

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



Our Community, Our Future

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About the LMA

About the LMA

The Lebanese Muslim Association (LMA) is a nationally recognised representative service provider with over 400 initiatives, and 40 staff.

It was founded in 1962 by a group of Lebanese immigrants to provide social, religious, educational, and recreational services for the Muslim community.

It is most prominently associated with being the caretaker of Ali bin Abi Taleb Mosque, one of the largest mosques in Australia. More commonly known as Lakemba Mosque, it hosts thousands of people every week, and over 100,000 people across its major events.

With a strong sense of history and purpose, the LMA continue to work towards building an Australian Muslim Community.

Core Focus

The core focus of the LMA is directly guided by its vision.

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



Our Vision

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

Our Mission

To build resilient and inclusive communities where Australian Muslims realise their full potential.

To develop leadership and strength within the Australian Muslim community.

To create a better future for the Australian Muslim community.

To promote and advocate for social harmony in a multicultural environment.









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.

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 works to promote community independence through the enhancement of the infrastructure and network of the Australian Muslim community.

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.

This year has seen us through some of the worst bushfires, to severe drought conditions to the devastating Christchurch terror attack. We have seen some of the worst that humanity can bring and some of the best. As Islam teaches us throughout all these challenges, we must remain steadfast and strong. We must remind ourselves that this will pass and that we must continue to work to support each other and share our faith with those around us.

Through these trials, we focused on building services to meet the needs of our growing communities and improve the wellbeing of our people. We created community development programs that cultivate a sense of belonging and participation and we advocated on behalf of the community.

We have grown our organisation over the last year with a focus on development opportunities for LMA staff and ensuring that we invest in our people to ensure that they can provide better services for the communities we support.

Our ever-expanding portfolio of initiatives and programs continues to showcase the best of what this community is capable of, as we seek to support the local community from babies to grandparents.

Our work with the newly arrived migrant and refugees continues to grow with incredible success, as does our unwavering advocacy at all levels of government for the marginalised and minority communities we represent.

The LMA's religious services; from Ramadan and the Eid Prayers, to its Shariah College and Umrah and Haj trips to marriage and funeral services; continue to provide a place that the Muslim community can connect to. This year we opened a new mosque car park that has allowed for convenient parking as well as finalising the new lift at the mosque for our worshippers.

The LMA's health services launched the AMAN Quit Smoking clinic as well as running the popular Community Wellness Expo which has grown from year to year.

The Engage Challenge Grow and Thrive team has grown its services and continues to provide essential services to refugees and newly arrived migrants as well as services and programs for young children and their families, mothers, Muslim women as well as our flagship events such as National Mosque Open Day and National Unity Week, the SHE Summit, Education Festival and our Teacher Appreciation Awards.

The ongoing impact of our programs is due to the individuals who work to create change and service our community members. Our team at the LMA aspires to embody the kind of commitment, passion and leadership that enables our communities to meet each challenge with patience and purposefulness.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members, partners and supporters throughout the year. It has been an honour to service and work alongside you.

With Sincerity,



Samier Dandan



Who We Are

Board

The LMA Board lead the strategic direction and future planning of the organisation, manage legal and ethical compliance, and oversee financial governance.

The LMA Board is voted in on a three-year cycle and has had over 30 presidents since establishment.





Samier Dandan
President



Dr Mosbah Taha
Vice President



Khaled Alameddine
Secretary



Salim Sukari
Vice Secretary



Maen Akl
Director



Ahmad Awad
Director



Mohamed Said
Director



Abdulrahman Zreika
Director



Ahmad Fettayleh
Director



Raed Halabi
Director



Issam Eid
Director



Ahmad Malas
Director



Moutstafa Kheir
Director



Emaid Dib
Director

People & Culture

Learning and Development

In 2019, the LMA focused on development opportunities for staff. Training in the beginning of the year was aligned to professional development outcomes with 'Fundamentals of Evaluation' and 'Project Management' training delivered. In the second half of the year, maintaining positive mental and emotional health were the main objectives with in house SELFY training and Mental health training delivered by Black Dog Institute to all staff.

Employee Engagement

In 2019, We hosted 2 major employee events, one being an employee games night and another was the end of year celebrations both of which had high staff attendance. Furthermore, we conducted a wellbeing challenge both at the beginning of the year and also at the end of the year. This is in line with the LMA's commitment to providing a healthy and safe work environment to all of our staff.



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We expanded our recruitment practices to include placement students from TAFE NSW and Western Sydney University (WSU).



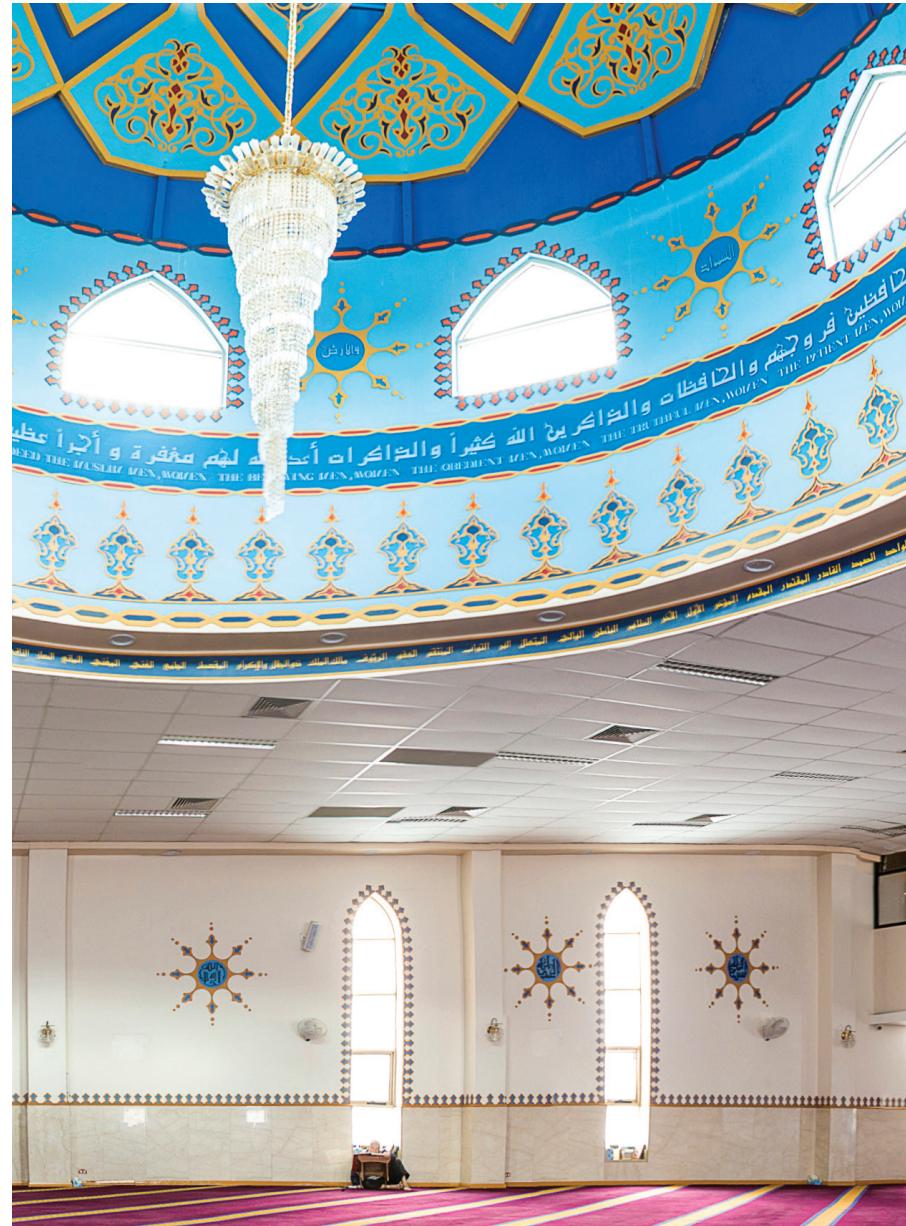


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Community Services

The LMA's community services arm provide local communities with a wide range of services, activities and programs across our key service areas – Religious Services, Funeral Services, Health and Fitness Services, Community languages, and Social Services.

