



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

MASSOUD FOUNDATION  
AUSTRALIA LTD

**MASSOUD FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA**

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# MASSOUD FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

The Massoud Foundation Australia is a Sydney-based non-profit organisation fostering an enduring relationship between Australians and diverse communities of Afghanistan residing in Australia and celebrating the culture of these communities by raising their awareness.

The Massoud Foundation Australia brings Australian communities closer to each other by not only promoting cultural awareness but also education within these communities in Australia and in Afghanistan.

Massoud Foundation was established and registered as a charitable trust in 2002 in Afghanistan, with the main objective of human development in the field of education, health, and cultural activities. After 18 years of successful service delivery to the poorest of the poor in areas of education and health as well as cultural activities in Afghanistan, the Massoud Foundation is bent on expanding its activities in Australia to work with the diaspora of Afghanistan in Australia and Australian citizens who share the ideals of Massoud.

**We bring  
communities closer  
through awareness-  
raising, education,  
and meaningful  
cultural exchange**





# WHAT WE DO

## Massoud Foundation Australia has three core objectives

1. Celebrating the life and legacy of the late Commander Massoud
2. Enhance of Australian-Afghanistan relation
3. Organising the diaspora of Afghanistan in Australia to create a unity of purpose not only for the above two objectives but also for promoting harmony and ensuring cultural/traditional continuity and awareness

- Therefore, we are promoting the ideals of the late Commander Ahmad Shah Massoud who envisioned an independent, united, democratic, and prosperous Afghanistan, "at peace within and with the rest of the world."
- We engage with different communities of Afghanistan and wider Farsi/Dari-speaking people in Australia, particularly regarding educational programs concerning their cultural heritage and identity in both Australia and Afghanistan.
- To assist the charitable initiatives of the Massoud Foundation in Afghanistan in their areas of provision of education, healthcare, nutrition, and the day-to-day needs of impoverished communities, with a particular focus on disadvantaged women and children.
- Undertake fundraising events to support the welfare programs mentioned above and many more in partnership with the Massoud Foundation Afghanistan. Provide settlement assistance to newly arriving immigrants from Afghanistan to Australia to ensure a harmonious start and integration into their life in Australia, to support our ideal for our community to be a productive member of the Australian society.
- Hosting social and cultural activities such as sporting, cultural, and community events, as well as academic conferences.





**Abstract:**

The Massoud Foundation's Community Connect resettlement program has been instrumental in providing a wide range of services to help newly arrived refugees from Afghanistan and integrate them successfully into their new communities. Through the implementation of various initiatives, the program has also enabled the organisation to hire paid staff and recruit volunteers to support these efforts.

Through the successful implementation of the program and securing necessary funding, the Massoud Foundation has been able to hire paid staff. These staff members contribute their expertise and dedicated efforts to the program's success, ensuring the continuity and effectiveness of the services provided. In addition to paid staff, the program also actively recruits and engages volunteers from both the Afghan community and the wider community to assist in various capacities.

In summary, the Massoud Foundation's Community Connect program has demonstrated its commitment to the successful resettlement and integration of newly arrived refugees from Afghanistan through a range of services.

By offering community integration programs, cultural celebrations, youth leadership initiatives, women's activities, driving lessons, goal-setting, women's health & and mental health awareness, and physical activities the program has created a support network that enriched the lives of Afghan refugees and strengthened community bonds.

**Through our holistic approach, we aim to address the multifaceted challenges faced by newly arrived refugees from Afghanistan, promoting their successful settlement and integration into their new communities.**

# INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT FOR NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN

## **FAMILY IN CULTURAL TRANSITION (FICT)**

*the primary focus was to ensure that newly arrived refugees were aware of and had access to the support systems available to them*

## **INFORMATION SESSION**

*We provide necessary information to the newly arrived refugees, answer to their daily queries and support their transition smoothly into their communities.*

## **SPORT**

*We organised friendly matches with local teams provided an opportunity for refugees to showcase their talent and enhance mutual understanding between different cultures.*

## **WOMEN BI-WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

*Understanding the Australian culture, traditions, and norms is essential for refugees to feel confident and integrated Youth*

## **EMPLOYMENT**

*Our services included job search assistance, resume writing, interview training, and connection with local employers to facilitate refugees' entry into the job market and secure sustainable employment.*

