

The LMA Review

A Biannual newsletter, Informing Our Community



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About the LMA

LMA History

The Lebanese Muslim Association (LMA) was established in 1962 by a group of Lebanese immigrants. Its aim was to provide social, religious, educational and recreational services for the Muslim Community in Australia. The LMA set out to unify the community with a common place of worship, and in 1972 began the construction of one of Australia's largest mosques, Masjid Ali ibn Abi Talib.

The LMA has worked with government agencies, not-for-profit organisations and individuals on small and large projects providing much needed services and awareness of Islam.

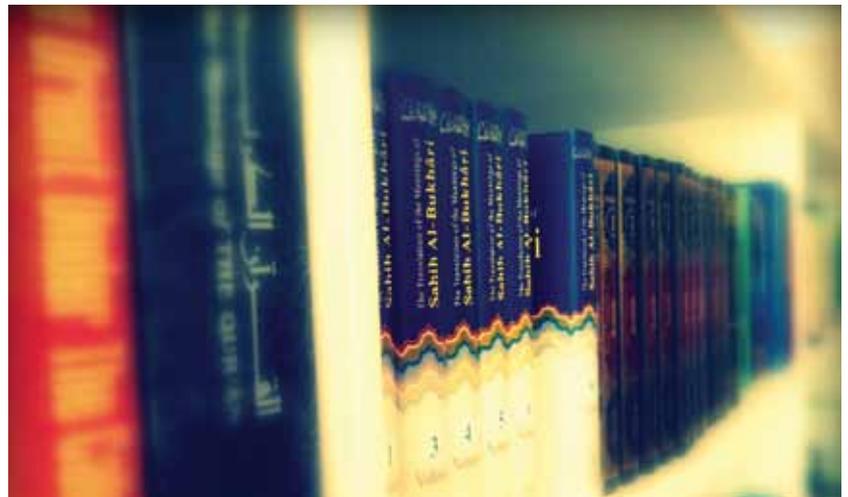
Over the last 40 years, the LMA has grown to be the leading Islamic grassroots, community-based organisation in Australia.

Currently, the LMA manages one of Australia's largest Mosques and has become one of Australia's largest Islamic not-for-profit organisations.



Objective

- The LMA is dedicated to assisting in the growth of solid, strong, sustainable, articulate, and effective Muslim communities. When Muslim communities are healthy and strong, the positive and uplifting impact of the Muslim presence will be felt throughout Australia.
- 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 is committed to working on the national level to promote and protect the interests of Muslims in Australia. As a grassroots organisation, 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 has a greater vision for Australian Muslims and is committed to attaining a world-class organisation for the Muslim community.
- The LMA is open to all Muslims, regardless of their ethnic, economic, language or racial background. In fact, Muslims of Australia form a global rainbow of backgrounds. The LMA welcomes the participation of all segments of the diverse Muslim population and encourages their voice and presence in the LMA's activities.



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Mission Statement

- To innovate and build resilient inclusive communities to help Australian Muslims achieve their full potential.
- To develop leadership to strengthen the Australian Muslim community.
- To serve and engage Muslims by promoting and advocating social harmony in a multicultural environment.
- To enhance understanding of Islam, empower Australian Muslims and build a better future for the Australian Muslim community.

President's Message

It has been a busy six months for the LMA and a difficult time for the Australian Muslim Community. Terror raids, young Muslims slipping overseas to join Daesh, new counter-terror legislation, intense media coverage by the media and a huge spike in attacks upon Muslims, it appears as if Islamophobia has become an accepted norm. The LMA has been working assiduously towards the restoration of hope within the Australian Muslim community, and to alleviate any cause of concern to the community at large. The Quran teaches us "O you who believe! Strengthen yourselves with resolution and prayer. Indeed Allah is with those who persevere in adversity." Islam is a faith of optimism and this must become a part of our public and private discourse. It is essential that we remind ourselves of our common heritage and aspirations; highlighting what unites us and avoiding the legitimisation of stereotypes surrounding one another.

This is a time where the Australian community, and Muslims living as a cohesive unit within this community, must work together to restore what makes us human and a family, and not allow fear and ignorance to drive us apart.

Self-belief is an intrinsic value in the restoration of familial bonds. We cannot allow the difficulties that face our community to immobilise us. The Australian Muslim community must evolve beyond, and in spite of, the hardships it is facing. We cannot afford to isolate ourselves and react, but embrace and participate. We must work in collaboration with one another and understand that our community, our family is not always infallible.