The LMA has offered services to over 4000 community members ranging from financial to education, health, religious and social services.



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Lakemba Mosque

Weekly women's Quran Halaqa is a gathering for knowledge and understanding of Islam, and a place to improve upon our faith. A place where new bonds and friendships are formed.

- Daily Lessons after Prayer are given at Lakemba Mosque
- Islam 101 lectures began in 2019
- Mawlid Al Nabi was celebrated in November with over 8,400 online views to share this special occasion with us
- In solidarity with the people of New Zealand and the Muslim community, the LMA hosted a Memorial Service at Lakemba Mosque

Tours

19 mosque tours were held. The Mosque is open to all visitors, school groups, community groups and the public. We provide guided tours of the Mosque building along with a Q&A including discussion session.

A new car park that caters to the mosque was opened in April 2019.

The lift was opened in 2019 allowing for easy disability access into the main area of the mosque.

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Eid

In 2019, the Eid Prayers continued to grow, attracting over 50,000 people for Eid Ul Fitr and over 30,000 for Eid Ul Adha.

The Eid Prayers at Lakemba Mosque are iconic events in the yearly calendar, bringing the community together for generations and continuing to generate connections and celebration of these auspicious occasions every year.

Ramadan

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 2019 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 Fettayleh Meats that provided meals to over 300 people daily.



The month sees over 60,000 worshippers attending congregational Tarawih prayers.

Food Bank

The LMA food bank meets the needs of the financially disadvantaged. This year we provided food bank services to over 200 families.

Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA)

The LMA provided these to over 500 families in 2019. EAPA is designed to help people who are having trouble paying their home electricity and/or gas bill because of a crisis or emergency. The scheme helps people in these situations to stay connected.

Community Service Obligations Program (CSO)

The LMA helped over 25 CSO offenders complete their community service this year. The offenders participated in volunteering at the Mosque, Funeral washroom, Main office, Food bank and the Gym. The LMA provides this service hoping to develop a sense of social responsibility, helping them with communication skills and interpersonal skills.



Religious Counselling and Marriage Services

The religious counselling and marriage services at the LMA continue to provide important support.

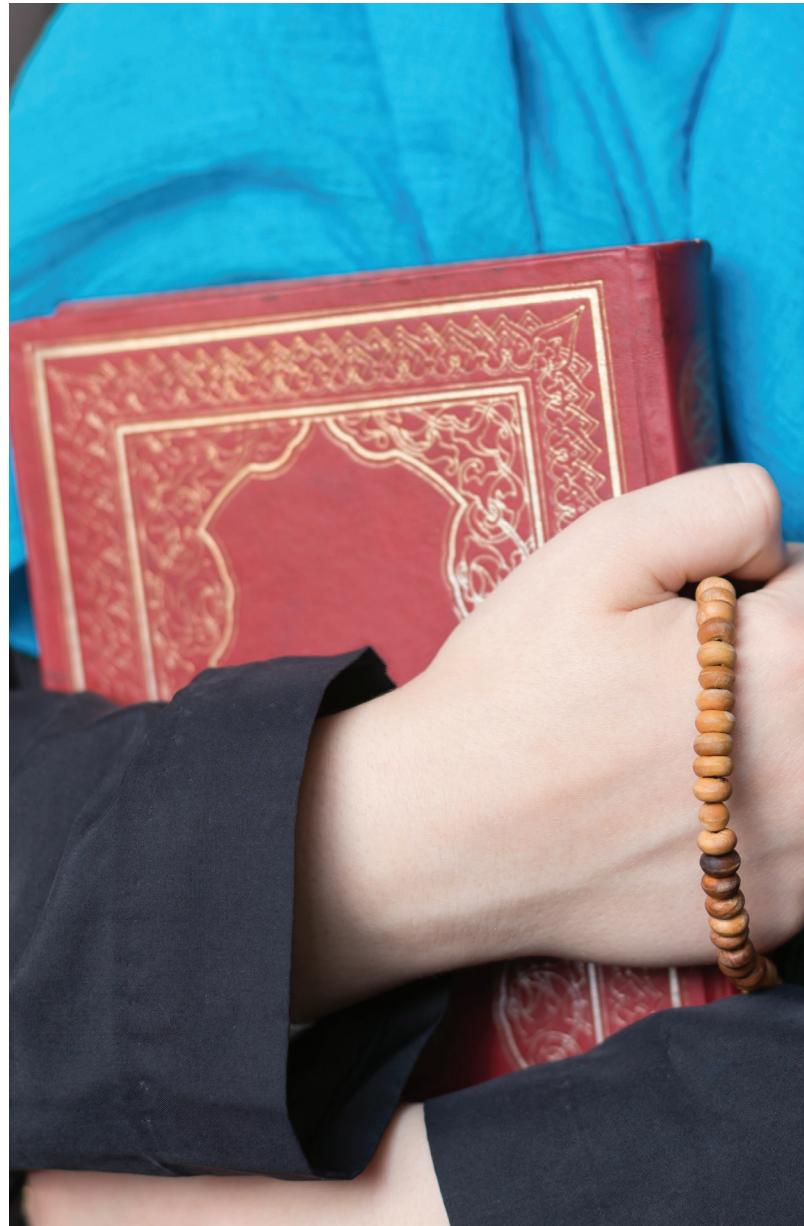
The service currently includes the provision of marriage services, including certificates and Islamic ceremonies, as well as divorce services, family support, death certificates and wider religious counselling for Muslim families provided by the Shaykhs of the LMA.

LMA Islamic College

The College provides its students with Islamic knowledge and skills that allows them to practice and uphold their Islamic values and obligations. The College is divided into the Qur'an Faculty and the Shariah Faculty.

In the Qur'an Faculty, we offer classes to students of all ages and abilities, from students who are just beginning their journey with the Qur'an to those more advanced.

