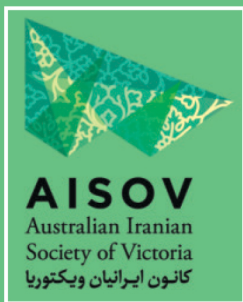




Azerbaijani Dance Performance by Azerbaijani Society of Australia at the Parliament of Victoria  
Photo by ilus Photography studio



Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV)

# Annual Report

## 2023-24

AISOV acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and acknowledge their ongoing connection to land, sea, and community. We also extend our respect to Traditional Owners across Victoria.

We celebrate, value, and include people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies, and abilities.



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Images featured in this report are credited to ilus Photography Studio, Sara Studio, Voguish Photography and Shida Photography. We are grateful for your contribution in visually documenting our journey and community events.

## Acknowledgement of our Founders

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We acknowledge and thank the Elders and Founders of our community for their pioneering efforts in establishing and nurturing AISOV. We also extend our gratitude to the Senior Citizen Club, House of Persia, and the Australian Youth Society of Victoria for their continued engagement and support of AISOV.

## Acknowledgement of our Partners

---

AISOV collaborates with a wide range of government and sector partners to deliver our policy, advocacy, and project work. We are deeply grateful for the support of the following funders, organisations, and individuals throughout 2023-24. Their contributions have been instrumental in helping us create a positive impact within the community. We extend our sincere thanks to:

***House of Persia (HOPE), Senior Citizen Club, Australian Youth Society of Victoria (AIRYS), Iranian Cultural School, Victorian School of Languages, Manningham City Council, Knox City Council, Whitehorse City Council, City of Boroondara, Darebin City Council, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, Amnesty International, Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC), Fair Work Ombudsman, Australian Federal Police (AFP), Victorian Multicul-***

***tural Commission (VMC), Settlement Services International (SSI), Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC), Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV), Migrant Information Centre (MIC), Afghan Australian Initiative (AAI), Yarra Foundation, Partners in Wellbeing, Parliament of Victoria, North Eastern Public Health Unit (NEPHU), St John Ambulance Victoria, Natalie Hutchins MP, Senator Claire Chandler, Samantha Ratnam MP, John Pesutto MP, Keith Wolahan MP, Cindy McLeish MP, Iranian Women's Association, Victoria Police, Radio Neshat, AWA Farsi, Voice of Australia, and many other organisations and individuals who have provided both in-kind and monetary support.***

## Child Safety Statement

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The Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) is deeply committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people involved in our activities. We believe that every child has the right to feel safe, respected, and valued, and we are dedicated to creating a nurturing environment that upholds these principles.

# Management Committee Message

Dear Members and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, we feel a deep sense of gratitude for what we have accomplished together. One of the most joyful moments this year was the Fire Festival in March, which drew over 5,000 attendees. It wasn't just a celebration of our rich culture but also a powerful testament to what we can achieve when we unite with a shared purpose. The success of this event was made possible by over 90 volunteers who selflessly gave their time and energy. Their dedication and sacrifice brought our community closer, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

Another significant achievement came from our Golbang Magazine team, who successfully obtained an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) from the National Library of Australia in Canberra. This recognition reflects the team's dedication and enhances the magazine's credibility and reach. Alongside this, our volunteers have worked tirelessly to organise various cultural and community activities, all of which align with our vision of supporting and building solidarity among all Iranians. We remain committed to preserving cultural values, enhancing mutual respect, and fostering strong relationships with the broader society.

Despite our achievements, we have also faced challenges, particularly stemming from our limited resources and our ongoing efforts to build strong governance. However, what has become clear to us is that, despite these challenges, our collective commitment to the community has not wavered. Instead, we have pushed forward, continuing to strengthen our partnerships with key decision-makers, organisations, and community members. These connections have ensured that our voices are heard at all levels, advancing our goals. We deeply appreciate everyone who has contributed to these efforts, and we thank our community members for reciprocating our engagement by placing their trust in us.

As we look ahead, your solidarity and mutual trust will continue to nurture and energise our efforts. Lastly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank two management committee members, Ms Sahar Gholizadeh and Mr Rasteen Panahandeh, who stepped down this year. Your contributions have been invaluable, and we are grateful for the lasting impact you've had. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers, members, and supporters for their dedication and support.

Management Committee of Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV)

# Overview of the 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. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved 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 and influence in the region.

## Strategic Planning Highlights

We are proud to have emerged from a culture with lots of heart. Whilst we still look to our beautiful place of birth with mixed emotions, our cultural intensity, with deep emotional connection to each other, has over the years sustained each of us in our journey in this vast land we call home. Notwithstanding our desire for hearty engagement, with the growth of our community both in number and diversity of identities, the needs have become more complex. The complexities have required a greater focus on our organisational structure and governance. We have therefore moved forward to bring a more focused organisation to AISOV whilst retaining heart. As is typical of our history, we have had some successes and many challenges.

Breaking down the key One of the key aspects of our vision we have moved forward as follows:

1. Under the banner of our first Focus Area:

We have strived to build solidarity among all Iranians. With the support of our wonderful volunteers we have worked very

hard to bring our community together through cultural activities and celebrations such as the Fire Festival which provided a common basis for 5000-7000 of our community members to come together, engage with each other at all levels and celebrate our wonderful "chaharshanebh souri". Other highlights include the Biggest Morning Tea by Cancer Council of Victoria which brought many of us together to collect funds for them and Are You Ok Day which AISOV has been facilitating for many years.

2. Under our Second Focus Area, we have established connections within the broader Australian community, where we have advocated for the needs and rights of our community within Victoria, nationally, and from afar for those in Iran. Our various activities (refer to other sections of our Annual Report for more details) have combined advocacy for our cohort of community members living in limbo due to uncertain migration status with efforts to support those whose rights are regularly breached in our beloved Iran and elsewhere.

3. Under the banner of our Third Focus



Area we have introduced our culture and history to the broader Australian community through NowRuz celebration at the Victorian Parliament where we proudly showcased our history, music and our diversity as well as integrated our identity as a proud community into the broader community discourse in Victoria's Parliament.

### **Management Committee Challenges:**

Our management committee (Committee) is made of four volunteers (initially five in number with two changes during the year with two resignations and one appointment by the Committee in compliance with our constitution). They hold jobs and family responsibilities. In addition to these day to day responsibilities and challenges, the Committee with its limited resources, has throughout the year attended to the many needs within our community. Without much opportunity to catch their collective breath, they were further thrust into having to respond to the turbulence of external events outside our control such as the kneejerk bill, The Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024 which threatened our community in particular the already pressured cohort within our community even further. Furthermore, the continuation of events in Iran whilst critically important, have weighed heavy on the Committee's and the community's minds and soles. Whilst the suffering of our fellow compatriots in Iran is far greater and their resilience and resolve exemplary, the Committee and our community have been burnt out by the tyranny and helplessness of distance watching sufferings from afar. The above coupled with limited income

have slowed down our partnership building as well as our other plans under each of the focus areas.

Rumours and social media misinformation and lies: although this year we have experienced fewer attacks and untruths, the issue of trust within our community continues to in our view be the biggest obstacle to progress. We have remained silent out of the desire to not add further fuel to the false narratives that could preoccupy our already stretched resources.

### **Our Pledge:**

We are resolute in continuing to build the narrative that is more hopeful and transparent. We are determined also 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 the reasons for which each of us are involved within AISOV. As 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.

**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 a deep sense of gratitude to and pride we celebrate and thank the activism of all our wonderful groups both within and outside Victoria who bring us all out onto the streets to seek justice and equality for our people here and in Iran. We urge them to continue. In our small way we also advocate for the exercise of democracy where we come together to focus on our commonalities rather than differences. We therefore seek to listen to each other no matter what 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 say to each other that despite our disagreements we are united in our common purpose. Not all conversations will be easy or favourable but we pledge to have those conversations nonetheless. Where we fail unintentionally, we will get up again and keep trying until we are there.

**E. Fourth Focus Area:** our strategic plan, vision and mission have been restated below. Further breakdown of each area is a must and we pledge to provide further in the coming year. Additionally with the desire for the exercise of democracy and to keep the introduction of the following Fourth Focus Area to our strategic plan which will require a slight change to our constitution.



## 4th Focus Area of AISoV

The 16 September 2022 mass nationwide movement of “Woman, Life, Freedom” and the uprising of our fellow Iranians in Iran, Australia, and globally continue to influence the core of our identity. Whilst we mourn the loss of innocent lives and our hearts have been broken for the imprisonment of brave souls, we celebrate the bravery and selflessness of those fighting for their rights. Their and our collective struggle continues. For us to continue to stand in solidarity from afar with the same brave souls who continue to resist, we must continue our advocacy both locally, nationally, and internationally. To this end, our activities under the 4th Focus Area will be directed towards the promotion of Human Rights and the preservation of equality, dignity, and respect for all Humankind. Examples of such focus include, without limitation, advocacy:

- Against executions and the arrest of activists in Iran.
- For changes in laws to deter foreign interference in Australia against our community.
- For those seeking asylum in Australia whose rights continue to be ignored.

Under this focus area, we also aim to build partnerships and support other like-minded organisations that are active in promoting the said values. These include Amnesty International Australia and the Australian Iranian Community Alliance (AICA).

