

What's News?



AMF Chairman's Lifetime Achievement Award at the Australian Migration and Settlement Awards

AMF Chairman, **Sir James Gobbo AC CVO**, was honoured for his services to migration and settlement with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the inaugural Australian Migration and Settlement Awards.

The Awards took place on 18 March and were hosted by the Migration Council of Australia. Sir James was presented the award by **the Hon Tony Abbott MP**.

Sir James has maintained a long interest in Italian community affairs and is actively involved in Co.As.It. His current positions include the founding Chairman of the Australian Multicultural Foundation since 1989 - established to cultivate in all Australians a strong commitment to Australia as one people drawn from many cultures, and Patron of the International Specialized Skills Institute - set up to foster a culture of artisanship and craft in Australia.



Peer to Peer: Building Capacity and Resilience Program Graduation

The Peer to Peer Program, funded by the Building Community Resilience grants program through the Attorney-General's Department, engaged 10 Muslim youth from across Australia in a 12 month program to develop their leadership, community engagement and media skills.

The graduation ceremony for the Peer to Peer program took place on 6 June 2013 at Parliament House, Canberra. The ceremony was attended by then Attorney General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP, who presented the young Muslim leaders with certificates.

The AMF has received very positive feedback about the Peer to Peer program from the participants. Some of their comments included:

"I definitely learnt a lot of things. If it wasn't for this program, I wouldn't have come to Parliament House and met the Attorney-General. I've learnt about leadership and media training. I've pretty much just learnt a lot of things that I can utilise and use in my daily life as well as in the future."

"I learnt so much. I am more confident and can now go out and make a difference. Before I used to mix less, but now I feel confident to go out and communicate."

"Everything was valuable. I used the media skills today at the graduation. I can use the leadership skills in everyday life and I learnt how to connect with the broader community."

"I've connected with all the people in the leadership program and I realise that I'm not alone and that I have support..."



The young Muslim leaders, Mohamed Saleh, Alamzeb Awan, Sanober Kazi, Veysel Tapci and Danish Mansoor, at their graduation at Parliament House, Canberra

IN BRIEF...



2013 UNAA Media Awards

The AMF is a proud sponsor of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) National Media Awards 2013. The Awards recognize those in the media whose work highlights and champions human rights and social justice issues and stimulates public debate and changes in public and private policy.

AMF Trees

During the Islamic Museum of Australia's (IMA) Eid Benefit Dinner, the AMF bought two trees that will be planted at the IMA with a plaque that acknowledges the AMF's support of the Museum. The AMF has donated one of its trees to the Islamic Council of Victoria.



FECCA Conference

The AMF is a proud sponsor of this year's Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia (FECCA) Conference which will be held on 7-8 November at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. The biennial conference draws together leading decision makers, thinkers and practitioners to discuss and debate key issues that relate to Australia's cultural and linguistic diversity.

2014 Baklava Bake Off

Following the success of this year's Bake Off, the AMF is looking to host another Baklava Bake Off in 2014. More details to come...

Two new Building Community Resilience grants have been announced



From left to right:
Dr Hass Dellal, Sir James Gobbo, the Hon Mark Dreyfus, Mr Nail Aykan and Mr Ali Fahour.

On 22 August 2013, the AMF hosted a launch where then Attorney-General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus QC, announced two new grants from the latest round of the Government's Building Community Resilience grant program.

The AMF will receive funding to train 20 people from around Australia - drawn from the AMF Muslim Youth Leadership and Peer to Peer program alumni, the Australian National Imam's Council and the general community - to deliver the *Community Awareness Training Manual: Building Resilience in the Community*.

The 20 trainers will deliver the manual through workshops and information sessions to specific groups that have wide networks in their respective states and territories.

The Government is also providing funding to the Eelam Tamil Association, Victoria, to provide leadership and empowerment programs for youth who might be susceptible to radicalisation.

The Eelam Tamil Association's proposed project, *Filling the Gap*, will focus on developing community leadership skills, direct networking and empowerment through education, or organizing active participation and networking in community sporting and social activities.



Mr Murugesu Paramanathan, President of the Eelam Tamil Association, Victoria.

AMF Cultural Diversity Tool Kits in demand

The AMF has developed a Cultural Diversity Tool Kit for Maurice Blackburn which is now being used by its staff throughout Australia.