The Lebanese Muslim Association does not only speak of unity and of being one family, it is constantly striving to enact this. Alongside its deployment of over 13 projects which range from youth leadership and development to capacity building projects, the LMA has also been developing an Aged Care facility for the Muslim community and obtaining accreditation to operate an Out of Home Foster Care Agency to overlook the cultural and religious needs of foster children within our community. Moreover, the association has also been lobbying the state coroner to open on weekends and public holidays so that our community can provide our deceased with the respect of an expedient burial.

We all must remember that the world we want to build and the changes that we want to make must begin in our hearts and in our actions, the Qur'an teaches us that "...Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves". Before we espouse change in society, we need to change ourselves and as the LMA is developing and furthering its vision for our community, it is important that we have your support, your dua'a and the blessings of Allah SWT.

With Peace,
Samier Dandan

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Lakemba Mosque

The Imam Ali Bin Abi Taleb Mosque (also known as Lakemba Mosque) is one of the largest mosques in Australia.



It is owned and managed by the Lebanese Muslim Association. The Mosque is open for the five daily prayers and conducts weekly lectures in Arabic, English and Tajweed classes for youth and adults. Friday Jumm'ah Prayers are also held onsite.

The mosque runs mosque tours for schools and organisations in NSW. In the past few months, over 40 tours were done that included several hundred students and community members.

In order to ensure that prayers run smoothly, the LMA has made a multitude of adjustments to the Mosque such as the installation of a Solar System to power the mosque and the upgrade of lighting to energy efficient lighting. The mosque has also been re-painted along with the upgrade of the air

conditioning and microphone and speaker system to ensure all visitors of the Mosque can have a better and more comfortable experience.

Eid al Fitr and Eid al Adha prayers were held at Lakemba Mosque on the 6th of August and 4th of October. Over 40,000 Muslims attend the mosque to celebrate both Eids. The LMA worked in conjunction with Canterbury council and local Police officers to ensure Wangee Road was safely closed in order to make room for worshipers to pray comfortably and in allowing for ample alternate parking spaces. As per every Eid, LMA president Samier Dandan delivered his Eid address to community members present at the morning prayers followed by various Member of Parliament who addressed the community.

Hajj

The LMA offers a Hajj package every year to the individuals who wish to fulfill such an intrinsic aspect of their faith and spiritual journey. The LMA Hajj organisers met with the attendees who received an intensive crash course on what they need to do and what is expected of them. They were each given a Hajj Guidebook detailing all the relevant information they will need in order to ensure the pilgrims' journey is as smooth and enjoyable as possible. This year's Hajj group departed Sydney on the 11th of September to make their journey to fulfill the annual pilgrimage to Mecca that every able-bodied Muslim must make once in their lifetime.



LMA Annual Iftar

Every year the Lebanese Muslim Association holds an Iftar in the Grand Function Hall. The Iftar accommodated over 250 people from a diverse range of backgrounds breaking their fast and praying with one another. The event was hosted by Sahar Dandan, ECG Programme Director, and was a constructive form of engagement between Australian Muslim community members, leaders

and politicians. The event also raised awareness of the LMA's projects through addresses from LMA president Samier Dandan, general manager Khaled Alameddine, the Grand Mufti of Australian, Dr. Ibrahim Abu Mohammed, the Imam of Lakemba Mosque Shaykh Yahya Safi, the honorable Jason Clare and Senator the Honorable Concetta Fierravanti-Wells.



LMA Quran and Shariah College

The LMA Quran and Shariah College was designed to provide the community with access to an extensive amount of knowledge in Islamic subjects and practices to add depth and comprehension for those seeking to increase their understanding of the faith.

The school currently has three levels of student enrolment for various age groups and has three main components:

1.

Islamic Studies:

Students learn basic Islamic creed, including morals and manners, an introduction to the five pillars of faith, with the teachings and life of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



2.

Advanced Quran Program:

Students memorize the whole Quran, at 1.5 hours per week where applicants must have a solid knowledge of the Quranic recitation

3.

Quran memorisation:

the aim of this programme is to memorise one chapter every term, 4 in total per year directly from a Shaykh or a qualified Quran teacher. In 2013, the LMA introduced Quran recitation and Ijaza and the provision of several forms of Quran recitation.

Engage Challenge Grow (ECG)

What is ECG?

