @** [lebanesemuslimassociation](https://www.instagram.com/lebanesemuslimassociation)

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The Lebanese Muslim Association (LMA) has been in operation since 1962 and has grown to be a nationally recognised representative service provider with over 1,000 members, over 400 initiatives and events and a staff of over 40 employees.



to sadden the heart of human beings, to feed the hungry, to help the sorrowful, and to remove the suffering of the injured.

1960s  
1970s  
1980s  
2000s  
2010s



LMA

# About the LMA

# About the LMA

## About the LMA

The LMA's reach has grown to include a vast spectrum of communities and networks from across NSW, including the daily running and operation of three mosques and partnerships with multiple stakeholders and sponsors.

As an organisation, it is most prominently associated with being the caretaker of Lakemba Mosque, one of the largest purpose-built Mosques in Australia, which hosts a congregation of thousands of people every week and over 100,000 people across major events and milestones.

The LMA continues to grow, reaching new sectors and fields, expanding its scope across new online platforms and developing new spaces to accommodate a rapidly changing community discourse. With a strong sense of history and context, the LMA continues to work towards building an Australian Muslim Community that is able to confidently tackle the many challenges and obstacles it continues to face.

## Our Vision

An Australian Muslim community that has a positive and sustainable contribution globally.

## Our Mission







The core focus of the LMA and the major objective and guiding principle for its strategies, is to build and support an Australian Muslim Community that has a positive and sustainable contribution both locally and globally.

In that sense, the organisation's focus is on both the internal machinations and structures of the Muslim community and the positionality and context within which it exists.



## Our Objectives



The LMA is dedicated to assisting in the growth of resilient, sustainable, articulate, and effective Muslim communities.



The LMA works hard to meet the community's religious, educational, social, and recreational needs. It promotes community independence through the enhancement of the infrastructure and network of the Australian Muslim community.



The LMA's purpose is to strengthen families, empower women, encourage youth, engender a vibrant community, cultivate leadership and foster respect for all.





The LMA voices the concerns of the Muslim community and takes necessary actions to advocate and realise the religious, social, cultural, educational, economic and political rights of Muslims in Australia.



The LMA is dedicated to reaching out to convey the message of Islam, speaking out against all injustices, advocating Islamic solutions to societal problems and becoming involved in effecting positive change in Australia.



The LMA is open to all people, regardless of their ethnic, religious, economic, language or racial background. The LMA welcomes the participation of all segments of the diverse Australian population and encourages their voice and presence in the LMA's activities.



# President's Message



**In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful, prayers and peace be upon the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers, Muhammad and his family and companions.**

Dear brothers and sisters, Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh.

2017 was an important, momentous year for both the Lebanese Muslim Association (LMA) and the wider Muslim community in Australia. We have steadily built upon our past successes, and continue to learn from our past to better our future.

However, we are wary that we operate within a narrative that is framed by tragedy and difficulty for our community. In 2017 alone we faced a raft of local and international tragedies that shook us, that forced us to confront what it means to be united and to progress.

It is thus essential that in these times we keep a positive, dynamic outlook to community work. It is important that we remain open to change, that we keep abreast of the challenges not just facing our community locally, but our Ummah globally.

And it is this mindset that has driven many of our successes in 2017, from a wide range of events focused on the state of the global

Ummah, to our continued work with recent migrants and young people.

From Ramadan and the Eid Prayers, to National Mosque Open Day and our multiple youth camps, sports events and lectures featuring international guests, this year has seen our organisation expand to facilitate powerful, honest conversations all built into the traditions that are unique to our community here in Australia.

Our ever-expanding portfolio of work continues to reach new areas, overcoming important early challenges as we seek to holistically support the local community. Our work with the Sydney Local Health District has forged historic new ground for the LMA, with unprecedented success for our health based initiatives such as the Community Wellness Expo.

We have also worked towards forging our own narrative as Australian Muslims, pushing away from expectations that we need to involve ourselves in discussions on terrorism and violence by any perpetrators. Instead, we chose to focus on stories and issues that actually matter to the community, from youth wellbeing, to discussions on health, religion and empowerment.

The continued momentum built into our work has begun to reflect these shifting narratives, with more honest, open conversations taking part across the community and the LMA being a willing supporter and facilitator.

This is most reflected in the staff that have worked tirelessly to sustain this momentum. We have had multiple additions and sad departures from our office this year, but they have nonetheless worked across multiple spaces and industries to better contribute to our changing community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members, partners and supporters throughout the year. In a time of immense change, it is essential we remain unified in our vision and purpose, and to remain committed to supporting and progressing our community.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samier Dandan'.

**Samier Dandan**  
President



# Who We Are

## Board

The LMA has had over 30 presidents since establishment and currently has a membership of over 1,000. Each member votes at the Annual General Meetings on key issues, as well as voting on the board, which is voted in on a three-year cycle.



**Samier Dandan**  
President



**Dr Mosbah Taha**  
Vice President



**Khaled Alameddine**  
Secretary



**Issam Eid**  
Treasurer



**Maen Akl**  
Director



**Ahmad Awad**  
Director



**Emad Dib**  
Director



**Ahmad Fettayleh**  
Director



**Raed Halabi**  
Director



**Moustafa Kheir**  
Director



**Ahmad Malas**  
Director



**Mohamed Said**  
Director



**Salim Sukari**  
Director



**Abdulrahman Zreika**  
Director

## Staff

The LMA's staff has grown to include over 40 individuals covering the wide variety of programs it deploys. Staff members run the everyday activities and initiatives of the organisation and come from a wide variety of backgrounds, ethnicities and religions.

In its expansion, the LMA has sought to ensure that staff meet the needs of the Australian Muslim Community and whose skillset, perspective and capacity are given the space to grow and effectively service the community.





**ENGAGE  
CHALLENGE  
GROW**



**Thrive**  
Youth  
Transition  
Support





## Organisations worked with:

Abu Hanifa Institute  
 Afghan Community Support Association of NSW  
 Albayan Institute  
 Allcraft printing  
 ALMA (Austra Lanka Muslims Association)  
 Auburn Giants  
 Auburn Sports Club  
 Australian Muslim Womens Association (AMWA)  
 Autism Spectrum Australia  
 Bankstown Arts Centre  
 Bankstown City Council  
 Bankstown Community Health Centre  
 Bankstown Poetry Slam  
 Barnados Australia  
 Belmore Multicultural Youth Services (BYMS)  
 Benevolence  
 Better Health Company  
 Breakthru People Solutions  
 Breast Screen NSW  
 Bulldogs (cuzz)  
 BYDS  
 Cancer Institute  
 Can Get Healthy  
 Canterbury Council  
 Centre for Islamic Dawwa and Education  
 Centrelink  
 City2Surf

Community Migrant Resource Centre (CMRC)  
 Daar Aisha  
 Daar Ibn Abbas  
 Department of Juvenile Justice  
 Department of Sport and Recreation  
 Family and Community Services (FACS)  
 Fettayleh smalgoods  
 FIF (The Foundation of Islamic Studies and Information)  
 Fizzics  
 Football United NSW  
 Footscray Arts Centre  
 Go4Fun  
 Griffith University  
 GWS Giant  
 Hepatitis NSW  
 Human Appeal International Australia  
 Irfan College  
 Islamic Counsel of NSW (ICNSW)  
 Justice and Arts Networn  
 Koorana  
 Labor Party  
 Legal Aid  
 Metro Assist  
 Mission Australia  
 Mission Of Hope  
 MTC Australia  
 Muslim Legal Network  
 Muslim Women Association (MWA)