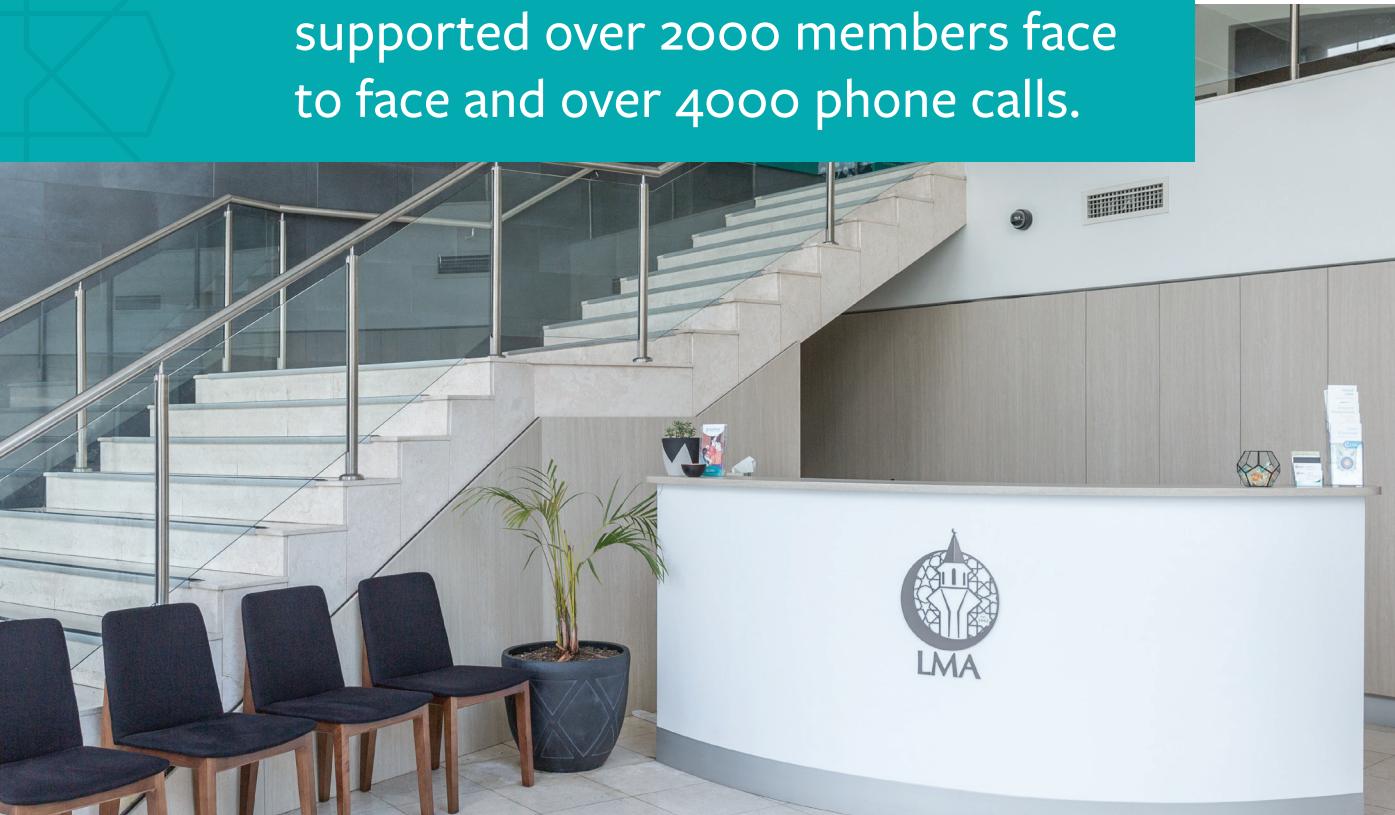
In the Shariah Faculty, classes include Jurisprudence of the Prophetic Biography, Qur'an Exegesis and Jurisprudence of Worship, which are taught by qualified Sheikhs.



We offer classes to students of all ages and abilities, from students who are just beginning their journey with the Qur'an to those more advanced.

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Our reception and referral services supported over 2000 members face to face and over 4000 phone calls.



Reception and Referral Services

In 2019, our reception and referral services supported over 2000 members face to face and over 4000 phone calls.

The services range from reference letters for community members to completing Housing application, Intention of Marriage, and Lebanese Consulate services. We also support the community through our Justice of the Peace services.

Community Support

In its going commitment to providing community support, the LMA is providing a new fitout for a kitchen at Westmead Children's Hospital. The kitchen will be used by parents to support them in being able to stay near their loved ones.

Funeral Services

The LMA provides funeral services for Muslims according to the Islamic funeral and burial rites and in accordance with the Australian legal requirements. We have provided 356 Funeral Services in 2019.

Optimus Health and Fitness

2019 saw the Optimus gym upgrade all its equipment.

New Muslims

Hundreds of new Muslims have benefitted from the packs created at the LMA. The special pack consists of a translated Quran, learning prayer mat, infographics on the 5 Pillars of Islam, 6 Essentials of Iman and Prayer (in English & Transliteration) and Wudhu Chart.





The LMA 2019 Hajj consisted of 115 pilgrims.

Hajj 2019

The LMA 2019 Hajj consisted of 115 Pilgrims. The LMA provides an extensive pre-Hajj course going through step by process of the Pilgrimage. The LMA provides bilingual Sheikhs along with 6 experienced tour guides including a female guide. Pilgrims are guided with knowledge and Islamic practice throughout their journey.

Umrah 2019

The LMA hosted two schools in 2019, Malek Fahd and Al Noori School, along with community members. The Umrah consisted of 18 days of Ibadah, guided tours of Historical sites and daily lessons.

Father and Son Camp

We ran our father and son camp with over 30 fathers joining us for a 3-day residential camp. Workshops and activities included water activities, sumo wrestling, fishing, managing emotions workshop, healthy eating workshop, training, and Islamic spiritual reminders.

LMA 2019 Summer Holiday Program

The Summer School holiday program ran for two weeks in January of 2019. Activities included Bowling and Rock climbing, Healthy Eating workshop, Off the Hook fishing trip, Islamic Storytelling Series.

Islamic Services Accessible to Deaf Brothers & Sisters

Auslan was implemented in 2019 for all Friday Prayer Sermons, Online Weekly Lectures and Specialised Classes were translated into AUSLAN for the deaf brothers and sisters. A breakthrough for both the general Muslim community and the Deaf Muslim Community.



Aman Health Services

Launch of AMAN Quit Smoking Clinic

AMAN Quit Smoking Clinic is a free community stand-alone smoking cessation clinic that provides services in both English and Arabic. The primary therapist is an accredited SLHD Tobacco Treatment Specialist with a Psychology background. Furthermore, health promotion pamphlets, videos and infographic have been produced in Arabic and English to raise awareness on tobacco within the Arabic Speaking Community. In partnership with SLHD, AMAN Quit Smoking Clinic has successfully established a working model to combat community addictions that is culturally appropriate and religiously sensitive.

Launch of Shisha No Thanks

ShishaNoThanks campaign uses social marketing, community, and media engagement to increase community awareness of the harms of water pipe or shisha smoking. It was co-designed with both community members and health professionals to ensure its messaging and strategies are both evidence-based and culturally appropriate.

The project is led by South Eastern Sydney Local Health District in partnership with the Lebanese Muslim Association (LMA), NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service, Sydney Local Health District, South Western Sydney Local Health District and the South Eastern Sydney Research Collaboration Hub, University of NSW. The project is funded by The Cancer Institute NSW.