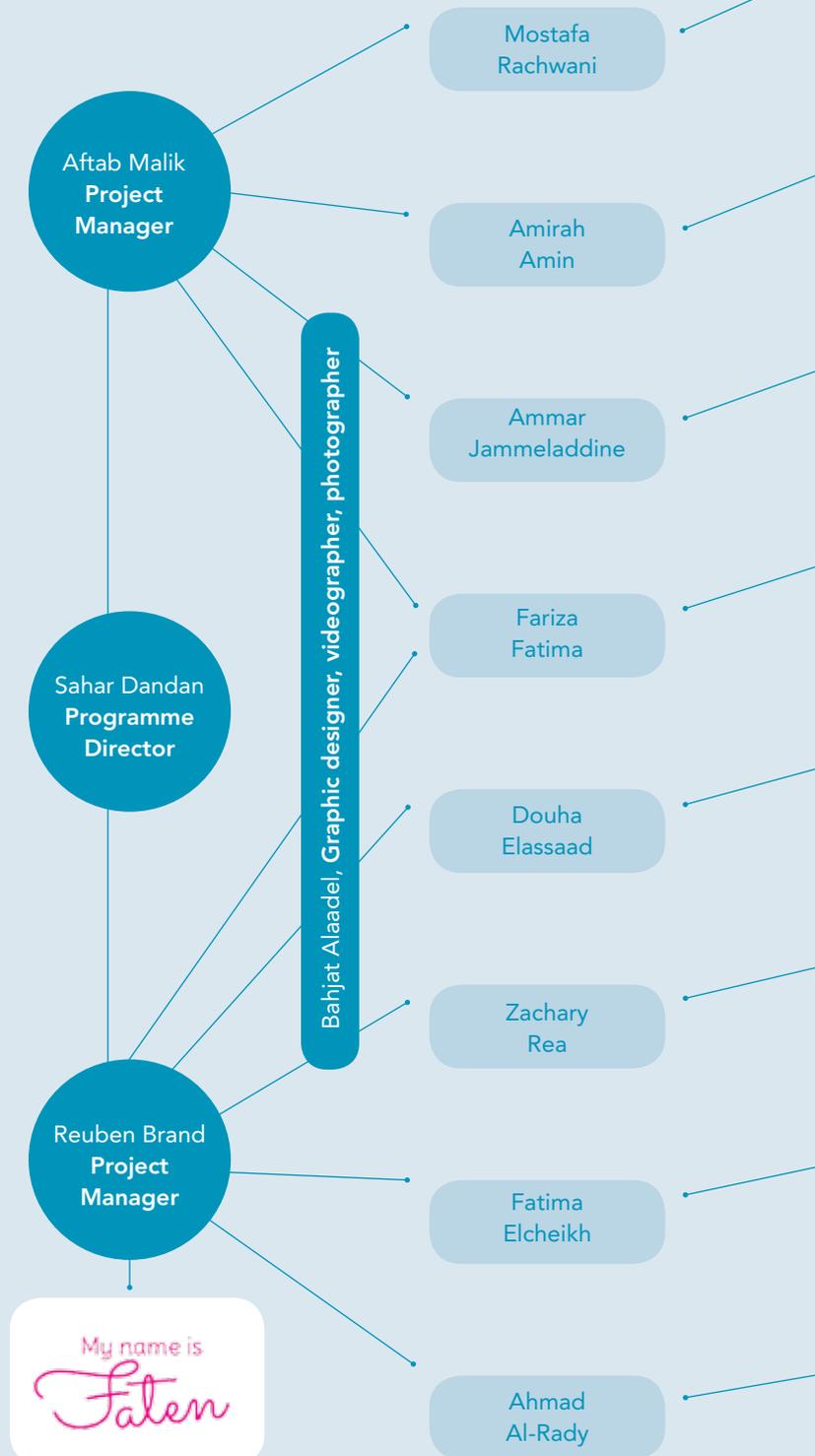
The Engage, Challenge, Grow (ECG) initiative is a set of projects that help promote mutual respect, fairness, inclusion and a sense of belonging. Moreover, they address some of the root causes of the problems facing the Australian Muslim community such as cultural, racial and religious intolerance.

The ECG programme contributed to many of the LMA's initiatives in 2014. Financially supported by the Department of Social Services, ECG was run through the Lebanese Muslim Association with the primary goal to promote social cohesion within the Australian Muslim community and foster mutual respect and understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims living in Australia.

ECG supported the development of various projects and programmes to encourage the growth and advancement of the Australian Muslim community via the integration of arts, sports, mentorship, education and leadership. All projects share a common denominator of exposing participants to ideas of social cohesion, engaging with and being part of the wider society. They also encourage the community to be law-abiding citizens, and contribute to the society in which they live in.

