



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

The annual Australian Muslim Achievement Awards aims to raise the profile of Australian Muslim individuals and organisations, promote their achievements and prominence in the Australian society and encourage Australian Muslims to participate and excel in areas within the Australian community.

Muslimawards.com.au



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

Acknowledgement of Country

Mission of Hope acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to Elders past and present.

GOLD SPONSOR



POWERED BY



Table of Contents

AMAA Founder Message	5
Director Hanan Dover	
Hejaz Financial Services Message	6
Chief Executive Officer Hakan Ozyon	
Gold Sponsor Acknowledgement	7
Business of the Year	8
MCCA	
Hope and Care	
Australia-Indonesia Muslim Exchange Program (Mosaic Connections)	
Lifetime Achiever of the Year	11
Janeth Deen OAM	
Event of the Year	13
Australian Islamic Medical Association Conference	
CresWalk 2023	
6th Annual Australian Islamic Schooling Conference	
Best New Community Project of the Year	16
The Leadership Retreat	
Get a Life Camp 2023	
Australian Islamic Medical Association Conference	
Media Outlet of the Year	19
Australasian Muslim Times (AMUST)	
Community Organisation of the Year	21
The Rehabilitation Project	
Islamophobia Register Australia	
Afghan Women On The Move	
Volunteer of the Year	24
Rubinah Ahmad	

GOLD SPONSOR



POWERED BY



Table of Contents Continued

Creative Artist of the Year 26

Sara Mansour
Marwa Abouzeid
Dr. Randa Abdel-Fattah

People's Choice of the Year 30

Aseel Tayah
Nasser Mashni
Senator Dr. Mehreen Faruqi OAM
Assala Sayara
Clr Bilal El-Hayek Mayor

Sportsperson of the Year 34

Usman Khawaja

Professional of the Year 36

Dr. Dzavid Haveric
Lydia Shelly
Dr. Rayan Saleh Moussa

Role Model of the Year 39

Annas Davids
Zia Ahmad
Marwa Abouzeid

Youth of the Year 42

Hajrah Kamran
Anhaar Kareem
Assala Sayara

Abyssinian of the Year 45

Antoinette Lattouf

Man of the Year 47

Adel Salman
Ahmed Zreika
Dr. Mohammad Jehangir

Woman of the Year 50

Mehroz A Afzal
Ramia Abdo Sultan
Senator Dr. Mehreen Faruqi OAM

GOLD SPONSOR


HALAL CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

 mission of hope

POWERED BY

 HEJAZ

Australian Muslim Achievement Awards

Founder and Director's Message

Bismillah al-Rahman al-Rahim

Dear Honoured Guests,
As-Salamu 'Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu

It is with immense joy that Mission of Hope extends a warm appreciation to all the finalists and recipients of the 16th Australian Muslim Achievement Awards (AMAA). This year, we are delighted to welcome our Event Partners for the next three years, Hejaz Financial Services. Together, we aim to ensure we celebrate our community's excellence and extraordinary achievements. We must acknowledge that it has been a difficult year to run the awards given the current genocide against Palestinians that we have witnessed. This is why we have adopted a pro-Palestinian theme for these awards and this has been reflected in the important works of the finalists.



As the founder of Mission of Hope and the dedicated project director of AMAA, I am thrilled to present this collection that reflects the extraordinary achievements and stories within the Australian Muslim community.

Within these pages, you will discover the profiles of outstanding individuals who have not only excelled in their respective fields but have also become beacons of inspiration, embodying the rich tapestry of talent, resilience, and cultural diversity that defines our community.

The AMAA is a commitment of Mission of Hope to foster excellence and highlight the positive impact of Australian Muslims across various domains and fields of education, community, and professions. As we celebrate the finalists and recipients in their categories, may their stories serve as a source of inspiration for us all.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the success of AMAA, and I invite you to join us in recognising and honouring the remarkable individuals who have made significant contributions to the fabric of our society.

Thank you for being a part of this celebration of achievement, community, and the spirit of unity. Free Palestine.



16TH ANNUAL AMAA
Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

Hanan Dover
AMAA Director

Message from Hejaz Financial Services

Event Partner

As CEO of Hejaz Financial Services, I am proud to partner with the Australian Muslim Achievement Awards. This partnership reflects our commitment to celebrating and uplifting the Muslim community's contributions in various fields. The awards showcase the talents and achievements of Muslims in business, education, arts, science, and community service, contributing to a positive perception and understanding of Islam.



At Hejaz Financial Services, we believe in the importance of recognizing and nurturing talent within our community, extending beyond financial services to support initiatives that promote excellence, innovation, and ethical practices. Our collaboration with the awards is a testament to our dedication to these values and our belief in the potential of our community to make positive societal contributions.

We are honoured to be associated with an event that aligns with our core values of integrity, transparency, and social responsibility. By honouring Muslim achievers, we inspire the next generation of leaders and innovators, supporting the development of a prosperous and positively contributing community.

In conclusion, our partnership with the Australian Muslim Achievement Awards is a cherished privilege. We look forward to celebrating our community's remarkable achievements and continue to support initiatives that foster growth, excellence, and positive representation of Muslims in Australia and beyond. Our commitment remains steadfast in contributing to a future where the Muslim community is recognized for its valuable contributions.



Hakan Ozyon
Chief Executive Officer



Halal Certification Authority Gold Sponsor

The establishment of the Halal Certification Authority (HCA) was driven by the goal of assisting manufacturers in securing a more substantial share of the lucrative Halal food market. With a commitment to becoming the most dependable, credible, and professional certifier of Halal food, HCA was established in 1993 and swiftly emerged as the largest certifier in its inaugural year of operation. Today, HCA maintains its position as a market leader.

As a pioneering entity, HCA holds the distinction of being a founding member of both the World Halal Food Council and the World Halal Council. Furthermore, in recognition of its outstanding contributions, HCA was honoured as a co-winner of the Australian Muslim Business of the Year for 2020.

For further information, you can visit halalauthority.org



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 FINALISTS **BUSINESS** *of the Year*

GOLD SPONSOR



POWERED BY





MCCA

MCCA Islamic Finance and Investments is highly regarded as one of the cornerstones of the Australian Muslim Community. Established in 1989 it is among the founding Muslim organisations in Australia striving for decades to battle the major sin of Riba (Usury) and providing the Australian Muslim community with Shariah compliant alternatives.

MCCA is a community organisation providing services and value to the community. Made up of a Muslim Board, Muslim Management and Muslim Employee body - Australian Muslims make up the majority in its management and / or board. This is a unique stance within the Australian Islamic Finance sector.

MCCA's community connect program sees ongoing and regular connection with local Islamic School, Islamic Centres and MSAs. All of these outreach programs are designed to deliver corporate responsibility and preserve the community's wealth through financial literacy programs.

The establishment of MCCA has also led the way to supporting humanitarian and grassroots community ventures and programs, both locally and internationally. Over the years MCCA has been reported to have donated in excess of \$1M aid to community causes and local programs in support of the Muslim community.

MCCA employs over 50 members of the Muslim community in NSW and Victoria and has a national presence. MCCA has helped tens of thousands of members of the Muslim community to realise their dreams of home ownership without compromising their Islamic faith.

Hope and Care

Hope and Care is one of its kind in the Disability Sector. It offers a broad range of services to suit the client's needs. The service supports their clients with disabilities to achieve their goals and do the things that make them happy. The service employs people with special needs and gives opportunity and inclusion to all in the community. Hope and Care services just over 30% of its participants at no cost.

