



## Chaldean Australian Society

**The Annual Report  
Submitted to the Annual General Meeting of Chaldean Australian Society  
November 2013**



Picture: Committee's members of CAS and a number of community members

## ***Introduction***

The committee of our society, the Chaldean Australian Society, through its work with the Australian community, government and people, including our Chaldean community and other communities, the committee devoted all its efforts to introduce the Chaldeans, their origin, honoured history, and independent identity promoting the concepts and goals of our community in NSW. The committee committed the hard work and perseverance as one team to achieve the aims by the available means within the current available capabilities as is the case with other societies and organisations working in Australia.

We take this opportunity to mention the big loss to our society, the loss of the late Basim Matti, the society's president and the most active and committed member. His loss is irreparable and its effects were hard to our society members and the Chaldean community. We all pray for him. His efforts to our community are much bigger than writing down in words or lines.

## ***Activities and Achievements***

During the last year we established relations, started small then grew rapidly, with other organisations, Parliament Members, and Ministers, federal and local, like the previous minister for immigration MP Hon Chris Bowen, NSW MP for Smithfield Mr Andrew Rohan, Mayor of Fairfield, and other social organisations leaders, to put them in the picture about the Chaldeans.

### ***1- Visits and Invitations***

- Visit to Archbishop Mar Jibrail Kassab, Chaldean Archbishop of Australia and New Zealand, as an honorary president of our society
- Visit to Mr Andrew Rohan MP, Member for Smithfield to build a strong relationship. He showed his willing to assist and support the Chaldean community.
- The committee, represented by a number of its members, responded to the invitation on the honour of the Hon Kevin Rudd PM of Australia. Among the attendees was the Hon Chris Bowen MP- Federal Member for McMahon, previous Minister for Immigration. Everyone was happy and proud for our attendance.
- The committee, represented by a number of its members, responded to the invitation from the Hon Tony Abbott, Liberal opposition leader Australia, and discussed the situation of Chaldeans in Iraq.
- The committee, represented by a number of its members, responded to the invitation from Mr Guy Zangari MP, Member for Fairfield, to contribute in donations and financial support for local community. We met with Mr Frank Carbone, Mayor of

Fairfield, who was happy for our presence, as with other attendees, supporting our society and community.



Picture: Committee's members with the Hon Kevin Rudd and the Hon Chris Bowen



Picture: Committee's members of CAS with Mr Frank Carbone and policemen

## ***2- Relations with other Organisations***

- The society built friendly firm relationship with Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre. They support the society through providing free advisory services and information relating services like housing, health, education, and non-material and material assistance to new arrivals to help them to settle down in Australia.
- The committee visited and met a number of times with STARTTS, the NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors, and they agree to help us by providing support and advice to be able to provide the best service to our community. We participated in a committee with STARTTS and other Chaldean organizations to issue a comprehensive report about the Chaldeans, their origins, presence in Australia, activities, how they settle down and live with Australians, their components, proceeding with the new life, and future ambitions. This report will be in English and Arabic next few coming months. This report will be the first formal accurate study will depend on it in the future as will be disseminated to all official and semi official departments, and public libraries.
- We built friendly, firm, and honest relations with the Latin Society, Wise Employment, First Step, and New Horizons Organization, NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice. These organizations help in orientation and outreach of our community through seminars and programs of different social and educational subjects.
- Meetings with members of different Chaldean societies and organizations in Sydney and Australia to enhance the relation with them to serve our Chaldean community.
- Last but not least, our society participated in the constituent phases of the Joint Action Committee of Iraqi community organizations and attended most of the meetings of this committee since last May represented by Dr Nizar Shammu. Our society sees it is important to continue with this committee as this has positive results to all Iraqi sects and components in Australia.

Picture:  
Committee's  
members of CAS  
attending one of  
the festivals



### ***3- Direct Services to the Chaldean Community***

We provided voluntary services to our community 3 days a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) from 10 am to 1 pm by the members of our committee and volunteers after training them on basic and essential issues. We helped our community by providing support letters, referral, information, filling and organising different forms, answering queries of a large number of customers especially after the announcement from Department of Immigration in September last year that 1000 visa to be allocated for Iraqi minorities including Chaldeans.

### ***4- Obtaining Grants***

After enormous efforts from the society's president the late Basim Matti we got 4 grants of total \$6500 contributed in buying some office equipment and to cover some expenditure as illustrated in the Financial Statement of current period.

### ***Future Plans and Projects***

- We got a \$9000 grant to be spent on furniture, sport equipment, Print, copy and Fax Equipment of premium type. We are about to receive this sum from Department of Immigration and Border Protection. As we know the reason of delay is because the change of government after the last elections. We hope this grant will help us to improve our free services to our community.
- An electronic website of our society has been established and designed. Its launching was delayed because of the passing situation of the society and its members. The website will be ready after the matters of new committee are stabilised.

### ***Difficulties and Obstacles***

The acute shortage of financial resources is considered as the major problem to continuing the work and activities of our society in general and providing the necessary services to our community in particular. We depend totally on annual membership fee and few donations which are absolutely not enough.

### ***Suggestions and Recommendations***

- Increasing the annual membership fee by a reasonable ratio (to be agreed on it later).
- Continuing in improving the current relationships with all organisations and engaging in relations with other organisation which we do not have with them any activity or contact.



Picture: Committee's members of CAS at a meeting