To this end, we will put to vote the following wording for our 4th Focus Area at our upcoming Annual General Meeting:

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 مان و فراتر از آن، برای ترویج حقوق انسانی اولیه و حفظ کرامت انسانی، برابری و احترام برای تمامی بشریت

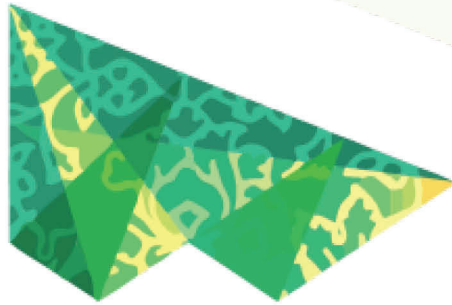
## AISOV's Official Strategic Plan

Our strategic planning process is a source of immense excitement for us, as it reflects the collective wisdom and aspirations of many community leaders within Iranian society. While we have established our Vision and Mission for the medium term, we recognise that they are not rigidly fixed and will remain open to periodic review and refinement. As our community grows and evolves, we aim to become more adept at assessing our progress and adapting our strategies to best serve the needs of our community.

May 2022

Australian Iranian Society of Victoria

## STRATEGIC PLAN



# AISOV

Australian Iranian  
Society of Victoria  
کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا

### 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 موثر با جامعه فعالیت می کند

### FOCUS AREAS

Focus areas show what the areas of our mission prioritise over the coming five years and cover what we will do to progress the vision as an organisation.

AISOV  
Australian Iranian  
Society of Victoria  
کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا



1

TITLE

### Build solidarity and enhance mutual respect

DESCRIPTION

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

TITLE

### Develop networks and referral systems

DESCRIPTION

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 موثر و ارجاع به سازمان های مرتبط.

3

TITLE

### Build rapport to nurture culture

DESCRIPTION

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 آن ها به جامعه چند فرهنگی استرالیا.

# Focus Area 1: Build Solidarity and Enhance Mutual Respect

## Fire festival

### A Milestone Event Reviving Persian Culture at Ruffey Lake Park

After a few years of hiatus, and in collaboration with various community organisations, we hosted the traditional “Chaharshanbe Suri/Fire Festival” on 12 March 2024 at Ruffey Lake Park. This lively event, marking the beginning of 1403 in the Persian calendar, was held alongside the inaugural “Taste of Persia” food festival. Thanks to the incredible support of over 40 dedicated volunteers, we brought together 5,000 to 7,000 community members, making it one of the largest and most vibrant Persian Fire Festival celebrations in Australia, and possibly beyond. The Fire Festival not only provided a joyful space for celebration but also created an opportunity for the community to connect, engage, and strengthen bonds. Up to 50 businesses and organisations, both for-profit and nonprofit, showcased and promoted their activities, enriching the experience for attendees.

Formal planning for the event began with the first consultation meeting on 9 December 2023, with AISOV and partner organisations working across four teams: cultural, marketing, operations, and food festival.

We actively sought feedback from attendees after the event and were pleased to receive overwhelmingly positive responses, along with a few constructive suggestions that we will take into account to im-

prove future events.

A special thank you goes to the “Iranian Cultural School” for assisting with the set-up of the fire pits. Their efforts created lasting memories for families and children while helping to keep our cherished traditions alive.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to “Manningham City Council” for their ongoing support, which made this event possible. Your contribution allowed us to create a vibrant and welcoming space for our community to come together and celebrate, and we look forward to future collaborations.





Photos by ilus Photography Studio, Sara Studio and Arastou Mirshahi



Meet Ario, our youngest volunteer, who is helping with letter-dropping in preparation for the Fire Festival.

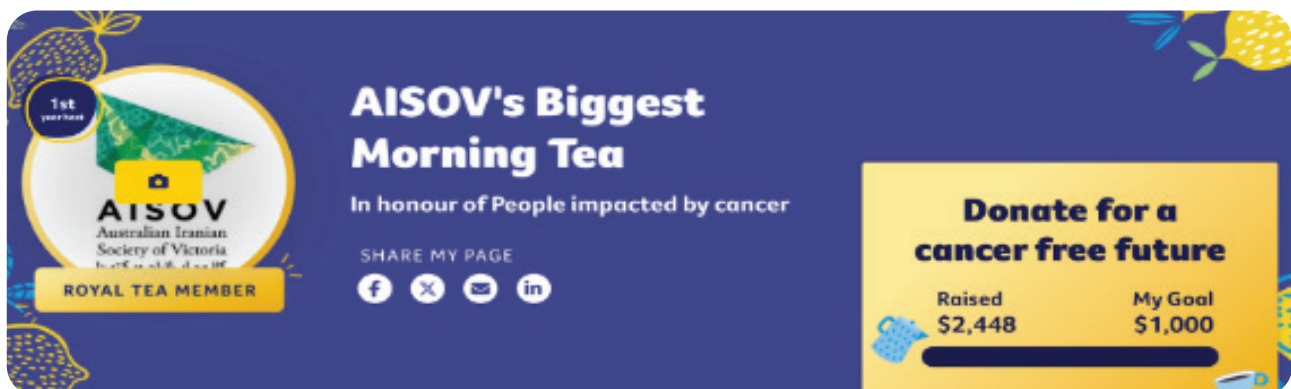


## The Biggest Morning Tea by Cancer Council

On the 19th of May, we proudly participated in the "Biggest Morning Tea," an initiative by the Cancer Council aimed at raising funds to support cancer research, prevention, and support for those impacted by the disease. With an initial goal of raising \$1,000, we were thrilled to surpass that by raising an impressive \$2,448, which was donated to the Cancer Council. This achievement was made possible thanks to the help of our dedicated volunteers and the overwhelming support of our community.

The Cancer Council is Australia's leading cancer charity, working across every aspect of cancer. They provide crucial support to those affected by cancer, advocate for cancer-related issues, empower individuals to reduce their cancer risk, and invest in research for better detection and treatment.

This event not only allowed us to contribute to an important cause but also aligned with our mission of building solidarity and enhancing mutual respect within the community. By participating in this initiative, we came together as a community for a common goal, demonstrating our collective strength and compassion. It also provided an opportunity to connect with other communities in support of a vital cause, reinforcing our commitment to unity and mutual respect beyond cultural boundaries.





## Honouring Our Elders: A Community Initiative Celebrating the Contributions of Seniors

As part of our ongoing efforts to foster unity and mutual respect within our community, we are excited to launch a new initiative to honour the seniors in our community by celebrating their past contributions. A group of our dedicated community members has shown great interest in this initiative, and together, we have already conducted an interview with Ms Karimloo, the former president of AISOV. We plan to continue these interviews to document and highlight the invaluable roles our elders have played.

In addition to the interviews, we are working together to plan events and visits to aged care facilities to connect with our senior community members, listen to their stories, and express our deep gratitude for their enduring contributions. By recognising and celebrating the wisdom and experiences of our elders, we aim to strengthen intergenerational bonds and foster greater respect and solidarity across the community.



## R U OK? Day Event - 14 September 2023

On 14th September 2023, we held a special online R U OK? Day event, bringing together community members and experts to raise awareness about mental health and emotional well-being. The event, streamed live on Facebook, has garnered almost 2,000 views so far, reflecting strong community interest in the discussions around mental health challenges faced by the Iranian-Australian community.

Key topics covered during the event included:

- The importance of emotions and their role in our lives.
- Emotional resilience, particularly among children and adolescents.
- Mental health concerns specific to men in the Iranian community.
- The significance of cultural, social, and historical factors in shaping emotions . within the Iranian-Australian community.
- The role of active listening and support for those experiencing emotional distress.
- The impact of genetics on well-being and how meditation can help improve mental health.

The event also featured a live poetry reading, a meditation session, an interactive Q&A segment, and prizes for participants. Thank you to all who participated and shared their invaluable insights, making the event a meaningful experience for the community.

This initiative highlighted the importance of mental health awareness and provided a platform for meaningful discussions to support emotional well-being within the Iranian-Australian community.

**Join our R U OK?  
event**

با حضور متخصصین امر:

- خانم دکتر نجمه جدیدی
- خانم دکتر ساناز سعیداحمدی
- آقای دکتر کاظم مدنی
- آقای دکتر روزبه ملکزاده
- خانم دکتر آرزو عنصری
- خانم سحر قلیزاده

**Thursday  
14 September  
8- 9:30 pm**

Proudly supporting  
**R U OK?**

دکلمه و موسیقی با  
مهرفام و امیرعباس کریمی  
و  
اهدای دو جایزه ویژه

**AISOV**  
Australian Iranian  
Society of Victoria  
کانون ایرانیان ویتنام

**HOUSE OF PERSIA**  
خانه ایران

**Iranian Australian  
Health Professionals**

**CHELSEA**  
FOOTBALL CLUB

**GIFT CARD**  
\$200

## Anti-Gambling Workshops Supported by SSI Grant

The aim of this grant was to raise public awareness of the negative effects of gambling, including the risks of addiction, financial loss, and the potential to cause social problems. A series of workshops and programs were held during March and April.

Special thanks to Ms. Shahin Movasat, Ms. Maliheh Panahi, Dr. Kazem Madani, Ms. Mojan Rastegar, Mr. Peter Jankowski, Settlement Services International (SSI), the Iranian Cultural School management and volunteers, Doncaster Secondary College, and Radio Neshat, who assisted us in delivering these workshops and programs. A total of 270 students attended the workshops, and thousands of listeners tuned in to two radio programs.

During these programs, available resources and support were introduced to families affected by gambling addiction to help them cope with the mental and financial consequences. Community members were encouraged to get involved in the fight against gambling addiction, fostering a sense of community and social responsibility.

Young adults were educated by specialists about the mental impact and financial costs of gambling and gaming addiction.

+ کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا با همکاری رادیو نشاط تقدیم می کند +

پیشگیری و درمان آسیب های قمار

کارشناس برنامه:

**خانم موژان رستگار**

فارغ التحصیل رشته روانشناسی و مشاوره از استرالیا

RADIO NESHAT

AISOV  
Australian Iranian Society of Victoria  
کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا

+ کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا با همکاری رادیو نشاط تقدیم می کند +

پیشگیری و درمان آسیب های قمار

کارشناس برنامه:

**دکتر کاظم مدنی**

روانپزشک و عضو کالج سلطنتی روانپزشکان استرالیا و نیوزلند

RADIO NESHAT

AISOV  
Australian Iranian Society of Victoria  
کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا

# Focus Area 2: Develop Networks and Referral Systems

## Our Collaboration with the Department of Home Affairs:



### **Australian Government** **Department of Home Affairs**

In 2023-24, we strengthened our relationship with the Department of Home Affairs through active participation in key initiatives and collaborations. These engagements allowed us to better address the needs and concerns of the Iranian-Australian community, focusing on advocacy, community support, and building stronger networks. Below are some highlights of the key initiatives and meetings we participated in throughout the year.

### **Our Collaboration with the Department of Home Affairs:**

This year, we have participated multiple times in the Department of Home Affairs' Multicultural Women's Reference Group (MWRG). Chaired by the Department's Regional Director for Victoria and Tasmania, this group brings together women from diverse cultural, religious, and linguistic backgrounds to share their perspectives on issues impacting women in

Victoria. Through quarterly meetings, we contribute to meaningful discussions on the challenges facing women in the Iranian community and help build strong networks with other organisations.

### **Catch-up Meeting - 8 September 2023**

We started the year by attending a catch-up meeting with the Department of Home Affairs on 8 September 2023. This meeting provided a valuable opportunity to discuss pressing community issues and lay the groundwork for future collaborations. It served as an important touchpoint for ongoing discussions on how we can best support the Iranian community.

### **Community Engagement for Home Affairs On-Demand Web Translation Project - Farsi (11 September 2023)**

On 11 September, we participated in the Department's On-Demand Web Translation Project. This initiative focused on ensuring that essential migration and community resources are available in Farsi, making them more accessible to Farsi-speaking individuals in Australia. Our involvement in this project was a step toward breaking down language barriers and improving communication between the Department and culturally diverse communities.

## **Skilled Refugee Labour Agreement Pilot Program Webinar - 12 December 2023**

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On 12 December, we participated in a webinar hosted by the Department of Home Affairs in partnership with Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB). The webinar introduced the Skilled Refugee Labour Agreement Pilot Program, which connects Australian businesses with skilled refugees. This initiative allows refugees and displaced persons to rebuild their lives in Australia while addressing skills shortages in various industries. We explored how this program could benefit the Iranian refugee community, facilitating new employment opportunities for skilled individuals.

## **Skilled Refugee Labour Agreement Pilot Program Webinar - 12 December 2023**

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On 12 December, we participated in a webinar hosted by the Department of Home Affairs in partnership with Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB). The webinar introduced the Skilled Refugee Labour Agreement Pilot Program, which connects Australian businesses with skilled refugees. This initiative allows refugees and displaced persons to rebuild their lives in Australia while addressing skills shortages in various industries. We explored how this program could benefit the Iranian refugee community, facilitating new employment opportunities for skilled individuals.

## **Migration Strategy Information Session - 20 December 2023**

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We attended the Migration Strategy Information Session on 20 December 2023. This online session, hosted by the Department of Home Affairs, provided

an update on the Federal Government's Migration Strategy Action Plan. The session also gave us the opportunity to ask questions and offer feedback on policies that directly impact the Iranian-Australian community.

## **Meeting with Andrew Heath / Regional Director of Victoria/Tasmania - 15 April 2023**

---

Earlier in the year, we met with Andrew Heath from the Department of Home Affairs to discuss concerns about recent changes to Australian immigration laws. The meeting addressed issues such as the impact of new removal laws on Iranian visa holders, highlighting the anxiety within the community due to these legal developments. We sought clarification from the Department and advocated for greater transparency and support for affected community members.

## **Engaging in the 2024–25 Humanitarian Program Consultations: Advocating for the Iranian-Australian Community**

---

On 21 May 2024, we participated in the 25–2024 Humanitarian Program: Community Consultations at the Department of Home Affairs. This significant meeting, chaired by Ms. Lavinia Mitchell from the Humanitarian Policy and Child Wellbeing Branch, provided an opportunity to engage with key stakeholders on the future direction of Australia's Humanitarian Program. The Hon. Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, and Multicultural Affairs, addressed the gathering, outlining the government's vision for the –2024 25 program. Participants, including representatives from the UNHCR, shared valuable insights into the global humanitarian context. We contributed to the consultation by delivering a brief

statement, highlighting the needs of the Iranian-Australian community and refugees. This meeting helped us enhance our advocacy efforts and engage in meaningful dialogue with policymakers. We remain committed to maintaining and strengthening our relationship with the Department of Home Affairs. Through continued collaboration and dialogue, we will ensure that the voices and concerns of the Iranian community are heard and addressed. Our focus will remain on providing advocacy, support, and practical solutions for migration-related issues while deepening our engagement with other community groups and decision-makers.

### Meeting with the Fair Work Ombudsman - 21 December 2023

In this meeting, the following items were addressed:

- Iranian women are among the lowest-paid cohorts in Australia. The **Secure Jobs, Better Pay** amendments to the Fair Work Act, particularly the gender equality measures, were discussed.
- Migrant workers continue to have rights and entitlements regardless of their migration status under the **Migration Act 1958**.
- A breach of that Act does not affect the validity of an employment contract or a contract for services.
- Other changes that came into effect this year include the **Fair Work Act** amendments: Protecting Worker Entitlements. These changes emphasise protections for migrant workers, stating that migrant workers in Australia have always had the same rights and entitlements under workplace laws as

other employees working in Australia.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Samantha Ratnam for her support of our «Woman, Life, Freedom» event and for taking the time to listen to our community's concerns during the meeting on 19 October. Her participation in our Nowruz event at Parliament, along with her inspiring speech and offer to support future initiatives, has been instrumental in expanding our network. Such collaborations are vital to building strong referral systems that enhance our community's access to support and resources.



We have also participated in Victoria University's Anti-Racism Facilitator Training program. Additionally, in response to our request, the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission's (VEOHRC) anti-racism survey was translated into Farsi by the Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC) and distributed to the community. The results of this survey have been instrumental in developing stronger tools for reporting racism, providing guidance to employers on addressing racism in the workplace, and informing research on the causes of vilification and racism

## Growing Your Community Group Course

We attended a five-week training course titled “**Growing Your Community Group.**” This course, a joint initiative by Knox City Council, the Community Learning Centre, and the Migrant Information Centre, offered valuable insights into strengthening community groups by building partnerships and referral networks.

Through this training, we are now better equipped to identify and support the diverse needs of Iranians in Victoria by fostering stronger connections and collaborations with other organisations and community groups.

## Radio Neshat Interview: Reflecting on 2023 and Future Plans for AISOV



افروز رحیمیان، رئیس کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریای استرالیا

### تشکلها و رسانه های فارسی زبان استرالیا

Australian Persian language organizations and media

موضوع گفتگو: عملکرد سال 2023 و اعلام برنامه های آینده کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریای استرالیا

On 4 January 2024, Radio Neshat conducted an interview with the President of the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV). The discussion focused on the history of AISOV, an overview of the organisation’s achievements in 2023, and future plans.

The interview provided insights into AISOV’s accomplishments under its mission and vision, including efforts to foster solidarity, promote cultural values, and support the Iranian-Australian community.

Looking ahead, AISOV shared its vision for expanding cultural programs, increasing community engagement, and building stronger relationships and partnerships to continue supporting the Iranian-Australian community in the year ahead.

## Focus Area 3: Build Rapport to Nurture Culture

### Nowruz Celebration and Cultural Exchange at the Parliament of Victoria

Nowruz in Parliament is an annual event aimed at breaking down cultural barriers and building relationships and trust among local government and non-government officials, deputies from diverse communities, and representatives from Australian-Iranian community and educational organisations. Our goal is to foster cultural connections, understanding, and reduce conflict.

The event celebrates and presents Iranian cultural values to the wider Australian society. As such, AISOV annually invites most Victorian Members of Parliament (MPs), Federal MPs, and Senators who have supported our community, as well as Mayors from local areas where many members of the Iranian community reside. Representatives from key multicultural organisations and communities are also invited. Based on parliamentary requirements, a maximum of 130 guests are permitted to join the celebration.

AISOV is grateful for its volunteers who helped execute the event smoothly. A special thanks goes to our Artists and younger volunteers, whose effective support allowed us to continue fulfilling our mission











## Melbourne Poetry Night: Celebrating Persian Literature and Community Connection

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The “Melbourne Poetry Night Group” continues to hold gatherings on the last Sunday of each month at AISOV’s office, with an average attendance of 20 to 30 members per session. These gatherings provide a wonderful opportunity for enthusiasts of Persian poetry, culture, and literature to come together and share in an hour of mutual appreciation and connection. By bringing people together in celebration of our shared cultural heritage, these sessions strengthen the bonds within our community.

We extend our gratitude to the members of this group, especially Ms. Sara Goodarzi, for their dedication in running these sessions seamlessly and for their valuable contribution to the community



## Supporting the Community

In line with our missions, we feel a duty to support our artists and activists. Over the past year, we have actively shared and promoted their events, galleries, performances, and activities. By doing so, we aimed to empower our community members to build a bridge between the Iranian community and the wider world, fostering understanding and engagement.