Annual Community Wellness Expo

Organised by the LMA in partnership with the Sydney Local Health District, the Community Wellness Expo had over 1000 attendees throughout the day. With a strong focus on raising awareness about the key health issues facing communities, the expo seeks to connect members of the many local communities with information on diseases, wellbeing and mental health as well as introducing the large variety of service providers to attendees. The expo features services including 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, and chiro assessments and much more.

Home Care

The LMA received an approved provider status and becomes an accredited Home Care services provider. The service would deliver care in a way that is culturally sensitive to the needs of our elderly and less fortunately within the community.



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The expo seeks to address the challenges of staying healthy and managing diseases, with a focus on preventative measures.



Aged Care

The LMA reached another milestone towards releasing its 112 bed culturally appropriate aged care facility for the Muslim community. The Department of Planning has approved a Gateway determination for the planning application which brings the project closer towards a full planning approval.



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The LMA reached another milestone towards releasing its 112 bed culturally appropriate aged care facility for the Muslim community



Engage Challenge Grow Thrive Programs



Thrive - Youth Transition Support

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.

In 2019, Thrive has continued to provide support services through a number of programs.



“Thrive has created unique, exciting programs that bring out the best in young people.”

Under Construction

Under Construction is an upskilling program for newly arrived young people. The program offers vocational training opportunities in a number of areas such as; White Card, Traffic Control, Forklift, RF Scanning, First Aid and Security. In 2019, 169 newly arrived young people successfully completed one or more Under Construction courses.

Through the support of programs like these, clients have been offered employment opportunities with various businesses.

Drive to Thrive

Drive to Thrive is a program that provides participants with practical driving lessons, to strengthen independence, increase opportunities and enhance employment prospects for young people. The program has supported over 20 clients in gaining independence through driving lessons.

“Drive to Thrive has supported over 20 clients in gaining independence through driving lessons.”



Job Fit

Job Fit (1:1 and group) is a program focusing on developing employability skills in young people to ensure sustainable long-term employment. The program focuses on developing interview skills through mock interviews, resume writing and cover letter support. In 2019 we serviced over 125 clients through the employment pathways support program.



Outreach Services

Through our Thrive initiative we have developed stronger ties with many community organisations and services. This meant that we provided services in 6 outreach locations across Canterbury-Bankstown, Liverpool and Fairfield local government areas. Outreach services spanned across 4 Navitas English colleges, Bankstown Senior College and other LMA office premises.

Sobhiye

Sobhiye is a program that focuses on supporting newly arrived young women in gaining exposure and skills in various career pathways. We have delivered the program to over 90 young women through sessions such as floristry, sewing and makeup including industry visits to places like Designed by Florence. Through our partnership with CORE community services, 29 young people had the opportunity to attend an industry visit. The visit exposed them to different career pathway opportunities within the fashion and design industry.

Xpressive

Xpressive looks to provide newly arrived youth with professional accredited training to work in the hospitality industry. Through our ongoing partnership with CHP School of Hospitality, 39 young people were able to successfully attain a coffee making certificate and/or food safety supervisor certificate. Further to this, a number of young people had the opportunity to volunteer and complete work experience at the Darcy Street Project and Suncorp Café gaining valuable experiences and on the job training.

Social Inclusion and Sporting Programs

Through our partnership with Creating Chances we have been able to service over 100 clients through the delivery of 7 school based sporting programs.

Through my lens

Through my lens was developed to engage young people with limited competency in the English language and focuses on enhancing their skills in digital storytelling.

The project aimed to enable them to overcome the barriers of language through activity-based workshops. We were fortunate to deliver this program to over 65 young people across multiple Navitas English colleges.

“

We provided outreach services in 6 outreach locations across Canterbury-Bankstown, Liverpool and Fairfield local government areas.



Events

Ability Links Soccer Competition

Thrive participated in the annual Ability Links Soccer Competition which saw 50 young people engaged in the event. The event fostered community harmony, linked young people back to community services and focused on the importance of physical health and wellbeing through active participation in community sports. The LMA put together a team of young men who won the event!

Bankstown Senior College Wellness Expo

It saw 40 young people engaged in employment and education pathway support through the sessions and programs we offered on the day.

Fairfield Employment Expo

The LMA thrive team along with a number of local employers, human services, settlement organisations and language colleges saw hundreds of people engage in the annual event supporting the employment and career pathways of newly arrived communities.



Profiling Young People

Sarah (alias name) was attending our employment program Job Fit where she received tailored 1:1 support to address some of her employment needs such as resume writing, confidence in interview skills and support navigating online application. Through the program she was able to develop those skills and create a resume which later allowed her to secure a role at Auspost as a Pushbikey.

Ammr (real name, shown right) has been engaged with Thrive since January 2017. He has participated in our camps, soccer school and Syrian youth refugees' group. Ammr was actively seeking employment in the traffic control sector. Through the under-construction program, he successfully attained his Traffic Control Licence. Just one month after completing his course, he was invited to a group interview secured by Thrive with CATO logistics Traffic Controlling and was successful in gaining employment with them.



Through the under-construction program, he successfully attained his Traffic Control Licence.

Settlement Engagement and Transition Support

Through this service we have been able to establish relationships with local settlement and humanitarian services. We have established and grown relationships with local minority communities such as the Vietnamese Community, Jordanian Community, Yemeni Community and other Arab community groups. We delivered a number of community consultations engaging these communities to ensure our service delivery met their needs.

BroActive

We have facilitated mentorship through our Invest Mentoring to young men we have facilitated mentorship to young men in various Youth Justice Centres such as Cobham and Frank Baxter. Through this time we have supported and mentored over 15 young people.

Through the growth of our relationship with Department of Communities and Justice we have been able to form a strong collaborative partnership with Cobham Youth Justice Centres.

The working partnership has grown and developed to allow for programs being facilitated across the centre to all young men on an ongoing weekly basis. We have delivered programs to over 150 young men throughout 2021. Programs consist of healthy eating and nutrition programs along with Multicultural Day events.

Our Park Jamz weekly street outreach program delivered in partnership with Liverpool City Council provided us with the opportunity to expand on the program and deliver it to young people in the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA. This meant that we could engage young people in a safe space providing them with the services and support they needed to thrive in their communities. The program engaged approx. 250 young people through the two initiatives.

SELFY

SELFY offers both theoretical and experiential learning in emotional, social and regulatory skills that male adolescents need in this complex life stage as they take greater responsibility for their behaviour, their relationships, their decisions and ability to engage with their world through critical thinking. This year we have delivered SELFY to over 60 young men for the first time across 2 schools.





“ We have delivered programs in juvenile Justice Centres to over 150 young men.

Sport & Wellbeing

GoActive

GoActive is an initiative designed to connect, inspire and empower girls and women with an emphasis on supporting the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

GoActive provide opportunities for participation of CALD women in sport, health and education by providing safe, non-intimidating and culturally responsive spaces.

An initiative founded by women, run by women and dedicated to elevating women in our community.

Tri-sports

In 2019 we ran a range of programs including our annual Tri-sport tournament which involved 10 different high schools with 300 girls from years 7-11 participating in 3 different sports in a round robin gala day at Merrylands Park. It was one of our most successful events, partnering with Sydney Thunder Cricket, Western Sydney Wanders and Bankstown Basketball Association to help make this a successful event.



10 different high schools with 300 girls from years 7-11 participating in 3 different sports.

