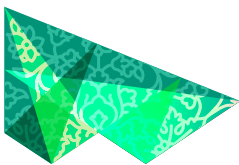




AISOV

Australian Iranian Society of Victoria
ANNUAL REPORT
2024-25





AISOV

Australian Iranian
Society of Victoria

کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا

Annual Report 2024-25
Australian Iranian Society of Victoria

ABN: 65 724 518 911

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Iman Barabadi (Artymel Design)

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Acknowledgement of The Country

AISOV acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, work, and gather in 2025. We pay our deepest respects to their Elders past and present and recognise their enduring connection to land, sea, and community. We also extend this respect to all Traditional Owners across Victoria. We celebrate, value, and include people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies, and abilities.

Acknowledgement of Our Founders

We acknowledge and thank the Elders and Founders of our community for their vision and dedication in establishing and nurturing the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV). Their pioneering efforts laid the foundation for our ongoing work in building a strong, connected, and resilient community. We also extend our gratitude to the Senior Citizen Club and the House of Persia for their continued engagement and support of AISOV.



Acknowledgement of Our Partners and Supporters

AISOV believes in the power of collaboration and community. We proudly work alongside a broad network of government, community, and sector partners — as well as dedicated individuals — who share our commitment to serving the Iranian-Australian community while maintaining our independence.

We are deeply grateful for the support of these funders, organisations, and individuals throughout 2024–25. Their contributions have been vital in enabling AISOV to deliver impactful programs, strengthen advocacy efforts, and achieve meaningful outcomes for our community.

Our partners and supporters (listed alphabetically A–Z):

Access Health and Community, AIA National Iran Network, AMES Australia, Amnesty International Australia, Anasina Gray-Barberio MLC, Artymel Design, Australian Federal Police (AFP), Australian Youth Society of Victoria (AIRYS), Banoutopia, Brimbank City Council, Business Victoria, David Ettershank MLC, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Department of Home Affairs, Digital LED Signs, Doncare Community Services, Doncaster Police Station, Dr Carina Garland MP, Dr Mehdi Soodi, Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC), Eden Foster MP, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV), Evan Mulholland MLC, Fire Rescue Victoria, Foundation House, Gabriel Ng MP, Georgie Crozier MP, Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Hon Julian Hill MP, Hon Matthew Guy MP, Hon Tony Burke MP, Iranian Cultural School, Iranian Women’s Association, John Pesutto MP, Knox City Council, Luba Grigorovitch MP, Manningham City Council, Mary Design, Mayor Cr Deirdre Diamante, Melbourne City Council, Migrant Information Centre (MIC), Mizael Partners, Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia (MYAN), Parliament of Victoria, Persian Business Referrals (PBR), Polaron Language Services, Radio Neshat, Senik Entertainment, SES Victoria, St John

Ambulance Victoria, Sweet Crown, The Hon Vicki Ward MP, Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), Victoria Police, Voice of Australia, Whitehorse City Council, Women’s Health East.

And many other organisations and individuals who have provided both in-kind and financial support.

Whilst to all our supporters and contributors above we owe a debt of gratitude, we should further and specially thank the following people (in no particular order) for their in kind and invaluable support:

Emeritus Professor Joe Lo Bianco in his ongoing efforts in helping us to find the language of trust and cooperation.

Dr Mehdi Soodi for his efforts in working with us on our policies and processes and in being a key part of growth in our governance journey.

Mr. Ryan Mirzaei and the wonderful team at Meazal Partners for their role as our auditors and in maintaining our goal of transparent financial reporting.

Child Safety Statement

The Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) is deeply committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people who engage with our programs, events, and activities. We believe every child has the right to feel safe, respected, and valued. AISOV is dedicated to maintaining a child-safe environment where participation is encouraged, diversity is celebrated, and the rights of children are always upheld.

President's Message



I am pleased to present AISOV's Annual Report for 2024–25, highlighting our ongoing work supporting the Iranian-Australian community and beyond through a year marked by both challenge and renewal. This was a year defined by resilience, growth, and strengthened solidarity. The twelve days of war and the ongoing conflict in the Middle East deeply affected many within our community, reminding us how global events can reach into everyday life. During these difficult times, our team worked to make AISOV a place of connection, support, and advocacy — standing beside community members, fostering understanding, and creating safe spaces for reflection and care.

This year we also witnessed a concerning rise in anti-migrant sentiment across Australia and the world — a reminder that the work of social cohesion is never finished. As misinformation spreads and divisions deepen, our collective response must be grounded in compassion, integrity, and courage. Diversity has always been our strength, and we remain determined to challenge prejudice wherever it appears and to uphold the values of respect and inclusion.

Guided by our mission and vision — to build solidarity, enhance mutual respect, nurture culture, and promote human rights — and alongside our major cultural programs, including our flagship Fire Festival, which drew more than 10,000 people — the largest Iranian gathering in Australia — we focused on strengthening our governance framework and building organisational capacity and operational excellence. We improved structure and accountability, refined internal systems, and ensured transparency at every level of our work. These reforms have reinforced AISOV's foundation as a trusted, capable, and forward-looking organisation — one that will continue to serve its community with integrity and confidence.

Our advocacy and engagement efforts also grew stronger. We continued to raise awareness of community needs, contribute to policy discussions, and participate in advisory and steering forums

at both local and state levels. Through these platforms, we help ensure that the lived experiences of Iranian-Australians are represented and valued in shaping equitable and inclusive policy and practice.

Partnerships have been essential to our progress. We worked alongside community organisations, service providers, and all levels of government to deliver programs, events, and wellbeing initiatives that foster belonging, inclusion, and mutual respect. These collaborations created pathways of support for those most in need and strengthened the cultural, social, and emotional fabric of our community.

None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary commitment of AISOV's management team, our volunteers, and the wise counsel of our founders and elders, whose vision and guidance continue to inspire and ground our work. To our management committee, volunteers, and contributors — thank you for your integrity, creativity, and dedication. Your tireless work, from organising major cultural events to driving governance reform and supporting community outreach, is the heartbeat of this organisation. Your care and professionalism continue to give real meaning to our mission and vision. We also acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of team members who are not continuing, and we wish them every success ahead.

As we look ahead, AISOV remains committed to promoting unity, solidarity, and social cohesion. Together, we will continue to build bridges, strengthen connections, and shape a community that stands for empathy, justice, and hope — a community that continues to thrive, even in challenging times.

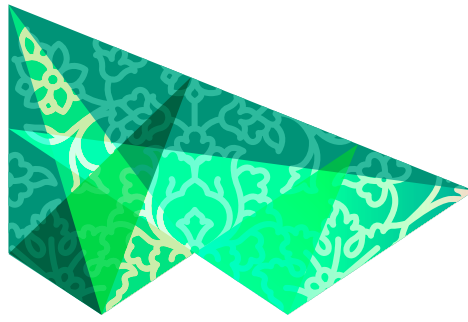
Afrooz Rahimian

President, Australian Iranian Society of Victoria

Overview of AISOV

The Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) is a non-profit, non-political, and non-religious organisation that began its work in 1990 and was officially registered in 1991. Through the dedication and hard work of countless individuals over the years, AISOV has grown to become the peak body

representing the Iranian community in Victoria. We extend our deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to this journey, helping to establish and strengthen our community's presence, identity, and influence across the state.



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Strategic Plan Highlight

In the past year, AISOV's journey has continued to reflect both the strength of our cultural heritage and the increasing complexity of our community's needs. The deep sense of connection that has long defined our organisation remains central to all we do. Yet, as our community grows in number and diversity, so too have the challenges that shape our collective experience.

This year, events in our ancestral homeland and our home here in Australia, have once again resonated deeply across our community, stirring a range of reflections and perspectives. These moments have reminded us of the depth of our shared bonds and the continuing importance of providing space for dialogue, understanding, and mutual support.

In implementing our strategies, we have often been required to navigate rapidly evolving circumstances. While much of our work has necessarily been responsive, these experiences have reinforced the importance of deliberate planning, stronger organisational capacity, and a sustainable governance framework. As we reflect on the year, we recognise that our path from last year to this one has been one of both continuity and growth—anchored by shared values, strengthened by experience, and guided by a renewed commitment to unity and purpose in serving our community.

Breaking down our key aspects of our vision, we have moved forward with following focus areas:

1 Building Solidarity and Community Connection

AISOV has continued to prioritise building solidarity among all Iranians and strengthening our shared sense of belonging within the wider Victorian community. With the dedication and support of our volunteers, we have worked tirelessly to bring people together through cultural and community events that celebrate our heritage and foster inclusion.

This year's Fire Festival was a landmark success, with attendance exceeding 10,000 participants from both our community and the broader Victorian public. The celebration of Chaharshanbe Souri once again provided a joyful and unifying occasion that encouraged engagement across generations and backgrounds, showcasing the vibrancy and diversity of our culture.

Among other key highlights was the Biggest Morning Tea hosted in collaboration with the Cancer Council of Victoria, an event that reflected our community's generosity of spirit and collective commitment to meaningful causes. We also proudly acknowledged and celebrated those within our community who have contributed over the years to Golbang, our community magazine. Their continued efforts to share stories, experiences, and reflections have enriched our collective identity and strengthened the cultural fabric that binds us together.

2 Develop Networks and Referral Systems

Throughout the past year, AISOV has continued to strengthen its role as a bridge between the Iranian community in Victoria and the broader Australian society. Our focus on building meaningful networks and effective referral systems remains central to ensuring that community members can access the support, information, and advocacy they need.

We have continued to establish and nurture connections across multiple sectors, advocating for the needs and rights of our community within Victoria, nationally, and for those still facing hardship in Iran. These efforts have combined practical advocacy for individuals living in limbo due to uncertain migration status with broader engagement to raise awareness of ongoing human rights concerns affecting our community.

During the year, AISOV deepened its relationships with a number of key partner organisations and

service providers, including the Migrant Information Centre | Eastern Melbourne, Manningham City Council, Knox City Council, Whitehorse City Council, Eastern Community Legal Centre, AMES, Doncare, and Foundation House to name a few. Through these partnerships, we have been able to facilitate better access to essential services, strengthen referral pathways, and collaborate on initiatives that enhance the wellbeing and resilience of our community.

These relationships continue to demonstrate the importance of collective action and shared responsibility in addressing the complex needs of a growing and diverse community.

3

Build rapport and nurture culture

AISOV continues to prioritise strengthening rapport within our community and nurturing the rich cultural traditions that unite us. Our efforts in this area focus on fostering mutual understanding, cultural pride, and inclusion—both within the Iranian-Australian community and across the broader Victorian society.