Hope and Care has been a major sponsor of many Islamic events and the most recent event being the Eid Festival in Liverpool. Additionally, Hope and Care proudly supports many Charity Organisations helping the less fortunate around the world. Hope and Care is home to the one-of-a-kind Life Skills Centre that offers tailored and exclusive programs to those impacted by a disability assisting in life skills. Life Skills Centre was born out of an innovative idea founded by Mona Salem (Company Director). Mona was also a Woman of the Year finalist the Australian Muslim Achievement Awards for 2022.

Hope and Care consists of a team of 60 and is growing, their customer service is second to none, Mona looks after each and every individual that is employed by her organisation. Not only does she run regular team bonding events but also commits to staff development through regular training, inductions and short courses all funded by the company.

HOPE
and
CARE



Australia-Indonesia Muslim Exchange Program – Mosaic Connections

The Australia-Indonesia Muslim Exchange Program (AIMEP) was established in 2002. AIMEP is a program of the Australian-Indonesian Institute, funded by the Australian Government. The program nurtures the ongoing contact between emerging leaders of Muslim communities in both Australia and Indonesia. The program involves visits of several weeks' duration to Australia by groups of young Indonesian Muslim community leaders who learn directly from everyday citizens as well as leading academics, non-governmental organisations, religious leaders, media and government representatives. Australian delegates undertake a program with similar focuses in Indonesia, which also includes historical and cultural site visits.

There are over 300 AIMEP alumni in Australia and Indonesia, who include prominent Indonesians and Australians with expertise in a wide range of fields. An AIMEP Alumni Forum has been established by the alumni of the program to maintain the links between participants.

The program focuses on building a greater understanding for Australians of the nature of mainstream Islam in Indonesia and, for Indonesians, a greater awareness of Australia's multicultural society. Further, AIMEP focuses on people-to-people exchange and dialogue, aiming to break down stereotypes, build deeper understanding of our respective communities and societies, and foster collaboration and lasting connections.

Each year, the program provides participants with the opportunity to experience each nation's diversity, culture and traditions firsthand, allowing participants to return



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 RECIPIENT
**LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT**
of the Year

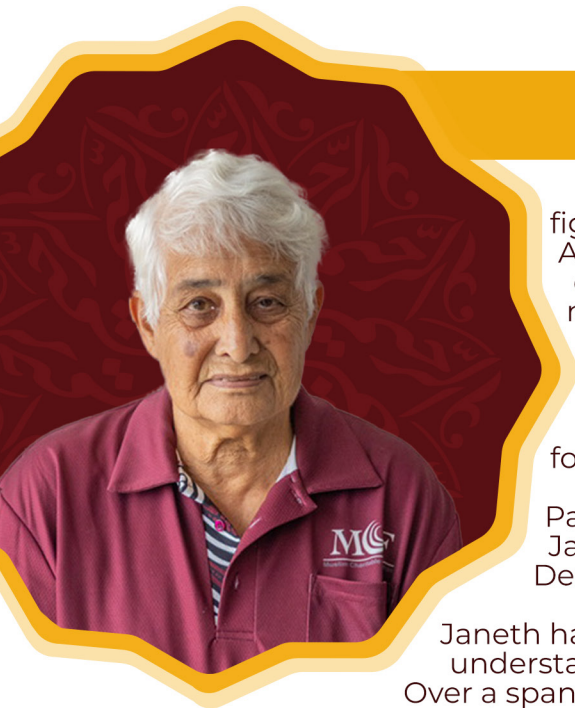
GOLD SPONSOR

hca 
HALAL CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

 mission of hope

POWERED BY

 HEJAZ



Janeth Deen OAM

Janeth Deen is an Australian multicultural community figure and the founder of the Queensland Muslim Welfare Association Inc, which includes a committee with people of other faiths, as well as Muslims. The association does not discriminate in any way as its sole purpose is to serve the less fortunate. Alongside her charitable work, Janeth also is a published writer for AMUST.

In 2018 Janeth Deen was awarded the Order of Australia for service to the multicultural community of Queensland.

In August 2021, a speech was made in the Australian Parliament, where Queensland Senator Paul Scarr praised Janeth Deen's multicultural community work, describing Deen as "an ornament to our community in Queensland".

Janeth has worked hard to foster multifaith initiatives to promote understanding and peace between non-Muslims and Muslims. Over a span of many years, the people and organisations Janeth has helped are uncountable, partly because the list is almost never-ending and partly because so much of what she has done for others in her life has been done with little or no fanfare and very privately. Janeth has been described as an exceptional and inspiring role model for the whole community.



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 FINALISTS **EVENT** *of the Year*

GOLD SPONSOR



POWERED BY





Australian Islamic Medical Association

The Australian Islamic Medical Association (AIMA) is a national non-profit organisation that aims to unite, inspire, and serve Muslim healthcare professionals in Australia.

AIMA was established in 2017, and its organisational structure comprises a central committee and branches in all the states and territories of Australia.

AIMA is volunteer run by various medical, surgical, nursing and allied health professionals. Collectively, they strive to bring together a diverse team of health professionals who support students from these fields and participate in health projects, community development and awareness-raising in line with their vision and through their collaborative projects. AIMA strives to make tangible differences in alleviating disease and its socioeconomic impacts by making healthcare accessible to those who need it, in Australia and overseas. AIMA has initiated several health promotion and prevention campaigns such as blood donation drives, free CPR and basic life support training delivered in partnership with mosques and Islamic centres, supporting and mentoring Muslim medical and other health science students and junior doctors and professional development member events.

AIMA is guided by Islamic Values, seeking to improve healthcare for all and is for all Muslim Healthcare professionals in Australia irrespective of their ethnicity, grade, specialty, profession, or county of qualification.

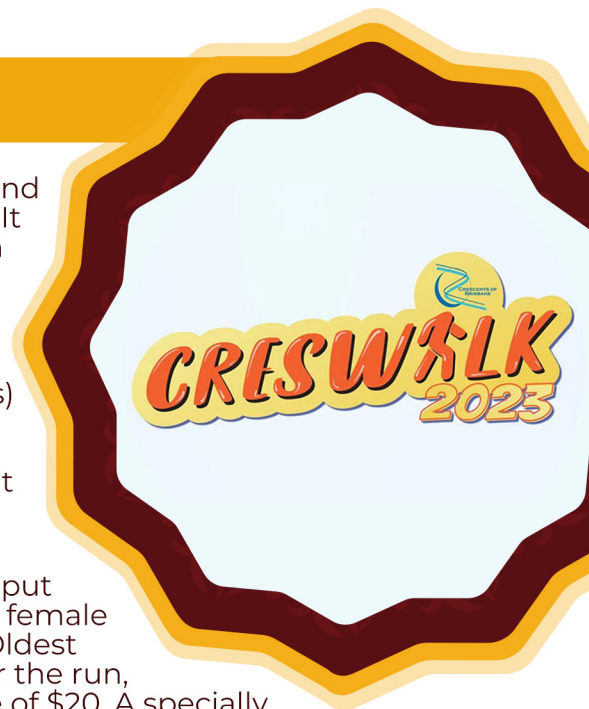
CresWalk 2023

CresWalk2023 was organised by the Crescents of Brisbane and Queensland Muslim Inc. teams along with forty volunteers. It received community financial and in-kind support through sponsorships from local Muslim businesses and organisations, as well as the Queensland Government.