The aim of the Tool Kit is to provide resources and information to assist in developing greater cultural competence and a more culturally inclusive environment at Maurice Blackburn. The “Tool Kit also aims to assist in building capacity and positioning Maurice Blackburn to meet the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Building Bridges in Times of Conflict

The AMF has recently received funding from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship for its *Building Bridges in Times of Conflict* project. This project aims to preserve Australia’s social cohesion by dealing with tensions between communities.

The AMF will engage alumni from its youth leadership programs and train them in conflict resolution so that they can initiate discussion in the community and preserve harmony.

AMF honoured at the Celebration of African Australians Awards

The Celebration of African Australians Awards took place on 27th July 2013 at Parliament House in Canberra. Both the AMF and Dr Hass Dellal were honoured with a ‘Friends of Africa Award for Outstanding Service and Support to the African Australian Communities’.

The Celebration of African Australian Awards recognises the achievements of Australia’s African community to the growth and prosperity of Australian society.

Awards are presented to 100 of the most influential African Australians, as well as leading Australian organisations, businesses and individuals that provide support to the African community.



Photo source: Celebration of African Australians Inc.

DonateLife Campaign - Have the chat that saves lives

The AMF has recently become an ambassador for the 'DonateLife... the greatest gift' campaign. 'DonateLife... the greatest gift' is a community education campaign for people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities that aims to increase family discussion about organ and tissue donation wishes.

The campaign is dedicated to providing culturally appropriate information to different communities about organ and tissue donation. This will enable more Australians to make an informed decision about whether they wish to become an organ and tissue donor and to discuss this decision with their family.

The Organ and Tissue Authority has produced a number of resources as part of the campaign including posters, brochures and DonateLife Statements of Support. These materials have been developed through a process of consultation with religious and cultural leaders for people of Buddhist, Catholic, Orthodox, Hindu, Islamic and Jewish faith. These resources are also available in Arabic, Chinese (traditional), Greek, Italian, Vietnamese, Spanish, Turkish and English.

For more information, please visit the DonateLife website: <http://www.donatelife.gov.au>



donatelife

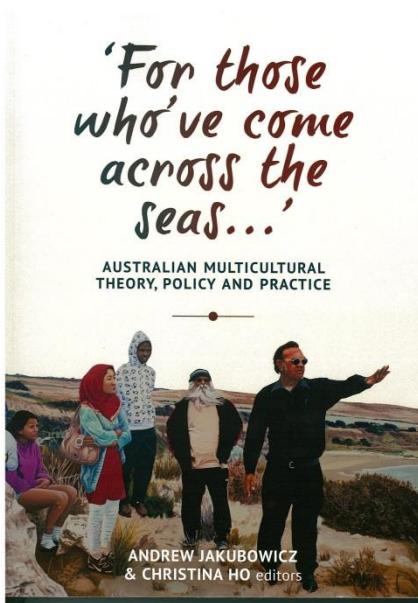
**To donate life,
know their wishes.**

**Ask them today.
OK?**



donatelife.gov.au

New book released about multiculturalism in Australia



For those who've come across the seas...: Australian Multicultural Theory, Policy and Practice is a compilation of essays on the experiences and insights of prominent academics, policy advocates and experts on multiculturalism in Australia.

The book, edited by Professor Andrew Jakubowicz and Dr Christina Ho, also includes a chapter by AMF Executive Director, Dr Hass Dellal, on advancing a multicultural

standpoint, the history of the AMF, and how the Foundation has been able to maintain relevance and survive the challenges and controversies surrounding multiculturalism in Australia.

Religious and community leaders honour Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam

AMF Chairman, Sir James Gobbo, presented the keynote speech at the 2012 Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) Annual Eid Dinner and Muslim Community Lifetime Achievement Awards to honour Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam, former Grand Mufti of Australia, in recognition of his leadership and dedication to social harmony in Australia. Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam was honoured for his 60 years of invaluable services to Islam and the Muslim communities in Australia.

This year's Eid al Fitr Dinner and Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremony took place on 25 August and was hosted by the Islamic Council of Victoria in partnership with ANIC. Among the awardees were: Sheikh Gul Saeed Shah, Mr Ibrahim Dellal, Dr Abdul Khaliq Kazi, Br. Ridwan Haddara and recently retired Victoria Police Commander Ashley Dickinson