This year, we are proud that both of our major annual cultural celebrations have again been successfully delivered and are now firmly established as part of the regular calendar of events within the City of Manningham and the State Parliament of Victoria. These occasions have provided important opportunities to celebrate our shared heritage, showcase Iranian culture, and build meaningful connections between communities.

Through these initiatives, AISOV has continued to highlight the richness and diversity of Iranian culture, promote intergenerational dialogue, and strengthen our collective identity. The sustained success and formal recognition of these events reflect the growing rapport between our community and key civic institutions, as well as the enduring commitment of our volunteers and partners to cultural preservation and unity.

4

Promotion and Preservation of Human Rights

At AISOV's Annual General Meeting held on 29 October 2024, members endorsed the addition of a fourth focus area to our mission:

“Network within our community and beyond to promote basic human rights and preserve equality, dignity, and respect for all humankind.”

The proposal, originally circulated to all members on 14 September 2024, was approved by 96% of members voting in favour, formally embedding into AISOV's mission an area that has always been close to our hearts and central to our purpose.

Since its adoption, AISOV has remained steadfast in its commitment to upholding human rights and advocating for dignity and equality for all. Over the past year, this commitment has taken on renewed significance as our community during the 12-day war when AISOV was required to advocate for those affected—both within our local community and abroad in Iran. Our efforts included supporting students and families in Victoria (and beyond) whose circumstances left them in uncertainty or distress. We continued our efforts to highlight the human rights breaches that continue to affect many in Iran which were further intensified post war.

Throughout this period, AISOV's advocacy has remained grounded in our principles of being non-partisan and non-religious, reflecting our belief that respect for human rights transcends politics and ideology.

We have sought to present a balanced and thoughtful view—acknowledging the complexities of our community's longing for democracy and freedom while remaining true to our values of inclusion, fairness, and compassion.

This new focus area has strengthened AISOV's identity as an organisation that not only celebrates culture but also stands for justice, equality, and the preservation of human dignity for all.

AISOV's Official Strategic Plan

Our strategic planning process has been an inspiring journey, shaped by the collective wisdom and aspirations of community leaders within the Iranian-Australian community. It represents both reflection and renewal — a commitment to staying true to our values while remaining responsive to change.

While our mission and vision now provide clear direction for the medium term, we recognise that they are not fixed. As our community continues to grow and evolve, we will regularly review and refine our goals to ensure they remain relevant and forward-looking.

Through this process, we are building a stronger foundation for measuring progress, adapting to emerging needs, and ensuring AISOV continues to serve the community with purpose, transparency, and integrity.

Our strategic plan, vision, and mission are restated below.

VISION

AISOV supports and builds solidarity among all Iranians, and aims to preserve cultural values, enhance mutual respect, and create rapport with the broader society.

کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا بنیادی است برای حمایت و ایجاد همبستگی میان کلیه ایرانیان، که با هدف حفظ ارزش های فرهنگی، احترام متقابل و برقراری ارتباط مؤثر با جامعه فعالیت می کند.

1 Build solidarity and enhance mutual respect

Build solidarity and enhance mutual respect within the Iranian community to celebrate our diversity.

ایجاد همبستگی و افزایش احترام متقابل بین جامعه ایرانی با ترویج ارزش های مشترک.

2 Develop networks and referral systems

Identify and support the needs of diverse groups of Iranians through building partnership and referral networks.

شناخت نیازها و کمک به ایرانیان از طریق ایجاد شبکه های ارتباطی مؤثر و ارجاع به سازمان های مرتبط.

3 Build rapport to nurture culture

Connect the community and build rapport with broader society by promotion of shared culture and language.

ترویج فرهنگ و ارزش های زبان مادری با برگزاری برنامه های اجتماعی، فرهنگی و آموزشی و معرفی آنها به جامعه چند فرهنگی استرالیا.

4 Promotion and preservation of humans

Network within our community and beyond to promote basic Human Rights and preserve equality, dignity and respect for all Humankind.

شبکه سازی و ارتباط گیری در میان جامعه خود و فراتر از آن، به منظور ترویج حقوق اولیه انسانی و حفظ برابری، کرامت و احترام برای تمامی بشریت.

Our Organisational Framework

Building Trust — The Foundation of Our Community

Our community carries a history marked by resilience in the face of adversity. Generations of challenge and hardship over the past forty plus years, have left a profound impact on how we relate to one another — particularly in our ability to trust. Such experiences do not simply fade when we build new lives elsewhere; they come with us, shaping how we engage, connect, and contribute to our shared future.

At AISOV, we understand that rebuilding trust is both a privilege and a responsibility. It is not something that can be restored overnight, nor can it be achieved through words alone. Trust must be earned — through openness, integrity, and meaningful action.

Guided by this belief, the Management Committee has been working with dedication to strengthen AISOV's foundations and to serve our community with transparency and accountability. Our Vision and Focus Areas have been based on the following key initiatives:

1. Establishing a strong risk and governance framework — to define and guide our vision and focus areas, ensuring that all our work reflects our shared values and aspirations.
2. Developing comprehensive policies and procedures — to promote consistency, fairness, and clarity across our operations and decision-making.
3. Enhancing transparency and accountability — by voluntarily engaging Mizael Partners, a qualified and recognised auditing and accounting firm, to conduct an independent audit of AISOV's finances, even though such an audit is not a legal requirement.

While no organisation is ever perfect and some of our struggles continue, we remain steadfast in our commitment to act in good faith and to uphold the principles of openness and respect that form the heart of genuine trust.

Trust is both our aspiration and our promise. Together, as a community, we can continue to build an organisation that reflects the very best of who we are — one grounded in integrity, unity, and a shared belief in each other.

Our Pledge

In line with the above we continue our pledge to our members and our wider community as we did last year.

We are resolute in continuing to build a narrative that is more hopeful and transparent. We are also determined to honour the suffering of our fellow compatriots in Iran by bringing unity and trust to our collective voices when advocating for them from afar.

We continue to strive to build trust by creating transparency in our income and expenditure, and in the reasons for which each of us is involved within AISOV.

As the Management Committee, we take this opportunity to declare as follows:

A. Transparency:

We receive no personal income or benefit from our involvement and are merely involved to discharge our civic duties because we must.

B. Conflict of Interest:

In our efforts to build our organisation and governance, we are determined to ensure that we firstly avoid any conflicts of interest, and secondly declare and manage them if and when they arise.

In our own way, we also advocate for the exercise of democracy — where we come together to focus on our commonalities rather than our differences. We seek to listen to one another, regardless of belief, race, or orientation, with the aim of building mutual respect and recognition. We do not seek to convert each other to our own views, but to affirm that despite our disagreements, we remain united in our common purpose.

Not all conversations will be easy or comfortable, but we pledge to have them nonetheless. Where we fail unintentionally, we will rise again and continue trying until we get there.

C. No Favours or Benefits:

We expect no favours or benefits and declare that no favours or benefits have been received by any of the Management Committee members.

D. Respect Diversity and Equality:

Seeking democracy requires activism. With deep gratitude and pride, we celebrate and thank all our wonderful groups, both within and outside Victoria, who bring us together in the streets to seek justice and equality for our people here and in Iran. We urge them to continue.

Focus Area 1: Build Solidarity and Enhance Mutual Respect

This focus area embodies one of AISOV's core purposes — to bring people together, foster understanding, and strengthen the bonds that unite our community. Through cultural celebrations, educational programs, and community engagement, we continue to create spaces where Iranian-Australians and the broader Victorian community can connect, share, and celebrate diversity. Each initiative under this focus area reflects our ongoing commitment to unity, respect, and social cohesion.

This focus area was advanced through the following initiatives:

Fire Festival (Chaharshanbe Suri)

Aligned with AISOV's mission to build solidarity and enhance mutual respect within the Iranian community, the Fire Festival remains one of our most powerful and unifying events. Held on 17 March 2025 at Ruffey Lake Park, this year's celebration brought together more than 10,000 community members and friends from across Melbourne — a remarkable expression of unity, pride, and shared culture.

The festival carried the familiar energy of joy and connection that has made Chaharshanbe Suri such a cherished tradition. Families, volunteers, and friends joined in the symbolic ritual of jumping over the fire, reciting “Sorkhi-ye to az man, zardi-ye man az to” — letting go of hardship and embracing health, warmth, and renewal.

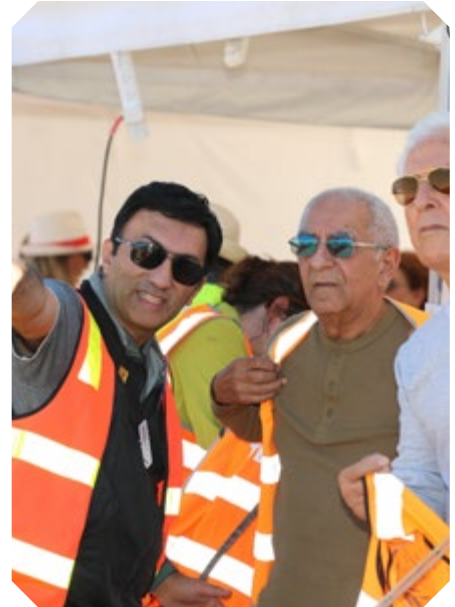
More than a celebration, the Fire Festival strengthened community bonds and created a space where generations came together to share Persian culture through music, dance, food, and art. It highlighted the importance of cultural expression as a bridge for understanding and mutual respect.

This year's success was made possible through the tireless and valuable efforts of our volunteers and the support of Manningham City Council, the State Government, Victoria Police, St John Ambulance, Fire Rescue Victoria, the Victorian Multicultural Commission, and many valued partners. Their collaboration ensured a safe, inclusive, and joyful evening for all.

The Fire Festival continues to stand as a symbol of connection, belonging, and community pride — embodying AISOV's enduring commitment to unity and respect through shared celebration.







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Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea – Charity Breakfast

As part of Cancer Council Victoria’s Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea campaign, AISOV hosted its second annual Charity Breakfast on Sunday, 25 May 2025, at the House of Persia. The event brought together more than 80 community members, volunteers, and supporters for a morning of kindness, awareness, and hope.