SHE Summit

Another highlight in 2019 was our annual SHE Summit. The SHE Summit this year more than doubled in numbers from 2018 seeing over 300 girls participate in this full day event.

The Summit had inspiring keynote speakers who told their story and showed the girls that they could do whatever it is they set their mind regardless of barriers that have been put in their way. The Summit was held at Western Sydney University Bankstown with girls from various schools and backgrounds attending. We had 8 different workshops ranging from making your own skin care, to goal setting and resilience, AFL, Cricket and Soccer Clinics, boxing with world champion trainer Lauryn Eagle and one of the most popular workshops self-defence.

We had three amazing speakers in Samantha Bloom, Tahina Booth and Haneen Zreika.



EDUCATION.



“The SHE Summit this year more than doubled in numbers from 2018 seeing over 300 girls participate in this full day event.

Testimonials from the SHE Summit:

“ “

**Teacher from
Irfan College**

Yesterday, a couple of teachers and myself had the honour to take our 7-10 Irfan girls to attend the SHE Summit – and may I say... MASHA'ALLAH!

Before I move on to the inspirational guest speakers and the fun filled activities organised for our girls, I want to take this opportunity and make dua for your wonderful staff who are so genuine and beautiful, may Allah protect them always. From the MC's to the ground workers, I was so impressed at how professional they were, with a huge smile on their faces. I wanted to hug every single one of them for allowing yesterday's project to be a success.

Our girls could not stop talking about what they had experienced and all the way back to school they were talking to each other about what they heard and how they feel inspired and empowered. Normally we do not allow for boy/girl communication but yesterday afternoon I watched on with a smile as I overheard our girls tell the boys how amazing the program was and the boys were also genuinely interested in what they were hearing. May Allah be pleased with you all. As an adult, I was inspired after listening to all the guest speakers. I laughed and cried and felt a whole heap of emotions.

Again, may Allah be pleased with you all for allowing us to experience and be part of yesterday's event. I woke up earlier than normal this morning and went for a 5 km run and inshaAllah I pray that I continue to be more active and pray all our students can take something from yesterday and implement it into their lives.

May Allah be pleased with you and your team Sister Sahar – I look forward to constantly collaborating with your team and pray the future is fruitful for us all.

“ “

**Student from
Bankstown Girls High**

My favourite part of the day was the talk from Samantha bloom because it really inspired me to keep going.

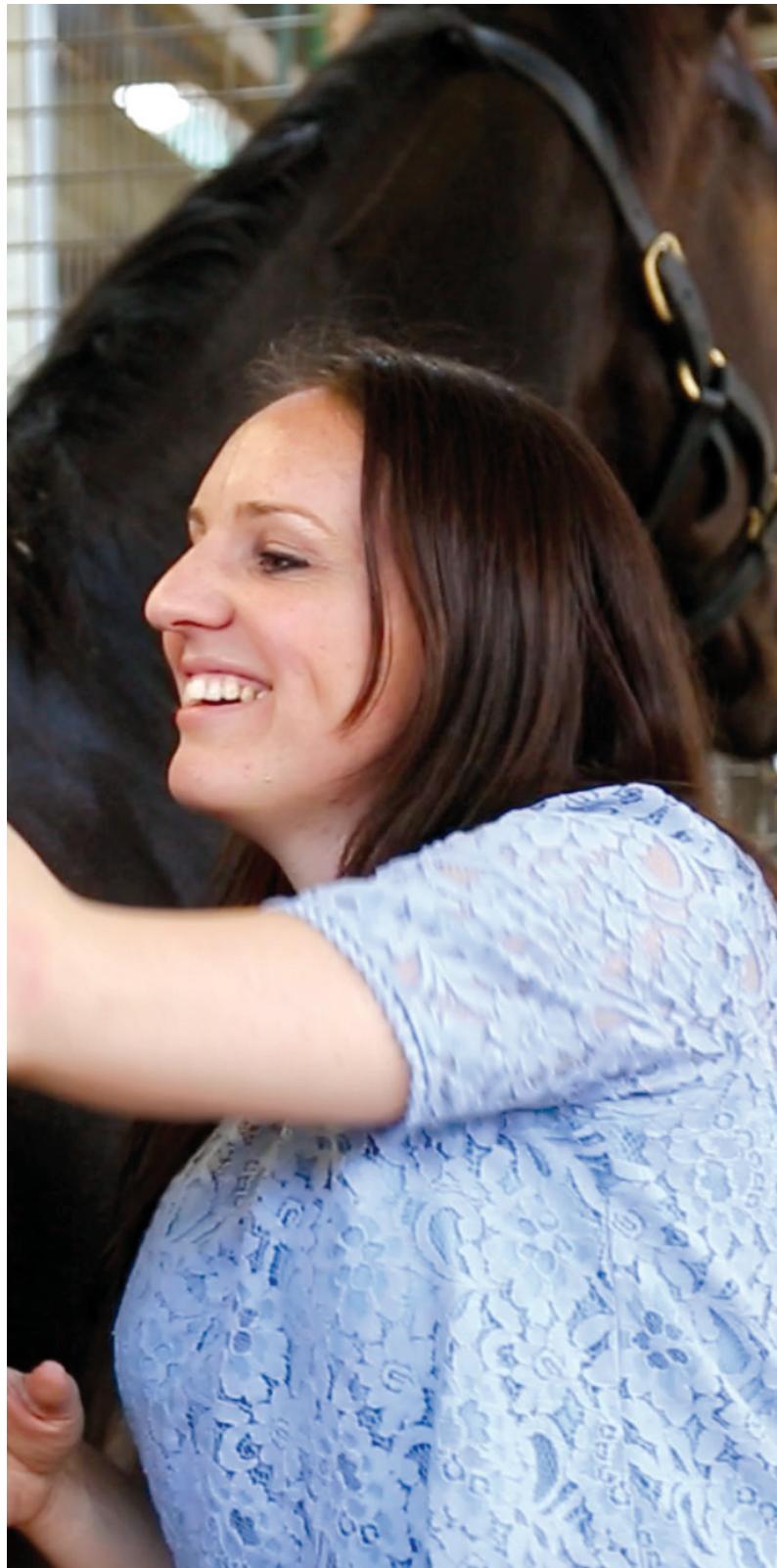
“ “

**Student from Malek
Fahd Islamic School**

An amazing, inspiring experience I will never forget! Mashallah keep doing what you're doing we love you.

Throughout 2019 GoActive ran a Women's Retreat for 25 women over the age of 18, Women's fitness classes including, Brazilian Jiu jitsu, Bootcamp, Boxing, Pilates and Self Defence. We held a youth week activation event at Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs home ground where we launched our SHE Summit report from 2018 and had a mini sports tournament for the students involved, we continued with our ALLGIRLSCAN campaign showcasing girls and women excelling in their field and continued to run our SELFY (Social and Emotional Learning) program for 112 school girls.

Over all had a very successful year building new partnerships and stakeholder relationships which we hope will continue into 2020.



“ We continued to run our SELFY program for 112 school girls.





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 2019, covering a wide variety of programs with a core focus on healthy living and family connections.