Providing a platform for Iranian artists and activists helps amplify their voices and perspectives. We believe that art and activism transcend cultural barriers, connecting people through shared values of justice, freedom, and human rights. Through our support, we strive to cultivate empathy and global awareness, contributing to a more inclusive and compassionate world.

**BULLEEN PLAZA PRESENTS A**

# MULTICULTURAL festival

10AM – 2.30PM **SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2024**

This event is supported by Manningham City Council

<b>10:15AM</b> PERSIAN PERFORMANCE SOGHOL – VIOLINIST	<b>11:00AM</b> VENETO CLUB ITALIAN CHOIR PERFORMANCE	<b>11:30AM</b> BELLA LINGUA ITALIAN SCHOOL KIDS PLAY PERFORMANCE	<b>1:30PM</b> NESTORUS COLLEGE GREEK SCHOOL MUSICAL PERFORMANCE
<b>11AM - 1:30PM</b> FACE PAINTING AND BALLOON TWISTING & GLITTER TATTOOS			

## IRANIAN COMMUNITY EVENT

### 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

PROUDLY LAUNCHING MIGRANT INFORMATION CENTRE'S (EASTERN MELBOURNE)  
FARSI HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS VIDEO

**Saturday 2 DECEMBER 2023**  
3:30 - 5:30 PM

Come along to join our free Iranian community event

- Healthy Relationships Video
- Healthy Relationships Talk
- Fun Activities
- Music
- Refreshments

Salvation Army  
1050 Whitehorse Road  
Box Hill

Please contact **Houma** at Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne) on **0401 571 738** or **92854888** to register

### Visible Invisible

Lobat Nezami (Painting)  
Mitra Malekzadeh (Photography)  
Parisima Kouklian, Ryan Lee Adams (Short Film: Wise)  
Payam Khajeh (Painting)

Opening: Thursday the 26th of October, 5 pm - 8 pm  
Exhibition Date: 26th October - 11th November 2023  
Thursdays & Fridays (5-8 pm) - Saturdays (4-6 pm)

Address: (712 in the Nicholas Building) 37 Swanston St, Melbourne

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

# ENGLISH

BY **SANAZ TOOSSI**  
DIRECTED BY **TASNIM HOSSAIN**

**MEET THE CREATIVES**



**پادکست تندرستی با تینا**  
**Tandorosti ba Tina**

یک پادکست خودمونی و در عین حال قابل اعتماد و به روز درباره ی سلامتی!

برای اطلاعات بیشتر روی لینک زیر کلیک کنید.






**Music DJ AMIN**  
**Neyhanban : RAUOF**  
**SARA STUDIO**  
*photography & videography*

به میزبانی انجمن بختیاری های مقیم استرالیا ملبورن

# جشن باستانی

**7 APRIL 2024**  
**10 AM - 4 PM**

همراهان گرامی  
لطفا از آوردن هر گونه وسایل آتش زا برای ایمنی  
و رعایت کردن قوانین ایالتی، خودداری بفرمایید.

# 13 بهار



**Petrie Park, Montmorency VIC 3094** | **0449 500 916 - 0450 934 838**

**11th Iranian film festival australia**  
16 Nov - 13 Dec 2023

Presented by  
**Daricheh CINEMA**  
**iffa.net.au**  
#iffaust

Sydney 16 - 22 Nov, Dendy Newtown  
Canberra 17 - 19 Nov, NFSA ARC Cinema  
Melbourne 23 - 29 Nov, Cinema Nova  
Brisbane 30 Nov - 6 Dec, Elizabeth Prc. Theatre  
Adelaide 1 - 3 Dec, Mercury Cinema  
Perth 7-13 Dec, Luna Cinemas Leederville



**HOUSE OF PERSIA**  
Cultural Sponsor


GLOBAL NETWORK FOR WOMAN LIFE FREEDOM

**TOGETHER AND WITH A UNITED VOICE, FOR TOOMAJ'S FREEDOM**

**28. APRIL 2024**  
**MELBOURNE**  
State Library Victoria  
02:00 PM

**بهم و یک صدا  
برای توماج**

**توماج**



Mohammad Rezaee Rad's  
I'm a virtual being, take photos of me

featuring  
Sadaf Monajemi  
Sara Hakimi

directed by  
Ehsan Bayatfar



Sunday  
15th October 2023  
17:00pm and 18:30pm



Australia  
Doncaster Playhouse | 679 Doncaster Road Doncaster VIC 3058  
0412024235 | <https://www.trybooking.com/GMHIA>



# BRING YOUR BILLS DAY

Wednesday 13th September 11am to 3pm  
SOUTH EAST COMMUNITY LINKS  
186 Foster Street East, Dandenong

**Get help and advice on:**

- Electricity, Gas and Water Bills
- Tenancy Rights
- Financial & Consumer Rights
- Ombudsman Services
- Centrelink
- Fines

**...and more!**  
**FREE BBQ LUNCH and LOTS of Giveaways!**



Proudly supported by  
City of Greater Dandenong



# Persian Fair 2024

Sun 1 Dec 11 am - 4:30 pm  
Entry fee \$5 - Kids u/12 free

## Box Hill Town Hall

1022, Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill 3128- 47E9



Organised by: House of Persia Community and Cultural Centre  
[www.facebook.com/persianfair.melbourne/](https://www.facebook.com/persianfair.melbourne/)  
[persianfair@houseofpersia.org.au](mailto:persianfair@houseofpersia.org.au)



## Multicultural rental rights forum

Register for the event here: 

**Tuesday 10 October, 7pm**

Join us online to find out what you need to know when the landlord wants to sell your rented home

VICTORIAN multicultural commission  
strengthening our community



# Advocacy and Human Rights Activities

Based on the demands of AISOV members at the August 2023 AGM and the board's strong beliefs, we are committed to advocating for human rights by raising our voices and standing up for our community through engagement with government agencies, not-for-profit organisations, and individuals both within Australia and globally.

In doing so, we have held both in-person and online meetings with politicians and specialists, submitted letters and submissions, and promoted petitions. We continue to advocate for practical solutions to improve the plight of those seeking asylum, whose residency status remains in limbo.

AISOV has also worked to increase global awareness of human rights violations inside Iran. We believe that we can take steps to safeguard someone's right to live free from fear and abuse. We can raise our voices for decent values, and we can join others in lobbying for better leadership, stronger laws, and greater respect for human dignity.

Our commitment to human rights reflects our national values and is a core principle of Australia's engagement with the international community.

Below are some highlights of the advocacy and human rights activities we have undertaken:



# MEET THE GUEST SPEAKERS

## WOMAN LIFE FREEDOM PUBLIC EVENT



**AUNTY DIANE KERR**  
Snr Wurundjeri Elder



**NATALIE HUTCHINS**  
Minister for Women of Victoria  
Special Video message



**SAMANTHA RATNAM MP**  
Leader of the Victorian Greens



**KEITH WOLAHAN MP**  
Member for Menzies



**KATRINA NORTH**  
Acting Co Chair AMC



**CR DEIRDRE DIAMANTE**  
Mayor of Manningham



**CR JULIE WILLIAMS**  
Mayor of Darebin



**CINDY MCLEISH MP**  
Shadow Minister for  
Women



**NOS HOSSEINI**  
Human Rights Advocate



ALSO PRESENTING: DJ SHAHYAD, KIANA DANCE PERFORMANCE, MR SHAHRYAR SHAMS VIOLIN PERFORMANCE, KIDS CORNER, AND MORE....

SEPTEMBER 28 - 5PM-7PM | PIAZZA ITALIA CARLTON VIC 3053



**Address:** 79 Mahoney Rd, Forest Hill VIC 3131

**Phone:** 98942644

**Website:** [www.aisov.org.au](http://www.aisov.org.au)

**Email:** [info@aisov.org.au](mailto:info@aisov.org.au)

We are thrilled to congratulate Narges Mohammadi on her well-deserved win of the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize. Her resilience and dedication to the cause of human rights in Iran, despite facing repeated arrests and imprisonment by the Iranian government, are an inspiration to us all. Mohammadi's Nobel Peace Prize is a significant moment for both the Iranian people and the international community, recognising the importance of fighting for human rights and democracy, even in the face of great adversity. It also serves as a reminder that the Iranian people are not alone in their struggle for freedom and justice.

While we honour Narges Mohammadi's exceptional accomplishment, it remains imperative not to turn a blind eye to the ongoing human rights crisis in Iran. Armita Geravand, a 16-year-old woman, currently lies in a coma due to severe torture experienced during her detention. Her distressing situation is just one of many troubling incidents that have come to light since the commencement of the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement in Iran. The systemic oppression faced by Iranians, particularly women and girls, has escalated in recent months, with numerous individuals being subjected to arrests, detentions, torture, and tragically, loss of life.

We urge international platforms and governments to take tangible action to halt the suppression of human rights in Iran. While Narges Mohammadi's Nobel Peace Prize is a significant milestone, it must be acknowledged that it alone is insufficient. The international community must stand in unity, demanding an end to the systemic abuse endured by Iranian citizens. We demand her immediate release and the release of all Iranians detained without valid cause. We call upon international platforms and governments to leverage their influence and authority to support the Iranian people in their pursuit of freedom and justice.

Additionally, we extend our congratulations to Narges Mohammadi's family and commend all women and everyone involved in the fight for freedom in Iran. We stand in solidarity with the people of Iran throughout this journey towards a brighter future, characterised by liberty, justice, and respect for human rights. WOMAN, LIFE, FREEDOM.