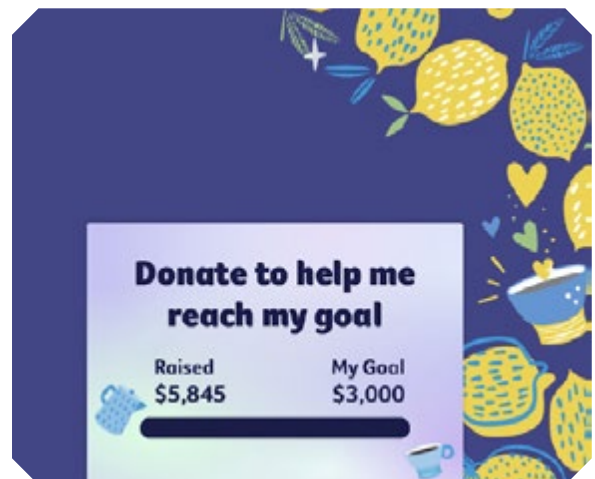
The program focused on promoting healthy living, nutrition, and mental wellbeing. Health professionals and guest speakers shared practical insights on maintaining a balanced lifestyle, the importance of early detection, and the value of emotional support during treatment and recovery.

Through the generosity of our community and sponsors, we raised around \$6,000, supporting

Cancer Council Victoria’s vital services — including counselling, family support, and cancer research.

The success of this event was made possible through the dedication of AISOV members, volunteers, and the wonderful team at House of Persia, whose hospitality helped create a warm and inclusive atmosphere.

Beyond fundraising, the morning celebrated solidarity and compassion — a reminder of the strength and kindness that unite our community.





Visit to VCE Persian Language Class – Iranian Cultural School Doncaster

On 14 June 2025, we visited the VCE Persian Language class at the Iranian Cultural School to speak with Year 12 students about the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV), its history, and its community services. The session aimed to help students gain a deeper understanding of the role Iranian organisations play in promoting language, culture, and social connection in Victoria.

We also shared insights about AISOV's major cultural events, including the Chaharshanbe Suri festival,

and presented a video highlighting the event's community impact. Printed copies of Golbang magazine were distributed among students, offering them an opportunity to connect with Iranian community stories and achievements.

The visit provided a meaningful opportunity to engage with young Persian-speaking students, strengthen intergenerational ties, and inspire pride in their cultural heritage.



Our Visits to the Senior Citizens Centre

Our seniors gather every Friday at the Doncaster Senior Citizens Centre to socialise over backgammon, cards, carpet bowls, and table tennis, alongside gentle exercise, guest talks on health and wellbeing, and shared lunches or picnics. The Australian Iranian Senior Citizens Society of Victoria is a non-profit, non-political, and non-religious organisation supporting older Iranian Victorians through volunteer-led social, educational, and excursion programs. Membership is maintained through an annual fee and a small contribution at weekly activities, complemented by community grant funding and donations; the Society is overseen by a committee of management.

In Iranian culture, deep respect for elders is a cherished value – they are the custodians of wisdom, tradition, and community spirit. Their experiences and guidance continue to inspire and connect generations.

This year, we visited the Australian Iranian Senior Citizens Society of

Victoria twice to strengthen ties, listen to priorities first-hand, and explore joint initiatives. We brought printed copies of Golbang magazine for members to enjoy and share, and discussed practical referrals, participation in cultural events, and ways to improve access to information and services.

We appreciate their generous hospitality and the meaningful opportunity to engage with and learn from those whose efforts have shaped and strengthened our community.



Persian Fair 2024

On 1 December 2024, AISOV joined the Persian Fair Melbourne at Box Hill Town Hall — one of Victoria’s largest annual celebrations of Iranian culture, organised by House of Persia. The event brought together thousands of visitors to experience a vibrant showcase of Iranian music, dance, art and food. From live performances to cultural exhibitions, the fair created an atmosphere filled with energy and pride, connecting generations of Iranian Australians and introducing Iranian heritage to the wider community.

AISOV proudly hosted a stall at the event, sharing information about our programs, services and upcoming initiatives. Our presence provided an excellent opportunity to engage with hundreds of attendees, connect with new community members



and strengthen relationships across cultural and local networks.

The Persian Fair continues to serve as a meaningful platform for promoting Iranian culture, inclusion and unity within Victoria’s multicultural landscape.



Banoutopia App Launch

On 14 December 2024, we joined the launch of the Banoutopia app — an innovative platform designed to empower migrant women through connection, learning and opportunity. The event welcomed around 60 guests, including inspiring women from Iranian and Afghan communities and representatives from local government. It celebrated the strength, creativity and leadership of women building bridges across cultures. We extend our appreciation to founders Anahid Habibi, Amir Rajabi and Nazi Khandan for creating a supportive, forward-looking digital space that inspires and uplifts. We were pleased to be part of this milestone, recognising Banoutopia as an initiative that aligns closely with our mission to foster inclusion, empowerment and community connection.





Persian Business Referral Expo – September , 2025

AISOV attended the PBR Expo organized by the Persian Business Referral Management team, at NewHope Baptist Church in Blackburn North on September 6th. The event provided a valuable opportunity to connect with the Iranian community in Victoria, including new arrivals, and to promote our services.

At our stall, AISOV representatives engaged with visitors about our range of programs and activities, including cultural festivals, community gatherings, workshops, and other initiatives. Through these

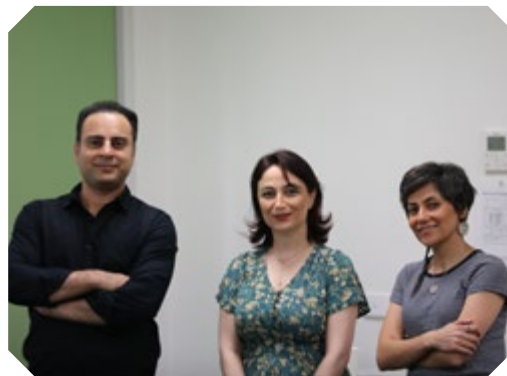
conversations, attendees could learn how AISOV helps community members connect with each other and access mainstream services.

Visitors' engagement demonstrated how events like this help AISOV connect with community members, answer questions, and raise awareness of the support and programs we offer. The expo also provided opportunities to network with Iranian businesses and strengthen ties within the community.

A Memorable Evening for Children with the Sounds of Persian Music

The children's music workshop, organised by the Pomegranate Cultural Group and Ava Ensemble and led by the master of Tar, Hamid Motebassem, was held in collaboration with and with support from AISOV. The session offered children and their families a joyful and educational experience, introducing them to the beauty and richness of Iranian music, traditional instruments, and the musical Dastgah system.

By supporting initiatives like this, AISOV continues its commitment to nurturing Iranian art and culture among the younger generation while creating opportunities for families to connect through shared cultural experiences.



Focus Area 2: Develop Networks and Referral Systems

This focus area strengthens the backbone of community support. By building clear pathways between community organisations, services and all levels of government, we help people navigate health, legal, social and settlement support with

confidence. Our focus is on coordination, warm referrals and culturally responsive access — so no one falls through the gaps.

Selected highlights under this focus area:



Victorian Multicultural Leaders Forum at Parliament of Victoria

Following the success of the previous Victorian Multicultural Leaders Forum, AISOV participated in the second forum held in the Legislative Council Chamber at Parliament House on 24 October 2024, hosted by John Pesutto MP. The purpose of the meeting was to create an open and respectful dialogue in this unique setting, providing an opportunity for community leaders to raise matters of concern and discuss priorities affecting their communities. Leaders shared common concerns, including the cost of living, support for small businesses, gas bans, education, health, and other key issues impacting multicultural communities. Thanks to: John Pessuto MP, David Southwick MP, Georgie Crozier MP, Evan Mulholland MP, Trung Luu MP (Member for Western Metropolitan Region), Ann-Marie Hermans MP, and the VIC Liberal Team.

— at Parliament of Victoria

On 14 October 2025, we attended ECCV's Mental Health and Wellbeing Engagement of Diverse Communities workshop, which focused on using lived experience to improve mental health support for multicultural communities. The session highlighted culturally safe care, inclusive program design, and understanding the unique challenges faced by migrants and refugees.



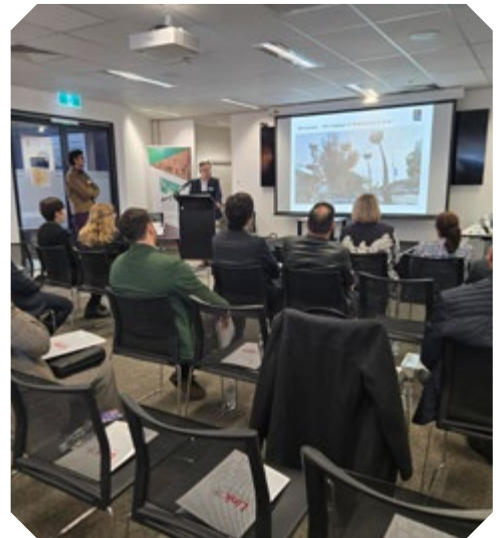
Iranian Business Networking Forum - Brimbank City Council

On 29 August 2025, AISOV, in collaboration with Brimbank City Council and the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR), hosted a Business Networking Forum for the Iranian community, providing an opportunity to explore business and investment prospects in the Brimbank region. The event introduced a growing area to Iranian entrepreneurs and business owners seeking to expand or establish their ventures.

Around 30 participants attended, gaining insights from presentations by Brimbank City Council's Economic Development Unit and DJSIR on the region's economic profile, key industries, development trends, and available business support programs.

Interactive sessions, including a Q&A and networking lunch, encouraged participants to share experiences, exchange ideas, and identify opportunities for collaboration. A guided bus tour of Brimbank's commercial and retail precincts, including the Sunshine Business Centre, warehouse zones, and available retail spaces, provided a firsthand understanding of the region's business potential.

Through these activities, the forum effectively aligned with AISOV's focus on developing networks and referral systems by creating opportunities for participants to build professional connections, strengthen community links, and establish pathways for collaboration and mutual support.





Status Resolution – Community Engagement Session

On 13 February 2025, we attended a face-to-face information session hosted by the Department of Home Affairs at 808 Bourke Street, Docklands. The session, organised by the VIC Community Status Resolution and Community Engagement teams, focused on supporting non-citizens who have become unlawful to regularise their immigration status or access voluntary return assistance.

The discussion highlighted the critical role of community leaders in connecting individuals to available support and explored strategies for more effective community engagement. The session also provided updates on the Department’s ongoing outreach initiatives across Victoria.

Preview Briefing on the Greens’ Immigration and Refugee Policy

On 1 April 2025, we attended a preview briefing on the Greens’ immigration and refugee policy, presented by Senator David Shoebridge, Senator Steph Hodgins-May, and Dr Samantha Ratnam, Greens candidate for Wills. The session outlined the party’s 2025 Federal Election platform, focusing on fairer family reunions, increased humanitarian intake, and ending indefinite detention and offshore processing.