## **EDUCATION**

*We provided guidance and support in navigating the education system, enrolling children in schools, accessing adult education programs, and promoting educational opportunities for all ages*

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

*We offered culturally sensitive mental health services, counseling referrals, and support groups to help individuals and families cope with the trauma and stress that they experienced during the evacuation from Afghanistan.*

## **YOUTH LEADERSHIP**

*We initiated dedicated programs for young refugees, including mentoring, recreational activities, and youth empowerment initiatives, focusing on their specific needs related to education, employment, and social integration*

## **MAJOR CULTURAL EVENTS**

*We bring together communities, new arrivals and wider Australian community to strengthen social cohesion, and promote cross-cultural understanding, and encourage community engagement.*

## **DRIVING LESSONS AND KNOWLEDGE TES**

*We offered support in obtaining driver's licenses and understanding local road regulations to help refugee women become familiar with transportation options and enhance their independence*

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

*Our services addressed issues of domestic violence through specialized support in partnership with Multicultural Health, and referrals to relevant agencies, ensuring the safety and well-being of families*

## **LEGAL ISSUES**

*Our volunteer team of pro bono lawyers provided legal advice, referrals to immigration lawyers, and assistance in understanding and navigating the legal system in NSW*

## **WELFARE AND CENTRELINK**

*We help refugees understand and access social welfare benefits and provide guidance on navigating the Centrelink system*

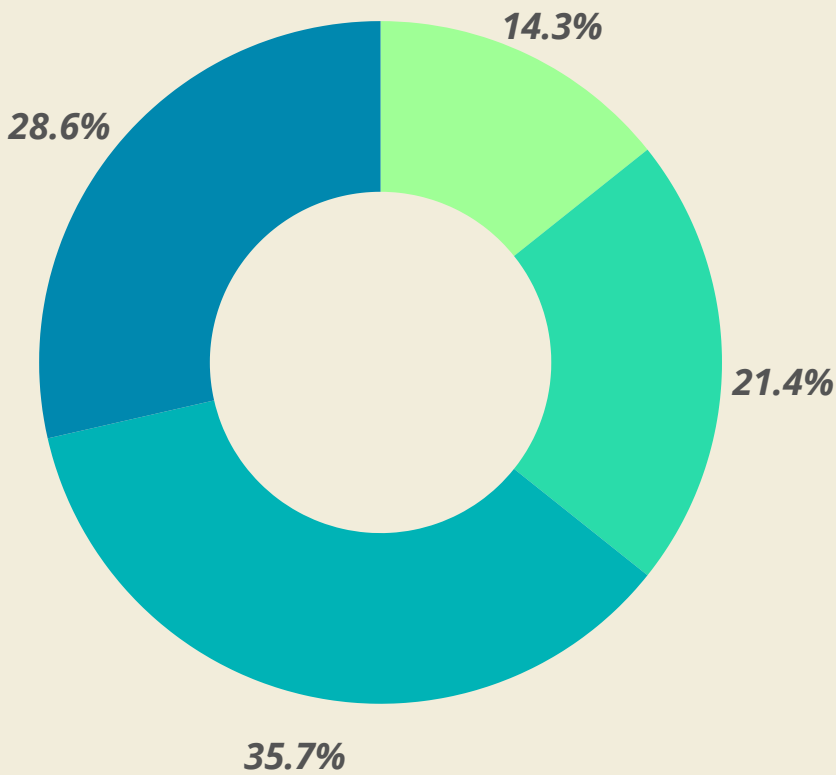
## **HEALTH**

*We helped refugees access healthcare services, navigate the healthcare system, and provide information on health education and wellness programs*

## **HOUSING**

*We assist refugees in finding suitable accommodations, understanding tenancy requirements, and accessing housing support services to ensure safe and affordable housing*

# SERVICES OVERVIEW



## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION

*Girls' education in Afghanistan, Financially disadvantaged people Overseas communities*



## DISPLACED PEOPLE, VICTIMS OF WAR

*Shelter and residential care, People at risk of homelessness/ Victims of disaster*