Management team  
Australian Iranian Society of Victoria (AISOV) Inc.

# Advocacy for Refugee Rights

## Building Connections and Driving Change

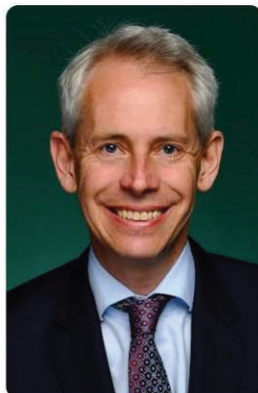
As our beloved poet Saadi said:

“The children of Adam are limbs to each other,  
Having been created of one essence.

When the calamity of time afflicts one limb,  
The other limbs cannot remain at rest.”

This verse reflects the heart of our advocacy efforts for those seeking asylum. Advocating for our fellow community members is close to our heart, and we have dedicated considerable time and effort this year to this important cause. By building connections, engaging with decision-makers, and bringing our community together, we’ve contributed to the ongoing fight for refugee rights and meaningful social change.

See highlights of our advocacy efforts below:



Following the announcement of the Migration Amendment (**Removal and Other Measures**) Bill 2024 in the Australian Parliament in late March 2024, deep concerns arose within the Iranian community and other migrant groups, especially refugees, across the country. To address these concerns and state our position, members of the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria held meetings with relevant officials. Below is a summary of those meetings:

- **4 April 2024:** An online meeting with Dr. Abul Rizvi, a former senior Australian immigration official, to review various aspects of the new bill.
- **8 April 2024:** A meeting with the directors of the Iranian Women's Association and a group of refugee rights advocates to coordinate actions and discuss upcoming challenges.
- **10 April 2024:** An online session with the ASRC (Asylum Seeker Resource Centre) to present the current situation and receive necessary guidance. Discussions focused on the bill, and participants were briefed on how to make a submission to Parliament opposing the bill, with a submission deadline of 12 April.
- **11 April 2024:** An important meeting with Dr. Carina Garland, a federal parliamentary representative, Mr. Andrew Giles, Minister for Immigration, and representatives of Iranian organisations to **directly raise concerns and receive official responses.**
- **15 April 2024:** A meeting with Mr. Andrew Heath, Regional Director for Victoria and Tasmania at the Department of Home Affairs, to follow up on matters related to Iranian refugees and express the Iranian community's concerns.
- **17 April 2024:** A group discussion with Mr. Bill Shorten, Minister for the

NDIS and Government Services, about the educational challenges faced by refugee children and strategies to address these issues, as well as concerns within the Iranian community if the migration bill is passed.

- **18 April 2024:** Another Zoom meeting with the ASRC to provide an update on actions taken and receive further recommendations.
- **22 April 2024:** A meeting with Mr. Julian Hill, a federal parliamentary representative and legal expert, to examine the legal aspects of the proposed bill.
- **24 April 2024:** A meeting with Mr. Keith Wolahan, the representative for Menzies in the Australian Parliament, to acknowledge his support for the Iranian community in Victoria and request his continued opposition to the passing of the migration bill.
- **26 April 2024:** A discussion with Mr. Josh Burns, a member of the Australian Parliament, about the role of local authorities in supporting the refugee community, with a report on **the current situation in Iran.**
- **29 April 2024:** A meeting with Ms. Kate Thwaites, a parliamentary representative, raising issues such as the death sentence of Toomaj Salehi and the situation of political prisoners in Iran.
- **1 May 2024:** An online meeting with Senator Paul Scarr to seek his support in opposing the proposed bill in the Senate.
- **3 May 2024:** A final meeting with Mr. Andrew Heath from the Department of Home Affairs to follow up on departmental activities and receive necessary reports and responses.
- **18 June & 3 September 2024:** We participated in two meetings at the Par-

liament of Victoria hosted by Senator David Shoebridge, alongside other activists and organisations. The purpose of the meetings was to express thanks and request greater efforts from him and the Greens Party in defending the rights of refugees and migrants. During the meetings, we expressed concerns about the ongoing challenges faced by refugees in limbo and discussed potential solutions. Senator Shoebridge conveyed his sympathy and support for the cause, reinforcing his commitment to advocate for the rights of refugees and migrants.



On 11 October 2023, AISOV participated in an information session hosted by the Victorian Multicultural Commission, focused on the Federal Government's transition of Temporary Protection visa (TPV) and Safe Haven Enterprise visa (SHEV) holders to permanent Resolution of Status (RoS) visas. Representatives from the Department of Home Affairs provided updates on the processing progress, the transition process to the RoS visa, and what permanent residency will mean for those affected. The session, held via Zoom, offered valuable insights and included a Q&A segment where participants could raise their concerns and queries.

On 26 April 2024, we sent a formal letter to the Minister of Immigration, Mr. Andrew Giles, and Dr. Carina Garland, following up on our meeting held on 11 April. In this communication, we expressed our concerns regarding the proposed **Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024**. The letter reiterated the potential negative impact the bill would have on the Iranian-Australian community, particularly for those who have been in limbo for over a decade.



# Our Volunteers in Action

We are incredibly grateful for the dedication and hard work of our volunteers who have contributed countless hours to making our programs and events successful. Their passion and commitment are at the heart of everything we do at AISOV.



# WE THANK YOU ALL



Australian Iranian Society of Victoria

From all of us at AISOV, thank you for your invaluable contributions. Together, we are making a difference in our community!

## Activities We Have Involved In: A Year of Impact and Empowerment



### Selection of our activities :

On 18 September 2023, we joined the Australian Bahá'í Community for the "Our Story is One" campaign event, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the unjust execution of 10 Bahá'í women in Iran. Held at Manningham City Council, this event served as a powerful reminder of the ongoing persecution faced by Bahá'ís in Iran and highlighted the universal importance of personal rights and freedoms. The evening featured poignant anecdotes from the lives of these brave women and discussions on how the Bahá'í community continues to work with others worldwide to promote justice and human rights. AISOV was honoured to stand in solidarity and elevate the voices of those who cannot freely speak without fear of reprisal.

This year, we participated in ECLC's Multicultural Women in Action Forum, and in August, a group of women leaders joined a guided tour of Parliament House. This event, a collaboration between ECLC and the Parliament of Victoria, provided an invaluable opportunity for multicultural women to gain insights into the Victorian Parliamentary system and processes. Following this successful event, we have received strong interest from the Iranian community for a similar Parliament tour. We are excited to announce that plans are underway to organise this experience, further empowering our community members to engage with and understand the political landscape.

On 17 October 2023, we attended the opening of Manningham’s first dementia-friendly café, Memory Lane Café, a new initiative by MannaCare designed to offer a safe and supportive space where individuals can gather in a relaxed environment. Recognising the importance of such spaces—especially given that one in ten Australians over the age of 65 have dementia—AISOV contributed \$500 to support this important cause.



We have proudly joined ECCV’s Victorian Multicultural Voices for ‘Yes’ campaign, which empowers multicultural communities to support First Nations advocacy. This campaign engaged migrant and refugee communities, highlighting the importance of self-determination for First Nations peoples and encouraging participation in driving positive change. AISOV is dedicated to strengthening unity and dialogue between First Nations and multicultural communities, and we are honoured to contribute to this important initiative.



On 24 August 2024, we attended the Multicultural Gala Dinner in Geelong, hosted by the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), celebrating Victoria's vibrant diversity. The event highlighted cultural expressions and reinforced our shared commitment to inclusivity. We were honoured to be part of this memorable evening, where the Premier, Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt, Federal Assistant Minister Julian Hill, and Leader of the Opposition John Pesutto shared their insights and experiences. We extend our thanks to the organisers and everyone who made it possible.



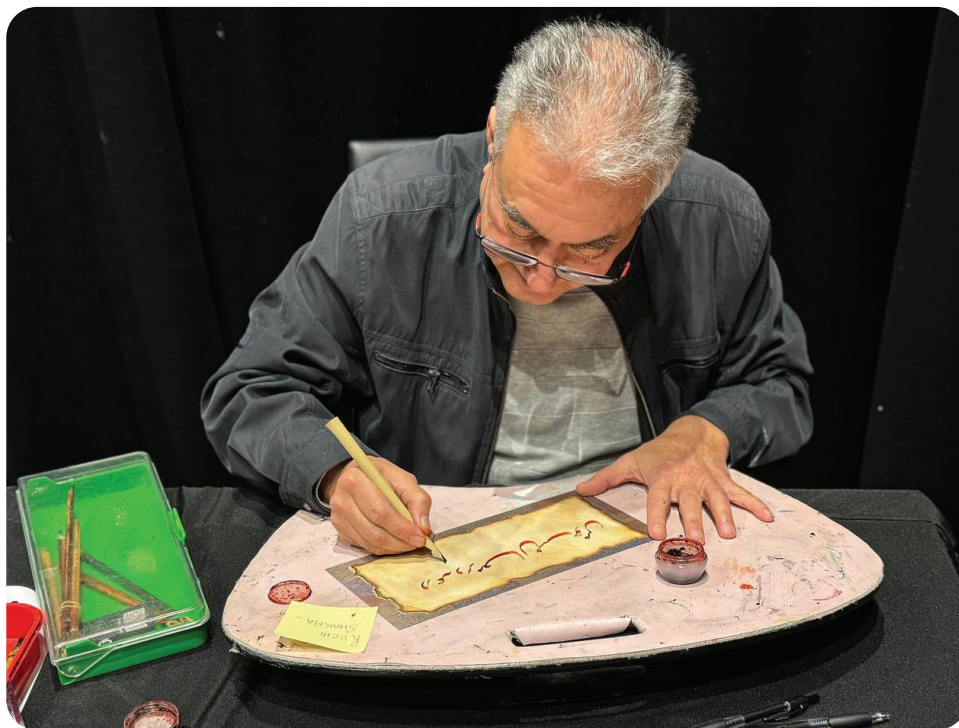
On 4 December 2023, we joined the International Day of People with Disability event organised by Omid Support Services. The event featured speeches from Ali Yaghobi, Director of Omid Support Services, as well as Cassandra Fernando MP and Belinda Wilson MP. The program included a mix of speeches, entertainment, and fundraising activities, making it a meaningful occasion to raise awareness and support for individuals with disabilities.