We also engaged with refugee activists from our community, who raised serious concerns about



the worsening situation of people seeking asylum and the urgent need for stronger advocacy and coordinated support across the sector.

Meetings with the Department of Home Affairs and MPs – Advocacy for Iranian Students

On 12 August 2025, AISOV met with representatives of the Department of Home Affairs to advocate for Iranian international students affected by recent changes to Temporary Graduate (subclass 485) eligibility. Discussion centred on a formal submission from Iranian student representatives outlining the disproportionate impact of new age restrictions on postgraduate coursework graduates over 35. The submission recommended grandfathering provisions, temporary bridging options, and humanitarian consideration for those who cannot safely return to Iran.

We emphasised the significant financial, emotional and social investment these students have made, and their ongoing contributions to Australia’s workforce and community life. We called for a fair, compassionate policy response that upholds integrity, inclusion and Australia’s reputation in international education.

Further to this engagement, on 21 October 2025 we raised the issue at a meeting at House of Persia with Hon. Julian Hill MP and Gabriel Ng, seeking their consideration and support. We also forwarded the students’ letter to the office of Minister Tony Burke for attention.

Multicultural Women’s Reference Group at the Department of Home Affairs

AISOV continues to strengthen its connections through active participation in advisory and reference groups across sectors. Our team contributes to several committees and consultation panels, including the Department of Home Affairs’ Multicultural Women’s Reference Group (MWRG), which meets quarterly. The MWRG brings together women from culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse backgrounds to share their perspectives on issues, initiatives and challenges impacting women in Victoria. It is chaired by the Department’s Regional



Director for Victoria/Tasmania, and members meet quarterly to provide input and discuss priorities. Through this platform, AISOV shares insights from Iranian-Australian women, helping to inform inclusive policy and program design and advancing gender equity within multicultural communities.

Living in Australia Program

In partnership with the Migrant Information Centre, AISOV co-delivered a five-week Living in Australia program via Zoom for the Farsi-speaking community. The program was designed to help new and emerging community members gain a deeper understanding of Australian culture, democracy, and multiculturalism, while also raising awareness of available community services and resources. Topics included Australia’s migration history, recognition of First Nations peoples as traditional custodians of the land, multiculturalism, government systems, elections, law, citizenship pathways, and ways to participate in and contribute to the community.

On average, 20 participants attended each session, demonstrating strong interest and engagement. The program helped increase participants’ knowledge of available services, including community legal support, police, and family supporting services, as well as settlement information and local community programs.

These workshop were highly valued by participants, who highlighted the clarity and accessibility of the sessions.

One participant shared, “Attending these classes was very helpful. Houra presented the information clearly, making it easy to understand. I’m happy to have learned about Australian laws, the First Nations peoples, elections, the Prime Minister, Governor-General, levels of government, and the police in Victoria and across Australia. I would love to attend more workshops like this.”

Another commented, “The presentation was very easy to understand, and we found the sessions extremely helpful. We really appreciated it.”

The Living in Australia program successfully strengthened participants’ knowledge, confidence, and sense of belonging, reflecting AISOV’s ongoing commitment to supporting the Iranian community to engage fully in Australian society.

Focus Area 3: Build Rapport to Nurture Culture

This focus area celebrates identity, connection and belonging. Through festivals, arts, language and intergenerational programs, we preserve and share Iranian culture while inviting the broader community to connect with it. Each activity deepens pride, bridges generations and fosters mutual understanding.

Nowruz Celebration at the Parliament of Victoria

On Thursday, 27 March 2025, the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) proudly hosted the annual Nowruz Celebration at the Parliament of Victoria — our fifth year in a row — a cultural and symbolic event that brings together policymakers, community leaders, and representatives from all levels of government to celebrate the universal message of Nowruz: love, peace, friendship, and equality. This year’s theme was “Multicultural Women in Politics.”

Held in Queen’s Hall at Parliament House, the event once again showcased the richness of Iranian heritage and the contributions of the Iranian-Australian community to Victoria’s multicultural society. Rooted in the traditions of ancient Iran and inspired by the values of unity and goodwill, Nowruz continues to transcend generations, cultures, and borders — promoting harmony and mutual respect.

The celebration featured live music, artistic performances, a traditional Haft-Seen display, and an atmosphere of warmth and inclusion. This year’s program also addressed an important social issue — the underrepresentation of migrant women in policymaking and leadership roles — with speakers highlighting the need for greater cultural and gender diversity in decision-making spaces and calling for structural reforms to enable more equitable participation.

Among the distinguished guests were Members of Parliament, mayors, councillors, and representatives from multicultural organisations and community groups. Their presence reflected the growing recognition of Nowruz as a meaningful celebration that strengthens ties between government and community, fosters cultural understanding, and honours the contributions of Iranian-Australians to Australian life.

The event program included welcome remarks by AISOV President Afrooz Rahimian, followed by addresses from the Hon Vicki Ward MP (Minister for Equality), the Hon Matthew Guy MP (Shadow Minister for Transition to Government), and Ms Anasina Gray-Barberio MLC (Spokesperson for Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism). Guests were treated to an elegant afternoon of live harp, and saxophone performances, refreshments, and networking in the spirit of cultural exchange.

AISOV extends its sincere thanks to Ms Lobat Nezami and all management committee members, volunteers, artists, performers, parliament staff, and community members whose efforts made this event possible. Special appreciation is given to our partners, supporters, and guests for helping us continue this proud tradition within Victoria’s Parliament.

As AISOV continues this tradition, we hope that Nowruz — and the universal values it represents — will continue to be recognised, appreciated, and celebrated throughout Australia.







Cyrus the Great Day and the 200th Issue Celebration of Golbang Magazine

On 28 October 2025, a special ceremony was held at the Manningham Civic Centre, coinciding with Cyrus the Great Day, to celebrate the publication of the 200th issue of Golbang magazine and honour its long-standing contributors. The event drew an exceptional response from Golbang’s supporters, collaborators, and community members, as well as guest councillors from Manningham City Council.

After several years, this gathering provided a meaningful opportunity to recognise the dedication and enduring efforts of those who have played a vital role in shaping Golbang’s journey. It was a heartfelt celebration filled with gratitude, connection, and shared memories.

More than a tribute to the past, the event also marked a new chapter for Golbang and AISOV, reaffirming our shared commitment to continue recognising and celebrating those who have contributed to the magazine’s ongoing success and to strengthening community connection and cultural pride.





Refugee Week Celebration – Knox Library

AISOV was invited by Knox City Council to collaborate with Knox Library for a Refugee Week event held on Saturday, 21st June. The event coincided with the time of year when Iranians in the Southern Hemisphere celebrate Shab-e Yalda, the longest night of the year. Following discussions with Knox Library Manager, MS. Mojgan Sadighi, it was agreed to include a Yalda display as part of the celebration to share Iranian culture with the broader community.

Although AISOV was unable to attend the event due to increased community support demands and urgent discussions with different levels of government following the 12-day conflict between Iran and Israel, the organisation supported the initiative with a donation to help set up the Yalda table. This collaboration reflected AISOV's ongoing commitment to cultural sharing, community connection, and supporting local initiatives that promote understanding and inclusion.



Focus Area 4: Promote and Preserve Human Rights

At the heart of AISOV's work lies a deep commitment to protecting human dignity and advancing equality for all. We believe that every person deserves to live with safety, respect and opportunity — free from discrimination or fear. Under this focus area, we stand against harmful narratives, amplify lived experiences, and advocate for fair and inclusive systems.

We recognise that promoting and preserving human rights requires courage, consistency and collaboration, and we continue to network within our community and beyond to promote equality, dignity and respect for all humankind.

This focus area was advanced through the following initiatives:

Meeting with Iwan Walters MP & Gabriel Ng MP, Hon. Julian Hill

On 16 September 2025, we attended a meeting with Mr Iwan Walters MP the Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs in the State of Victoria and Mr Gabriel Ng the Federal Parliamentary and the Member for Menzies to further advocate for our community and the need for capacity building within our community. The opportunity to advocate for our community was organised by Mr Ng's office and greatly appreciated as it enabled us to continue to build on our previous efforts to seek support for our community.

Ministerial Roundtable with Iranian Australian Community Representatives

On 26 June 2025, we participated in a virtual meeting of Iranian Australian Community Leaders with the Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration, Citizenship and the Arts, and the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for

Small Business, International Development and Multicultural Affairs.

The meeting provided an opportunity to share community perspectives on the social and emotional impacts of the situation in the Middle East on Iranian Australians. It also highlighted the need for continued dialogue, understanding, and support to promote unity and wellbeing across diverse communities in Australia.

Meeting with Dr Monique Ryan MP – Community Impacts of the Middle East Situation

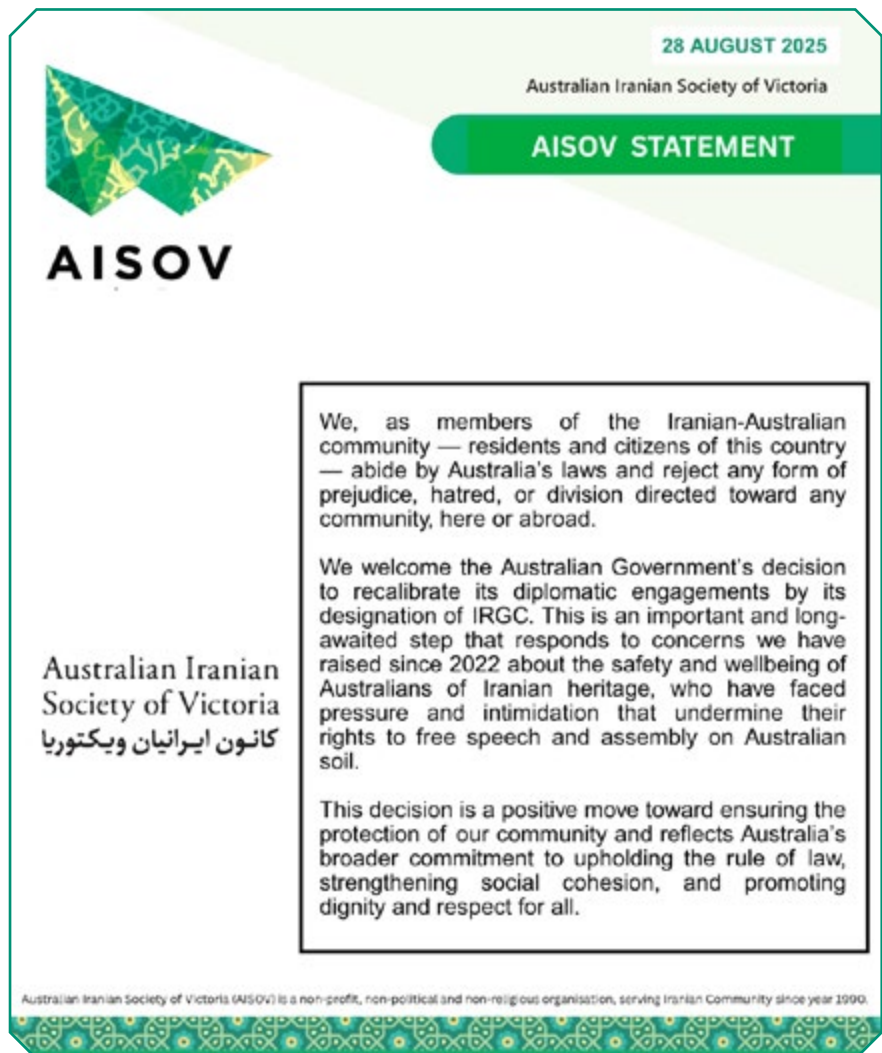
On 13 August 2025, we met with Dr Monique Ryan MP, Federal Member for Kooyong, to discuss the impacts of the situation in the Middle East on the Iranian Australian community. The discussion focused on the emotional and social challenges faced by community members and the need for coordinated advocacy, humanitarian focus, and mental health support.