NSW Health  
 NSW Islamic Social and Cultural Associations (NSWISCA)  
 NSW Parliament  
 NSW Police Force  
 One Door Mental Health  
 PCYC Bankstown  
 Playgroup NSW  
 Primary Health Network (PHN)  
 Prophecy Comics  
 Pure Magic International Training  
 Riverwood Community Centre  
 Rosehill Gardens  
 Save The Children  
 SDN Children Services  
 SeekersHub Sydney  
 SES  
 Shelly Legal  
 Smiths Family  
 South Eastern Sydney Local Health District  
 St George Community Housing  
 St John First Aid  
 Static warehouse  
 Sydney Cycling Sisters  
 Sydney Local Health District  
 Sydney Muslim Cyslists  
 TAFE NSW  
 The Islamic Egyptian Society of NSW  
 Triple P (The Positive Parenting Program)  
 United Muslims of Australia (UMA)  
 Wheeler Centre  
 White Ribbon  
 Youth Off The Streets

## Schools worked with:

Al-Faisal Islamic College  
 Al Noori Islamic College  
 Amity College  
 Auburn Girls High School  
 Australian International Academy  
 Australian Islamic College  
 Banksia Road Public School  
 Bankstown Girls High School  
 Bankstown Senior College  
 Belmore Boys High School  
 Beverly Hills High School  
 Blaxcell Street Public School  
 Bossley Park High School  
 Burwood Girls High School  
 Cabramatta High School  
 Canley Vale High School  
 Chester Hill High School  
 Condell Park High School  
 Fairfield High School  
 Granville Boys High School  
 Greenvalley Islamic College  
 Holroyd High School  
 Kogarah High School  
 Liverpool Girls High School  
 Lurnea High School  
 Macarthur Girls High School  
 Malek Fahd Islamic School  
 Masada College  
 Miller Tech High School  
 Punchbowl Boys High School  
 Punchbowl Public School  
 Roseville Public School  
 Sir Joseph Banks High School  
 St Johns Park High School  
 St Leo's Catholic  
 Strathfield South High School  
 Unity Grammar High School  
 Wiley Park Girls High School  
 Wiley Park Public School



## LMA services:

Haji  
 Umrah  
 Food Bank  
 Funeral Services  
 Marriage Services  
 Counselling  
 Eid Prayers  
 Optimus Gym  
 Islamic College  
 Adahi  
 Lakemba Mosque Lessons  
 Consulate Services  
 Legal Clinic  
 Mental Health Clinic  
 Volunteers Program

# Lakemba Mosque in 2017

## Overview

As one of the most important community hubs in Australia and as the iconic centre of the Western-Sydney Muslim community, Lakemba Mosque continues to evolve in seeking to better service the community that has for so long formed its base.

In addition to the full weekly Jumah prayers, the Mosque continued to be home to important family and community events, hosting a wide variety of functions, from the joys of wedding ceremonies to the solemnness of funeral services and janaza prayers.

The mosque also hosts a number of educational programs for different community groups, as well as open days, tours and the regular women's lessons every Wednesday morning.

The LMA has worked hard to maintain and improve services at the Mosque, specifically focusing on the construction of an accessible elevator for people with disability and the

elderly. The Mosque also updated the lighting and installed new fan systems in the area under the Mosque for the worshippers who pray there.

The elevator installation is scheduled for completion in 2018, with the hopes of improving the facilities of the Mosque to accommodate as many members of our community as possible.

## Eid Prayers

In 2017 the Eid Prayers continued to grow, attracting over 50,000 people for Eid al Fitr and over 30,000 for Eid al Adha. Each event attracted some of the most important political figures in Australia, from the Premier of NSW to members of the Federal cabinet.

The Eid Prayers at Lakemba Mosque are iconic events in the yearly calendar, bringing the community together for generations and

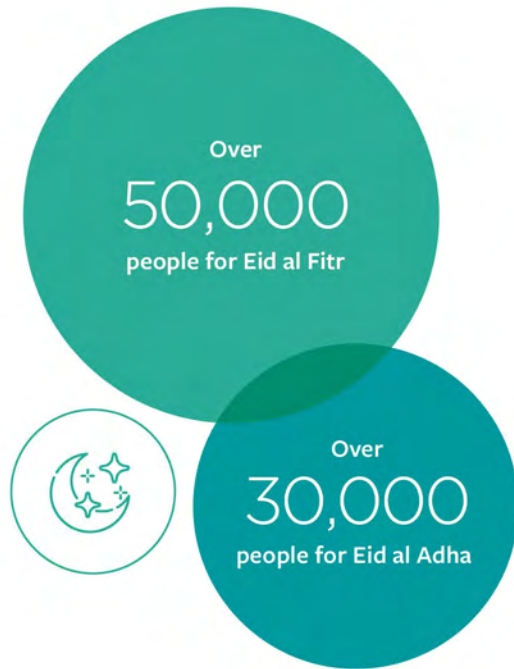
continuing to generate enormous excitement and enthusiasm every year

Local council, in conjunction with law enforcement, close off Wangee Road every year at both prayers to help ensure the safety and wellbeing of the growing congregation, who lay prayer mats on along the entire road to perform the prayers from the service station on Punchbowl Road to the roundabout on the other end of Wangee Road.

The LMA works hard to ensure every single worshipper is provided a space to pray and has an enjoyable time on these auspicious occasions.

The LMA would like to thank all authorities and services involved who help make the yearly Eid Prayers a safe and enjoyable experience for the local community.

Lakemba Mosque attracts:



Lakemba Mosque



During the month of Ramadan:



Over  
**60,000**  
worshippers attend  
congregational  
Tarawih prayers



Over  
**5,000**  
people are fed  
through the Feed  
the Fasting program

## Ramadan 2017

Ramadan is an exciting and uplifting time at Lakemba Mosque, with daily prayers and Tarawih prayers routinely spilling out onto the street as the congregation continues to grow from year to year. The month sees over 60,000 worshippers attending congregational Tarawih prayers.

The LMA worked hard with local partners to ensure that Ramadan 2017 was a safe and organised experience for the local community, with parking logistics allocated and SES representatives who were constantly on site.

The LMA also organised the “Feed the Fasting” program in partnership with Fettaileh Meats and The Coffee Emporium Bankstown that provided meals every day of Ramadan for fasting locals, particularly for the poor and needy.

The program was a huge success, feeding over 5000 people over the month, providing a space for those in need and allowing the local community to break their fast together.

Annually, the LMA brings in Quran reciters from Egypt and this year was no different with reciters coming to provide a special spark to the daily and Tarawih prayers and helping create a spiritual atmosphere for worshippers.

## Mosque Tours

The Lakemba Mosque has held mosque tours for many years, training its staff to deliver the service and to educate local and visiting groups on the history and meaning of the Mosque’s features and characteristics.