The projects focus on building resilience, addressing social exclusion and supporting vulnerable communities with an emphasis on breaking down stereotypes, and empowering those communities with tools to navigate western societies.

Who is ECG?



Conference Team



Toolkit For Change



Free Legal Clinic Running when needed

The LMA has recently begun providing free legal consultations with a focus on family and criminal matters. This programme is being run as a part of the Toolkit for Change project.

The consultations are run by appointment after emailing info@lma.org.au with a name, contact number and brief description of your matter. Alternatively the LMA can also facilitate confidential discussions by calling (02) 9750 6833. This programme would not be able to take place if not for the assistance of Mona El-Baba.

A quote from one of the people that utilised this service: "Thank you, you guys really helped me- I really had no idea what to do and I was so pressured at that time I couldn't think properly... you guys helped me to make the best decision under those difficult circumstances".



The Wassiyah Workshop | Friday the 24th October 2014

The LMA held a free will workshop in an attempt to build and enhance the community's knowledge of Islamic legal obligations regarding wills. Mr Imran Khan, an Islamic wills specialist from RMB lawyers and Shaykh Yahya Safi addressed the rules regarding inheritance. They addressed both Shariah and Australian legal requirements, ensuring that a will is both pleasing to Allah and valid. A Q & A followed this, allowing attendees to ask any questions regarding the arrangement of assets, funeral wishes and charitable gifts. This event also offered all attendees free Islamic will kits.



Anti-Terror Law Workshop | Upcoming

The Anti-Terror law workshop is a combined effort of the LMA's Toolkit for Change and the Muslim Legal Network. The workshop will offer a much needed opportunity to shed some light and understanding as to the recent legislative changes, their impact on the Australian Muslim community and the relevant rights and responsibilities of Australian citizens.



Positive Intellect Programme

The programme enabled young people to develop their knowledge, build understanding and equipped them with the theological fundamentals that contextualise and indigenise their identity as Australian and Muslim.

It recognised the impact of colonialism, foreign policy and Islamophobia on the disenfranchisement of many young Muslims living in the West as well as the disconnection from authoritative centres of learning. The programme covered topics ranging from an introduction to Shariah and its ethical foundations to the development of the concept of citizenship in the West.

Delivered over the span of six weeks, the PiP is an intensive programme aimed to equip its students with the intellectual tools needed for young Muslims to navigate through the challenges they face while living in the West. Aftab A. Malik, a UN Alliance of Civilization “global expert” on Islam facilitated and delivered the seminars to a class of diverse young Australian Muslims whilst encouraging open discussion and intellectual discourse. Aftab is currently simultaneously teaching two PiP classes, PiP Public, an open-to-all-ages programme and PiP 2, delivered to graduates of PiP 1, run throughout 2013 and 2014 to several groups of young Australian Muslims.

Think Again Initiative



An extension of the LMA 'Think Again' initiative, the Think Tank recruited 11 motivated and intelligent young Australian Muslims, with training in areas such as advocacy and media and feature writing. They also undertook the Positive Intellect Programme over the span of seven weeks. Their training was completed in May, it aimed to empower and equip them with the resources necessary to intellectually tackle issues facing their generation today. Upon the completion of training, Think Tank members went on to develop events and programmes under the guidance of the 'Think Again' Project Officer.



Creating Connections Iftaar | Tuesday the 22nd of July

The LMA's first Iftaar aimed at young members of the Muslim community and media representatives. Creating Connections was hosted by Think Tank member Naveen Krishnasamy. Creating Connections addressed the delicate relationship between the Muslim community, the media and the need for a positive relationship between the two. Contributing to

this discussion were young Australian Muslims who have worked within the Australian Muslim community and studied and witnessed the relationship between Australian Muslims and the media. Australian Federal Police Community Liaison Officer Amna Kara Hassan, LMA Project Office and Journalism graduate, Mostafa Rachwani and SBS Journalist Widyana

Al Ubudiy addressed the audience and touched on a diverse range of topics, which have impact and will continue to impact the relationship between Muslims and the media. The event offered an important and rare opportunity to Australian Muslim youth to network with media representatives from numerous outlets.



