

# **Chaldean Australian Society Inc.**

# Annual Report 2015

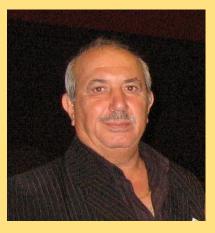
We are the Chaldean Australian Society (CAS), a community-based and not-for-profit organisation established in 1993 to serve the Chaldean community in NSW. CAS addresses the settlement needs to the increasing numbers of Chaldeans arriving to Australia under humanitarian entry and family reunion and the majority of them settle in Fairfield, Liverpool, Mount Druitt and South Western Sydney areas. CAS maintains the Chaldean culture and at the same time assists the engagement of Chaldeans with the Australian society. We welcome and help the locals and others who are in need of our services. Annual Report 2015 - Chaldean Australian Society Inc.

### CAS Management Committee Members 2014/2015

### **Executive Members**



Younan Yousif President



Petros Mansoor Vice President



Dr Emad Arabo Secretary and Administration Coordinator



Bahir Aziz Treasurer

### **Ordinary Members**

Dr Shaba Hurmiz Namrod Ishac Yako Gargees Yako Salim Tobia Accountant Social Committee Social Committee Cultural Committee Ablahad Stifo Akram Hanosh Yalda Sakhriah Cultural Committee Member Sport Committee

### Recognition Statement for Chaldean Australian Society in Parliament of NSW

*Community recognition statement for the Chaldean Australian Society in Parliament of NSW by Dr Hugh McDermott MP, State Member for Prospect, on 27th May 2015.* 

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|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY                               |                |                                     | LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL                             |                      |  |
| MEMBERS BILLS                                      | COMMITTE       | ES HANSARD                          | RESEARCH PAPERS                                 | ENGAGING WITH PARLIA |  |
| Hansard  | Home > Hansard | > Legislative Assembly by date > 27 | May 2015  |                      |  |
| Hansard overview                                   | Chaldean /     | Australian Society                  |   |                      |  |
| Both Houses by date<br>Legislative Council by date |                |                                     | vt   « Prior Item   Item 39 of 60   Next Item » |                      |  |
| Both Houses by date                                |                |                                     | t   « Prior Item   Item 39 of 60   Next Item »  |                      |  |

#### CHALDEAN AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY

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Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) [1.41 p.m.], by leave: It was my pleasure to host the Chaldean Australian Society on 8 May 2015, and then to be hosted by the society on 20 May this year. Since 1993 the Chaldean Australian Society has supported the settlement of Chaldeans into Australian society and has a community-based, not-for-profit organisation to serve the Chaldean community in New South Wales. The Chaldean Australian Society addresses the settlement needs of the increasing numbers of Chaldeans arriving in Australia under humanitarian entry and family reunion, with the majority settling in the Fairfield, Liverpool, Mount Druitt and south-western Sydney areas. The Chaldean Australian Society maintains a Chaldean culture and at the same time assists Chaldeans to engage with Australian society. The society welcomes and helps locals and others who are in need of its services. I congratulate the Chaldean Australian Society and look forward to working with the society as the member for Prospect.

Community recognition statements concluded.

### Refugees' Crisis in the Middle East

#### Meeting with the Hon Tony Abbott, Prime Minister of Australia

On 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015, The Chaldean Australian Society represented by Mr Younan Yousif, President, and Dr Emad Arabo, Secretary and Administration Coordinator, attended a meeting with The Hon Tony Abbott, Prime Minister of Australia, in a roundtable discussion about announcement of the Australian government to resettle permanently 12,000 refugees of the conflict in Syria and Iraq and the support and contribution of community organisations regarding this matter. Religious and ethnic leaders of communities from Syria and Iraq, and resettlement service providers participated in this meeting. We thanked Prime Minister for the generosity and compassion of the Australian government and people for this significant increase in Australia's humanitarian programme.