The Mosque tours have evolved to become one of the most important services provided by the LMA, allowing an access point for the wider Australian community to engage with the Mosque and with the local Muslim Community.

The tours currently follow a planned path through the Mosque, taking visitors on a

journey that details the Mosque’s visual and architectural features, in addition to general information on Islam, prayer, ablution and other elements of Islam.

The program’s presenters have been trained to ensure they are able to answer questions from attendees. The tours continue to grow in popularity with over 200 held in 2017 alone.



Over  
**200**  
mosque tours  
held in 2017

# LMA Community Services

## Overview

The LMA's Community Services have been in operation since inception, having grown to become one of the central community hubs in NSW. From the construction and opening of the Community Centre (which includes the function hall, office, gym and Quran College), the LMA's services have continued to expand over the years to cover key community concerns.

In 2017, these services have improved and grown to better reflect the changing face of the Muslim community in Australia. Office refurbishments in 2016 have meant that in 2017, the LMA's services can settle, broaden their reach and focus on gaps in community services.

Traditional services, such as Hajj and Umrah have continued, additionally joined by a growing and newly refurbished Gym and Islamic College, as well as Funeral services changing to better suit the demands of an exponentially larger community.

This is in addition to the marriage ceremonies and events held at the LMA's popular venues and spaces that host important cultural and religious occasions and continues to facilitate important events in people's lives.

The LMA endeavours to continue providing its extensive services to the community and to expand into areas that would bring benefit to Muslims living in Sydney and around Australia.

## LMA Hajj and Umrah

The LMA organised groups for Hajj and Umrah again in 2017, with the participants providing exceedingly positive feedback on their pilgrimage trips.

The LMA's staff has extensive experience in organising and coordinating these trips with both large and small groups and have developed a refined experience for pilgrims and travellers alike. This year they were joined



Attendees gave feedback on the Hajj trip, outlining their highlights:



“Being supported by the guides that we were able to touch the Kaaba”

“Being so close to the Kaaba was a blessing, we saw the Kaaba from our room...”

“... the organisers, and Medina”

“Perfect guides with such caring nature”

“The lessons that we were given were awesome, especially being a first time Hajj”

by Shaykh Feiz Seif and Br Abdul Nasser Kassir on the Hajj trip and Shaykh Yahya Safi on the Umrah Trip.

For 2017, 50 people joined the Hajj trip and 80 joined the Umrah trip. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed their time and the experience provided by LMA staff, which included the deep knowledge of the rituals and history, along with tips for a smooth experience.

The LMA continues to provide exceptional service, which includes providing food and water outside of normal Hajj group proceedings, along with Lebanese Sweets to celebrate Eid.

2017 also saw the introduction of a Hajj Reunion Dinner, which brings together the participants for that year's Hajj trip, providing them with a reminder of their experience, as well as a gift pack that included a USB with the photos from the trip and a certificate commemorating their achievement.

The tour groups routinely sell out quickly each year, so it is essential community members get their applications submitted as soon as they can to ensure a place is secured for them for these spiritual trips.



## LMA Adahi and Zakat

The LMA's popular Adahi and Zakat program continued in 2017, gathering donations for the poor and needy. The program has been running for over 20 years, with a focus on ensuring quality coordination to safeguard that all funds meet all the legal and religious standards and are effectively used.

The Zakat program continued to support organisations and orphanages based in Lebanon, with a focus on providing a wide network of aid organisations on the ground financial support for their work. The LMA also directly contributes to two orphanages in Lebanon via the Zakat program.

This year, over 3,000 community members participated in the Adahi program, a record for the LMA, with work done to ensure that they are properly supported and that the key religious parameters are fulfilled for the program.



The fundraising at every Jummah also continued, with particular weeks allocated to programs and causes to ensure support for as many elements of the community as possible. The general zakat was used for the funding of general services, maintenance of the mosque as well as Zakat al Mal.

The Zakat al Mal program also involves an assessment program, where community members are able to access the finances where appropriate and necessary.





## LMA Advocacy

The LMA's Advocacy arm has grown exponentially for nearly a decade, expanding into lobbying to all levels of government and across a broad spectrum of issues, from burial plots to racial and religious discrimination. Using both media and lobbying strategies, the LMA has built a substantial network of change makers across Australia and positioned itself to best build a powerful and effective issues based advocacy arm.

This was worked into the LMA's media strategy in 2017, which can broadly be defined as outcomes focused and built around a case by case approach to individual engagements with media outlets. This resulted in a reduced number of media engagements, but has brought immense success to the overall strategy.

The LMA has been able to control key narratives, injecting itself via more expansive means such as interviews, editorials, op-eds and participation in discussion panels. It has been able to reflect community wide dissatisfaction with media reporting and build a controlled, confident media presence for Australian Muslims.



The LMA's lobbying compliments this strategy by focusing on controlled messaging, key stakeholders and practical outcomes. The organisation's lobbying arm has grown to become one of the most influential amongst Australian Muslims and within NSW, affecting multiple elections and engaging local and federal politicians, going so far as to bring together the three leaders of major parties in Australia to an LMA event.

An essential element is to ensure Australian Muslims are well represented on issues affecting them, and to ensure the sustainability, growth and reach of the Muslim community is maintained as a priority across the region.



The Adahi program has been running for over **20** years



With over **3,000** community members participating



Proceeds from LMA's Zakat program, directly contribute to **2** orphanages in Lebanon



The LMA's lobbying arm brought together the **3** leaders of major parties in Australia to an LMA event

## LMA Islamic College

The LMA's Islamic College is a community institution and has been servicing the local Muslim community with lessons and access to shaykhs for years. The Islamic College also went through some changes in 2017, with a focus on providing the best quality teaching and services for Muslims in Sydney. The space accommodating the Islamic College has been custom built for the classes and continues to provide a platform to facilitate the learning of the sacred sciences.



In 2017, students attended the classes held at the college on a range of topics, from Quran memorisation to Fiqh and general question and answers. Students ranged in age as well, from primary school students all the way through to university and mature age students.

The College has been developed into an essential part of the LMA's community services, with the space accommodating a range of events in addition to the classes therein.



## Optimus Health & Fitness Centre

Optimus has been in operation since the opening of the LMA building in 2010, with a steady growth in numbers reflecting the experienced staff and extensive range of equipment available.

In 2017 Optimus received a colourful redesign and an upgrade to its range of equipment and systems. Seeking to better service its growing member base and local community, it has reshaped itself into an all-encompassing, open space for community members to train and work on their health and wellbeing.

Membership currently stands at record high levels, reflecting the growing capacity of the gym to support local communities. The gym has also become home to the many programs run for women under the GoActive program, allowing all members of the community to benefit from the centre.

Optimus has been in operation since 2010



## Community Services Order Program

The LMA's unique approach to Community Services Order attracted positive feedback from relevant government agencies as well as from families of participants and has proven an exceptional approach to Community Service Orders.

The LMA routinely receives Community Service Order participants from the courts and as such, in mid-2017 LMA staff worked to develop a relevant, well-constructed program for the participants that allows them to both support different LMA programs, as well as to have a learning experience themselves.