Attracting an audience of mainly Muslims but also non-Muslim community members, more than 600 men, women, and children of all ages (from babies to 85-year-olds) and physical abilities participated in the 5km by running, walking, pushing prams, walking aids and wheelchairs. Registrations had to be closed several days before the event because the numbers far exceeded expectations and had reached venue capacity.

The organisation of the event took 3 months to plan and put together. Trophies were awarded to winners in 16 male and female categories, as well as for the Imam's Challenge and an Oldest Finisher category. Participants were treated to a meal after the run, the cost of which was included in the modest race entry fee of \$20. A specially supervised kids activities section was set-up. The event was well supported by non-Muslims, including politicians and community leaders.

The feedback received supports that CresWalk2023 continues to make significant contributions to the Australian Muslim community and the wider society by promoting inclusivity, fostering health and well-being, encouraging volunteerism, and enhancing cultural exchange. Through these efforts, we've created a positive impact that extends beyond the event itself, strengthening communities and enriching the lives of individuals within and outside the Muslim community.





6th Annual Australian Islamic Schools Conference

The Centre for Islamic Thought and Education (CITE), University of South Australia in collaboration with the Islamic Schools Association of Australia (ISAA) held its sixth Annual Australian Islamic Schooling Conference with a focus on wellbeing (Āfiyah). The Conference was an engaging and interactive weekend that highlighted both academic and practitioners' findings, thoughts and experiences, and school/classroom-based examples related to all aspects of Islamic schooling. The conference allows for networking, exchange of ideas and helps forge positive relationships across a wide range of networks. Topics included: How other educators in Islamic schools understand, deal with, experience, foster and enhance wellbeing. What approaches Islamic schools undertake to achieve wellbeing for their leaders, educators, learners, and administrative staff. How Islamic schools negotiate the demands of conforming to the Australian National curriculum and fostering of wellbeing. What pastoral care school/classroom-based examples are available and how they foster and enhance wellbeing. What creative and innovative policies are in place to foster wellbeing in Islamic schools.

The conference program ran for two full days, with combined as well as parallel sessions, fielded more than two dozen speakers and presenters from diverse fields including educationists, academics, teachers, health professionals, policy makers and school administrators.



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 FINALISTS

BEST NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT

of the Year

GOLD SPONSOR



POWERED BY





The Leadership Retreat

The Leadership Retreat

Networks Australia Foundation's vision is to "transform every Australian Muslim into the best contributors in society, one life at a time." Their commitment to nurturing individuals to become positive contributors to society is evident in their mission, which revolves around providing forums that connect people for the benefit of the community. Networks Australia Foundation have an unwavering dedication to core values such as selflessness and excellence. These values are deeply ingrained in their way of life, as demonstrated through their initiatives.


One remarkable initiative by Networks Australia Foundation is "The Leadership Retreat." This yearly event provides a nurturing environment for attendees to be inspired, motivated, and to connect with themselves, each other, and community leaders. The Leadership Retreat aims to dive deep into personal growth and development. Attendees will learn new strategies and tools to lead themselves and others with confidence and effectiveness. It's a chance to connect with like-minded individuals and experts in the field, and leave feeling inspired, motivated, and empowered to take on any challenge life throws their way. By fostering personal growth and leadership skills, Networks Australia Foundation actively contributes to developing future leaders within the Australian Muslim community.

'Get A Life' Camp

The 2023 Get A Life camp, held in January, consisted of 60 attendees between the ages of 16 and 30 years. This camp facilitated a safe and supportive environment where participants could connect with like-minded youth, explore their spirituality, and cultivate personal growth.

Self-confidence was enhanced while developing valuable life skills, and attendees were provided an opportunity to create lasting friendships and gain the tools to navigate life's challenges.

Many speakers were given the opportunity to address sensitive subjects within an Islamic setting, including "The Dangers of Social Media" by Dean Mousad (Sydney), "Drugs and Alcohol" by Mohamed Fenj (Sydney), and other local speakers such as Dr. Lucy Verwey, Nina Fashik, Sh. Belal Assaad, and Sh. Abdullah Hawari. Sh. Bilal Ismail (South Africa) also served as a guest, facilitating campfire and Fajr reminders.



MELBOURNE
Muslims
**GET A
LIFE!**
CAMP 2023



Australian Islamic Medical Association

On Saturday and Sunday 13-14 May 2023, the Australian Islamic Medical Association (AIMA) held its inaugural conference that convened more than 300 Muslim medical professionals to discuss a variety of topics intersecting modern medicine and Islamic ethics and providing a meaningful opportunity to network and impact health outcomes for the broader Australia community. Other topics include navigating organ donation, clinician emotional well-being, and the role of genomic testing in cardiac disease and carrier screening. These discussions promise to be informative and engaging for conference participants. AIMA president Dr Muhammad Afzal Kahloon, during his welcome address to a sold-out audience noted "you have travelled from near and far to attend this conference and it is so reassuring to see brothers and sisters coming from all states and towns of Australia as well as from New Zealand." The Event was attended by Bankstown Mayor, Bilal Elhayek and several NSW Government Ministers. The AIMA was established in 2017 as a network of Muslim healthcare professionals who seek to advance public health in Australia and abroad through the implementation of community-based projects. The association aims to provide a platform for Muslim healthcare professionals to connect, learn, and collaborate, and the Inaugural National Conference is just one of the many ways they are working towards this goal.



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 RECIPIENT **MEDIA OUTLET** *of the Year*

GOLD SPONSOR



POWERED BY





Australasian Muslim Times (AMUST)

AMUST started its publication back in 1991 as a multilingual community newspaper Australian Muslim Times, published on a fortnightly basis that was later renamed Australasian Muslim Times and produced on a weekly basis.

Currently, AMUST is a multicultural community newspaper in print and online presenting community news and views. On the Australian media landscape, in addition to mainstream newspapers and other media outlets, there are a large number of ethnic and multilingual community newspapers representing the Australian multicultural community. However, there is no credible newspaper currently produced professionally in Australia with a wide circulation amongst all Australians presenting news and views from an Islamic perspective as well as serving the needs of the fast growing, and diverse Muslim community whose first language now is English.

AMUST has aimed to fill this gap, by using multimedia technologies in the following formats: Monthly Newspaper: Monthly full colour print editions published on the first Friday of every month and distributed through newsagents throughout Australia in general and Sydney in particular. They have also made their publications available at Mosques and Islamic centres, business outlets and posted to organisations and subscribers in Australia and overseas. It is available for on-line reading as well as via an app on mobile phones and other smart devices.



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 FINALISTS **COMMUNITY ORGANISATION** *of the Year*

GOLD SPONSOR



POWERED BY





THE REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Rehabilitation Project

The Rehabilitation Project is a community-based drug and alcohol addiction support and recovery service targeted at, but not limited to, the Muslim community, aligning culturally sensitive and appropriate values to the psychosocial model using person-centred and strength-based approaches.

The Rehabilitation Project raises awareness of the lack of community response to people who are struggling with substance abuse and the approach to assisting these people. The Rehabilitation Project has helped more than 110 people for support in the Canterbury-Bankstown, Liverpool, Cumberland, and Fairfield LGA's; 115 (92% CALD Background) individuals registered for their

Discover-Connect-Recover Program ranging from the ages 18-45 years. The Rehabilitation Project supports and helps members of the Muslim community as their faith is at the core of their identity and when someone uses drugs or alcohol, it removes that sense of identity temporarily, so for Muslims struggling with addiction issues, it can be hard to admit the problem, let alone seek help. Support focuses on restoring confidence and rebuilding a sense that the person's life has meaning and value.