Dr Ryan expressed her ongoing support for the community and reaffirmed her office's commitment to providing assistance, practical help, and continued engagement to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all affected.

Meeting with Mathew Guy MP 22 August

As we are not politically aligned with any party, we see it important to engage with all politicians in our efforts to advocate and seek support for our community in our various endeavours and engagements. On 22 August 2025, we attended a meeting with The Honourable Mathew Guy MP, a long time friend of our community. As with our meetings our efforts were focused on seeking support for our various initiatives under our focus areas.

AISOV issued a public statement on 28 August 2025 reaffirming our community’s commitment to Australian values of law, respect and social cohesion. The statement welcomed the Australian Government’s decision to recalibrate its diplomatic engagement regarding the IRGC — a step towards safeguarding the rights, safety and dignity of Australians of Iranian heritage, and strengthening freedom of speech and community wellbeing across Australia.



The graphic is a vertical rectangular poster with a light green background and a decorative green border at the bottom. It features the AISOV logo (a green triangle with Persian calligraphy) and the text 'AISOV' in large black letters. A green banner at the top right contains the date '28 AUGUST 2025' and the organization's name 'Australian Iranian Society of Victoria'. Below this, another green banner reads 'AISOV STATEMENT'. The main body of the poster contains three paragraphs of text in English, enclosed in a black-bordered box. At the bottom left, the organization's name is written in both English and Persian. A small line of text at the very bottom states that AISOV is a non-profit, non-political, and non-religious organization serving the Iranian community since 1990.

28 AUGUST 2025
Australian Iranian Society of Victoria

AISOV STATEMENT

AISOV

Australian Iranian Society of Victoria
کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا

We, as members of the Iranian-Australian community — residents and citizens of this country — abide by Australia’s laws and reject any form of prejudice, hatred, or division directed toward any community, here or abroad.

We welcome the Australian Government’s decision to recalibrate its diplomatic engagements by its designation of IRGC. This is an important and long-awaited step that responds to concerns we have raised since 2022 about the safety and wellbeing of Australians of Iranian heritage, who have faced pressure and intimidation that undermine their rights to free speech and assembly on Australian soil.

This decision is a positive move toward ensuring the protection of our community and reflects Australia’s broader commitment to upholding the rule of law, strengthening social cohesion, and promoting dignity and respect for all.

Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) is a non-profit, non-political and non-religious organisation, serving Iranian Community since year 1990.

AISOV's Response to the Iranian Community During the 12-Day Iran-Israel Conflict

During the 12-day conflict between Iran and Israel, concerns within the Iranian community in Australia increased significantly. AISOV coordinated immediate psychological, legal and social support for individuals and families.

1. Coordination with support services

Partners included: Migrant Information Centre (MIC); Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC); Witness to War; Victoria Police; Doncare (Doncaster); Access Health and Community; Manningham City Council.

We also contacted Lifeline, Beyond Blue and Foundation House to request Persian-language phone counselling, and formed a small team of bilingual (Persian-English) volunteers and mental-health professionals to provide support as needed.

2. Messages of support and solidarity

We received written support from: Office of the Victorian Premier (Hon Jacinta Allan); Victorian Multicultural Commission Chairperson (Ms Viv Nguyen); Mayor of Manningham (Cr Deirdre Diamante); Access Health and Community; MYAN National Manager; Doncare Community Service; Dr Monique Ryan MP; Assistant Minister Julian Hill MP; Gabriel Ng MP.

3. Advocacy and key meetings

AISOV raised community concerns with: Department of Home Affairs; Gabriel Ng MP; House of Persia (HOPE); specialist support teams in Geelong; Victoria Police; Minister Tony Burke; Minister Anne Aly.

4. Media engagement

Outlets included: ABC TV Breakfast; ABC Radio National Breakfast; ABC 774 with Raf Epstein; ABC Local Morning News; The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald; Channel 9; The Guardian; WIRE; AAP.

Thank you to Mr Kambiz Razmara for representing

AISOV as spokesperson across these outlets, amplifying community voices with professionalism and care.

5. Solidarity and Peace Vigil Houra

In collaboration with the AIA Iranian National Network, AISOV organised a cultural and social gathering titled Vigil for Peace and Solidarity at Solidarity Hall, Trades Hall. The event opened with a Welcome to Country and introductory remarks by Ms. Katrina North and Pouria ? from the Iranian National Network, followed by opening remarks on behalf of AISOV by Mr Kambiz Razmara. Representatives from AISOV and AIA spoke about justice, democracy, and the importance of community unity during times of global tension. The program featured insightful presentations by Dr Madani and Dr Jadidi, who discussed migration experiences and the needs of children during crises. The event concluded with a calming meditation led by Ms Liana. The concept and script were developed by Mr. Rasteen Panahandeh from the Iranian National Network, with event coordination led by Ms Lobat Nezami, representing both the AIA Iranian National Network and the AISOV management committee.

6. Education and awareness

- Instagram Live on resilience during crises with Dr Tina Zafri, Dr Mandana Shaban and AISOV Board member Ms Houra Zare — 6,000+ views.
- Publication of a solidarity statement supporting the people of Iran and promoting peace and democracy.
- Ongoing sharing of counselling services, events and resources across AISOV platforms.

7. Direct engagement with Iranian students

AISOV contacted Iranian students to assess emotional, financial and accommodation needs and connected them with relevant decision-makers and support services.

Summary

AISOV's coordinated response during the Iran-Israel conflict demonstrated the organisation's readiness to act in times of crisis and its deep commitment to community wellbeing. Through collaboration with service providers, advocacy with government and media engagement, AISOV ensured that the voices and needs of the Iranian-Australian community were heard and supported.

This collective effort not only provided immediate assistance but also reinforced long-term networks of trust, inclusion and care — reflecting AISOV's core values of unity, compassion and social responsibility.



Thank You to Manningham City Council for the Annual Community Grants Celebration

Our Participation

We would like to express our appreciation to Manningham City Council for its ongoing partnership and support. Whether through providing venues for community programs, supporting the Fire Festival, sharing a letter of solidarity with the Iranian community during the recent conflict, or collaborating on a range of other initiatives, the Council has consistently shown its genuine commitment to inclusion, diversity, and community wellbeing.

Manningham City Council has also played an important role in connecting AISOV with local service providers and policy makers, helping to strengthen collaboration and extend the reach of our work.

On 27 August 2025, AISOV was honoured to attend the Manningham City Council Annual Community Grants Celebration, where the organisation was recognised as a recipient of the 2025–2026 Annual Community Grants Program. This support enables AISOV to continue delivering initiatives that foster cultural connection, promote social cohesion and enhance community participation across Manningham.

We greatly value this partnership and look forward to continuing to work together to build a strong, inclusive and connected community.



Our Interview with Radio Neshat and Acknowledgement of Their Support

Radio Neshat is a leading Persian-language community radio platform in Australia, dedicated to amplifying diverse voices and strengthening connections across Iranian and multicultural communities. Since its establishment, it has played an important role in promoting dialogue, understanding and cultural exchange.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of Radio Neshat, which continues to promote and participate in our initiatives, helping us share our message and connect with the wider community.

On 1 March 2025, Radio Neshat invited AISOV President, Afroz Rahimian, and Vice President, Kam Razmara, for an interview to reflect on the past year and discuss the organisation's vision, achievements and priorities ahead. The discussion focused on AISOV's vision and missions, the challenges and

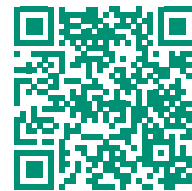
opportunities shaping its work, and highlights from recent initiatives such as the Fire Festival and Nowruz at the Parliament.

The conversation also explored the importance of trust within the community and the core values that guide AISOV's governance and operations – transparency, accountability and integrity. The interview underscored how collaboration between media and community organisations can foster shared understanding and promote positive social change.

AISOV extends its thanks to Radio Neshat, Mr Masoud Zohoori and his dedicated team for their continued collaboration and contribution to strengthening awareness, connection and community voice.



The graphic features the Radio Neshat logo at the top left, including the website www.radioneshat.com. Below the logo is a photo of Afroz Rahimian and Kam Razmara. The text in Persian reads: 'گزارشی از عملکرد سال گذشته و برنامه های پیش رو در آستانه سال 1404 خورشیدی' (Report on the performance of the past year and the programs ahead of the 1404 solar year). Below the photos, it says 'تشکلها و رسانه های فارسی زبان استرالیا' (Australian Persian language organizations and media) and 'گفتگو با خانم افروز رحیمیان رئیس و آقای کامبیز رزم آرا نائب رئیس کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریای استرالیا' (Conversation with Mrs. Afroz Rahimian, President and Mr. Kamaliz Ruzm Ara, Vice President of the Australian Victorian Iranian Community). At the bottom, it says 'گفتگو با خانم افروز رحیمیان رئیس و آقای کامبیز رزم آرا نائب رئیس کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریای استرالیا' (Conversation with Mrs. Afroz Rahimian, President and Mr. Kamaliz Ruzm Ara, Vice President of the Australian Victorian Iranian Community).