Baby Buddies

Baby Buddies is a weekly playgroup, held during school terms for mothers with children aged 0-5. Baby Buddies provides mothers of CALD background with the opportunity to socialise and bond with their children while providing their children with a variety of activities including toys, arts and crafts, healthy morning tea, story time and structured group play.

Starting April 2019, the LMA has partnered with Koorana, a non-for-profit organisation with ample playgroup experience to provide families with a unique playgroup experience and additional child and family support.

33 families engaged at least once in Baby Buddies throughout 2019. Attendance rates have been consistent, and many mums attending have been coming regularly to playgroup.

Mothers who attended Baby Buddies in 2019 could see a better development in their child's social, gross motor skills, sensory motor skills and hand-eye coordination.



Mothers Group

Mothers group is an initiative that was created to empower CALD mothers through connecting with each other, sharing their thoughts, concerns and ideas about parenting challenges and realities. All mothers' groups have been successful in addressing the needs of CALD women, by creating a safe, open space whereby a dialogue is promoted about the realities of parenthood. Each session begins with an ice breaker to create an honest environment with the attendees.

The sessions are unique and address the needs of women in attendance.

A workshop was conducted for mothers about 'talking to your child about puberty at the LMA. Mothers were open and honest about the challenges they are experiencing with their children.

A mother described how her experience was more challenging because of the lack of communication between herself and her mother. She will now implement the techniques that were spoken about in the workshop to ease her daughters' experiences.





GROW

GROW is a program which aims to encourage a healthy lifestyle amongst the children, gain an understanding for the environment, how to care for it, enable them to stay active and embeds Islamic principles in their learning. GROW teaches children about the impact of attitude towards food, exercise, and the earth.

GROW has been an effective program for children in early learning centres. Attendees displayed a great interest in the topics addressed. All the children were engaged and active in group discussions. Children showed great excitement in the practical activities.

GROW teaches children about the impact of attitude towards food, exercise, and the earth.

There was a child that at the beginning of the program who was extremely disengaged, inattentive and at times aggressive with other children. As the program continued, this child started to thoroughly enjoy the program. His passion for soccer balls ignited a fire that made him excited for Grow Active every week. His rapport and teamwork with the other children improved, as well as his engagement and focus.

GROWActive

GROW Active is a physical education program for children aged 3-5 years, incorporating sports as a main tool for change. The program is designed to fine tune children's gross motor skills. It is an opportunity for children to strengthen both their minds and bodies, by simultaneously developing self-confidence and personal motivation. Each Session of the program is aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) whilst also containing new and innovative ideas on how to engage CALD communities.





Ready Set GROW

Ready Set GROW is a program which helps families, and their children transition to Kindergarten and primary school. The program utilises play based learning pedagogies to help improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children.

The program aims to provide an exposure to numbers, letters, and shapes in a safe space, where parents play a pivotal role in their children's development journey. By the end of the program children showed more confidence in socialising with other children and a better development in fine motor and cognitive skills.

Mums and Bubs Camp

Mums and Bubs Camp is an opportunity for mothers and their children to connect and learn in a safe and fun environment. This was time for them to bond with one another and other parents. They learned how to work and grow together as a team, whilst learning more about each other.

Mums and bubs camp allowed mums to spend time with their children without the daily rush. Mums and children had the opportunity to attend workshops and participate in adventure activities together and alone.

30 mums attended the mums and bubs camp and 90% stated that it was great to stop and to just spend time with their children and learn something new.

Tarbiyah

Tarbiyah is an Islamic parenting program aimed at parents of children aged 5-12 years old. It provides families with a parenting program that is targeted to the specific needs and challenges faced by the Australian Muslim community, ultimately helping parents navigate challenging behaviours and introducing them to positive parenting concepts.



30 mums attended the mums and bubs camp and 90% stated that it was great to stop and take some time to just spend time with their children and learn something new.



In 2019, Tarbiyah was delivered in 2 schools. Parents who attended felt empowered that the program provided the tools needed to manage child misbehaviour, how to positively engage with their children, and promoted a dialogue for parents to discuss the opportunities, realities and challenges of raising children in Australia.

Off the Hook

Family Community ran 'Off the Hook'; a Beach Safety day event in conjunction with Surf Life Saving New South Wales (SLSNSW) and hosted at the renowned Tamara Surf Life Saving Club (TSLSC). This free event aims to upskill CALD families and communities with an understanding of the aquatic environment and in beach safety and security.

The program provided CALD, refugee and newly arrived migrant groups with an affordable swimming and swim safety workshop to better understanding Australian water safety.

National Mosque Open Day

National Mosque Open Day (NMOD) is an annual Australian event organised by the Lebanese Muslim Association (LMA) and proudly supported by the Department of Social Services. This event invites numerous Mosques across Australia to simultaneously open their doors to the public and invite people from all walks of life to come in and explore their local mosque. The purpose of this initiative is to educate and promote dialogue between Non-Muslim and Muslim Australians, whilst raising awareness and combatting different types of prejudice, most notably Islamophobia.

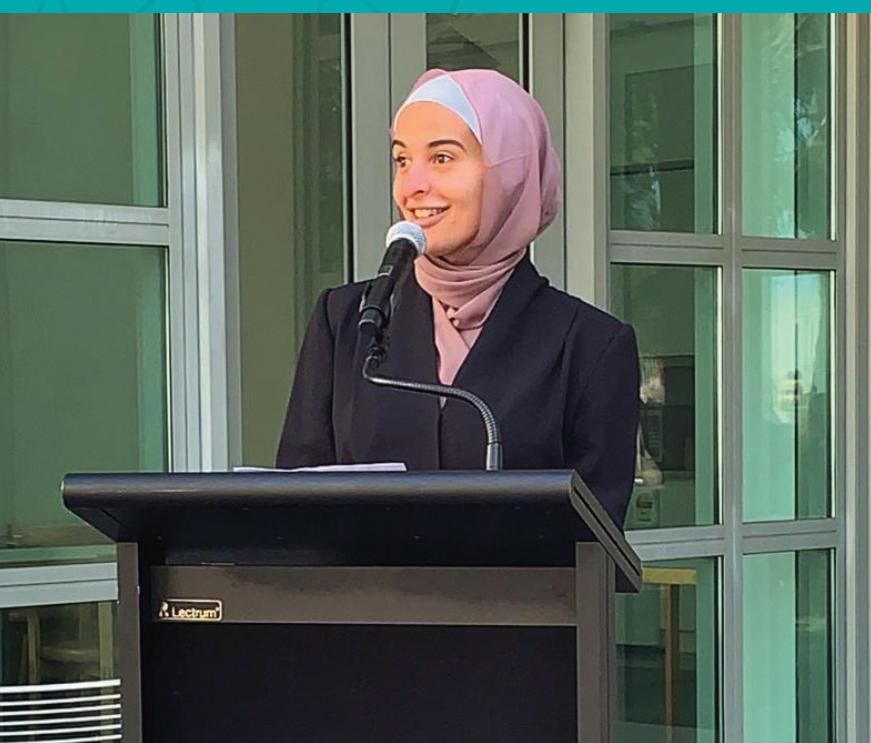
NMOD also aims to inform the general public with a better understanding of Islam and Muslims in Australia by opening Mosque doors and providing an opportunity for the wider public to interact with many diverse and unique Muslim voices. The project is in its sixth iteration this year and the event theme was centred on creating dialogue around 'Faith, Hope and Healing'.