Mohamad Fenj founded The Rehabilitation Project to provide a 'No judgement' support service helping people to overcome addictions and tackle the taboo subject of drug use in the Muslim community.

Islamophobia Register Australia

The Islamophobia Register Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that has been leading the tracking and tackling of Islamophobia across Australia since 2014. It provides a secure online reporting platform that captures nation-wide data and also offers first-hand support to victims of Islamophobia, including free legal support, advocacy and linking to culturally sensitive mental health support.

The Board is made up of highly accomplished Muslims of integrity, many of them being quite prominent in the Muslim community. The Register values unity, efficiency, and collegiality in the Muslim community and for this reason, has partnered up with various other Muslim organisations in various states. For example, it's working collaboratively with the Islamic Council of Victoria's Islamophobia Support Service by referring Victorian cases to the ICV and offering victims who report to the ICV with free legal support through the Register's legal support service. The Register has also partnered with AMUST as its media partner, and the Register staff write monthly articles for AMUST. The Register has partnered up with the Centre for Muslim Wellbeing in Victoria and will be co-launching a short video series on Islamophobia and Mental Health in the coming weeks. Other organisations that the Register is working with through referrals or in other ways include the Australian Muslim Advocacy Network, Queensland Muslims Inc and the Muslim Women's Support Centre in WA as well as a range of non-Muslim organisations such as the Australian Human Rights Commission and Western Sydney University's Challenging Racism Project.



ISLAMOPHOBIA REGISTER AUSTRALIA



Afghan Women On The Move

Afghan Women On The Move's Founder, Maryam Zahid received a 2022 NSW Humanitarian Award in recognition of her humanitarian and advocacy role through social media. Afghan Women on the Move teaches Afghans and provides a program that offers free driving and swimming lessons to newly arrived Afghan women in Sydney's west as they adjust to Australian life. These programs have significantly enhanced their safety and independence within Australia.

Afghan Women on the Move has run programs for women very successfully, with a track record and currently serving over 300 men & women for their Life Skills project. Afghan Women on the Move raises funds to give women, men, and youth a great step up in the community who are struggling with isolation.

Afghan Women on the Move multifactorial projects aim to build social connectedness and strong Australian values for Afghan women men and youths (especially youths of single mothers).

Afghan Women on the Move raises awareness and promotes understanding of the challenges faced by refugees, and advocates for policies and initiatives that support their well-being. This was further evidenced in the launch of "The Power of Colour" art exhibition at the heritage Library in Canberra, during refugee week, which displayed a wide range of storytelling techniques through mixed media, offering a distinctive platform for women to convey their invaluable experiences and insights.

In three years Afghan Women on the Move has developed a support network of 6,500 Afghan women and men in Australia, and in the global diaspora.



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 RECIPIENT **VOLUNTEER** *of the Year*

GOLD SPONSOR



POWERED BY





Rubinah Ahmad

Rubinah Ahmad is a 32-year-old Muslim woman born and raised in South-West Sydney. Despite being born with the disability Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita (AMC) which affects her joints and makes day-to-day living and activities difficult, she has volunteered for the Muslim community since she was around 10 years old. Rubina works behind the scenes in implementing technology to streamline non-profit organisation's processes to make it easier for them to manage with less effort and time. At 10 years old she began helping fill envelopes and ushering crowds for the Australian MEFF Consortium, which runs a yearly Eid Festival in Sydney. Rubinah continues to volunteer for the Australian MEFF Consortium to this day with designing their print and digital collateral as well as producing their video promotional content.

Rubinah uses her expertise in graphic and digital design and technology to assist various Muslim organisations in Australia. In 2014, Rubinah helped start the republication of the Australasian Muslim Times (AMUST) where she developed their website, emails and social media accounts. She also worked as their graphic designer in designing their print and digital newspaper as well as advertisements and other design assets.

Rubinah is also a volunteer for other nonprofit organisations such as the Australian Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN), where she produced a few videos on Palestinian freedom fighters and their membership drive, the Islamic Foundation of Education & Welfare (IFEW), HelpingACT and Vitiligo Association of Australia (VAA). Rubinah has a Diploma of Graphic Design. Nevertheless, most of the skills she demonstrates have been self-taught.



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 FINALISTS
**CREATIVE
ARTIST**
of the Year

GOLD SPONSOR

hca 
HALAL CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

 mission of hope

POWERED BY

 HEJAZ



Sara Mansour

Sara is a nominee for the 2024 Young Australian of the Year Award. For 10 years, Sara Mansour has directed and led significant Australian cultural institutions and events. In

2013, aged 19 years, Sara – a poet and writer herself – co-founded Bankstown Poetry Slam, the first poetry slam in Western Sydney. Under Sara's leadership, it has grown into Australia's largest regular live poetry event. In 2023 the Bankstown Poetry Slam won the Premier's Literary Awards – the first arts organisation to receive this honour – and the 2016 Western Sydney's Leadership Dialogue Pemulwuy Prize. Sara has curated and hosted over 150 poetry events. She's also coordinated high school programs for young people, established Australia's first ever National Youth Poetry Slam and directed multiple festivals. Her efforts have built lasting connections and uplifted the voices of marginalised young people. Lawyer Sara sits on the boards of the Crescent Institute and Monkey Baa Theatre Company, and volunteers with Arise Foundation, running poetry workshops for women who've experienced domestic violence.

Marwa Abouzeid

Marwa Abouzeid is a Muslim woman, Community Advocate, Artist and Accountant, migrated from Egypt to Australia in 2016 with her husband and children, she firstly lived in Adelaide and then moved to Sydney in 2022.

She is the Founder of Artvision Creative Services, established in 2018. The service's mission is to provide art classes to vulnerable communities, such as migrants, refugees, people with disabilities, women who experienced domestic violence, and seniors. The service holds a safe space for the participants to feel empowered and help improve their mental health and wellbeing. Her services include painting, drawing, Arabic calligraphy, Islamic art, and ukulele classes. She is also the Founder of Career Advice with Marwa, a business with a vision of helping job seekers, especially migrants, to enter the Australian workforce through her job readiness workshops.



Marwa is also a member of the Riverside Theatre Advisory Committee and Blacktown City Council Arts and Culture Advisory Committee. When she lived in Adelaide, she was named as a Finalist for the SA Governor's Multicultural Awards, Arts and Culture category 2021, for her contributions in the arts and the Multicultural communities in South Australia.