The program includes visits to and work for the LMA's Funeral Services, as well as integrating counselling sessions for the participants, providing them a unique insight into community and an opportunity to learn about life and Islam.

The program has proven a success, with over 15 participants and has been attracting families and service providers to enquire on its availability outside of Community Service Orders for young people and local community members. The program continues to evolve to provide participants with an experience that can help them change their lives.



Over 15 participants involved in the Community Services Order program.

## LMA Funeral Services

The LMA's funeral services continues to grow in 2017, building on the foundations put in place by the original members of the Muslim community and of the LMA in Sydney. The current system services thousands of Muslims every year and 2017 was no different, with members of many different ethnic and cultural communities using the service.

In the past year, 243 people were washed and their funeral rites fulfilled at Lakemba Mosque, amounting to just under one burial

per day for the year. Feedback for the service is generally positive, with families provided information, clarity and space to grieve in difficult times.

2017 also brought some changes to the funeral service, with updates made to the filing and transport systems, as well as a change in staff after nearly 20 years. The new staff were trained and built up the experience and networks to be able to meet the community's needs in the future.



**243**  
people were  
washed and their  
funeral rites  
fulfilled



## LMA Hall and Venue

The LMA's Function Hall and venues received minor improvements in 2017, continuing to provide the best community spaces for events and community programs. Speaker and computer systems were updated in both the Library and the Function Hall, ensuring that events are run smoothly without any audio/visual challenges.

In total, the hall was hired 33 times in 2017. It can currently hold 400 in auditorium style seating and 250 in a dining event, with the LMA's programs consistently filling it, in addition to the many cultural and religious events held there.

The Library has also been updated to better suit community programs, with shelves shifted from the centre to accommodate events, lectures and workshops, as well as allowing natural light to filter through.

The two venues also had their booking systems updated to ensure local community members are provided the very best service and clarity in the booking of any LMA venue

## LMA Counselling and Marriage

The counselling and marriage service at the LMA also continued to provide important support in 2017. The service itself is a community institution, having been in existence for over 30 years and is currently staffed by experienced, expert members of the community who have been trained in dealing with some of the challenges facing Muslims in the current climate.

The service currently includes the provision of marriage services, including certificates and Islamic ceremonies, as well as divorce services, family support, death certificates and wider counselling for Muslim families provided by the Shaykhs of the LMA.

This year, Shaykh Yahya Safi, the imam of Lakemba Mosque, married 68 couples at the LMA, and divorced 136 people, marking the continuation of this important element to the LMA's service provision. The LMA also provides Intention of Marriage certificates, with the number of these applications far outstripping the number of marriages and highlighting an important part of this service.



The LMA hall holds:

**400** in auditorium style seating

**250** in a dining event



LMA's counselling service has been in existence for over **30** years

### AMAN Aged Care Facility

In 2017 the LMA's work towards an aged care facility took many positive steps, bringing the overall vision closer to fruition. The project, entitled the AMAN Aged Care Facility, is in the final stages of planning in preparation for a big 2018.

The facility is being developed to cater to the needs of the local Muslim community and will be the first of its kind, creating a precedent of catered, culturally diverse care. A Full Needs Analysis was developed to identify the specific needs of the Muslim

Community, creating a network of key challenges that the facility will target.

The concept designs for the building have been completed, with key Islamic principles and requirements integrated into the overarching vision for the building and service.

The LMA was granted an Approved Provider Licence in 2017 for 112 beds as part of the facility and service, with the planning proposal currently submitted and under consideration. The next steps include submitting a development application and by the will of Allah, moving forward with its completion.

2017 also brought the conformation of a Board of Directors for AMAN, which include a range of subject matter experts and community leaders, leaving the project in prime position to develop into a comprehensive, holistic aged care service.



## LMA Health

The LMA's health arm has seen a recent development, emerging as a key area of community development in 2017 with a focus on delivering practical, workable strategies to support and service the health of the local Muslim community. It has become an essential element to the LMA's portfolio of programs and events.

Under the new health arm, a variety of initiatives were developed and implemented, including working with LMA services to develop the Community Wellness Expo, as well as a variety of forums and workshops for local community members.

A core goal of the program is to raise awareness of preventative health measures for people of all ages, focusing on development of understandings of the

services accessible and of the knowledge available to local community members.

A key project for the LMA health initiative has been the development of a Mental Health Clinic that aims to break barriers of access and discussion of mental health and wellbeing. The Clinic offers free counselling appointments with experienced psychologists, with the goal of improving understanding of mental health in addition to developing accessibility for community members.

The Clinic will be based at the LMA and helps develop the LMA's health arm, with multiple projects and programs currently being deployed in 2018.



Over  
**2000**  
people attended the  
LMA's Community  
Wellness Expo



## LMA Social Services

The LMA's many social services, highlighted by the growing Food Bank, continued into 2017, with a focus on ensuring programs are sustainable and able to meet the needs of the local community.

The LMA works with individuals who are facing a range of issues relating to family and marital disputes, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health, grief and loss, homelessness, and financial hardship.

As part of this service, the LMA also provides forms and applications for a number of issues, most prominently submissions for housing, passports, citizenships and reference letters for community members.

The LMA Food Bank is held on Wednesdays and Thursdays and provides local community members the ability to purchase goods at special prices, subsidised by the LMA and government programs, servicing those most in need.

The LMA's work has been widely well regarded and targets disadvantaged residents of NSW with a focus on casework, referral services and crisis intervention.

# The Engage, Challenge, Grow Program



## Overview

The Engage, Challenge, Grow (ECG) program is a unique and sprawling social cohesion umbrella initiative that was developed in 2012 in response to some of the community challenges the LMA recognised.

Building on gaps in community services and programs, ECG focuses on fostering resilience, connecting people, addressing social exclusion and providing wider support to Australian Muslims from all walks of life.

The parameters of ECG have meant it has successfully adapted to different challenges and developed sustainable strategies for the development of community capacity to overcome obstacles.

The ECG program has grown from the initial deployment of 12 projects in 2013 to over 100

dynamic, empowering and effective initiatives. Each has grown and evolved over time, shifting with community discourse, attendee feedback and the rapidly changing face of community programs.

The ECG program continues into its fifth year in 2017, building on its numerous successes and evolving over time to incorporate and reflect the community's needs and state of discourse.

Across nine umbrella projects, staff delivered a wide range of events, workshops, programs, retreats and courses to an incredibly diverse spectrum of attendees, from parents to university students, to children and everyone in between.

The key ECG projects in 2017 are highlighted below:

## Engage

### Think Again

Think Again seeks to empower young, educated Muslims to speak out on the issues they face and believe should be addressed, to build recommendations and contribute to community and national discussions.

In 2017 Think Again held a wide range of events featuring several international and local speakers covering important topics and discussion.

From discussion on media and political representation, to workshops on pop culture and prayer, Think Again brought together many sections of the community for powerful, moving events.

One of the early highlights was hosting a successful QANDA with international figure and speaker Wadah Khanfar, on whether Muslims should be involved in media or



The ECG program has grown from the initial deployment of 12 projects in 2013 to over 100 dynamic, empowering and effective initiatives.





politics. The event was received well, generating fantastic audience feedback and discussion.