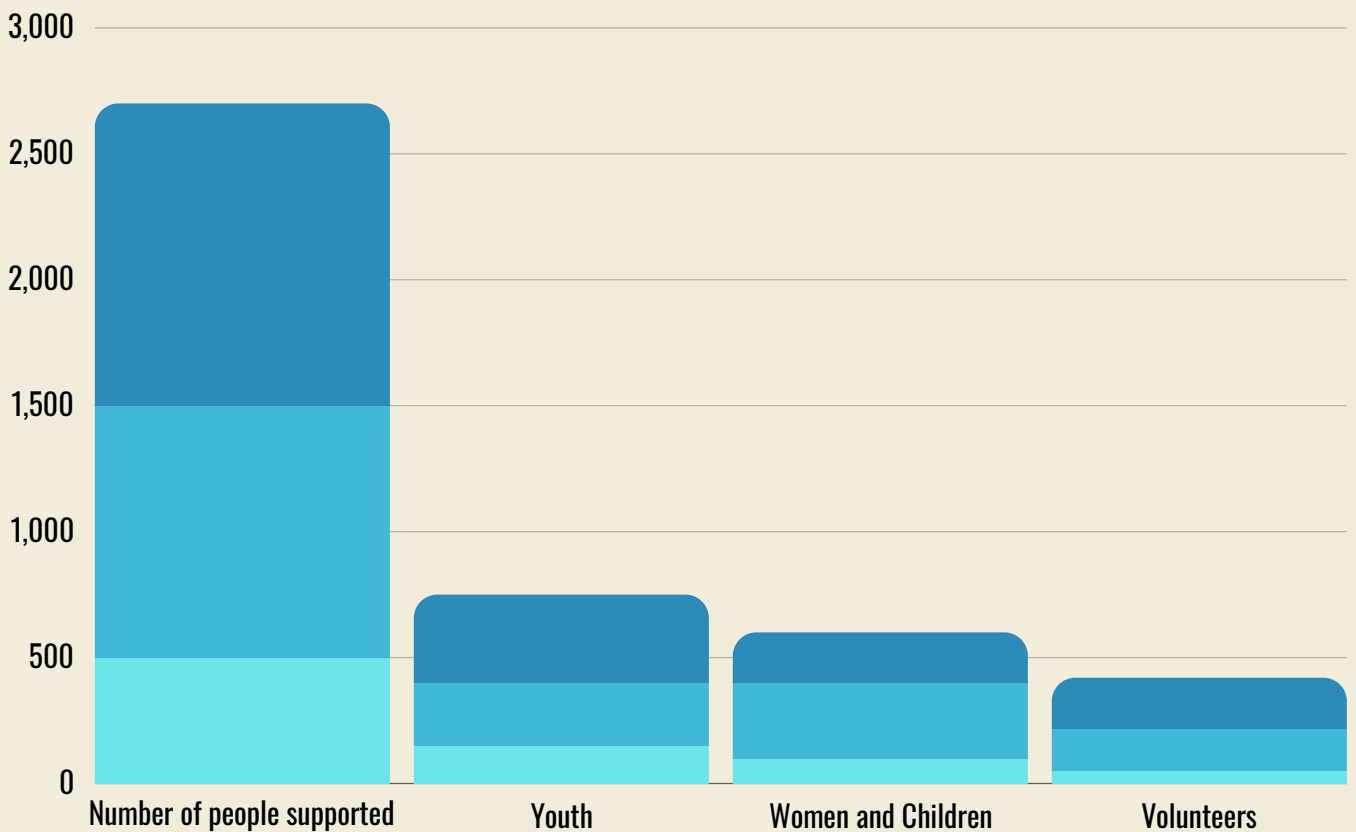
## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

*Community connect program for newly arrived refugees and migrants from Afghanistan*



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

*Youth leadership, major cultural events, and strengthening social cohesion, people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background  
Youth*





# Launching the Inclusive Settlement Funding Model, The Role of Refugee-Led Organisations in Settlement



We are thrilled to announce the official launch of the Inclusive Settlement Funding Model and The Role of Refugee-Led Organizations in Settlement report, presented by the Honorable **Andrew Giles MP**. This groundbreaking report, compiled by Dr. Atem Atem, President of the Refugee Communities Advocacy Network (RCAN), sheds light on the essential contributions made by refugee-led organizations in the settlement process of their communities in NSW.