Iraq to Gaza | Politics of Fear | Friday the 15th of August

An open discussion panel featuring a Q & A, From Iraq to Gaza was hosted by the articulate Amal Awad and featured a diverse range of speakers from various backgrounds on the implication and consequences of crises overseas on our local communities. The panel featured Dr Peter Slezak, an associate professor of philosophy at the University of New South Wales, Associate Professor Jake Lynch, the Director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPACS) at the University of Sydney, Antony Loewenstein; an independent Australian journalist, blogger and documentarian, Tony Burke a member of parliament representing the Labor Party, Craig Laundry; a member for parliament representing the Liberal Party, Aftab A. Malik, a designated "Global Expert" on Muslim affairs for the United Nations' Alliance of Civilizations and Peter Manning, an Australian author, academic and journalist. This free event saw over 250 attendees and allowed for a robust, honest discussion regarding the consequences of international conflict, engagement between communities and respected governments and the politics involved.

Hidaya Leadership Programme



A programme designed for aspiring young Muslim leaders who are passionate about their faith and driven to develop and further their skills in order to give back to their community and portray Muslims in Australia in a positive light. Upon the completion of training in areas such as advocacy, project management and media, the 18 members organised a series of successful projects and charity events with the guidance and assistance of the Leadership Programme Project Officer.



City to Surf | Sunday the 10th of August 2014

The LMA Leadership team participated in this year's City2Surf, an annual fun run and walk from the City to Bondi Beach, in order to raise awareness and funds for CanTeen. CanTeen supports young people suffering from cancer and assists them as they navigate through the physical, emotional and psychological repercussions of living with cancer. The LMA Leadership team also opened this incentive to the general public, sponsoring anyone who wanted to participate in the City2Surf.



Drawtism | Sunday the 31st of August 2014

Held in the LMA Grand Function Hall on 31st of August, this event invited attendees to play Drawtism, a game of Pictionary helping to understand the communication challenged faced by individuals who suffer from autism spectrum disorder, a lifelong developmental disability that affects the way an individual relates to and interacts within their environment. The event featured fairy floss, popcorn stall and a silent auction used to raise funds for Autism Spectrum Australia.



Vox Pops

The LMA Leadership team has put together a series of vox-pop videos called 'LMA Street Talks'. Vox-pops are short interviews with random members of the public on any variety of questions. These particular videos aimed to develop an understanding of people's perception of Islam and Muslims within Australia. Members of the Leadership team went out to various locations such as Church St. Parramatta and attended events like the University of Sydney's Open Day, in order to approach a wide range of people and ask them questions about Islam, women in Islam as well as Ramadan and Eid. The videos have been filmed, edited and will begin to be released on the LMA Youtube channel after the Sydney Muslim Conference on 16th of November, 2014.

Discerning the Sacred in the Secular Sunday the 12th of October 2014

The LMA's first interfaith panel was organised by members of the LMA Leadership team and explored the issue of maintaining religiosity in a secular country. The panel featured 15 minute talks delivered by Skaykh Soner Corhulu, Rabbi Zalman Kastel and Dr. Rev. Peter McInerney, followed by a Q&A where audience members directed queries to the panelists. This free event, held in the LMA Library on 12th of October, was hosted by Iman Dandan and saw a large and diverse audience gathering of members from the Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities.

YouThink Magazine

An online magazine co-founded and edited by passionate members of the LMA Leadership Programme. YouThink aims to create a platform for Young Australians to be heard, not herded, and to highlight the mosaic of talent, diversity and aesthetics which exist in the Australian Muslim community. The vision of its founders is to share experiences, passions, informed opinions, interests and concerns. The latest edition and all preceding it can be downloaded from the LMA website <Ima.org.au>



Community Awareness and Religious Education

Tuesday 23rd of September 2014

Wednesday 8th & 28th of October 2014

Community Awareness and Religious Education (CARE) aims to provide cultural and religious awareness training to diverse service providers. These workshops featured education sessions delivered by Aftab A. Malik, Maha Najjarine, Sahar Dandan and Amirah Amin regarding basic Islamic values, women in Islam, engagement in the Muslim community and the effect of the media on it. CARE gave an overview of Muslim beliefs and practices within the relevant framework of wider Australian society and the workplace. It also provided an open and friendly forum to ask questions. Originally planned as one workshop for 30 people in June, the CARE team had to re-plan and cater for a larger audience after overwhelmingly positive feedback and organised a second workshop in June and a third larger session in September. This third workshop was held over the span of one day and hosted over 70 teachers, community and social workers. Each attendee left with a CARE information book, filled with the information provided within each education session, as well as a directory of mosques and Muslim community organisations to share with colleagues, thus improving the quality of services provided to Muslims.

As an extension of the educational service of CARE, Sahar Dandan delivered her session to Greenacre Public School teachers in September and Aftab A. Malik delivered his presentation regarding the effect of media on the Muslim community to employees of the Australian Federal Police and the Fairfield Juvenile Justice Centre.