#### Consultation Meeting about Australia's Humanitarian Programme 2015-16

On 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015, the Chaldean Australian Society represented by Mr Younan Yousif, President, and Dr Emad Arabo, Secretary and Administration Coordinator, participated in the consultation meeting with the Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, about Australia's Humanitarian Programme 2015-16 and with participation of community organisations and peak bodies. We expressed our grave fears for more than 120,000 Christians forced to flee from Mosul city and Nineveh plain to Kurdistan region, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. We urged the Australian government to allocate significant number of visas to ethnic and religious Iraqi minorities in its Humanitarian Programme 2015-16.





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#### CAS Submission to 2015 UNHCR-NGO CONSULTATIONS

April 2015, the Chaldean Australian Society has submitted a written submission to 2015 UNHCR-NGO CONSULTATIONS via the Australian Refugee Rights Alliance (ARRA) about the situation of Chaldeans and Christians in Iraq and Middle East and this submission included recommendations regarding this matter.

#### CAS Submission-Australia's Humanitarian Programme 2015-16 and Beyond

Jan 2015 – At the invitation of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, the Chaldean Australian Society has submitted a written submission on "Australia's Humanitarian Programme 2015-16 and Beyond". This submission includes information about the situation of the Chaldeans in Iraq and neighbouring countries, our recommendations regarding places allocated to Iraqis including ethnic and religious minorities, and other issues.

#### A Letter from the Hon Scott Morrison, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

Nov 2014 – The Chaldean Australian Society received a letter from the Hon Scott Morrison MP, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection regarding the Chaldeans affected by the violence in Iraq. The minister stated that the Australian Government is deeply concerned by the ongoing conflict in Iraq and the humanitarian crises this has caused. He mentioned that Chaldeans form the single largest Iraqi minority resettled in Australia under Australia's Humanitarian Programme with more than 7,000 Chaldeans resettled over the last 10 years.

#### Meeting with Mr Daniel Boyer, Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Branch, DIBP

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014, the Chaldean Australian Society represented by Mr Younan Yousif, President, and Dr Emad Arabo, Secretary and Administration Coordinator, met with Mr Daniel Boyer, Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Branch, Department of Immigration and Border Protection to discuss the Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program regarding Iraqi Christians and other minorities. We explained to Mr Boyer the situation of Iraqi Christians in their homeland Iraq and the situation of Iraqi Christians asylum seekers and refugees in the neighbouring countries to Iraq.

### **Projects**

#### Information Sessions and Support for the Chaldean Community

This project is to support the Chaldean Community particularly new arrivals in settlement issues and to integrate with the Australian society. This involves information sessions and support for individuals, families, and groups. This activity started on 20th February 2015 and holds every Friday from 10 am to 1 pm at Meeting Room, Fairfield Community Services Centre, 25 Barbara St, Fairfield NSW 2165. Dr Emad Arabo, Secretary and Administration Coordinator, runs these sessions with the aid of other committee members and the volunteers. This project is a partnership with Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre.

#### **Preparation for the Australian Citizenship Test**

This project (course) will help the Chaldeans and local Fairfield residents who are about to undertake the Australian citizenship test. This project is funded by Smithfield RSL Club within 2015 Fairfield ClubGRANTS. The first term of this project will start on 26<sup>th</sup> Sep 2015 at Meeting room 5, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Fairfield Community Services Centre, 25 Barbara Street, Fairfield NSW 2165.

#### **Employment of a Community Liaison Officer**

This project is sponsored by the NSW Government through Multicultural NSW – Support Grant. The grant is to contribute towards the employment of a worker that provides referral services. The Multicultural NSW Grants Program aims to promote community harmony and encourages the participation of people from multicultural communities in all aspects of life in New South Wales. This grant will support the Chaldean Australian Society in achieving this.





### **Ongoing Services**

CAS provides free services to our community 3 days a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) by the members of our committee and the volunteers. We help our community by providing:

- Information and advice
- Referral
- Support Letters
- Advocacy
- Case Management
- Assistance with form filling related to Immigration, Citizenship, Housing, Centrelink, Health Services, Enrolling in School and TAFE, etc.

## We Help About 100 Clients Each Month



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