On 23 March 2024, we joined the Migrant Information Centre's Harmony Week Multicultural Event, celebrating cultural diversity and unity. The event, funded by the Victorian Government, was a vibrant gathering featuring traditional cultural dress, a fashion show, multicultural food, and performances by the Chinese, Iranian, and Zomi communities. With over 150 attendees, including local MPs, councillors, and community leaders, the day was a resounding success, and we were delighted to be part of this meaningful celebration.



We were honoured to join the Multicultural Community Networking Event on 4 July 2024, held at the Knox Community Arts Centre. This special evening brought together members from diverse backgrounds to celebrate the vibrant cultural diversity of Knox and surrounding areas. The event featured powerful storytelling from individuals sharing their refugee and migrant experiences, performances such as the Iranian traditional musical ensemble Del-Navaz, and a focus on the role of art in cultural identity. It provided an invaluable opportunity for us to connect with local service providers and community members, fostering meaningful relationships that strengthen the fabric of our multicultural community.





On 7 April 2024, we had the pleasure of participating in the 13-Bedar Festival in Melbourne, organised by the Australian Bakhtiari community. This annual event brings together Iranians living in Australia to celebrate both Bakhtiari and Iranian culture. 13-Bedar, celebrated on the 13th day of Nowruz, is a long-standing tradition in Iran where families spend the day outdoors, symbolising a connection with nature and the release of bad luck.

With a marquee at the festival, we engaged with attendees, shared information about our community services, and contributed to the celebration of Iranian unity and heritage. The festival was a vibrant display of traditional Iranian and Bakhtiari music, dance, and culture, fostering a sense of solidarity and pride among the Iranian-Australian community and beyond.



We also participated in the Yarra Nowruz Festival 2024 on 15 March at Box Hill Town Hall, celebrating Persian New Year with the local community. The event featured cultural activities, stalls from small businesses, and opportunities to support disadvantaged children, creating a fun and meaningful day for all ages.



**On 18 September 2023**, we joined the Australian Bahá'í Community for the "Our Story is One" campaign event, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the unjust execution of 10 Bahá'í women in Iran. Held at Manningham City Council, this event served as a powerful reminder of the ongoing persecution faced by Bahá'ís in Iran and highlighted the universal importance of personal rights and freedoms. The evening featured poignant anecdotes from the lives of these brave women and discussions on how the Bahá'í community continues to work with others worldwide to promote justice and human rights. AISOV was honoured to stand in solidarity and elevate the voices of those who cannot freely speak without fear of reprisal.

**MULTICULTURAL WOMEN IN ACTION**

Join us for 'Multicultural Women in Action' – a leadership forum for multicultural women proudly presented by Eastern Community Legal Centre in partnership with Parliament of Victoria.

Whether you're an experienced community leader, a young person or someone new to advocacy, we encourage you to attend the forum. Come and listen to an inspirational guest speaker, chat with female MPs who represent multicultural communities, meet other like-minded women and learn how to actively engage in the democratic systems of Victoria.

**Panel Discussion with Members of Parliament (MPs)**

- Dr Samantha Ratnam MP**  
The Australian Greens Victoria  
Member for Northern Metropolitan
- Eden Foster MP**  
Australian Labor Party  
Member for Mulgrave
- Nicole Werner MP**  
Liberal Party  
Member for Warrendale

**Daisy Maan - Keynote Speaker**

**Book here**

**Optional tour of PARLIAMENT HOUSE**  
for all forum attendees on 21st July  
Details provided at the forum.

The Project is supported by The Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust

ECLC is an inclusive, multidisciplinary legal service that works to prevent problems, progress the outcomes and support the wellbeing and resilience of communities and consumers through its Women's Disadvantage Fund.

www.eclc.org.au 1300 32 52 00

eastern community legal centre  
Parliament of Victoria  
VICTORIAN WOMEN'S BENEVOLENT TRUST



**On 22 June**, we participated in the Multicultural Women in Action leadership forum, organised by the Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC) in partnership with the Parliament of Victoria. This one-day forum was designed to support women in the Eastern Metropolitan region of Melbourne who face unique barriers to participating in democratic systems and advocacy. The event offered an inspiring platform for women to connect with female MPs, share experiences, and learn how to engage more actively in Victoria's democratic processes. The forum was a valuable opportunity for us to further our mission of promoting inclusivity and empowering the Iranian community in Victoria. By engaging in discussions and building connections with other multicultural leaders, we continue to strengthen our commitment to advocating for the rights and voices of all community members.

On 13 May 2024, we attended an event by **Settlement Services International (SSI)** focused on advocating for the reduction of employment barriers. The event aimed to simplify the recognition of overseas qualifications, enabling skilled refugees and migrants to utilise their expertise in their fields and contribute significantly to Australia.

We are honoured to have received a Certificate of Participation from the North Eastern Public Health Unit (NEPHU) for our involvement in the Community Capacity Strengthening Workshop Program (CCSWP). This program played a pivotal role in equipping us with essential knowledge and tools to foster a more resilient, vibrant, and inclusive community. Through diverse workshops such as "Navigating Healthcare Finances," "Navigating the NDIS," "Mental Health First Aid," and "Media Training," we strengthened our community's capacity to manage healthcare expenses, access disability support services, raise mental health awareness, and enhance communication skills for advocacy. We are committed to applying these insights to empower our members and contribute to a healthier, more equitable society.



**CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION**  
**NORTH EASTERN PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT**

**Australian Iranian**  
**Society of Victoria**

Awarded for participation in the Community Capacity  
Strengthening Workshop Program (CCSWP)  
April – September 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Johnson', is positioned above the printed name of the NEPHU Director.

*Professor Paul Johnson, NEPHU Director*  
28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**OUR VISION**

Active, connected, and safe  
communities for all – with  
healthy places, healthy people  
and a healthier tomorrow.

# 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. We are proud to announce that Golbang Magazine has successfully obtained an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) from the National Library of Australia in Canberra. This milestone officially registers the publication as a recognised magazine, further enhancing its credibility and accessibility. With ISSN registration, Golbang Magazine can now reach a broader audience, ensuring its content is archived and made accessible to libraries and readers worldwide. This recognition marks an important step in the magazine's journey, solidifying its place in the publishing landscape.

As AISOV remains committed to being a non-political and non-religious organisation, we ensure that the principles of neutrality and inclusivity are carefully maintained when collecting and editing content for Golbang.

This quarterly, 28-32 page, full-colour magazine reflects the news and events of the past quarter, offering reports on cultural programs, seminars, and other initiatives organised by AISOV and the broader Iranian community. It also features scientific articles, practical information, stories, and poems tailored for Persian-speaking readers in Victoria.

As part of our cultural initiatives, two dis-

tinct calendars were published to commemorate Nowruz, the Persian New Year. One of these calendars was specially designed and presented as a gift to participants during the Chaharshanbe Souri festival, an ancient fire-jumping tradition celebrated on the eve of the last Wednesday before Nowruz. This gesture not only honoured the cultural significance of the festival but also served as a thoughtful keepsake, helping to preserve and promote the rich heritage of these time-honoured traditions.

With a dedicated team of 13 members, led by our passionate and experienced coordinator, Reza Davari—who has been an invaluable part of AISOV for the past four years—we successfully released four editions last year (196, 197, 198, and 199). We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Golbang team for their commitment to producing a magazine that celebrates the voices of our community. Golbang Magazine stands as a testament to the unity and collaboration within the Iranian Society of Victoria, and we look forward to its continued success in strengthening our community bonds.






## Calendar

AISOV is a non-religious, non-political, and inclusive community and cultural centre. Therefore, the art team working on Chaharshanbe Souri art materials decided on a start date for the Iranian calendar that has no links to religion or ethnicity and is supported by reasonable historical evidence.

The selection of the year 2583 represents the acknowledgment of human rights in Iran during the era when the first sign of human rights is recorded in the Cyrus Cylinder, currently kept in the British Museum. This Iranian calendar does not represent any religion or ethnicity and is inclusive of all cultures, beliefs, religious, and political views.

That being said, everyone is welcome to propose an alternative basis for the Iranian calendar, provided it meets the stated criteria and is supported by historical evidence, for our consideration.