The year concluded with the successful “Preserving Your Faith Tour” featuring international scholar Shaykh Abdullah Bin Hamid Ali.

The tour included a spiritual retreat as well as two events on politics and society, bringing together a wide range of participants for a series of important events.



Engage, Challenge, Grow



### Together We Are Strong

Together, We Are Strong (TWAS) is a series of initiatives, workshops and courses to form a professional development program for religious leaders, imams, religious workers, community members and service providers. It is built on an understanding of the responsibilities these individuals have to advise and support community members, and how best to improve the delivery and expertise therein.

Although most religious leaders and workers in Australia are well experienced in some of these responsibilities; there has been little specific training in the ethical, legal and professional competencies to handle psychosocial problems. This is where TWAS steps in, aiming to provide the training and skills to our leaders and scholars to better deal with these challenges.

In 2017, TWAS hit some incredibly important milestones, most importantly, seeing the completion of the Diploma of Counselling as part of the Islamic Psychosocial Skills Training. A Graduation ceremony was held in May, commemorating the participants, shaykhs

and community workers, who took part in the TAFE accredited course. Each student received a Certificate of Completion with High Distinction from TAFE NSW, and joined us in a celebration of their achievement.

TWAS also continued to provide essential services such as the drop-in legal clinic that focused on providing legal advice to community members. The particular areas of importance included Family, Criminal and Commercial Law, as well as Islamic Wills. Our in-house lawyers and legal representatives were constantly at work helping community members with their matters.

TWAS has developed into an important cog in the LMA's community services machine, helping many locals on their feet and equipping our leaders with the necessary skills to confront some of the challenges our community faces.



## Challenge

### Family CommUnity

The Family CommUnity project promotes a healthy dialogue between parents about the challenges, opportunities and realities of raising a family in Australia. It supports isolated and marginalised parents and enables a safe space to engage in the community, encouraging them to help become better engaged in their children's lives and their community.

This involves running parenting classes, playgroups, such as Baby Buddies and the development of health and fitness initiatives, as well as, additional programs that support parents and their children and are religiously and culturally appropriate.

Family CommUnity had a massive year in 2017, covering a wide variety of bases with a core focus on healthy living and relationships for young people. Major highlights included running the hugely successful two-part event "The Story of Musa", as a night out for Muslim families, bringing together key themes of family and religiosity.

Family CommUnity also focused on healthy eating, with the full 8 week Jump Start course for children. The course, run by an Accredited Practising Dietitian and Exercise Scientist, featured lessons of

interactive learning, cooking and games for children aged 7-12.

Events such as The Story of Musa brought over 30 families together for a fun night out and Jump Start gave children an opportunity to learn about healthy eating. The Baby Buddies program successfully continued into its 4th year, bringing together families of young children.

Rite of Passage was another innovative program developed for Family CommUnity in 2017. The workshops focused on detailing the physical changes experienced during adolescence and the Islamic implications. The program was held over two weekends at the LMA, bringing together families and practitioners for an important initiative.

Finally, the important and unique Islamic Parenting Program, Tarbiyah was held twice over 2017. The program, run over 6 weeks, focused on equipping Muslim parents with parenting skills to strengthen and support their families and was a huge success, getting booked out over both iterations.



50 Parents benefitted from the Tarbiyah parenting program



The Story of Musa event brought over 100 attendees



Baby buddies has seen over 50 mothers regularly attend and benefit from the playgroup



### Community Wellness Expo

The LMA held its second Community Wellness Expo in 2017 to overwhelming success, bringing in more people, practitioners and stallholders each year and instituting an important new event on the community calendar.

In partnership with the NSW Sydney Local Health District and BreastScreen NSW, the Community Wellness Expo brings together a huge number of local health services for local community members to speak to, learn from and get health check-ups.

Free health services on the day included breast cancer screening, GP check-ups, nutritionist advice, baby and children health checks, diabetes risk assessment, fitness and sporting advice, dental health care, healthy mind tests, physio checks and chiropractor assessments.

These were joined by a variety of activities including fitness competitions, health competitions, Hijama sessions, a portrait booth, a coffee stand, activities for children and a community barbeque.

The expo also featured a series of important information sessions, including workshops on understanding what do with a cancer diagnosis, talking mental health, discussing diabetes and your health and a session on fitness and wellbeing.

These sessions were run by practitioners, GPs and professionals and were routinely full, with many community members seeking more information on the topics.

Held on the second Saturday of October, the Community Wellness Expo has established itself as an essential part of the community spectrum of events, attracting a wide range of community members, from all ages and backgrounds. Its success brought important conversations to the fore and will the LMA will continue to build on it every year.



The LMA held its second Community Wellness Expo in 2017 to overwhelming success, bringing in more people, practitioners and stallholders each year and instituting an important new event on the community calendar.

35  
service based stores  
were featured at  
the Expo





B screened

OPTIMUS HEALTH & FITNESS (02) 8084 9193

LMA

Community Wellness EXPO 2017

Recycling Rubbish Rubbish

SHREK



An estimated  
**30,000**  
people attended NMOD  
from 2014 to 2017



With a combined total of over  
**154** media mentions



And mentioned in the  
Australian Federal Parliament

### National Mosque Open Day

National Mosque Open Day (NMOD) is an annual Australia-wide event that features a number of mosques across the nation simultaneously opening their doors to the public and inviting them to come in and explore their local mosque.

In 2017, NMOD continued into its fourth year. It is the first and only national event organised by Muslims and the only Muslim event that reaches every corner of Australia, with Mosques from towns and cities coordinated to open their doors on this day.

While mosques are open all year round, many non-Muslim Australians are unaware of this fact and do not take the opportunity to meet local Muslims and find answers to their questions about Islam.

Participating Mosques this year included Lakemba Mosque, Cabramatta Mosque, Young Mosque, Quakers Hill Mosque, and Sultan Fatih Mosque (in Mayfield, Newcastle) from NSW. In Queensland we had Rockhampton Mosque, Cairns Mosque and Garden City Mosque, as well as Hobart Mosque from Tasmania, Al Khalil Mosque from Adelaide and Perth Mosque in WA.

Each participating mosque presented a unique experience and flavour, representing the particular multicultural make-up of its community. Some mosques had BBQs, sweets and food, others activities for children and others again will host special exhibitions.

An estimated 30,000 people have participated from 2014 to 2017, with a combined total of over 154 media mentions, including media coverage in the US, UK, Turkey, China, Egypt, Iran and also mentioned in the Australian Federal Parliament.

At Lakemba Mosque this year, NMOD attracted hundreds of people, both local and from many diverse areas around Sydney. Attendees took part in QANDA sessions with local shaykhs, teachers and community leaders, asking some interesting and powerful questions on a range of topics.

NMOD continues to build on its momentum, focusing on building bridges and adding many mosques from around Australia and cementing itself as the largest Muslim event in the country.



NMOD attracted media coverage in:





In 2017 WIO turned out over 40 articles from 8 schools across NSW, collated into a beautifully designed and edited magazine edition that cover topics as diverse as animal rights, sports, culture and politics.