NMOD 2019 saw a substantial increase in Mosques partnering up with the LMA in its sixth year. A total of 22 Mosques participated nationwide this year. The large growth in participating Mosques indicates that there are a great number of Australian Muslim communities willing and dedicated towards facilitating an environment of dialogue and understanding of Islam and Muslims for the Australian public.

A website was established (<https://nmod.org.au/>) and launched in September 2019 to streamline Mosque registrations, as well as volunteer registration and attendee participation. The website provided participating Mosques with access to resources such as a press kit, a manual that includes a standard operating procedure (SOP) for holding a Mosque Open Day, feedback surveys and other resources.



A total of 22 Mosques participated nationwide this year.



National Unity Week

National Unity Week (NUW) (<https://nationalunityweek.org.au/>) facilitates the opportunity for various faith-based organisations to contribute towards an annual celebration of welcomeness.

The goal of these events is to allow organisations to meet new people from other cultures and faiths, to learn from others and understand the importance unity can build for a better future for Australia.

In 2019, National Unity Week (NUW) was divided into three major categories including 'Eat Together', 'Learn Together' and 'Play Together'. Participating organisations were encouraged to host a lunch for eating together, an educational workshop for learning together or hosting a local cricket game to play together.

NUW reflected a weeklong series of events celebrating of Australia's diversity from October 26th to November 2nd, 2019. This year over 30 events were hosted through primarily faith-based organisations who hosted their own events as part of the week.

In 2019, the event was launched at Parliament House in Canberra with bipartisan support for the initiative. The Honourable David Coleman MP and the Honourable Andrew Giles MP spoke at the launch about the importance of events such as this. We have continued the partnership between the LMA and Welcoming Australia (WA), a not-for-profit national organisation that promotes cultural diversity and seeks to engage everyday Australians in the task of cultivating a culture of welcome in our nation.

Education Pathways

Education Pathways aims to design learning experiences that recognise and respond to the individual needs of students. It works to encourage students to be active learners, with the aim of increasing their engagement in education to become active agents within their society. The pathway also looks at widening students' educational opportunities by exposing them to new and innovative projects. It therefore, focuses on providing

additional support and facilitating a diverse range of programs that enrich the students with skills, sharpen their talents and/or provide supplementary knowledge.

“
It works to encourage students to be active learners, with the aim of increasing their engagement in education to become active agents within their society.



Teacher Appreciation Awards (TAA)

TAA enhances mutual respect and understanding between students, teachers and the wider community. This is an opportunity to honour hard working and dedicated educators. This also includes counsellors, teachers, volunteers and librarians. TAA saw the attendance of 70 teachers in October 2019. Over 40 local businesses volunteered their services to make this a successful event.

Sacred Horizon Institute (SHI)

SHI is a four-tiered education and empowerment program for young Muslims. The program seeks to educate and empower young people with the tools to contextualise and understand the developments of Islam in the West. It also aims to address the challenges they face, to develop a contemporary understanding to positively navigate modern spaces and to help them be committed and steadfast in their own faith and belief, while coexisting in a multicultural, multi-faith society.



TAA saw the attendance of 70 teachers in October 2019.

Stand Tall, Speak Out (STSO)

Brings life to poetry and unite people in appreciating the stories of local artists and the insights these provide about diversity within the community.

The program is delivered as a series of workshops that run once a week at partner schools. The program develops students' literacy skills by introducing them to literary and poetry-writing techniques, while enriching their vocabulary and providing them with opportunities for positive self-expression. STSO ran in 11 schools across 2019, engaging over 250 students.

Stand Tall Speak Out ESL

Stand Tall Speak Out ESL is an adapted version of the mainstream STSO program, tailored to the language level and needs of newly arrived students. It is more inclusive of language and cultural

differences and employs simpler ways to foster analysis and critical thinking skills in students.

Write it Out

Write it Out is a sister program of STSO and has similar objectives. However, students are taught the skills through journalism-style writing. This is for students who do not wish to engage in poetry or performance and can be delivered in parallel to STSO. At the end of the program, student's produced writing gets published in LMA's "YouthInk" magazine. This program ran in six schools across 2019.





Education Festival

Education Festival is a one-day culmination of ceremonies and events to celebrate all of the students' achievements who have participated in EPT's programs. This was held three times between December 2018 and December 2019, with over 300 attendees over that year.

Universal Cooks

Universal Cooks (UC) is a 7-week healthy eating and cooking education program for adolescents from refugee backgrounds or recently arrived migrant youths. It seeks to empower newcomers with essential life skills such as healthy eating, grocery planning and budgeting, learning how to read food labels as well as increasing cultural awareness in Australia. Its main aim is to equip them with the knowledge and skills to increase their capacity to source, prepare, cook and share nutritious healthy meals. This program ran over 20 sessions at 13 institutions in 2019.

Trustees of the Earth (TOTE)

TOTE is a five-week sustainability program that targets society and culture classes, and hospitality classes, to teach important global issues that surround sustainability; teaching a 'think global act local' mindset. TOTE engages students with unpacking large ideas like global population, industry, consumerism, waste, and climate change. This program ran in three schools in 2019.



A black and white photograph of a person from the chest down. They are wearing a light-colored, vertically striped button-down shirt over a white t-shirt and a dark, possibly black or dark grey, zip-up hoodie. Their hands are visible, resting on the keyboard of an open laptop. The background is slightly blurred.