Listen on
radioneshat.com

Activities We Have Involved In

Meeting with the Migrant Information Centre (MIC)

On Thursday, 16 October 2025, Ms Afrooz Rahimian, President of AISOV, met with Ms Rachna Muddagouni, CEO of the Migrant Information Centre (MIC), alongside other Iranian community leaders and a representative from the House of Persia, at the MIC office in Box Hill.

The meeting, initiated by MIC's CEO, focused on discussing current community needs and challenges, and exploring how MIC can best respond through collaborative initiatives. MIC, a non-profit organisation providing settlement and community services across Melbourne's eastern region, is committed to building partnerships and co-designing programs that enhance participation and inclusion.

Discussions covered several key areas, including employment support, digital literacy workshops, and community information sessions to help Iranian-Australians better understand Australian systems, strengthen integration, and promote social cohesion.

The meeting reinforced the value of collaboration between AISOV, MIC, and the House of Persia in strengthening community connections, expanding access to services, and ensuring that programs remain responsive to the evolving needs of the Iranian community.

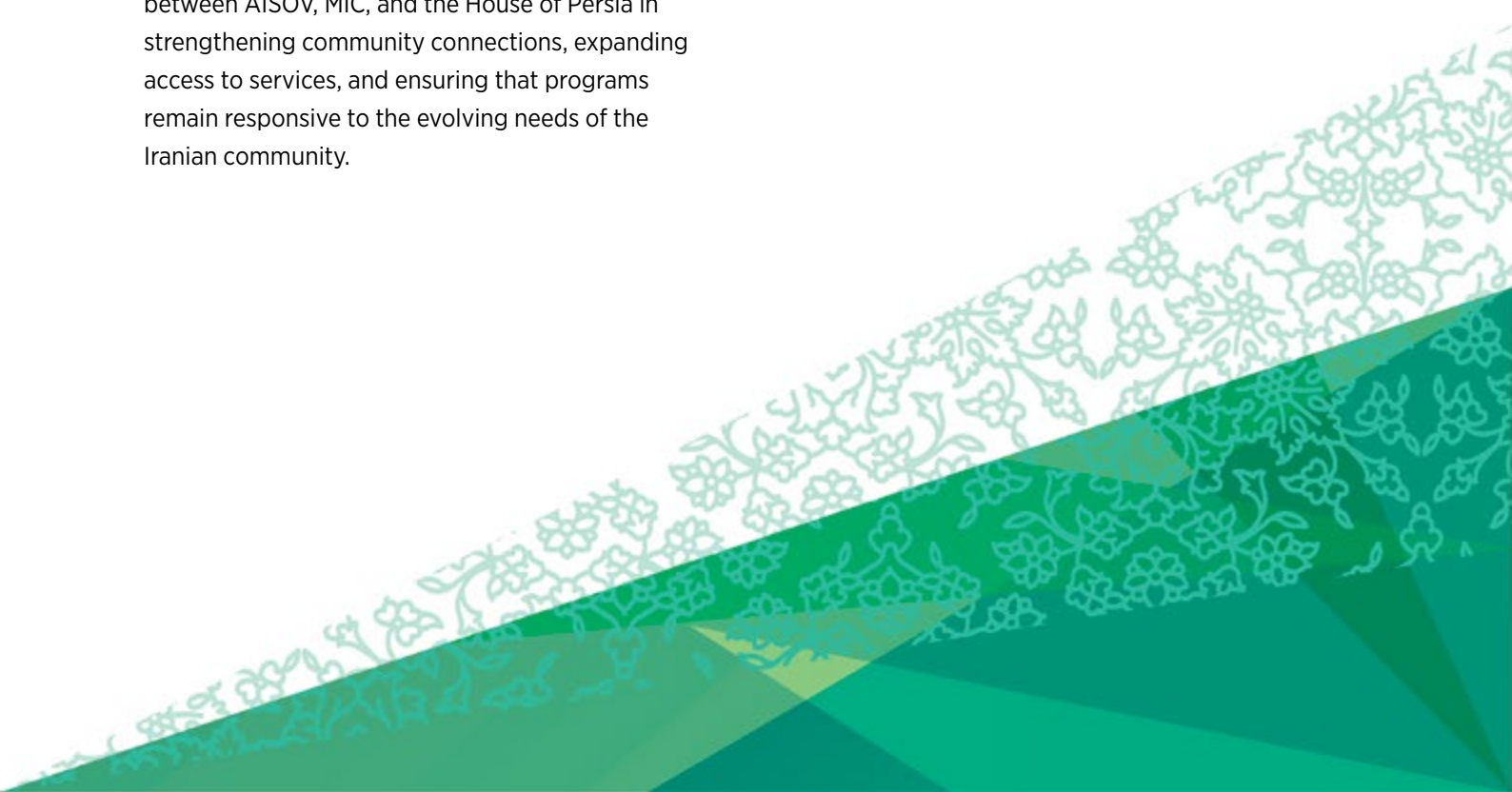
MIC Steering Committee – Preventing Family and Sexual Violence in CALD Communities

On 15 September 2025, we joined the inaugural meeting of the Steering Committee for the “Working Collaboratively to Prevent Family and Sexual Violence in CALD Communities” project, hosted by the Migrant Information Centre (MIC) in Box Hill.

This initiative, funded through the Family Safety Project, aims to embed information and support for newly arrived communities within MIC's Settlement and Aged and Disability Programs, focusing on prevention and early intervention.

The Steering Committee brings together leaders from multicultural, faith-based, and specialist service organisations to co-design culturally safe and community-driven strategies that strengthen responses to family and sexual violence.

We are proud to contribute to this important collaboration, helping to build safer, more informed, and more resilient communities through education, advocacy, and culturally appropriate support initiatives.



Premier's Multicultural Gala Dinner

On 30 August 2025, we attended the Premier's Multicultural Gala Dinner, hosted by the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The event brought together more than 1,200 guests from across Victoria to celebrate cultural diversity, social cohesion, and harmony under the theme "Harmony in Diversity."

The evening featured a vibrant showcase of cultural performances, music, and cuisine from around the world, reflecting the strength and richness of Victoria's multicultural communities.

Distinguished guests included Premier Jacinta Allan, Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt, and VMC Chairperson Vivienne Nguyen AM, alongside political representatives and community leaders from across the state.

The Gala served as a powerful reminder of the unity and connection that define Victoria's multicultural landscape and reaffirmed the shared commitment to inclusiveness, respect, and cross-cultural understanding.



Cultural Connections to Wellbeing – Access to Mental Health Project

This year, we joined the Steering Committee of the Access to Mental Health Project, led by Access Health and Community, which aimed to support young people and families from culturally diverse backgrounds in Boroondara and Manningham to better access mental health services. The project, now formally titled Cultural Connections to Wellbeing, engaged bicultural workers from the Persian and Chinese communities to understand how cultural beliefs and lived experiences shape help-seeking behaviours.

Through co-design workshops and community consultations, young people shared the barriers they face – including stigma, language and cultural misunderstandings, long wait times, high costs and a lack of culturally responsive practitioners. Their feedback shaped practical strategies to normalise conversations about mental health, amplify community voices, improve service navigation, and increase accessibility through targeted outreach and multilingual resources.

AISOV contributed community insights and helped ensure the voices and perspectives of Iranian-Australians were reflected in the project’s findings and recommendations. This was Phase One of the initiative. Going forward, the project will focus on implementing what young people told us – embedding changes internally within services and extending these learnings through community partnerships and outreach.

Cultural Connections to Wellbeing

Executive Summary

Cultural Connections to Wellbeing aims to increase access to mental health and wellbeing services for young multicultural people and their families.

The project engaged a bicultural workforce, from the Persian and Chinese communities, to engage with community in the Boroondara and Manningham Council areas.



Before identifying solutions, we asked community what the problem was.

Young multicultural people told us:

Multicultural young people experience a range of issues when trying to access mental health care. These challenges include a **lack of trust** due to past negative experiences and not enough **therapists who understand their culture**. They often don't know what **services are available**, and the **high costs** and **long wait times** make it even harder.

Cultural beliefs and values influence the way mental health is viewed, understood, and experienced, which can affect how individuals seek help, talk about their struggles, or even recognise there is a problem. **Gender roles** and **generational differences** also prevent many from seeking help. These barriers lead young people to rely on **informal support** or stop seeing a professional altogether, making it harder for them to improve their mental health and wellbeing.



Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee (KMAC)

AISOV joined the Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee (KMAC) during 2025/2026 and has been attending its meetings since Tuesday, 9th August, held in the City of Knox. The committee meets every 6 to 8 weeks, up to six times a year, and includes community members from Knox, representatives from non-profit organisations such as ECLC, Women’s Health East, and Migrant Information Centre, as well as two Knox City Councillors and Knox Multicultural Partnership Officers.

KMAC provides a platform for members to share updates on multicultural community developments and discuss upcoming events, festivals in Knox and network with other community leaders and organisations. For AISOV, participation is an important opportunity to introduce itself as the peak body for the Iranian community in Victoria, raise awareness of community needs, and advocate for members. It also enables AISOV to showcase its programs, promote Iranian culture, explore partnerships, and strengthen connections between the Iranian community and the broader Australian community.

Immigration Status Resolution – Community Leader Information Session

On Wednesday 18 December, we joined the Department of Home Affairs' Community Leader Information Session hosted by the Immigration Status Resolution team. The session aimed to strengthen engagement between the Department and community representatives across Australia and to provide updates on the Immigration Status Resolution Service (ISRS).

The ISRS supports non-citizens who have become unlawful or hold a Bridging Visa E to regularise their immigration status or access voluntary return assistance. The session highlighted the vital role of community leaders in connecting individuals with available support and provided an opportunity to share feedback on improving outreach and engagement strategies.

Minister's Consultations on the 2025–26 Humanitarian Program

On 21 August 2025, we attended the Minister's Community Consultation on the 2025–26 Humanitarian Program in Melbourne, led by the Hon. Julian Hill MP, Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs. The consultation brought together key community organisations and peak bodies to share their perspectives on the composition and priorities of Australia's Humanitarian Program at the Parliament of Victoria.

We presented our organisation's views on strengthening community settlement support, enhancing access to mental health and wellbeing services, and ensuring culturally responsive engagement with refugee and asylum seeker communities. The session complemented the Department of Home Affairs' formal submission process and reinforced the importance of ongoing collaboration between government and community organisations in shaping Australia's humanitarian response.

Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) Forum

On Monday, 8th September, AISOV committee members attended a forum hosted by the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) at Coburg Town Hall. The forum focused on key issues affecting Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, including employment, mental health, and youth engagement.

The event provided an excellent networking opportunity for AISOV, allowing committee members to connect with a range of organisations, including settlement services, mental health providers, and youth support services across Victoria. Participation in the forum enabled AISOV to stay informed about current challenges facing culturally and linguistically diverse communities, share insights from the Iranian community, and explore potential collaborations to better support community members.



Visit to SGNSS Gurdwara Blackburn (Sikh Temple)

We had the privilege of visiting the SGNSS Gurdwara Blackburn – Sikh Temple, where we were given a tour that provided a deeper understanding of the Sikh community and its core values of service, generosity, and unity. The Gurdwara feeds thousands of people each week—entirely free of charge—with much of the food donated by the community.

It was inspiring to witness the strong sense of volunteerism and community connection, as hundreds shared a meal together in an atmosphere of warmth and respect. A highlight of the visit was touring the commercial kitchen and meeting the volunteer chefs whose dedication and skill bring people together through food — their passion was reflected in every flavourful dish served.





Golbang Magazine: Celebrating Connection and Community Voices

Golbang Magazine is the official newsletter of the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) and serves as a key communication channel with our members.

Earlier this year, Dr. Reza Davari, who served as the Golbang Coordinator for five years, stepped down from his role. His unwavering dedication, extensive experience, and inspirational leadership added tremendous value to the magazine, and we sincerely thank him for his outstanding contribution.

Following his departure, Esmat Amirahmadi took over as Coordinator. Esmat, a passionate team member, now leads a newly restructured team. Several new members have joined the editorial team, bringing fresh energy and ideas. With the addition of a new designer and photographer, Golbang's visual style and level of professionalism have significantly improved, marking an exciting new chapter in the magazine's development.

To further support Golbang's growth and audience engagement, Google Analytics was installed this year to track website traffic and reader insights. This valuable tool provides the Golbang team with in-depth analysis of audience behavior, enabling us to better

understand our readership and enhance the magazine's content, design, and outreach strategies accordingly.

Golbang Magazine already registered publication with an ISSN, further enhancing its credibility and accessibility. This official recognition allows Golbang to reach a broader audience and ensures its content is archived and accessible in libraries worldwide. It marks a significant milestone in the magazine's journey, solidifying its place in the publishing landscape.

AISOV remains a non-political and non-religious organisation. We are deeply committed to maintaining neutrality and inclusivity, which are reflected in the careful collection and editing of Golbang's content.

This quarterly, full-colour magazine—ranging from 30 to 34 pages—highlights key news and events from the previous quarter. It offers detailed reports on cultural programs, seminars, and various community initiatives organised by AISOV and the wider Iranian community. The magazine also features scientific articles about the rich history of Persian literature and culture, practical information, stories, and poetry tailored to Persian-speaking readers in Victoria.



Golbang team also participated in cultural events and activities such as Persian Fair and Chaharshanbe Suri, seniors citizen club, Iranian Cultural School, and more.

As part of our cultural activities, two distinct Nowruz calendars were published to celebrate the Persian New Year. One of these was specially designed and gifted to participants during the Chaharshanbe Souri festival—an ancient fire-jumping celebration held on the eve of the last Wednesday before Nowruz. This meaningful gesture honoured the cultural significance of the occasion and offered a cherished keepsake to the community.

Last year, under the leadership of the Golbang team, four editions were successfully published (issues 201, 202, 203, and 204). We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the entire team for their ongoing commitment to producing a publication that amplifies the voices and stories of our community.

Golbang Magazine continues to be a proud symbol of unity, collaboration, and cultural celebration within the Iranian Society of Victoria. We look forward to its continued growth and success in strengthening the bonds within our vibrant community.

Mr Ali Shamloo, one of the founders of AISOV and Golbang Magazine, joined us on 12 November 2024 for an engaging conversation about the journey of publishing Golbang over the past thirty years. He shared valuable reflections on the magazine's early days, the challenges of maintaining a volunteer-led publication, and the dedication that has kept it thriving for three decades. His insights highlighted the enduring role of Golbang as a cultural bridge — preserving Iranian heritage, amplifying community voices, and connecting generations of Iranian-Australians through stories, art and dialogue. We are grateful for his time and his ongoing support of AISOV and its mission.



Supporting The Community

In line with our vision, we see it as our responsibility to support our artists, activists and community organisations. Over the past year, we have actively shared and promoted a wide range of community events, galleries, performances and initiatives organised by both individuals and partner organisations. By doing so, we have sought to keep our community informed and connected, while helping to strengthen relationships across different groups and sectors. You can find a selection of these highlights below.

Providing a platform for Iranian artists, activists and community initiatives helps amplify their voices

and perspectives. We believe that art, advocacy and collective action transcend cultural barriers, connecting people through shared values of justice, freedom and human dignity. Through this support, AISOV continues to foster engagement, understanding and empathy – contributing to a more inclusive and compassionate community.



Social Media and Phone Report

Expanding Our Digital Presence: Making Waves on Social Media

Digital Engagement and Communications

Our presence across social media platforms — particularly Instagram, Facebook, and Telegram — continues to be a key avenue for engaging with the community and sharing updates on events, advocacy efforts, and cultural celebrations.

1. Instagram

Our Instagram account has continued to grow steadily, with increasing engagement through posts, stories, and event announcements. During the Fire Festival, our page reached over 260,000 views, reflecting the community's strong interest and participation. Since 1 September 2025, we have recorded more than 50,000 views, 400 interactions, and 179 shared posts across our content.

The post featuring AISOV's Vice President's interview on ABC News Breakfast received an impressive 11,000 views. To date, we have published 491 posts and share stories almost daily. We are also approaching an exciting milestone, with nearly 3,500 followers — a testament to the community's ongoing engagement and support.

2. Facebook

Our Facebook presence remains strong, with two active pages and a dedicated group that collectively reach 12,900. These platforms continue to play a vital role in sharing event updates, engaging with the community, and promoting our advocacy and cultural initiatives. Notably, our Persian Fire Festival post reached 5,600 views, reflecting the community's active interest and the platform's role in amplifying AISOV's cultural initiatives. Through these pages, we continue to inform, engage, and inspire our followers with updates on our key initiatives and celebrations.

3. Phone Engagement Overview

Our phone support line continues to play an important role in connecting AISOV with the community and providing a trusted point of contact for those seeking assistance. Over the past year, many callers have sought support for domestic violence prevention, employment and welfare, NDIS and aged care services, housing, and opportunities to promote community art and culture. We also received phone inquiries from media outlets and community members seeking interviews or AISOV's perspective following recent conflicts in the region and the dismissal of the Iranian ambassador from Australia. These conversations reflect both the challenges and the concerns within our community and reinforce AISOV's ongoing role in listening, providing guidance, making appropriate referrals, and advocating for community members with care and integrity.

4. Website

This year, as part of our strategic vision, the AISOV website was restyled to improve accessibility and provide a better user experience. The content was also updated to reflect AISOV's various projects and activities, offering visitors more comprehensive and up-to-date information about our initiatives.

We are also committed to enhancing the Persian version of the website to reach a wider audience and ensure inclusivity in our communications.

Recent insights from Google Analytics indicate a significant increase in website traffic and user engagement, reflecting growing community interest and participation.

In line with our ongoing efforts to better serve the community, AISOV is planning to enhance its membership program. This initiative aims to provide members with access to new services, updated offerings, and exclusive promotions, helping to

strengthen the connection between AISOV and its growing community.

Website Performance Summary

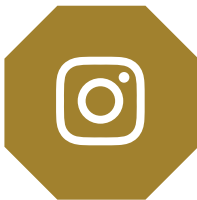
Based on the past year's analytics (October 2024–October 2025), the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria website is primarily a platform for attracting new users, with 5,200 out of 5,300 total active users being new visitors. Users are generally engaged, spending an average of 49 seconds per visit and generating 36K total interactions. The largest traffic spike occurred around March and April, and most visitors are coming either by typing the address directly or through Google organic

searches. Geographically, the audience is centered in Melbourne. The most popular content includes the homepage, the “Golbang” page, and the “Membership” page.

Together, we are driving transformation, celebrating our rich cultures, amplifying diverse voices, and fostering meaningful connections. Your involvement is key to making a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

Become an active member of our growing online community — a space where cultures are honoured, voices are empowered, and positive change is encouraged.

We invite you to be part of our journey by following us on:



@aisovictoria



**AISOV / Australian
Iranian Society of
Victoria /**

کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا



www.aisov.org.au

Management Committee 2024-2025

Office Holders:

Afroz Rahimian (President), Kambiz Razmara (Vice President), Lobat Nezami (Treasurer), Esmat Amirahmadi (Secretary)

Management Committee Members:

Houra Zare Lavassani, Leila Zivdar, Kourosh Kamkar, Mahsa Hajjari, Ali Kouklan, Farid Samadi

Golbang Magazine Coordinators:

Reza Davari, Esmat Amirahmadi

Acknowledgement of the Management Committee

During the 2024–2025 term, AISOV experienced some changes within its management team, with Ms Mahsa Hajjari, Ms Lobat Nezami, Mr Farid Samadi, Mr Kourosh Kamkar and Mr Ali Kouklan stepping

down from their roles. We sincerely thank them for their dedication and service, which have made a meaningful contribution to AISOV's journey and strengthened our organisation.

Thank You Note

We extend our gratitude to the entire Management Committee for your commitment and hard work throughout 2024–2025. Your collective leadership has advanced AISOV's mission and strengthened our community.

We also acknowledge Dr Reza Davari for his leadership of Golbang Magazine in recent years. As he concludes his role and relocates from Victoria, we thank him for his contribution to the community and wish him every success in his future endeavours.

To each of you — your time, energy and passion have been central to AISOV's progress. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and commitment.



Our Volunteers – The Heart of AISOV

It's not possible without you!

Our volunteers are the driving force behind everything we do – from organising major cultural celebrations to supporting governance, outreach, and day-to-day operations. Their generosity, skill, and reliability turn ideas into inclusive programs, safe events, and meaningful support for our community. The time given after work, on weekends, and often at short notice reflects a level of dedication that truly defines AISOV's impact.

This year, our volunteers helped welcome thousands at community events, supported language and intergenerational programs, assisted with referrals and information stands, captured stories and photos, and kept our systems running smoothly behind the scenes. We continue to provide clear role briefs, on-the-day coordination, child-safe practices, and

debriefs so that every volunteer can contribute confidently and safely.