### Grow Aspire Role Models

The Aspire Role Models (ARM) program improves the self-esteem and aspirations of young students and fosters positive attitudes towards citizenship, social cohesion and civic participation.

In 2017 ARM went from strength to strength, building and improving on the innovative programs it has worked to introduce in 2015/16, ensuring that student's feedback is taken on board and programs are kept up to date.

The following programs were held in 2017:

#### Stand Tall, Speak Out

Stand Tall, Speak Out (STSO) is a school-based poetry slam program and competition. Across five weeks, students from 8 schools in Sydney were taught by mentors and slam poets how to turn their thoughts, opinions and experiences into powerful slam poetry.

The initiative was developed in 2014 and was the first of its kind in NSW and has grown in reach over the years, with powerful performances from young people who have gone on to incredible achievements in their schooling.



This was the third iteration of the Stand Tall, Speak Out program, and involved 8 local new and old high schools.

1. Auburn Girls High School
2. Australian Islamic College
3. Belmore Boys High School
4. Granville Boys High School
5. Macarthur Girls High School
6. Masada College
7. St Leo's Catholic College
8. Wiley Park Girls High School

This year, the winners were all from Belmore Boys and Granville Boys, who brought their incredible poetry to the Art Gallery of NSW, where the finale was held and the students could perform their poetry. With an enormous audience and fantastic student engagement, STSO has grown into a staple of the new programs the LMA offers.

### Write It Out

Write it Out (WIO) ran its second iteration in 2017, developing on the innovative ideas and outcomes it initiated in 2016. Essentially a series of writing workshops, WIO is a series of 5 writing and critical thinking sessions that aim to empower students with the skills

and ability to develop written stories from conception to publication.

At the conclusion of the course, students are asked to write their own articles on any topic of their choosing, to be published in the latest edition of LMA Youthink magazine.

In 2017 WIO turned out over 40 articles from 8 schools across NSW, collated into a beautifully designed and edited magazine edition that cover topics as diverse as animal rights, sports, culture and politics.

### Equip Debating Program

In 2017 the LMA held the second ever iteration of the EQUIP Debating Program, which is a six week course that aims to build debating and critical thinking skills in student from local schools.

The course culminates in an inter-school debating competition held at the LMA, allowing students to partake in discussions on important topics, as well as to test their newfound skills.

The 2017 second iteration of the EQUIP program was run simultaneously at 4 local high schools, including:



4

local highschools  
participated in the  
2017 Equip  
debating program

1. Belmore Boys High School
2. Granville Boys High School
3. Macarthur Girls High School
4. Wiley Park Girls High School

EQUIP's themes focus on defining and examining Australian identity and how it has changed in light of multiculturalism. It also draws on the negative consequences of racism and stereotyping on society, as well as delivering key avenues of response for students.

It empowers students with debating and rhetoric skills to better express and assess arguments in this space. This program provides positive activities for young people and encourages great social and civic participation.



### Hidaya Leadership

The Hidaya Leadership program is an ongoing, multi-faceted approach to leadership programs for young people. The aim is to empower students with language and skills to provide avenues of expression and engagement for young people between year 7 and 9.

Two phases were already completed in 2016, which included a camp and workshops where the students could pitch and development community projects, funded by the LMA.



The last phase rolled out in 2017, with three schools being provided funding in order to roll out their initiatives including:



#### Burwood Girls High School *Sisters in Society*

This program consists of students from Burwood Girls High School doing fun and engaging activities with the female refugees or migrants. Sisters in Society was chosen because the students want everyone to fit in and refugees and migrants often have a hard time fitting in due to language and cultural barriers. The students held an activity every fortnight and included playing board games, cooking together and playing sports.



#### Belmore Boys High School *Hope for Homeless*

The purpose of this project is to provide homeless individuals access to basic needs such as comfort packs. This will allow homeless individuals to improve their day-to-day lives which will further give them long term opportunities to success and excel in all areas of life.



#### Wiley Park Girls High School *Justice and Mercy 4 Refugees*

The aim was to organise a workshop to use as a production line to prepare everyday essential packages for refugees living in Sydney. The students contacted several companies for this project, each of whom kindly donated some supplies for the packs. The students involved in the assembly line were refugee students from Wiley Park Girls, Auburn Girls, and Belmore Boys. In the hampers, they included facial cream, sanitary pads, toothbrush, toothpaste, hair ties, hair combs, soap bars, facial wipes, tissues, shampoo and conditioner. They donated the hampers to the Asylum Seekers Centre in Newtown.



The GoActive biannual inter-school Trisports Tournament attracted over 10 schools and 500 girls.

**GoActive**

The GoActive Project is a health and fitness initiative dedicated to inspire, empower and connect young women by promoting physical and social wellbeing.

The project aims to provide women with inclusive opportunities to be involved in sport and recreation and is the first of its kind in Australia for Muslim women with the aim of promoting social harmony and healthy lifestyles.

In 2017, its seventh year, GoActive continued to innovate and blaze a trail for women in sports, providing a series of unique and ground-breaking programs aimed at Muslim women of all ages.

Key events in 2017 included the continued boxing sessions with celebrity trainer Lauryn Eagle, the introduction of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu classes, Capoeira classes for women as well as the biannual Trisports Tournaments with over 200 women attending.

GoActive continued to build momentum in schools, having organised the biannual inter-school Trisports Tournament which attract over 10 schools and 500 girls in addition to the hugely successful Girls Summer Camp that sold out far in advance with 60 girls participating.

GoActive's unique approach to programming and women's sports has brought fantastic results, helping build a new generation of healthy, engaged young women.





To date over 250 individuals from organisations such as:

- SDN Children's services
- AFP
- STARTTS
- Barnardo's

including:

- community workers
  - youth workers
  - prison chaplains
- have participated in the CARE program.

## CARE

The Community Awareness and Religious Education (CARE) is a one-day intensive workshop led by subject matter experts in the fields of social policy, religion, law and community engagement. The program aims to deliver cultural and religious awareness training to service providers whose clientele consist of predominately Muslims to enable improved engagement with the Muslim community.

To date over 250 individuals from organisations such as SDN Children's services, the AFP, STARTTS and Barnardo's, including community workers, youth workers and prison chaplains have all participated in the program.

CARE continued in 2017, highlighted by a cross-organisational session focused on working with Muslim Refugees and Accidental Counselling held in July. The session was facilitated by Dr Nooria Mehraby and focused on the complexity of the refugee experience. The session also covered vicarious trauma, boundaries, self-care and working specifically with young refugees.

A special edition of the successful Explore Islam workshop was also held in Ramadan. The day was used as a way to introduce attendees to Ramadan and was purposefully held during the Holy month to show attendees the usual proceedings that take place at Lakemba Mosque during the mosque tour.

This edition was a condensed and shortened version to what we normally offer with the course delving into topics like the history of Muslims in Australia, basics of Islam and positive methods of engaging with Muslims in Ramadan.



The feedback from this session was overwhelmingly positive with attendees indicating that they felt a better understanding of what Ramadan entails and how they can sensitively engage with their clients, colleagues and friends during this month.

CARE is an essential part of the portfolio of projects run by the LMA and continues to be one of the most beneficial programs, with hundreds of participants being able to learn about Islam and Muslims and build their cultural competency.