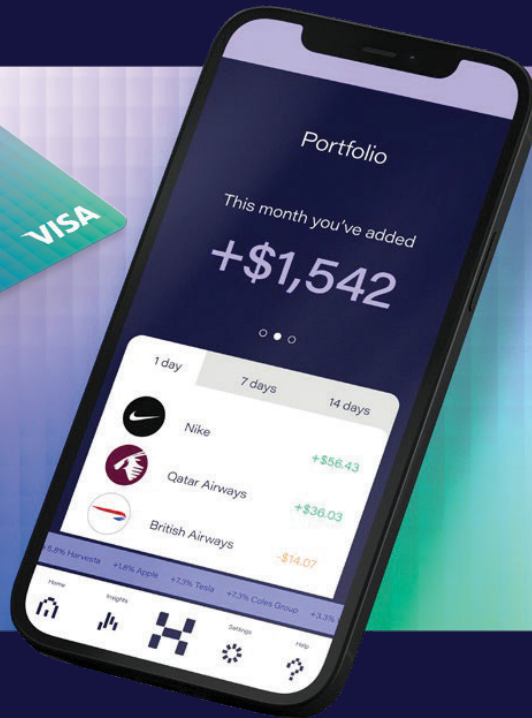
Dr. Randa Abdel-Fattah

Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah is a Palestinian Egyptian Muslim writer, academic, former lawyer, and the multi-award-winning author of 11 books published in over 20 countries, including multiple translations, stage productions in the US and Australia, and a graphic novel series. Randa has been nominated for Sweden's 2019 and 2018 Astrid Lindgren Award, the world's biggest children's and young adult literature award. Randa is also a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Sociology at Macquarie University and her recent book is *Coming of Age in the War on Terror*.

In 2023, her novel *11 words for love* was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literacy Awards. The novel is a moving and joyful book for children from all backgrounds about the many ways we love, from award-winning author Randa Abdel-Fattah and acclaimed illustrator Maxine Beneba Clarke. There are eleven words for love, and my family knows them all. A family flees their homeland to find safety in another country, carrying little more than a suitcase full of love. As their journey unfolds, the oldest child narrates 11 meanings for love in Arabic as her family show, and are shown, all different kinds of love in their new home, and they also remember the love they have for their homeland and for those left behind or lost along the way. In the Arabic language, there are over 50 words describing the degrees of love. That's 50 stories, 50 life-worlds. This lyrical and heart-warming book takes you on a journey through 11 of these Arabic expressions for love.



Halal Money
by HEJAZ



Easy, ethical

Unique

Spend, Earn, Invest – Ethically

Spend

Send money to anyone or spend it at your local café – it is secure, free, and works like a debit card. Spend only what you have, and not worry about late bills or interest!

Earn

Earn through halal term investments –
Enjoy returns in our unique Shariah-compliant term investments.

Invest

Invest in halal ETFs – invest in ethical shares on the ASX that are not socially or morally injurious. No more investments in weapons, gambling, or even pork!



Scan the QR code
and join the waitlist today!

The information provided is for general purposes only. It does not take into account your personal circumstances. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Please consider the PDS and TMD. The information was prepared by Hejaz Asset Management Pty Ltd (ABN 69613618821). Deposits are not covered by the Australian Government's Financial Claims Scheme (FCS) as Hejaz is not an Authorised Deposit-taking Institution (ADI) or bank.



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 FINALISTS

**PEOPLE'S
CHOICE**

of the Year

GOLD SPONSOR

hca
HALAL CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

 mission of hope

POWERED BY

 HEJAZ



Aseel Tayah

Aseel Tayah is a Melbourne-based Palestinian artist, creative director and cultural leader who uses her practice to advocate for artists of colour, mothers, children and young people, changing the world one project at a time.

She has recently been described as “an unstoppable force in the Australian Cultural Landscape”. Through the power of storytelling, Aseel’s artistic practice creates awareness and facilitates connection by humanising the experiences of people who have been displaced. As such her work is embedded in the community and is often highly responsive to current issues.

During Refugee Week 2020, Aseel curated, produced, and presented a series of live online discussion panels featuring national and international artists and cultural leaders. The series attracted more than 40,000 views and led to an invitation to participate in the inaugural TEDx Melbourne PluggedIn event where she was awarded Best Speaker.

As a creative director and installation artist, Aseel has a wide range of experience; international highlights include We Too Want To Play, the establishment of Palestine’s first network of toy libraries and Fingerprint of an Arab Girl, an annual event showcasing the talents and achievements of girls living under occupation.

In Australia, collaborations include unique intercultural experiences such as Lullabies under the Stars, an Arabic/First Nations work for children, and the participatory installation Bukjeh, exploring stories of home and being forced to leave it. Aseel exemplifies the use of art and creativity to achieve social justice, and is renowned for her kindness, optimism and generosity.

Nasser Mashni

Nasser is the son of a Palestinian refugee. He is the Australian Palestinian Advocacy Network (APAN) president and a co-founder of Australians For Palestine and a founding board member of Olive Kids.

Nasser is a prominent member of the Australian Palestinian community where he has extensive contacts throughout Palestine and Israel. Nasser co-produces the radio program – Palestine Remembered; and is a regular media commentator including TV interviews.

With his father’s legacy in mind, Nasser is determined to continue the struggle for justice and a free Palestine. Despite being born in Australia, Nasser holds a strong sense of duty to his Palestinian homeland and people. During a talk with The Safi Bros Podcast, Nasser described himself as the “Accidental Palestinian Australian” suggesting that all Palestinians are “accidentally something because they are not Palestinian firstly in Palestine because Israel exists where Palestine doesn’t”. Nasser also describes growing up in Cheltenham battling classism, sacrificing to provide for his family and making a life for himself in Australia.



More recently, Nasser has helped organise pro-Palestine rallies since Israel began its brutal siege of Gaza and is the most prominent Australian civil society activist for the Palestinian cause.



Senator Dr. Mehreen Faruqi OAM

Mehreen Faruqi is the Deputy Leader of the Greens party and Senator in Australia Parliament, she emigrated to Australia from Pakistan in 1992 and became Australia's first Muslim senator when she joined the Senate in 2018 and having served in the New South Wales parliament.

In 2023 she has been leading protests in the national parliament calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Palestinian conflict. She has unapologetically and consistently used her parliamentary platform to call for a ceasefire, an end to the occupation of Palestine and for Palestinians' right to self-determination. Her infamous speech made headlines around Australia and Internationally. Dr Faruqi accused the Coalition of being "morally bankrupt" on Palestine while calling Labor "heartless, gutless cowards". "You are watching the massacre of thousands of Palestinians by Israel, and you are not condemning Israel, you refuse to call for an immediate ceasefire," she said. "We are not going to sit here and watch you pat yourselves on the back for doing absolutely nothing. Weasel words are not going to stop war crimes. "Today we bring the people's protest into parliament – free, free Palestine," she said, with fist raised.

She has also tackled systemic racism and Islamophobia, in 2023 Dr Faruqi said she decided to start legal action against Senator Hanson because people who have faced "the sear of racism" want to see discrimination called out and held to account. "I'm drawing a line in the sand and saying enough is enough," she said.

Assala Sayara

Assala is a 26-year-old social worker, social justice activist, public speaker and storyteller. Assala's connection to her homeland and Palestinian identity fuels her community engagement.

Assala has been leading the organisation, chants and the public media voice of the weekly pro-Palestine rallies in Sydney, with attendances exceeding 50,000 per week. She has become the thundering voice of resistance with her popular set list that has become a defining part of the protests. Her media advocacy has been across mainstream media platforms across Australia.

Assala is also the current founder and director of Hawayete, which is a grassroots digital platform that shares the Palestinian experience through multiple mediums. The platform connects people seeking the shared experiences and stories of Palestinians in the diaspora. The platforms' purpose is multifaceted: It is to build on the personal and communal power of being Palestinian and identifying with the Palestinian narrative; a way to work towards healing those who are living with intergenerational trauma of the Israeli occupation; and acknowledges the beauty of identity and fight for what is the Palestinian birthright.

Assala currently works as a primary and secondary school counsellor, providing specialised care. Assala has also gained experience internationally working in Palestine, Jordan, and Indonesia. Assala worked at the Aida youth centre, located in Aida Refugee Camp, Bethlehem, which consisted of counselling, community development and youth work.