4

ECGT Snapshot

Data Snapshot Overview of 2019



JUL
259 SESSIONS
50 PROGRAMS

AUG
435 SESSIONS
54 PROGRAMS

SEP
706 SESSIONS
52 PROGRAMS

OCT
372 SESSIONS
41 PROGRAMS

NOV
415 SESSIONS
51 PROGRAMS

DEC
251 SESSIONS
64 PROGRAMS

JAN
181 SESSIONS
15 PROGRAMS

FEB
221 SESSIONS
27 PROGRAMS

MAR
287 SESSIONS
45 PROGRAMS

APR
264 SESSIONS
44 PROGRAMS

MAY
340 SESSIONS
42 PROGRAMS

JUNE
337 SESSIONS
41 PROGRAMS

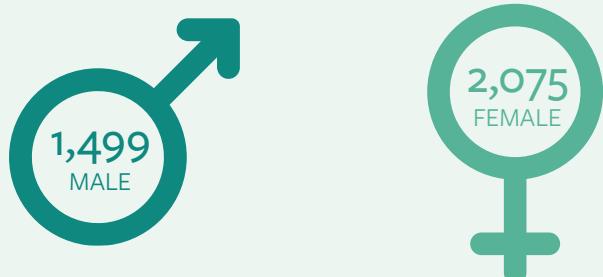
Number of People Serviced Per Stream



Feedback from People we have Serviced

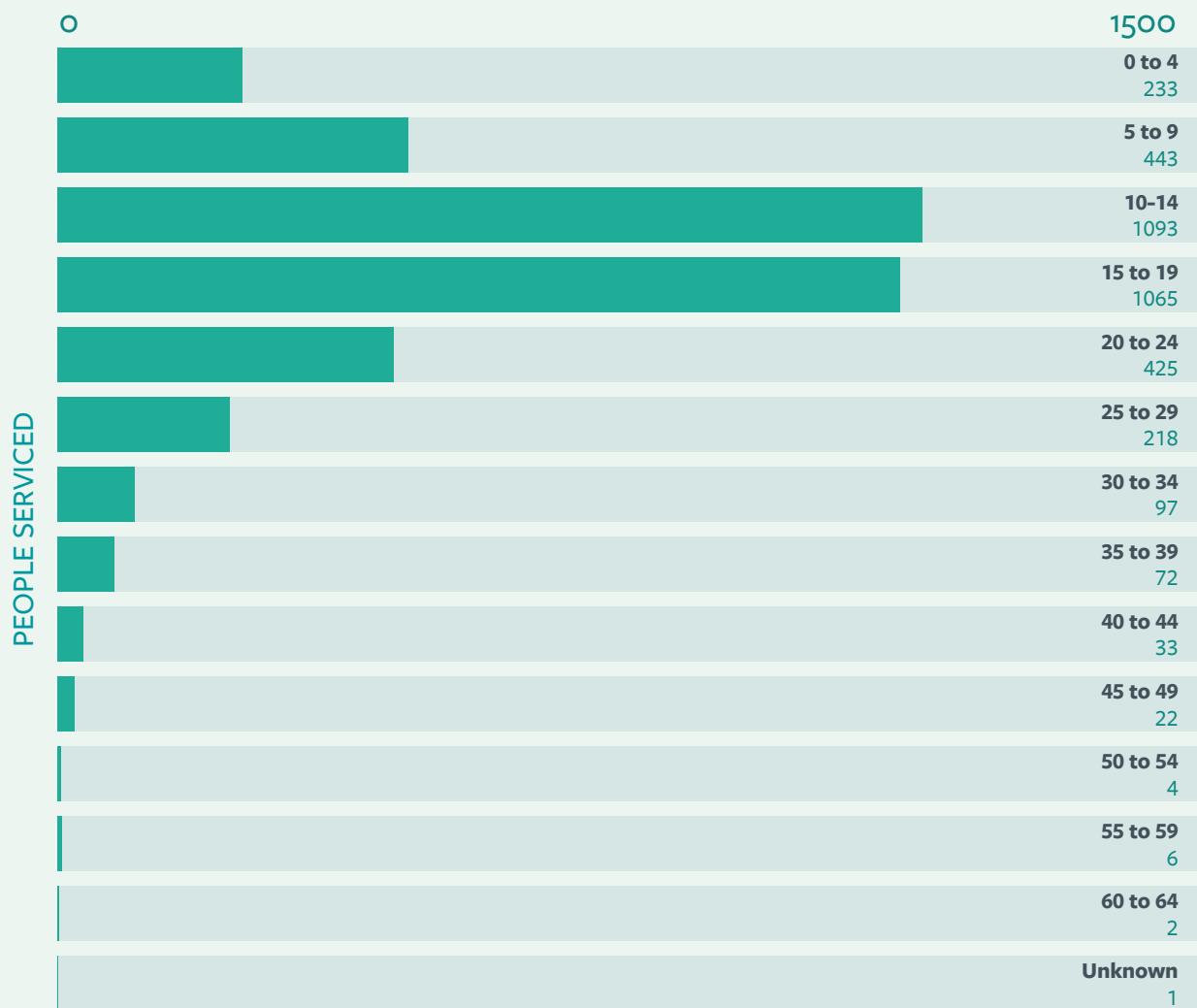


Individual Clients by Gender



Demographics of Clients Serviced During January - December 2019

Age Groups



Individual Clients Country of Birth (top 10)

ASIA



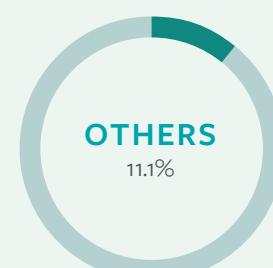
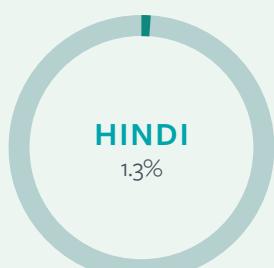
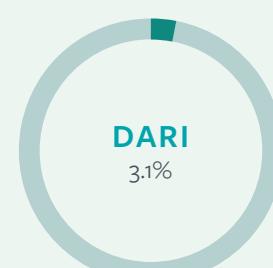
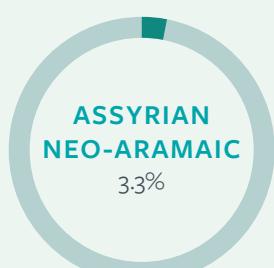
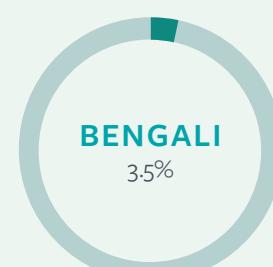
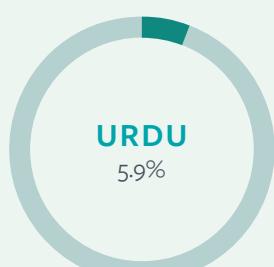
Afghanistan	3.1%
Bangladesh	1.1%
Pakistan	1.9%
India	1 %
Syria	7.5%
Lebanon	2.2 %
Vietnam	2.4%
Iraq	15.9%

OCEANIA



Australia	54.4%
OTHER	10.5%

Individual Clients Main language spoken at home (top 10)



Schools, Organisations and Institutes We Have Worked With in 2019

A

Advanced Kinder Care Pty Ltd
Alnoori Muslim School
Auburn Girls High School

B

Banksia Road Primary School
Bankstown Senior College
Bellfield College
Belmore Boys High School
Belmore Sports Ground
Beverly Hills Girls High School
Bicentennial Park Homebush
Burwood Community Welfare Services Incorp

C

Cabramatta High School
Cabrvale Diggers Club
Chamberlain Early Learning Centre
Chester Hill High School
CHP School of Hospitality
Cobham Juvenile Centre
CORE Community Services

D

DrivezThrive

E

Early Elements Education

F

Fairfield High School
Fairfield Youth Centre

G

Georges River National Park

Granville South High School
Granville South Public School
Greenacre Public School
Greenleaf Early Learning Centre

H

Hoxton Park High School

I

Irfan College

J

James Busby High School

K

Kogarah High School

L

Lebanese Muslim Association
Licenses 4 Work Bankstown
LMA Fairfield Office
Lurnea IEC

M

Malek Fahd Islamic School
Merrylands Park
Miller Tech IEC

N

Navitas Bankstown
Navitas Cabramatta
Navitas Liverpool

O

Old Guildford Public School

P

Patrician Brothers' College, Fairfield
Prairiewood High School
Punchbowl Boys High School

R

Rissalah College
Roberts Park

S

Sir Joseph Banks High School
SkillNet Australia
St Johns Park High School
Star Academy Training

T

Tamarama Beach
The Tops Conference Centre
Thinking Cap

U

University of Wollongong

V

Villawood Bowling & Rock Climbing

W

Warrawong High School
Wesley Vision Valley
Western Sydney University
Westfields Sports High School
Wiley Park Girls High School

Y

Youth works Port Hacking
Conference Centre





LMA Annual Report 2019

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Our Community, Our Future

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