## IQRA

IQRA is a new project that was initiated under the ECG umbrella in 2017, focusing on the future of Islamic education. The project aims to develop and implement an Islamic curriculum across all age groups within the Muslim community in Australia.

The project is currently in its early phases, with a framework and timeline put in place as well as a project officer hired to run the project.

Most recently, in the final months of 2017, community leaders and local shaykhs were interviewed as part of the consultation phase, to better capture the current state of Islamic education in Australia and where the project can go next.



# Thrive, Youth Transition Support



## Overview

Thrive is a Youth Transition Support project that has been designed to provide support for refugee youth, between the ages of 12-25, in their transition into the Australian community. Funded by the Department of Social Services, Thrive aims to provide culturally and religiously appropriate services to recently migrated communities.

It offers a host of programs and services that expand on the initial settlement process, focusing on skills and engagement. Practicality and focus characterise the Thrive initiatives, developed to ensure they will accentuate and contribute to young people's lives and aspirations.

Driven by the will to innovate and inspire, the Thrive team has led new projects in the areas of Education, Employment, Social Inclusion, and Vocational Training. It has built upon existing initiatives, promoted good practice and addressed social gaps to encourage the participation of refugee youth in the Australian community.

By empowering young recent migrants and refugees, Thrive will change the social environment which they are now part of and the discourse around it. Thrive has created unique, exciting programs that bring out the best in young people, in safe spaces that support them to be independent, confident, secure and feel at home.



Thrive has created unique, exciting programs that bring out the best in young people, in safe spaces that support them to be independent, confident, secure and feel at home.



# Thrive



### Client Profile

The Thrive Program is structured to provide the Client with a variety of programs and pathways to ensure they are given as many opportunities to succeed as possible.

As such, to better understand the success of the program it is important to look at the profile of the Thrive clients.

# The program currently has 1,627 clients

### Age:



Over 984 are under 18

Meaning over half are still in school in some form.



The majority of the rest are under 30

Reflecting the youth focus of some of the programs.



### Gender:

44% Female

56% Male

### Location:

# 21% from Syria



Syrian  
Iraqi



## Just under 35% from Iraq

The rest making up a mix of other ethnicities, including:

- Afghan
- Albanian
- Algerian
- Armenian
- Assyrian
- Bangladeshi
- Bengali
- Brazilian
- Burmese
- Chaldean
- Chinese
- Congolese
- Ecuadorian
- Egyptian
- English
- Ethiopian
- Fijian
- Fijian India
- Filipino
- Ghanaian
- Greek
- Hazara
- Indian
- Indonesian
- Iranian
- Jordanian
- Khmer  
(Cambodian)
- Kurdish
- Kuwaiti
- Lebanese
- Macedonian
- Malay
- Mandeian
- Mauritian
- Moroccan
- Nepalese
- Nicaraguan
- Oromo
- Pakistani
- Palestinian
- Rohingya
- Samoan
- Saudi Arabian
- Sierra Leonean
- Somali
- Spanish
- Sri Lankan Tamil
- Sudanese
- Taiwanese
- Thai
- Turkish
- Ukrainian
- Uzbek
- Vietnamese



The clients all take part in a variety of the programs and initiatives outlined below, some taking part in more than one for various reasons. Considering the wide variety of outcomes met to genuinely support young, recent migrants, the programs have four key focuses:



**Education**



**Vocation**



**Sport**



**Employment**



## Imprint

The Imprint program focuses on creating pathways in tertiary study, work experience and employment for refugee youth via painting and drawing workshops.

The students take part in accredited classes that provide them with ample information to help them decide on career pathways, as well as giving them experience in the industry along with a networking opportunities.

The course includes an opportunity for participants to attain a Certificate IV in Small Business Management, to continue their career in the space.

Self-Marketing workshops are included in the course and in 2017 a number of recent migrants took participated in Imprint multiple times. 2017 also resulted in the

first ever Imprint Exhibition, with a range of paintings presented to the public at a fantastic launch event.

The Exhibition provided participants the opportunity to showcase their work to friends, family and the local community and the experience that comes with developing their work for a showcase.

2017 also brought new partnerships, which resulted in a mural being displayed at the Bankstown Bites Festival and with fellow Thrive Program QALM, to better combine elements of both programs for an enriching experience for attendees.



## Off the Hook

Off the Hook is a multifaceted program that centres on the learning and taking part in the fishing industry in Australia. The program aims to familiarise refugee high-school students with the many employment opportunities the fishing industry provides. The program also works on educating attendees on Australia's unique and exquisite marine biology in a fun and interactive way.

The program includes educational tours that take students behind the scenes at the Sydney Fish Market, the Sydney Institute of Marine Science and the Aquarium, focusing on employment pathways available via these institutions.

A partnership with the Department of Primary Industries has meant Off the

Hook has been able to provide tailored, in-school educational workshops that cover sustainable fishing, regulations, licensing and information on career opportunities.

Finally, and most importantly, Off the Hook also includes fun fishing trips for participants, where they can apply all the skills they've learnt via the course.

In 2017, the program held a large number of workshops and took over 100 students on many different excursions, helping them build their industry vocabulary, understanding and skills and exposing them to the careers they can develop therein.



Thrive formed a partnership with the Department of Primary Industries.



## Questions Answered through Language for Migrants (QALM) Program

The QALM program is a unique and engaging language course for young, recent migrants to build their confidence and understanding of the English language and to better enable them to engage and work in Australia.

QALM is a 12-week course, with a weekly two hour session delivered by a qualified TESOL teacher, with a focus on new migrants between the ages of 12 and 25 years and was available in Cabramatta and Lakemba.

The program continues to be a huge success, with a number of recent migrants attending the course across 2017. The program will continue to grow and evolve, help equip new migrants with the language they need to thrive.





### Quest: Pathway to Potential

Quest is an entrepreneurial training project that highlights the tech and innovation boom in Sydney and its role in affecting social change in the refugee community.

Quest has provided young refugees with an engaging and exciting insight into the start-up and innovation world, while opening doors for them to build their own start-up company.

The program is divided into three phases: a pre-Quest event, a competitive Hackathon, Questathon and a post-Quest, semi-

incubator program. The Hackathon, a space for teams to identify community and tech challenges and come up with solutions, was held in 2016 and was a huge success.

In 2017, the Quest project focused on providing the winners of the 2016 Questathon with the platform and resources to develop their solution into a workable project. The winning project was given the opportunity to take part in an incubator program in mid-2017, with a two-day intensive program focused on building the project and accelerating its development.





students attending Rahnoma develop career goals and transition successfully onto higher education and vocational pathways.



### Rahnoma

Rahnoma is a thrive initiative tailored for newly arrived Afghans. The Rahnoma program partnered with Afghan Professionals Australia (APA) to assist students in developing career goals and transitioning successfully onto higher education and vocational pathways.

The program is an opportunity for students to learn, ask questions and plan for the future with their mentors and has brought inspiration and motivation to a range of students across Sydney.

Rahnoma runs for 12 weeks and aims to be a holistic program that links community members and leaders with students seeking to develop their skills for future careers.