Bankstown Workers With Youth Network (BWYWN) meeting | Tuesday the 4th of November 2014 The LMA facilitated an interagency meeting whereby over 20 youth workers discussed current youth programs and ways to better engage young members of the Muslim community. The network discussed the recent negative media attention, which has been focused on the Muslim Community and programmes run by organisations to teach young Muslims transferable skills which can be used to gain further education and employment. The youth workers also discussed the need to promote a multicultural community, encouraging interfaith dialogue.

Community Upskill Initiative



The LMA developed Community Upskill Initiative (CUSI) to address the lack of trained Muslim youth workers by awarding twelve scholarships to complete a Certificate IV in Youth Work. All twelve students have successfully completed their training and correlated work placement. A graduation ceremony was held on Friday the 14th of November to celebrate their efforts. CUSI graduates are now employed as youth workers, working in youth related programmes as volunteers and interns. Some have chosen to further their studies, enrolling in a Diploma of Community Services.

Sisterhood

SisterHOOD is a free weekly girls group held at BlaKC Café. It is an open discussion session run by a trained social worker and LMA Project officer Amirah Amin, SisterHOOD had attracted media attention by the second session. The aim of the group is to explore, discuss and assist teenage girls residing in Western Sydney to navigate through issues such as body image, career choice and dealing with racism through the creation of an open and honest environment, where girls are encouraged to relate to each other and find common ground.



Together We Are Strong

Legal Workshop

Saturday the 19th of April 2014

The LMA as part of Together We are Strong hosted a free networking and skill-sharing opportunity for religious leaders and workers from religious and community based organisations within the Muslim community. The workshop discussed a range of issues regarding family law and was facilitated by Maha Najjarine from Legal Aid NSW who led the Family Law and Family Dispute Resolution workshop and Danny Mikati from NSW Police who ran the Family Violence Intervention workshop. It was a successful workshop that led to the development of networks with other organisations to better assist Muslim families and couples.



Islamic Psychosocial Skills Training (IPST)

Tuesday 2nd of December 2014

Australian religious leaders and workers' roles range from leading prayers to supporting communities and resolving disputes. Most religious leaders and workers in Australia are well experienced in some of these responsibilities, however there has been little training in the specific ethical, legal and professional competencies to handle psychosocial problems.

The LMA's Together We Are Strong initiative was created to fill this gap. This two-day seminar provides information on how to integrate psychosocial support with Islamic spiritual care for individuals or families who come to religious workers for assistance. Participants will be taught about the Islamic foundations for psychosocial support, counselling skills and techniques, and will learn case studies of common issues brought to imams, professional services for onward referrals, mandatory reporting requirements and strategies for increasing support towards religious workers.



Accidental Counsellor Workshop Wednesday the 26th of March & Wednesday, 13th of August 2014

This workshop provided an opportunity for religious, social, and youth workers within the Muslim community, along with people who are not trained counsellors but often find themselves in a 'counselling role by accident', to network with marriage counselling and conflict resolution professionals. The workshop covered topics such as counselling and couples therapy, relationship education, sexual concerns counselling, family dispute resolution and domestic violence intervention. Over 70 people attended these workshops.

National Mosque Open Day

National Mosque Open Day is a new Lebanese Muslim Association-led project, which aims to breakdown common misconceptions and stereotypes surrounding Islam.



The initiative, as a part of the National Day Of Unity, aims to counteract all types of prejudice, such as Islamophobia, as well as mutual misunderstanding between Muslims and non-Muslims alike, by creating a platform for open discourse between both communities. This was done by having mosques around the country open their doors to the wider public. For a number of years, mosques across Australia have inconsistently held mosque open days. The intent of this initiative was to consolidate these open days into one, unified, national mosque open day.

Lakemba Mosque, as the centre of the event, featured a free BBQ, professional barista, freshly-squeezed juice, jumping castle, animal farm, face painting, henna and more. The day saw over 4000 attendees who partook in mosque tours and Q&A sessions with some of Sydney's renowned Shaykhs.

Across the country, at least one mosque in each state partook in National Mosque Open Day. As well as Lakemba Mosque, participating mosques included: Cabramatta Mosque in Western Sydney; the Islamic Centre of Newcastle; Canberra Islamic Centre; Masjid Salam in Logan City in Queensland; Masjid Omar bin Alkhattab in Adelaide; Hobart Mosque; Werribee Islamic Centre in West Melbourne; and the newly-constructed Masjid Ibrahim in Perth.