Cllr Bilal El-Hayek Mayor

On 11 May 2023, Bilal Elhayak became the Mayor of Canterbury Bankstown Council, NSW's largest council, and was re-elected in September 2023. In October 2023 his Council unanimously voted to fly the Palestinian flag and advocated to the Federal government to call for an immediate ceasefire. His many impactful accomplishments in 2023 are transformative for residents for generations to come:

1) Canterbury-Bankstown Mayor Bilal El-Hayek's Domestic Violence Summit- the role religious leaders play, the veil of secrecy and the shame of victim-survivors were key topics other issues canvassed included early intervention and education, the growing incidents of violence and language barriers among the CALD communities. More than 140 community leaders and representatives from local organisations including Domestic Violence Advocates, Women's Organisations, Religious and Spiritual Leaders and Police, came together at the Bryan Brown Theatre to share ideas and develop solutions.

2) Successfully lobbying for a new Hospital to meet the growing population and health needs of constituents in the Local Government Area. Bilal has lobbied the NSW Government and stakeholders for over two budget cycles, with the NSW Government in 2023 committing \$1.3B to a new hospital.

3) Critical Well-being infrastructure- overseeing the approval and implementation of \$170 million strategic plan, which aims to renew and revitalise Council's services and facilities to improve community health and wellbeing. Including desperately needed renovations and development of Aquatic centres.

"This is a huge win for our community, soon they'll have world-class facilities right on their doorstep that they will be able to enjoy for decades to come."



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 RECIPIENT **SPORTSPERSON** *of the Year*

GOLD SPONSOR



POWERED BY





Usman Khawaja

Usman Khawaja is an Australian cricketer who represents Australia and Queensland. Usman made his first-class cricket debut for New South Wales in 2008 and played his first international match for Australia in January 2011.

Usman has won the inaugural Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year award in 2023 following a superb 12 months in the Australian Cricket team. Since returning to the Test side in January last year, Khawaja has been Australia's leading run-scorer in the five-day format, accumulating 1020 runs at 78.46 during the voting period.

Usman was also publicly the victim of racism during an international game series in the UK, in which he used the incident to publicly raise the profile of discrimination, racial profiling and racism amongst Australian Cricket and sport fans.

Usman is in a league of his own being the only member of the Test 1000-run club in 2023 he was named the International Cricket Council Men's Test Cricketer of the Year.

In December 2023, during a training session for Australia's first test match of the series against Pakistan, Usman took a stance when he wore shoes on which the words "All lives are equal" and "freedom is a human right", which were written in the colours of the Palestinian flag. The ICC warned that it would sanction Usman if he continued to wear the shoes. Usman stated that he respected the ICC and the rules and regulations and requested that the ICC apply "consistency in how they officiate".



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 FINALISTS **PROFESSIONAL** *of the Year*

GOLD SPONSOR



POWERED BY





Dr. Dzavid Haveric

Dr Haveric's expertise is in the History of Islam in Australia, Muslim expirations and re-discoveries of Australia, Religious diversity and multi-faith relations, Immigration, Settlement and Multiculturalism, Social Policies and Community Development, Muslim Identities, Islamic Civilisation, History of the Bosnian Muslim Community in Australia and Islamic Influence in Bosnia and Europe.

Dr Haveric has worked as a Journalist for the Bosnian community in Australia and as a reporter for the Special Broadcasting Service, SBS Radio programme for the Bosnian community. Dr Haveric's greatest achievements is his love of writing books to explain Islam and achievements of Muslims. Dr Haveric has written thirteen books beginning in 1999 and ending in 2023 the latter yet to be published. His book on the History of the Muslim Discovery of the World: Islamic Civilisation within the Plurality of Civilisation is a unique encyclopaedical work on the civilisation of Islam. His latest book Muslims defending Australia is the first book written in Australian History which includes Muslims of different ethnic backgrounds and their descendants. He has dedicated 30 years of his life, researching and writing books on Islam, Dr Haveric is well known as a historian, researcher, and author. and educator. During his research and writing he has suffered health issues especially spinal problems striving always to complete his books in a professional manner.

Lydia Shelly

Lydia is admitted as a solicitor with the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the High Court of Australia.

In 2023 Lydia became President of New South Wales Council for Civil Liberties (NSWCCL)-the third women since 1963 and the first Muslim women to do so. Lydia firmly believes that those in positions of power have a responsibility to promote and defend civil liberties, including the right to protest. She has appeared in various courts, including the High Court of Australia on a pro bono basis representing refugees and individuals with a range of civil liberty-based concerns.

As president of NSWCCL she presented evidence before NSW Parliament in relation to the review of the Modern-Day Slavery Act and advocated repeatedly against Government demonising protesters and punitive actions against them.



With a Masters of Terrorism and Security Studies, Lydia has a strong understanding of the policy frameworks that intersect with legislative responses and is concerned over the erosion of fundamental legal principles and civil liberties.



Dr. Rayan Saleh Moussa

Dr Rayan is currently involved and leading projects of cancer clinical trial participation in the Australian Arabic-speaking community, Inclusion of non-English speaking people in clinical trials, and Honey on Wounds (HOW). Dr Rayan, a CST Postdoctoral Research Fellow, facilitated a discussion with an engaging and insightful panel of experts on the experience of Arabic-speaking people accessing the Australian healthcare system and their participation in clinical trials.

Dr Rayan is undertaking a program of work to investigate the underrepresentation of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in cancer clinical research in Australia. Dr Rayan encourages and advocates for the involvement and increase in minoritized research participants and community leaders, who are key to engaging broader participation and accommodating the needs of their communities. She mentors investigators, who could then work with underserved communities, to enhance the recruitment of representative participants.

Dr Rayan raises awareness of the language and translation difficulties, cultural and spiritual beliefs about health, medicine, and research, and a lack of existing relationships between health and medical researchers and CALD communities' barriers to enrolling more CALD people in potentially life-saving trials. Dr Rayan raises awareness of why diversity among clinical trial participants is so important and the need to enhance clinical trial diversity as a moral and scientific imperative to learn about the safety and efficacy of a potential medicine or vaccine for people now and in the future.



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 FINALISTS **ROLE MODEL** *of the Year*

GOLD SPONSOR



POWERED BY





Annas Davids

Annas a 27-year-old South African Muslim man from Perth. Annas is well known for his advocacy in the mental health space for young Muslim people, brown men, and people of colour across Australia who may be experiencing mental health challenges alone and there is hope.

Annas was a member of the Headspace Youth National Reference Group (HY NRG) from April 2012 to July 2023, using his position to advocate for other young Muslim men navigating their mental health, and helping Headspace provide safe services for Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse young people.

Annas demonstrates great courage as defined by the Hadith "Courage is not the strength of the body. A man may be strong physically, but weak in heart. Rather, courage is the strength of the heart and its steadfastness". He demonstrates the quality of those who are strong internally and face difficult situations and hardship with a steadfast heart and strong faith by overcoming his fears to raise awareness and help others in the community on a highly stigmatised and taboo topic Mental Health and wellbeing.

Annas faced the unknown and demonstrated courageousness, confidence, and independence in navigating the mental health space, despite any negative repercussions it may have, to take a stand in the face of stigmatisation.