### Train to Train

The Train to Train program is a pathway to education for young recent migrants that are interested in becoming certified personal trainers. As a part of a training course, attendees receive a Certificate III and IV in Fitness through the Australian Training Company, as well as an unpaid internship at the Australian College of Sports and Fitness.

The goal is to encourage attendees to both lead a healthy lifestyle and to also encourage it in their homes and communities, as well as to develop career opportunities for those with a passion for fitness and nutrition.

Train to Train continued in 2017, expanding its reach and hosting a number of clients and participants at different courses. The consistent delivery of the course has allowed a number of clients to take part and acquire their accreditation.



### Under Construction

The Under Construction program is a multi-faceted migrant youth program with a particular focus on employment opportunities in the construction industry. Through TAFE, this program offers:

- Work safely in the Construction Industry, with a nationally recognised white card, a prerequisite for employment in the trade.
- Forklifting license
- Work-zone traffic control course
- Opportunities for further education, in other trade industries as specified by the participant, on a case-by-case basis.

The program provides applicants with a basic construction gear package that includes a hard hat, safety boots, a Hi-Vis vest and a toolkit. The final component involves placements and apprenticeships for clients, sourced from local businesses and home-grown, trade-based start-ups.

The goal is to have participants learn the basic accreditation process for the construction industry, apprenticeships, increased exposure and basic construction gear.

In 2017, the Under Construction project continued to build momentum, with many of the recent migrants joining the courses and gaining the experiences necessary to thrive in the construction industry.



Migrants who join the courses in Under Construction gain the experience necessary to thrive in the construction industry

## Sobhiye

Inspired by a traditional, Middle-Eastern brunch where women would socialise and relax before attending to daily business, the Sobhiye program hosts a number of catered workshops that provide female refugees with pathways to vocational, educational and local business opportunities in a casual and friendly setting.

Each workshop focuses on a specific industry, targeting spaces that do not require specific or mandatory credentials and qualifications for employment. These include industries such as floristry, catering, event planning, sewing and design, beauty and interior design.

The program has also served networking and contact building opportunities for

young recent migrants. For local businesses, Sobhiye is a space to target and employ future apprentices.

Most importantly, the program has developed into a community of young, female refugees who have opportunities to develop their skills and experience in particular fields, with an eye on future employment.

In 2017, multiple courses were held as a continuation of the successful program, with many sessions provided to the Thrive client base with over 60 women participating. The exposure to new skills and spaces has allowed participants an entry point to career pathways.



SOBHIYE  
WORKSHOPS



In 2017, over **60** women participated in Sobhiye courses



Each workshop focuses on a specific industry, targeting spaces that do not require specific or mandatory credentials and qualifications for employment





## Football in the Park

The Football in the Park program is an ongoing initiative that aims to bring together young recent migrants in football games in local parks.

Held on Friday afternoons, and aimed at refugees aged between 7 and 12 years, the program seeks to encourage young people to engaging in sports and community activities. The program has been run on a seasonal basis throughout 2017, attracting both clients and a large number of local young people, with attendees networking and enjoying an organised competition.

The program is run with a number of partners, including Creating Chances, Football United, Liverpool MRC and Liverpool City Council.



## Xpressive Barista Courses

The Xpressive Barista courses are a three-day course for new migrants and refugees aged between 16 and 25.

The course focuses on Coffee-Making and Food Safety Certificates and works on building the skills and experience of participants in preparation for roles as professional Baristas.

The course was held multiple times in 2017, covering the core elements and demands of a role at a café, ensuring students emerge from the sessions with all the necessary skills to join the hospitality industry. Graduates from the program also took part in multiple LMA programs and events, including providing the coffee at the National Mosque Open Day and Community Wellness Expo.



## Universal Cooks

Universal Cooks is a five-week educational program based in high schools that seeks to educate young IEC students on life skills associated with food and cooking. Focuses include grocery budgeting, healthy eating, nutritional information, food-labelling and cultural awareness, all within a hospitality setting.

The program culminates in cooking classes for the students that integrates all the knowledge and experience gained over the four weeks, with students exhibiting increased confidence, self-esteem and positivity at the conclusion. Students get to cook their favourite meals and build on the elements of the course.

The program has run successful courses in sixteen classes across three different schools, engaging 208 students since inception.





Football in the Park is aimed at refugees aged between 7-12 years



The Universal Cooks program has run successfully in:



16 classes across 3 different schools engaging 208 students



The Xpressive Barista courses are aimed at migrants and refugees aged between 16-25 years



JobKit involves 4 workshops that go through an extensive workbook that covers looking at goals, developing a resume, cover letter and finally interview preparation.



### JobKit

The JobKIT program is an initiative that was developed in 2017 to better prepare young recent migrants for job applications and career pathways. Built on the back of feedback on the many programs under Thrive, JobKIT focuses on goal setting, resume writing and preparations for job interviews.

The program is run at multiple schools, as well as at different Navitas campuses and independently at the LMA.

The course involves 4 workshops that go through an extensive workbook that covers looking at goals for young people, developing a resume and cover letter and finally interview preparation and mock interviews.

The program has been a great success in the multiple iterations it was run in 2017, with attendees finding the particular focus on careers and practical benefits something they can build upon and find work with.

### Through my Story

Through My Story is a powerful new program innovated by the Thrive team, with a focus on developing a platform for young recent migrants and refugees to tell their stories, share their experiences and connect with people via storytelling techniques.

The workshop focuses on developing photography skills, allowing and encouraging the attendees to share their experiences via photos and film. The initiative involves three projects run by experienced professionals and attracted a large number of clients.

The attendees are asked to share three images to then describe their life. The stories that emerge are inspiring and powerful, providing opportunity for the clients to build a portfolio of work.



### Syrian Youth Group

The Syrian Youth Group is a unique collective that evolved out of a camp held towards the end of 2016 and in 2017 evolved to become a full-fledged movement that stands independent of other programs and supported by the Thrive Team.

The initiative involves a group of young clients from Syria coming together and organising themselves into a coherent group that organises gatherings and camps. In the past year they held multiple events, including barbeques and picnics, in addition to outings and the camps.

Most importantly, the group developed an active Facebook group that is consistently updated and has built a network of support that seeks to help members of the collective prepare for and attain employment.

The group's development has been a very positive outcome in 2017 as seeing the clients coordinate events and gatherings has brought great pride to the Thrive Team.



In the past year, Syrian Youth Group held multiple events, including barbeques and picnics, in addition to outings and the camps.



In the Through My Story program, attendees are asked to share 3 images that describe their life

Our  
Community,  
in Future



**LMA**  
LEBANESE MUSLIM ASSOCIATION

[www.lma.org.au](http://www.lma.org.au)









*Our Community, Our Future*

For more information contact the LMA:

**p:** +61 2 9750 6833  
**e:** [info@lma.org.au](mailto:info@lma.org.au)  
**w:** [www.lma.org.au](http://www.lma.org.au)  
**a:** 71-75 Wangee Road, Lakemba NSW 2195

 [lebanese.muslim.association](https://www.facebook.com/lebanese.muslim.association)  
 [lebanesemuslimassociation](https://www.instagram.com/lebanesemuslimassociation)