Aspire Role Models



The Aspire Role Model's (ARM) goal is to inspire and challenge stereotypes and misconceptions of the Muslim community through interactive presentations of the life paths of successful role models.

The LMA is constantly recruiting a diverse range of role models for this programme including journalists, artists, engineers and athletes. A portfolio has been created for each role model and distributed to over fifteen local public and private Muslim schools. This allows each school to select a Role Model of their choice to present and engage in discussion with students. A video of each Role Model has been released on the LMA Youtube Channel. Thus far, a total of 17 schools have chosen a role model to present to their students including Widyah Al Ubody at Westfields Sports High School and Belmore Boys High School, Billy Dib at Sir Joseph Banks and Peter Gould at Hanans Road Public High School. Over 3000 students have been involved in Aspire Role Models sessions. An ARM magazine is currently being developed to include photos from

our 2014 ARM journey through excerpts from teacher and student feedback.

Anti-Bullying Campaign School Projects

The Lebanese Muslim Association, through the Aspire Role Models programme has worked with 5 schools to implement strategies aiming to prevent and respond to bullying in their school community through enabling students to come up with innovative ideas to tackle existing bullying issues in their school through preventative programmes. The projects will also help to raise awareness about bullying and its dangers through a series of workshops and the implementation of a school-wide or specific bullying prevention approach.





Family Community



Go4Fun|Every Saturday (10am-12pm)

Go4Fun is a free programme, supporting children to become fitter, healthier and happier. The interactive programme supports 7-13 year old children and their families to adopt a long lasting and healthy approach to life. The programme focuses on improving: eating habits, fitness, teamwork and overall health. The LMA worked in conjunction with NSW Health and the Better Health Company in facilitating weekly sessions over the span of ten weeks. These involved children's games, interactive discussions regarding the integration of healthy lifestyle choices, practical demonstrations of portion size, nutrition and discussions on what to look for on food labels.

The Baby Buddies Playgroup | Every Friday (10am-12pm)

is a collaboration between the LMA and SDN Children's Services. It also falls under the LMA Family CommUNITY Project and is a free weekly playgroup for culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) parents and their children.

The public response and attendance has been overwhelmingly positive, with a range of CALD parents registering and joining the group.

Positive Parenting Programme

Every Wednesday since June 2014 The Triple P, short for Positive Parenting Programme, is one of the most effective, evidence-based parenting programmes in the world, backed by more than 30 years of ongoing research.

Triple P reflects a series of in-depth workshops facilitated by Eman Soliman, a triple P practitioner, to provide simple and practical strategies helping parents to confidently manage their children's behaviour, prevent problems developing and build strong and healthy relationships. After three successful workshops 'The Power of Positive Parenting', 'Raising Confident and Competent Children' and 'Raising Resilient Children', the LMA hosted PPP workshops twice weekly under the Family CommUNITY Project, which are held at the LMA library. These sessions were free and open to members of the public.



Free First Aid Wednesday the 15th of October 2014

The LMA ran an all-day intensive First Aid training course on 15th of October. All attendees were awarded a certificate of completion.

My Name is Faten

My name is
Faten

A short film, written by Sara Saleh and May Fahmi, aiming to dispel misconceptions and stereotypes regarding Australian Muslim women. It tells the story from Faten's perspective, a young woman from Dubbo, who finds herself shouldering the responsibilities of keeping her family afloat after the unexpected death of her father and her family's move to Sydney. The film will premiere on Saturday 15th of November at Hoyts Cinema Paris and features a panel discussion with writers, directors and cast.



Sydney Muslim Conference

Sit Down For Stand Up

The LMA is hosting a Comedy night with "America's Funniest Muslim", Azhar Usman, and 'The Tonight Show with Jay Leno' and 'Shaun Micallef's Mad as Hell' writer, Simon Taylor. Hosted by Matuse, this event features 'Australia's Next Muslim Comedian', a call out for aspiring Australian Muslim comedians to send a short video showcasing their talent. Winners will receive prizes and the opportunity to perform alongside Simon and Azhar.