سال ۳۷۶۲ اوستایی تقویم ایرانی ۱۴۰۳

**Persian Calendar 1403 + Public and School Holidays in Victoria**

لحظه تحویل سال ۱۴۰۳ شمسی به وقت ملیورن (ایالت ویکتوریا) چهارشنبه ۲۰ مارس ۲۰۲۴ میلادی. ساعت ۱۴:۰۶:۲۶

<p><b>03   March 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. روز جهانی زن</li> <li>11. Labour Day</li> <li>12. چهارشنبه سوری</li> <li>جشن نوروز، روز جهانی شادی، 20.</li> <li>25. زاد روز زرتشت</li> <li>29. Good Friday</li> <li>30. Saturday before Easter/ Sunday</li> <li>31. Easter Sunday</li> </ul>	<p><b>09   September 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. روز جهانی صلح</li> <li>27. Friday before the AFL , Grand Final</li> <li>29. بزرگداشت مولانا</li> </ul>
<p><b>04   April 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Easter Monday/ سیزده بدر</li> <li>بزرگداشت سعدی، 20.</li> <li>25. ANZAC Day</li> </ul>	<p><b>10   October 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. جشن مهرگان</li> <li>روز جهانی معلم، 5.</li> <li>11. روز بزرگداشت حافظ / روز جهانی دختر</li> <li>روز کوروش، 29.</li> <li>جشن آبانگان، 31.</li> </ul>
<p><b>05   May 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>روز شیراز، 4.</li> <li>بزرگداشت فردوسی، 14.</li> <li>روز جهانی موزه و میراث فرهنگی، 18.</li> </ul>	<p><b>11   November 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Melbourne Cup</li> <li>روز جهانی کودک، 20.</li> <li>جشن آذرگان، آذر روز، 29.</li> </ul>
<p><b>06   June 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>روز جهانی محیط زیست، 5.</li> <li>بزرگداشت سعدی، 10.</li> <li>10. King's Birthday</li> </ul>	<p><b>12   December 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>روز جهانی حقوق بشر، 10.</li> <li>شب چله، 20.</li> <li>25. Christmas Day</li> <li>26. Boxing Day</li> </ul>
<p><b>07   July 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>جشن تیرگان، 3.</li> <li>جشن امردادگان، 28.</li> <li>جشن چله تابستان، 31.</li> </ul>	<p><b>01   January 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New Year's Day</li> <li>زادروز فردوسی، 20.</li> <li>27. Australia Day</li> <li>جشن سده ۲۹، 29.</li> </ul>
<p><b>08   August 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>زادروز داراب (کوروش)، 25.</li> <li>جشن شهریورگان</li> </ul>	<p><b>02   February 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>جشن سپندارمذگان، 17.</li> </ul>

**School Holidays:**

Autumn break: 29 March 2024 to 14 April 2024

Winterbreak: 29 June 2024 to 14 July 2024

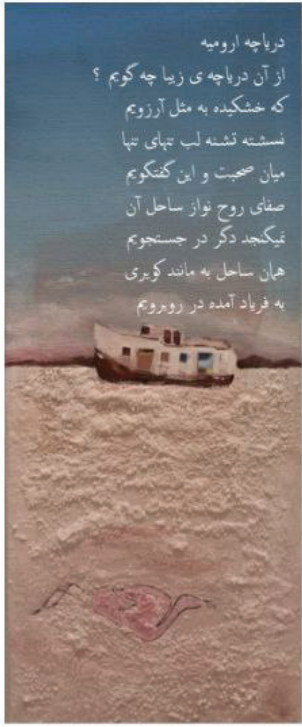
Spring break: 21 September 2024 to 6 October 2024

Summer Break (Eastern): 23 December 2024 to Tuesday 28 January 2025

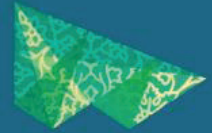
Iranian events ■  
Victoria Public Holidays ■

# تقویم شاهنشاهی

۱۴۰۳ - 2024 - 2025 - ۱۴۰۳



دریاچه ارومیه  
از آن دریاچه‌ی زیبا چه گویم ؟  
که خشکیده به مثل آرزوم  
فسفته تشنه لب تنهای تنها  
میان صحبت و این گفتگویم  
صفای روح نواز ساحل آن  
نیکبخت دگر در جستجویم  
همان ساحل به مانند کویری  
به فریاد آمده در روبرویم



**AISOV**  
Australian Iranian  
Society of Victoria  
کانون ایرانیان ویکتوریا

**SSI**  
www.ssi.org.au

اس اس ای، افراد، کودکان و گروه‌های اجتماعی را پشتیبانی می‌کند. این پشتیبانی‌های طریقی ارائه سرویس‌های انسانی اساسی از قبیل کمک به تازه واردها و پناهندگان برای جا افتادن، برنامه‌های کاربردی، آموزشی، و بهداشتی و پشتیبانی‌های مدنی برای همه استرالیا‌ها، چه تازه وارد و چه جا افتاده، انجام می‌شود.

**خرداد**  
May/June 2024

شنبه	یکشنبه	دوشنبه	سه‌شنبه	چهارشنبه	پنجشنبه	جمعه
۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱	۱	۲	۳
۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰
۱۱	۱۲	۱۳	۱۴	۱۵	۱۶	۱۷
۱۸	۱۹	۲۰	۲۱	۲۲	۲۳	۲۴
۲۵	۲۶	۲۷	۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱

۱۴ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳ - ۲۳ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳

**اردیبهشت**  
April/May 2024

شنبه	یکشنبه	دوشنبه	سه‌شنبه	چهارشنبه	پنجشنبه	جمعه
۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱	۱	۲	۳
۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰
۱۱	۱۲	۱۳	۱۴	۱۵	۱۶	۱۷
۱۸	۱۹	۲۰	۲۱	۲۲	۲۳	۲۴
۲۵	۲۶	۲۷	۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱

۱۴ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳ - ۲۳ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳

**فروردین**  
March/April 2024

شنبه	یکشنبه	دوشنبه	سه‌شنبه	چهارشنبه	پنجشنبه	جمعه
۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱	۱	۲	۳
۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰
۱۱	۱۲	۱۳	۱۴	۱۵	۱۶	۱۷
۱۸	۱۹	۲۰	۲۱	۲۲	۲۳	۲۴
۲۵	۲۶	۲۷	۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱

۱۴ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳ - ۲۳ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳

**شهریور**  
August/September 2024

شنبه	یکشنبه	دوشنبه	سه‌شنبه	چهارشنبه	پنجشنبه	جمعه
۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱	۱	۲	۳
۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰
۱۱	۱۲	۱۳	۱۴	۱۵	۱۶	۱۷
۱۸	۱۹	۲۰	۲۱	۲۲	۲۳	۲۴
۲۵	۲۶	۲۷	۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱

۱۴ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳ - ۲۳ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳

**اسفند**  
January/February 2024

شنبه	یکشنبه	دوشنبه	سه‌شنبه	چهارشنبه	پنجشنبه	جمعه
۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱	۱	۲	۳
۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰
۱۱	۱۲	۱۳	۱۴	۱۵	۱۶	۱۷
۱۸	۱۹	۲۰	۲۱	۲۲	۲۳	۲۴
۲۵	۲۶	۲۷	۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱

۱۴ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳ - ۲۳ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳

**لیزر**  
June/July 2024

شنبه	یکشنبه	دوشنبه	سه‌شنبه	چهارشنبه	پنجشنبه	جمعه
۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱	۱	۲	۳
۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰
۱۱	۱۲	۱۳	۱۴	۱۵	۱۶	۱۷
۱۸	۱۹	۲۰	۲۱	۲۲	۲۳	۲۴
۲۵	۲۶	۲۷	۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱

۱۴ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳ - ۲۳ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳

**آذر**  
November/December 2024

شنبه	یکشنبه	دوشنبه	سه‌شنبه	چهارشنبه	پنجشنبه	جمعه
۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱	۱	۲	۳
۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰
۱۱	۱۲	۱۳	۱۴	۱۵	۱۶	۱۷
۱۸	۱۹	۲۰	۲۱	۲۲	۲۳	۲۴
۲۵	۲۶	۲۷	۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱

۱۴ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳ - ۲۳ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳

**آبان**  
October/November 2024

شنبه	یکشنبه	دوشنبه	سه‌شنبه	چهارشنبه	پنجشنبه	جمعه
۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱	۱	۲	۳
۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰
۱۱	۱۲	۱۳	۱۴	۱۵	۱۶	۱۷
۱۸	۱۹	۲۰	۲۱	۲۲	۲۳	۲۴
۲۵	۲۶	۲۷	۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱

۱۴ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳ - ۲۳ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳

**مهر**  
September/October 2024

شنبه	یکشنبه	دوشنبه	سه‌شنبه	چهارشنبه	پنجشنبه	جمعه
۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱	۱	۲	۳
۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰
۱۱	۱۲	۱۳	۱۴	۱۵	۱۶	۱۷
۱۸	۱۹	۲۰	۲۱	۲۲	۲۳	۲۴
۲۵	۲۶	۲۷	۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱

۱۴ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳ - ۲۳ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳

**اسفند**  
January/February 2025

شنبه	یکشنبه	دوشنبه	سه‌شنبه	چهارشنبه	پنجشنبه	جمعه
۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱	۱	۲	۳
۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰
۱۱	۱۲	۱۳	۱۴	۱۵	۱۶	۱۷
۱۸	۱۹	۲۰	۲۱	۲۲	۲۳	۲۴
۲۵	۲۶	۲۷	۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱

۱۴ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳ - ۲۳ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳

**بهمن**  
January/February 2025

شنبه	یکشنبه	دوشنبه	سه‌شنبه	چهارشنبه	پنجشنبه	جمعه
۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱	۱	۲	۳
۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰
۱۱	۱۲	۱۳	۱۴	۱۵	۱۶	۱۷
۱۸	۱۹	۲۰	۲۱	۲۲	۲۳	۲۴
۲۵	۲۶	۲۷	۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱

۱۴ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳ - ۲۳ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳

**دی**  
December/January 2025

شنبه	یکشنبه	دوشنبه	سه‌شنبه	چهارشنبه	پنجشنبه	جمعه
۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱	۱	۲	۳
۴	۵	۶	۷	۸	۹	۱۰
۱۱	۱۲	۱۳	۱۴	۱۵	۱۶	۱۷
۱۸	۱۹	۲۰	۲۱	۲۲	۲۳	۲۴
۲۵	۲۶	۲۷	۲۸	۲۹	۳۰	۳۱

۱۴ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳ - ۲۳ بهمن اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۳

شاعر: علی رحمانی  
نقاش: لعبت نظامی  
طراحان: سارا پرخید و شیدا پورلطفی  
چاپ: عسل اخوان

# Social Media and Phone Report:

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

## ● Instagram:

Our Instagram account has experienced steady growth, with increased engagement through posts, stories, and event announcements. In the last 30 days alone, we recorded 13,000 views, 185 interactions, and 20 shared content pieces. The post about Golbang Magazine garnered 6,700 views. We have made a total of 110 posts and share stories almost every day. We are also nearing a significant milestone, with close to 2,000 followers.