Zia Ahmad

Zia Ahmad is an exemplary community leader based in Sydney, Australia, whose contributions display his dedication to fostering social cohesion and understanding amongst Muslims. Remarkably, at the age of 70 now, Zia Ahmad's dedication to the cause has not waned. He continues to actively participate in organising events that contribute to social cohesion, and he regularly contributes articles and stories to AMUST, a Muslim news platform known for its inclusivity and openness to writers from various religious backgrounds. His enduring commitment to fostering understanding and unity among people is a testament to his determined spirit and unwavering dedication to the values of peace and harmony.

He is the co-founder of the Multicultural Eid Festival & Fair in 1985, the first Eid festival in Australia, which brought the Islamic celebration of Eid ul-Fitr to the masses in Sydney. After 42 years, working full-time at the University of Sydney as a Biochemist, he retired in 2013 and restarted the Australasian Muslim Times (AMUST) as the Editor-in-Chief. He has cultivated a news platform that transcends cultural and religious boundaries.



Zia's commitment to promoting Islamic education, social cohesion, and his recognition with the Premier's Multicultural Media Awards in 2016 underscore his unwavering dedication to fostering understanding and maintaining a positive Muslim presence in the public eye. He continues to inspire not only his family but countless others, urging them to embrace their faith and contribute to the fabric of a harmonious Australia.



Marwa Abouzeid

Marwa Abouzeid is a Community Advocate, Artist and Accountant, migrated from Egypt to Australia in 2016 with her husband and children. She has worked hard to promote her brand as a Muslim woman to both Muslim and non-Muslims in her local community in the Hills district of Sydney.

Marwa is the Founder of Artvision Creative Services, established in 2018. The service's mission is to provide art classes to vulnerable communities, such as migrants, refugees, people with disabilities, women who experienced domestic violence, and seniors. Artvision Creative Services holds a safe space for the participants to feel empowered and help improve their mental health and wellbeing. Her services include painting, drawing, Arabic calligraphy, Islamic art, and ukulele classes. She is also the Founder of Career Advice with Marwa, a business with a vision of helping job seekers, especially migrants, to enter the Australian workforce through her job readiness workshops.

Marwa volunteers her time as a Career Mentor at Western Sydney University, The Warrior Women Foundation, for vulnerable CALD Young Women and various high schools in Western Sydney. Marwa is an Art and Culture Advisory committee member at The Riverside Theatre and is also a Judge for 7 News Young Achievers Awards 2023.

Despite her migration with all its challenges, she showed resilience and determination in the face of all the barriers and positively contributes to communities especially women on many important levels.



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 FINALISTS

YOUTH

of the Year

GOLD SPONSOR

hca 
HALAL CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

 mission of hope

POWERED BY

 HEJAZ



Hajrah Kamran

Hajrah Kamran has demonstrated excellence in her academic pursuits, by showing exceptional dedication by pursuing multiple degrees. Hajrah has a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Sciences Honours, a Bachelor of Islamic Studies, and a Diploma in Mental Health. Her commitment to both healthcare and her faith illustrates her multifaceted approach to life. As the President of the Charles Darwin University Student's Council in 2023, Hajrah's leadership is evident, reflecting her academic prowess and her commitment to representing the youth effectively. She serves as an inspiration for young leaders who seek to make a positive impact.

Hajrah's influence extends beyond university, where she also serves as the Youth Coordinator at the United Muslims of Northern Territory, actively empowering young individuals within the Islamic community.

Furthermore, Hajrah is not just a leader but an advocate for crucial issues affecting youth and women. Her passion for youth mental health, education, women's empowerment, and the representation of women in leadership roles is commendable. She tirelessly organises and delivers programs aimed at enhancing the well-being of culturally diverse young people. Hajrah's dedication and excellence have earned her numerous leadership and academic awards, further highlighting her outstanding contributions to her community and society at large.

Anhaar Kareem

At 16 years of age, Anhaar is a great representative of young Muslim females and to the wider Australian community. Anhaar had been volunteering since the age of 9, which has had a huge impact on her local community. Anhaar volunteers at various organisations including the Islamic Women's Welfare Association (IWWA) in Lakemba, Islamic Sciences and Research Academy of Australia (ISRA) and Brothers in Need. At IWWA she volunteers her time assisting with school holiday activities, fundraising dinners and also runs free public speaking and creative writing workshops for primary school students. She is a member of the ISRA Children's Library Youth club committee with the aim to make reading and writing fun and enjoyable for the younger generation of Muslim children in Sydney.

In 2022, Anhaar founded the IWWA Youth Committee which focuses on empowering and engaging young Muslim Women in Western Sydney. Anhaar is also a committee member of the Wellbeing & Health Youth (WHY) commission, dedicating her time and efforts to improving the health needs of young people in Australia especially those from marginalised communities. Anhaar is also a member of the Federal Youth Steering Committee meeting regularly with the Federal Minister for Youth, Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, to discuss important issues regarding youth.

Anhaar is a strong advocate for marginalised communities and youth, which is demonstrated through her writing and speaking. This advocacy has had a profound impact on her peers and her local and wider community.





Assala Sayara

Assala is a 26-year-old social worker, social justice activist, public speaker and storyteller. Assala's connection to her homeland and Palestinian identity fuels her community engagement.

Assala currently works as a primary and secondary school counsellor, providing specialised care. Assala has also gained experience working internationally in Palestine, Jordan, and Indonesia. Assala worked at the Aida youth centre, located in Aida Refugee Camp, Bethlehem, which consisted of counselling, community development and youth work.

Assala is also the current founder and director of Hawayete, which is a grassroots digital platform that shares the Palestinian experience through multiple mediums. The platform connects people seeking the shared experiences and stories of Palestinians in the diaspora. The platforms' purpose is multifaceted: It is to build on the personal and communal power of being Palestinian and identifying with the Palestinian narrative; a way to work towards healing those who are living with intergenerational trauma of the Israeli occupation; and acknowledges the beauty of identity and fight for what is the Palestinian birthright.

Assala has also been leading the organisation, chants and the public media voice of the weekly pro-Palestine rallies in Sydney, with attendances exceeding 50,000 per week. She has become the thundering voice of resistance with her popular set list that has become a defining part of the protests. Her media advocacy has been across mainstream media platforms across Australia.



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 RECIPIENT
ABYSSINIAN
of the Year

GOLD SPONSOR

hca 
HALAL CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

 mission of hope

POWERED BY

 HEJAZ



Antoinette Lattouf

Antoinette Lattouf is an Australian-Lebanese journalist, host, author and diversity advocate. She is believed to be the first Arab-Australian woman to be a reporter on commercial television, and today is a regular staple on Australian airwaves or in its local newspapers.

Throughout her career, Antoinette has worked at Network Ten, ABC, SBS, Southern Cross Austereo, Triple J, and as a social commentator for various online and broadcast publications.

In 2019, Antoinette was listed in the Australian Financial Review's 100 Women of Influence and in 2021 was awarded a Women's Agenda Leadership Award and B&T Women in Media Champion of Change.

Since early 2022, Antoinette has been a permanent host of the daily LiSTNR podcast, The Briefing. She is also the co-founder of Media diversity Australia and is known for her work as a columnist for the Sydney Morning Herald.

Antoinette has also made a name for herself as an activist on issues like racism, discrimination in media and mental health. In the same year that she delivered her first TEDx Sydney talk, Antoinette also published her first book in 2022, "How to lose Friends and Influence White People," which showcases her commitment to advocacy alongside her skills as a writer.