The inaugural Sydney Muslim Conference (SMC) will take place on Sunday, November 16th, 2014, at Rosehill Gardens in Parramatta. SMC aims to celebrate the diversity of Sydney's Muslim community and facilitate an event to enhance mutual respect and social cohesion. This one-day conference attempts to facilitate the transition of the NSW Muslim community into becoming a unit which operates as a cohesive whole. In the spirit of inclusiveness and cooperation, this gathering will engage the community on the common narratives of Islamic history, tradition and spirituality, which formulate the backbone of our common Muslim identities. It will showcase high-profile speakers who will challenge the misconceptions surrounding Australian Muslim identity and explore contemporary influences. Such speakers include: Imam Afroz Ali, Alia Gebras, Peter Gould, Skaykh Soner Coruhlu, Shaykh Adbul Moez Nafti, Shaykh Hassan El Setohy, Dr. Hass Dellal, Dr. Ghena Krayem, Dr. Jihad Dib, Saara Sabbagh, Dr. Zachariah Matthews, Shaykh Ibrahim Abdullah, Shaykh Wesam Charkawi, Yassmin Abdel-Magied and Amina El Shafei. This conference will also provide a platform for Imam Zaid Shakir, co-founder of Zaytuna College (US), to develop a shared vision for a cohesive Australian Muslim community, drawing on experiences of the Muslim community in the US and elsewhere. SMC is an initiative of the LMA and a part of the Engage Challenge Grow Programme. The event's major sponsor is Human Appeal.

GoActive



GoActive is the Lebanese Muslim Association's health and fitness initiative for young women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Established in 2010, the project targets young Muslim women living in disadvantaged areas across Western and South Western Sydney and provides them with opportunities to be involved in sport and recreation. The GoActive initiative is the first of its kind in Australia for Muslim women specifically with the aim of establishing female-only sport teams in ongoing competitions. It encourages physical activity through its constant stream of ongoing programmes such as the Weekly Multisport Programme for high school girls and adult women. These sessions are held at Auburn Girls High School gymnasium and Granville South High School gymnasium and are facilitated by qualified female sports coaches.

GoActive Girls Interschool Trisport Tournament

The GoActive Interschool Trisport Gala Day tournaments aim to provide young females from CALD backgrounds with the opportunity to play sport in a safe and accommodating environment, sensitive to their

cultural needs and, through this, encourage them to adopt a healthy lifestyle through normalising physical activity. The day also aims to enhance interconnectedness between females from CALD backgrounds and connects them to wider communities and local organisations which support the event, as well as GoActive.

The second GoActive Girls Interschool Trisport Gala Day was a one day event held at Bankstown Basketball Stadium on Wednesday, 13th August, targeting 200 high school aged female students from 8-10 different schools in Sydney's west, including Malek Fahd Islamic School, Strathfield South High School and Wiley Park Girls High School. The Gala Day saw friendly games of soccer, handball and basketball, in a place which caters to their needs. Prizes and awards were given to the winners and the outstanding participants.

UniGoal

is an annual indoor soccer tournament, UniGoal is known for its capacity to bring hundreds of women from diverse backgrounds together and provide a platform for unity through soccer. The female-only environment allows for a safe, comfortable space for women to network and make new friends. LMA's GoActive teamed up with UniGoal

(also supported by Football United and Community Migrant Resource Centre) to allow for more women to sign up and partake.

GoActive & Aspire Role Models Sports and Leadership Camp 17th – 19th December 2014

GoActive & ARM Camp will be run as a three-day residential camp targeting female Muslim youth aged 13-17 years, who have been involved in previous GoActive programmes and Aspire Role Model (LMA) events. The camp will enable the girls to connect with female role models from various professions; prepare them physically, mentally and emotionally through sport and recreational activities, interactive workshops and confidence-building activities; and engage with other girls to develop new friendships through team-building activities. The camp will involve a nutrition workshop, sport and recreational activities (including a mini-Trisport tournament, bush walking, swimming and other adventure activities), team building, resilience and confidence-building activities, a talent quest and much more. For more information email goactive@lma.org.au.

Optimus Health And Fitness Centre

Located on level 4 of the LMA building, Optimus Health and Fitness has over 400 members, trained staff, latest equipment and specialised training facilities to cater to all fitness levels. In recent months, Optimus Health and Fitness has introduced a physiotherapy and massage service for both gym members and the general public.

BodyPunch Boxing Gym BodyPunch Boxing Gym offers personal, school, team and corporate training. Head trainer, Billy Hussein, assisted by his brothers, Maz, Nedal and Hussain, has developed a world-class boxing programme, run by qualified professional instructors, to aid people of all skill levels and encourage a physically active and healthy lifestyle.

Karate Optimus Gym now offers karate classes for children aged between 5 and 15 years of age. These classes are open to girls and boys and are conducted by Bilal El Hayek, a professional Karate trainer. These classes aim to create a fun, safe environment for physical and self-esteem development.



Our Community, Our Future

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Our Projects:



AMFC (Australian Multicultural Foster Care)
 Aged Care Facility

The Engage, Challenge, Grow Program is supported by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.