This year, we would also like to recognise the exceptional commitment of Nick Shehni, Fereshteh Lajevardi, and Hasan Niazi, whose tireless efforts and leadership have been instrumental throughout the year. Their dedication, along with that of our entire volunteer team, has been invaluable in delivering successful programs and strengthening our community connections.

To all our volunteers – thank you for your integrity, warmth, and professionalism. **You are the heart of AISOV!**

Thank You!



Not all of our volunteers are pictured, but our thanks go to every one of you for your dedication and support throughout the year.

Financial Statements for The Year Ended 30 June 2025

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Your directors present their report on the company for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

Directors

The following persons were officers of the incorporated association during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

Leila Zivdar - Treasurer (Appointed in November 2025)

Lobat Nezami - Management Committee (Resigned as Treasurer in November 2025)

Kambiz Razmara - Management Committee

Review of Operation

The profit of the company for the financial year after providing for income tax amounted to \$714 (2024: \$11,539).

Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

No significant changes in the state of affairs of the company occurred during the financial year.

Subsequent Events

The Association is dependent upon the ongoing receipt of government grants and community and/or corporate donations to ensure the ongoing continuance of its programs. Subsequent to balance date, the Association received a grant of \$20,000 from Manningham City Council on 14 August 2025 and a grant of \$2,500 from the Department of Social Services on 22 August 2025.

Likely developments and expected results of operations

Information on likely developments in the operations of the association and the expected results of operations have not been included in this report because the directors believe it would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the association.

Environmental Regulation

The association is not subject to any significant environmental regulation under Australian Commonwealth or State law.

Indemnity and insurance of officers

The association has indemnified the directors and executives of the responsible entity for costs incurred, in their capacity as a director or executive, for which they may be held personally liable, except where there is a lack of good faith.

Indemnity and insurance of auditor

The association has not, during or since the end of the financial year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify the auditor of the association or any related entity against a liability incurred by the auditor.

During the financial year, the association has not paid a premium in respect of a contract to insure the auditor of the association or any related entity.

Lobat Nezami
Management Committee (Resigned Treasurer)

Kambiz Razmara
Management Committee

Lobat Nezami
7/11/25

K.R.

Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) Inc

ABN 65 724 518 911

Income Statement

	Note	2025 \$	<u>Unaudited</u> 2024 \$
Revenue	3	170,650	91,374
Total Revenue		<u>170,650</u>	<u>91,374</u>
Other income/expenses:			
Interest Income		-	-
		<u>170,650</u>	<u>91,374</u>
Other operating expenses		(169,937)	(79,836)
		<u>(169,937)</u>	<u>(79,836)</u>
Income/(Loss) from ordinary activities before income tax expense		714	11,539
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities		-	-
Net income/(loss) from ordinary activities after income tax expense		<u>714</u>	<u>11,539</u>
Other comprehensive income:			
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to members		<u><u>714</u></u>	<u><u>11,539</u></u>

Balance Sheet

	Note	2025 \$	<u>Unaudited</u> 2024 \$
Current assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4	32,569	37,685
Total current assets		32,569	37,685
Non-Current assets			
Total Non-Current assets		-	-
Total Assets		32,569	37,685
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables		-	-
Total Current Liabilities		-	-
Total Liabilities		-	-
Net Assets/(Liabilities)		32,569	37,685
Equity			
Accumulated Profit		32,569	37,685
Total Equity		32,569	37,685
Accumulated Profit:			
Balance at 1st July		37,685	26,146
Profit/ (loss) for the year		714	11,539
Prior period adjustment		(5,829)	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		32,569	37,685
Total equity/ (deficiency) at the end of the financial year		32,569	37,685

Statement of Cash Flows

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Receipts from customers		170,650	-
Interest received		-	-
Dividends Received		-	-
Payments to suppliers and employees		<u>(175,765)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	b	<u>(5,115)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Proceeds from sale of assets		-	-
Payments for plant and equipment		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Proceeds from (repayment of) finance leases		-	-
Proceeds from issued capital		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(5,115)	-
Cash at beginning of the financial year		37,685	-
Cash at end of the financial year	a	<u><u>32,569</u></u>	<u><u>37,685</u></u>

This is the first year of audit for the entity hence prior year's cashflows have not been prepared.

Statement of Cash Flows

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
(a) Reconciliation of Cash		
For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investments in money market instruments maturing within less than two months and net of bank overdrafts		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:		
Cash at bank	32,569	37,685
	<u>32,569</u>	<u>37,685</u>
(b) Reconciliation of Cash Flow from (to) Operations with Profit from Ordinary Activities after Income Tax		
Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities after income tax	714	-
<i>Add (Less) non-cash flows in profit/(loss) from ordinary activities:</i>		
Depreciation expense	-	-
Prior period adjustment	(5,829)	-
Unrealised exchange differences	-	-
<i>Add (Less) changes in assets and liabilities:</i>		
Decrease (increase) in trade and other receivables	-	-
Decrease (increase) in other operating assets	-	-
Decrease (increase) in deferred tax assets	-	-
Decrease (increase) in ROU Asset	-	-
Increase (decrease) in trade and other payables	-	-
Increase (decrease) in ROU Asset - Lease Liability	-	-
Increase (decrease) in provisions	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(5,115)</u>	<u>-</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 1: Material accounting policy information

The accounting policies that are material to the incorporated association are set out below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently during the financial year. The comparative information presented relates to unaudited financial statements of the prior year.

New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

The incorporated association has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012 (VIC). The Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements', AASB 107 'Statement of Cash Flows', AASB 108 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors', AASB 1048 'Interpretation of Standards' and AASB 1054 'Australian Additional Disclosures'.

Note 2. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the directors of Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) Inc have determined are appropriate to meet the purposes of preparation.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Notes to the Financial Statements

(a) Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the association is exempt under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. As the association is tax exempt, it is entitled to a refund of any imputation credits received or Tax File Number withholding tax paid. The association will record these amounts as income in the year of receipt of refund from the Taxation Office.

(b) Revenue

Revenue includes investment and donation income received during the reporting period.

Sales revenue

Events, fundraising and raffles are recognised when received or receivable.

Donations

Donations are recognised at the time the pledge is made.

Grants

Grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the incorporated association satisfies the performance obligations stated within the funding agreements.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the incorporated association is eligible to retain the contribution, the grant will be recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until those conditions are satisfied.

Interest

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method.

Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Notes to the Financial Statements

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 3: Revenue		
Membership	1,366	1,280
Income from Events	144,440	83,904
Donation	-	1,190
Grant	24,844	5,000
	<u>170,650</u>	<u>91,374</u>

The amount of \$9,000 for Fire Festival Vendor Bonds has been recorded in both Income and Expense. This amount relates entirely to the receipt and subsequent return of vendor bonds for the Fire Festival.

Note 4: Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at Bank - Westpac	31,629	31,150
PayPal	526	6,535
Petty Cash	415	-
	<u>32,569</u>	<u>37,685</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 6: Financial instruments

Financial risk management objectives

The association seeks to maximise the financial returns and minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance.

Liquidity risk

Vigilant liquidity risk management requires the association to maintain sufficient liquid assets (mainly cash and cash equivalents) to be able to pay debts as and when they become due and payable.

The association manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate cash reserves by continuously monitoring actual and forecast cash flows and matching the maturity profiles of financial assets and liabilities.

Fair value of financial instruments

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

Note 7: Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the current and previous financial year.

Receivable from and payable to related parties

There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

Loans to/from related parties

There were no loans from related parties at the current reporting date.

Note 8: Subsequent Events

The Association is dependent upon the ongoing receipt of government grants and community and/or corporate donations to ensure the ongoing continuance of its programs. Subsequent to balance date, the Association received a grant of \$20,000 from Manningham City Council on 14 August 2025 and a grant of \$2,500 from the Department of Social Services on 22 August 2025.

Declaration by Directors

The committee had determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies in Note 2 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee, the financial report:

(a) presents fairly the financial position of Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) Inc. as at 30 June 2025 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

(b) at the date of its statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Lobat Nezami

Dated this 7 day of November 2025

Lobat Nezami



Kambiz Razmara

Dated this 7 day of November 2025

Looking Ahead

1. Building Trust As Our Foundation

As we move into the year ahead, AISOV's vision remains guided by one central principle — trust. Trust underpins all our efforts to strengthen community connections, advocate for human rights, celebrate culture, and promote wellbeing. It is the bridge between our values and our actions, and the key to sustaining unity within our community and beyond.

2. Strengthening Advocacy

We will continue our efforts in advancing human rights and social justice by working collaboratively with policymakers, organisations, and advocates both locally and in Iran. Through open dialogue and principled advocacy, we aim to continue our advocacy for the rights of our fellow Iranians in Iran, as well as ensure that locally, for our part, the Iranian-Australian voice is heard, respected and trusted at all levels of decision-making.

3. Celebrating Culture

Cultural celebration remains central to our mission. Events such as Nowruz at the Parliament of Victoria and Chaharshanbe Souri will continue to bring people together in joy and shared identity. These gatherings build understanding, pride, and mutual respect across Victoria's diverse communities.

4. Supporting Wellbeing

AISOV will strengthen its wellbeing initiatives by expanding our network of Farsi-speaking mental-health professionals. This trusted network will help ensure culturally safe access to services and support for those facing challenges within our community.

5. Deepening Partnerships

We will continue building enduring partnerships with government agencies, service providers, and community groups to amplify our reach and impact. By engaging openly through our digital platforms, we aim to build confidence, transparency, and collaboration with our members.

6. Embracing Unity

AISOV remains committed to inclusivity and solidarity. We will launch programs that connect Iranian-Australians with other cultural communities, creating opportunities for dialogue and shared understanding that strengthen social cohesion across Victoria.

Together, through trust and cooperation, we can build a stronger, more connected community — one that reflects the values of respect, dignity, and shared humanity at the heart of AISOV's mission.



To Our Members

Thank you for your trust, participation and generosity throughout 2024–25. Your voices, feedback and volunteer effort shaped our priorities, strengthened our programs and kept our mission grounded in community needs. As we look ahead, we'll continue to deliver inclusive events, clear referral pathways and practical advocacy — and we'll keep listening. We invite you to stay engaged: share your ideas, join a working group, volunteer at an event, or simply bring a friend to the next gathering. Together, we'll keep building solidarity, nurturing culture and promoting dignity, equality and respect for all.



aisov.org.au

 Level 1
79 Mahoney's Rd
Forest Hill VIC 3131

 03 9894 2644

 0468 460 698

 info@aisov.org.au

Connect With Us