## ● Facebook:

Our presence on Facebook remains strong, with two active pages and a dedicated group that collectively have a total of 12,900 followers. These platforms have been crucial for sharing event updates, engaging with the community, and promoting our advocacy and cultural efforts. Notably, our R U OK? Day event reached nearly 2,000 views, showcasing the importance of Facebook in fostering community conversations and raising awareness. Through our pages, we continue to inform, engage, and inspire our followers with updates on key initiatives and cultural celebrations.

## ● Phone Engagement Overview

Our phone support system has been a vital tool for maintaining direct communication with community members. Most of the calls throughout the year were centred around domestic violence prevention, employment and welfare support, and requests for promoting community art and culture. These key areas reflect the ongoing challenges faced by our community and highlight the importance of continued support in these sectors.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the specialists and the HOPE Women's Group for their invaluable contributions, generously giving their time and expertise to assist our community. Their support has been crucial in addressing these needs and fostering a stronger, more resilient community.

## ● Our website

This year the English version of our organisation's website is fully live and operational, functioning seamlessly. Users can access information, resources, and updates conveniently. Furthermore, after a thorough review, we have decided to undertake a comprehensive restructuring and restyling of the entire website. As part of our strategic vision, we are dedicated to promoting the Persian version of the website to cater to a wider audience and ensure inclusivity in our communication efforts.

It is noteworthy that our recent focus on website activity has yielded positive outcomes. Based on insightful data gathered

from Google Analytics, we have observed a significant increase in website traffic and enhanced user engagement. These metrics depict a growing interest and interaction from our community.

We invite you to be a part of our journey by following us on Instagram (@aisovictoria), Facebook (AISOV, Australian Iranian Society of Victoria, and کانسون ایرانیان ویکتوریا), and visiting our website ([www.aisov.org.au](http://www.aisov.org.au)). Together, we are driving transformation, celebrating our rich cultures, amplifying diverse voices, and fostering meaningful connections. Your involvement is the key to making a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

Become an active member of our growing online community, where cultures are honoured, voices are empowered, and positive change is encouraged. Join us in creating something truly impactful and inspiring!

# Management Committee 2022-2023

## Office Holders:

Afrooz Rahimian (President), Kambiz Razmara (Vice-President), Lobat Nezami (Treasurer), Kourosh Kamkar (Secretary), Reza Davari (Golbang Magazine Coordinator)

Throughout the 2023-2024 term, we experienced a few changes in our management team, with Ms. Sahar Gholizadeh and Mr. Rasteen Panahandeh stepping down from their roles. Their dedication and service have been greatly appreciated, and their contributions have left a lasting impact on our organisation.

## Thank You Note

Thank you to the entire Management Committee for your dedication and hard work throughout the 2023-2024 term. Your collective efforts have been instrumental in advancing AISOV's mission and serving our community.

A special thank you to Ms. Sahar Gholizadeh and Mr. Rasteen Panahandeh for your invaluable contributions. Your leadership and commitment have left a lasting impact on our organisation, and we are deeply grateful for your service.

Thank you also to Reza Davari for his continued leadership of Golbang Magazine, ensuring it remains a vital platform for connecting with our community.

To each of you, your time, energy, and passion have been essential to our success, and we are truly thankful for all that you've given to AISOV.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

At AISOV our goal is to bring people together, work toward equality, look after our community's social and emotional wellbeing and collaborate with government and non-government organisations to enhance the overall impact.

To achieve the above, we've run a number of events including Chaharshanbeh Souri and Nowruz at Parliament House with improved performance and quality, yet we were able to gain a surplus of operating revenues over operating costs. From \$26,146.25 in 2023 our total assets were increased to \$37,684.81 while our operational costs from just our two main events were \$77,291.11.

As it was skilfully addressed by AISOV former treasurer: "we look ahead with hope and determination, we remain dedicated to creating a thriving community that cherishes diversity, seizes opportunities, and celebrates success together. With the continued support and involvement of our cherished members, we are confident that the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria will emerge stronger and more impactful than ever before. Together, we are building a future filled with promise and endless possibilities".

**AUSTRALIAN-IRANIAN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA  
INC. Statement of Income and Expenditure for the  
Financial Year Ended 30 June 2024**

ABN 65 724 518 911

	As of 30 June 2023 \$	As of 30 June 2024 \$
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash at Bank	26,146.25	31,149.56
Cash at Pay Pal	–	*6,535.28
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>26,146.25</b>	<b>37,684.81</b>
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>		
Equipment, Furniture & Fittings - at Cost	–	–
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	–	–
<u>Total Assets</u>	26,146.25	37,684.81
Total Liabilities	–	–
Net Assets Accumulated Fund	26,146.25	37,684.81
Balance at the beginning of the year	34,385.89	26,146.25
Surplus / Deficit Resulting from Operations During the Year	8,239.64	11,538.56
Balance at the End of the Financial Year	<b>26,146.25</b>	<b>37,684.81</b>

\*As at the end of financial year (FY) 2024 the above PayPal balance was still in the PayPal account & the transfer of the above balance occurred after the end of FY 2024. The above entry must be adjusted in the following FY 2025.

Income

Advertising Revenue	–	–
Grants and Subsidies	7,500.00	5,000.00
Membership Fee	3,205.50	1,280.00
Interest Received	–	–
Sponsorship/Donation	–	1,190.00
Surplus / income from Events	–	83,904.37
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<b>10,705.50</b>	<b>91,374.37</b>

Expenses

Organisation Charges (Strategic Plan)	–	–
Deficit from Events	11,531.95	77,291.11
Rent	1,779.50	1,067.55
Operational costs (Website, Zoom, Golbang, etc...)		1,477.15
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	<b>18,945.14</b>	<b>79,835.81</b>
Surplus /Deficit Resulting from Operations	<b>8,239.64</b>	<b>11,538.56</b>

\*As at the end of financial year (FY) 2024 the above PayPal balance was still in the PayPal account & the transfer of the above balance occurred after the end of FY 2024. The above entry must be adjusted in the following FY 2025.

# LOOKING AHEAD

LOOKING AHEAD WITH OUR VISION AND FOCUS AREAS AS OUR GUIDE:

## Building a Stronger Future for AISOV

As we look toward the coming year, AISOV will focus on build on the momentum of our previous successes and continue making a meaningful impact. We have several key projects and initiatives that will help us strengthen our community, advocate for important causes, and promote cultural understanding.

## Expanding Our Advocacy Efforts

We remain committed to promoting human rights. Subject to our members passing of the resolution amending our purpose and inclusion of the fourth focus area, in the upcoming year, we will work even more closely with policymakers, activists, and partners to amplify the voices of the Iranian community. We aim to address pressing social justice issues and support those impacted by global and local challenges. Strengthening our advocacy for those of our community members seeking asylum within our community and human rights more broadly will continue to be our priorities.

## Celebrating Culture and Tradition

We are excited to continue celebrating Iranian culture with events that bring our community together. This includes our annual Nowruz at Parliament of Victoria and “Chaharshanbe Soori” celebrations, which have become important fixtures in the cultural calendar. We also plan to expand our cultural programs. These initiatives are vital to fostering cultural pride and unity, both within the Iranian community and beyond.

## Community Well-being and Support

We will continue to focus on supporting community well-being, particularly in areas of mental health. Currently, we are working to create a network of Farsi-speaking specialists in the mental health sector to provide culturally sensitive support and resources for our community members. This initiative aims to address the unique challenges faced by our community and ensure that individuals have access to mental health services that understand their cultural context. By building this network, we hope to make a significant and lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most.



## Strengthening Partnerships and Outreach

We will deepen our relationships with key organisations, decision-makers, and community groups, ensuring that AISOV continues to have a strong voice at all levels. Additionally, we aim to expand our social media presence, providing a platform for important conversations and enhancing engagement with members and supporters.

## Embracing Unity & Diversity

AISOV remains dedicated to fostering inclusivity and solidarity. We will launch new programs aimed at bringing different cultural communities together to build mutual respect and understanding. By engaging non-Iranian communities in our events and initiatives, we hope to strengthen bonds and create opportunities for cross-cultural exchange.

# To Our Members

We encourage our community members, volunteers, and allies to continue working with us to make a lasting impact. Whether through attending events, supporting advocacy efforts, or volunteering time and expertise, your contributions are invaluable. Together, we can build a stronger, more united community.

*We look forward to an exciting year of growth, progress, and shared success. Let's continue working together to create a brighter future for all.*

## **Australian Iranian Society Of Victoria (AISOV)**

Email address: [info@aisov.org.au](mailto:info@aisov.org.au)

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