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 FINALISTS

MAN

of the Year

GOLD SPONSOR



POWERED BY





Adel Salman

Adel Salman is the current President of the Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV) which is the peak representative body for Victoria's diverse Muslim community. He leads the advocacy and public policy portfolio and is the media spokesperson for the ICV.

Adel is a passionate believer that the core function of the ICV, being a peak representative body, is to advocate for the interests of the Muslim community with many diverse stakeholder groups including government. Adel has led the ICV's strong focus on addressing Islamophobia and the marginalisation of the Muslim community in Australian society, which are serious issues that require a community-wide response. More recently, Adel has led the ICV's advocacy for protection of religious freedom and raising awareness about the challenges to Muslim identity. To this end, the ICV has worked extensively with Islamic Schools providing advice aimed at supporting their ability to uphold their religious ethos.

Alongside his ICV role, Adel is also a board member of the Australian Muslim Advocacy Network (AMAN), which is a specialist independent advocacy body created to champion the cause of human and civil rights of Muslims. Adel is also founder of Arkan Toledo which is a Muslim not-for-profit organisation that provides the education sector with Islamic education services. Adel is a current Board Director of Arkana Islamic School. His contributions extend beyond Victorian Muslim communities.

Ahmed Zreika

Ahmed is a distinguished leader of the Muslim community of South Australia and has been heavily engaged in Muslim community building with the Islamic Society of South Australia for over a decade.

He was a catalyst in the emerging movement of community development through the establishment of a number of programs and activities for Muslim women, youth, elderly and the vulnerable. Ahmed has led and overseen many significant milestones in South Australia's Muslim community, most notably facilitating a multimillion-dollar Islamic burial project in northern Adelaide.

Ahmed has served as President of the Islamic Society of South Australia since 2015. He is currently the Business Manager of the Al-Salam Arabic School and is passionate about empowering young Muslim leaders to develop.



Ahmed has been at the forefront of instigating the Islamic Society of South Australia's first intensive youth program, with the aim of developing resilient and confident individuals to contribute positively to society through mentorship and leadership programs. He is an avid supporter of providing opportunities for youth to be involved in events such as Mosque Open Days, charity fundraisers, workshops and the annual Ramadan Carnival.

Ahmed is also Chairperson and founder of the Al-Salam Festival that seeks to raise awareness of the Muslim community and Islam, through entertainment, food and informative activities that allow people to grasp a general perspective of the religion and address any queries they may have.



Dr Mohammad Jehangir

Born and educated in Pakistan, Dr. Jehangir's migrant story embodies the great successes in today's Multicultural Australia. Leaving behind his homeland and embracing a new life in Western Australia, he exemplifies the strength and resilience that migration demands.

Through his journey, he has not only achieved extraordinary medical feats but has also seamlessly integrated into the diverse fabric of our society. As a Pakistani-Australian, Dr. Jehangir has bridged cultures, united communities, and broken-down barriers, showing the power of diversity in fostering understanding and acceptance. His unwavering commitment to providing essential medical services to Aboriginal communities and his tireless work in promoting interfaith harmony demonstrate the boundless potential of multicultural collaboration.

As a leading consultant paediatrician with a special interest in neonatal medicine, Dr. Jehangir's unwavering dedication to the well-being of his young patients is awe-inspiring. Countless families have been touched by his healing hands, as he deftly saves and improves the lives of precious infants, spreading hope and joy throughout the community. But Dr. Jehangir's impact extends beyond the confines of a hospital. His heart beats passionately for the differently abled children with ADHD and Autism. He understands the struggles faced by their parents in securing assessments and ongoing care, and he responded by establishing a network of multidisciplinary teams offering affordable, holistic care. The upcoming "Smartpaeds" centre, a one-stop-shop for ADHD and Autistic children, is a testament to his unwavering commitment to their well-being.



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

2023 FINALISTS

WOMAN

of the Year

GOLD SPONSOR



POWERED BY





Mehroz A Afzal

At the age of 37, Mehroz is not only a devoted mother but also a thriving business owner. Her event styling and florist business, “Set in September,” established in 2016, stands as a testament to her entrepreneurial spirit and creative talent.

Mehroz possesses a character of high integrity and proudly identifies as Muslim. Throughout her personal and professional journey, she has consistently demonstrated values aligned with being a Muslim, including compassion, empathy, resilience, and a deep commitment to serving her community and society at large.

Mehroz’s integrity shines through in her actions and dedication to her charity organisation, “Set in September the Label.” Her decision to establish this not-for-profit entity, to raise awareness and funds for bowel cancer, was driven by the memory of her sister and the desire to prevent others from suffering the same fate.

Her involvement in advocacy campaigns, such as the “Call on Canberra” initiative at the Parliament House in 2023, and her efforts to bring attention to the issue of young onset bowel cancer, are a testament to her integrity and commitment to making a positive impact on her community and beyond. This year, she is organising another event to raise funds for Chris O’Brien Lifehouse research, focusing on better treatment options for bowel cancer.

Ramia Abdo Sultan

Ramia Abdo Sultan is a Founding Partner at LawBridge: a practising solicitor with over fourteen years’ legal experience and a deep expertise in wills, probate and estate planning, property law, family law and civil law matters.

Ramia Abdo is of Palestinian background and has excelled in lobbying and strategic advocacy. She is a community Advisor to the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) and uses her and her families lived and shared experiences to lobby for the Palestinian cause through state and Federal Government and media. Ramia is an executive committee member of the Gaza Children’s Fund, a not-for-profit humanitarian organisation which seeks to help and empower women and children in Gaza. She is also an executive committee member of the Australia Palestinian Advocate Network.



Ramia also has a dual legal system interest, being a specialist in Islamic succession law, which she blends with her expertise in the common law system to help craft innovative and culturally appropriate solutions for clients. She has completed a Masters in Islamic studies to help achieve this rare dual-practice expertise.



Senator Dr. Mehreen Faruqi OAM

Dr Mehreen Faruqi is a Senator in the parliament of New South Wales and the Deputy Leader of the Greens. She is a civil and environmental engineer and life-long activist for social and environmental justice. She joined NSW State Parliament in 2013, becoming the first Muslim woman to sit in an Australian parliament.

Throughout 2023 she has led protests in the parliament calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Palestine conflict. She has unapologetically and consistently used her parliamentary platform to call for a ceasefire, an end to the occupation of Palestine and their right to self-determination. Her infamous speech made headlines Australia- wide and internationally where Dr Faruqi accused the Coalition of being “morally bankrupt” on Palestine while Labor as “heartless, gutless cowards”.

Dr Mehreen Faruqi had a 25-year career as a professional engineer and academic. She worked in positions in local government, consulting firms and higher education institutions in Australia and internationally. These included roles such as Manager of Environment and Services at Mosman Council, Manager of Natural Resources and Catchments for Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and as the Director of the Institute of Environmental Studies at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). At the time she was appointed to the New South Wales parliament, she was Academic Director of the Master of Business and Technology Program and an associate professor at the Australian Graduate School of Management for UNSW.

She has been named one of the 100 most influential engineers in Australia and received the UNSW Faculty of Engineering Award for Leadership and remains a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia and a member of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand.

Booklet designed and event managed by

white  flame



16TH ANNUAL AMAA

Australian Muslim
Achievement Awards

HOSTED BY



mission of hope

EVENT PARTNER



GOLD SPONSOR

hca **حلال**
HALAL CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

Muslimawards.com.au