The launch of the Inclusive Settlement Funding Model and The Role of Refugee-Led Organisations in Settlement report was a remarkable milestone in recognising the significant contributions of these organisations to the settlement of refugees in NSW. We commend Dr. Atem Atem and RCAN for their dedication to documenting and advocating for the crucial role played by refugee-led organisations.

This report serves as a powerful tool for policymakers, funders, and community stakeholders to understand and value the impact of supporting and partnering with refugee-led organisations. By acknowledging their contributions and ensuring inclusive funding models, we pave the way for more effective and holistic settlement practices, empowering refugees to thrive and contribute to their new communities.

Moving forward, we are committed to utilising the findings of this report to advocate for the resources and support necessary to further strengthen the invaluable work of refugee-led organisations in NSW, fostering a truly inclusive and welcoming resettlement environment.

**Massoud Foundation Australia**

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# NSW HUMANITARIAN AWARD 2022



On Tuesday, July 5, 2022, The 2022 NSW Humanitarian Awards was held by STARTTS in partnership with the Refugee Council of Australia. The Award was presented officially by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales, in an official ceremony at Government House, Sydney.

The Humanitarian Award in the Refugee category was presented to Mr. Bilal Waheed, the Executive Director of Massoud Foundation Australia.

The Massoud Foundation Australia received this award to acknowledge the distinguished services the organisation provided in the refugee sector in Australia. Massoud Foundation is committed to serving the community, particularly those from Afghanistan as well as wider Central Asia and the Middle East. We are proud to be providing services in such a remarkable way to be considered for such honors.



# NSW VOLUNTEER AWARD OF THE YEAR 2023

We are thrilled to announce that Ms. Mahboba Hussaini, and Mr Hedayatullah Ebrahimi, Massoud Foundation Youth Ambassadors have been awarded the prestigious NSW Volunteer Award of the Year 2023.

This recognition is a testament to the volunteer's incredible dedication, passion, and commitment to giving back to the community.

Mahboba and Hedayat's journey is truly inspiring. Having recently arrived in Australia as a refugee from Afghanistan, they joined the Massoud Foundation's youth leadership program, determined to make a positive impact and empower others.

Through their involvement in various projects and initiatives, including our refugee resettlement programs, Mahboba and Hedayat have shown tremendous enthusiasm, compassion, and leadership skills.

Their voluntary contributions have played a crucial role in supporting and empowering newly arrived refugees and facilitating their integration into the community.

We are immensely proud to have Mahboba and Hedayat as part of the Massoud Foundation's volunteer team, representing our mission of promoting empowerment, inclusion, and social cohesion.



# Nawruz Celebration



We celebrate Nowruz, also known as Persian New Year, observed for more than 3,000 years symbolizing the victory of light over darkness, spring over cold winter and it coincides with Sunday, 21st of March (and every year). In Persian, Nawruz means “new day,” signifying the first day of the new year for the northern hemisphere, Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan, and other Central, West and South Asian countries.

It is worth mentioning that 100s of people from diverse communities attend this event every year and celebrate Nawruz with joy, they meet & greet, along with the traditional music of Afghanistan, and authentic authentic food.

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES





# Yalda Night



Recently, UNESCO put Yalda Night on its Cultural Heritage List as a shared culture of Afghanistan and Iran. In recognition, the Massoud Foundation hosted an event on Thursday 22 December 2022, to celebrate Shab-e Yalda (Yalda) with our community, stakeholders, and the wider Australian community.

The event was a wonderful occasion to celebrate the past year, congratulate each other on our triumphs, and wish prosperity for the year ahead.

# Celebration







# Refugee Resettlement Program

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## FOOD PACKAGES AND GIFT CARDS FOR NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN

The Massoud Foundation Australia's volunteer team distributed food packages and gift cards for around 50 refugee families during lockdown who were at the hotels and couldn't go out shopping as they were not fully vaccinated.

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On 10th December 2021, The Massoud Foundation Australia organised an information session to provide COVID awareness and discuss health and well-being information in a welcoming environment for newly arrived refugees from Afghanistan.

The Hon. Stephen Bali MP, a member of Blacktown was the guest of honor who welcomed the families, we also provided an opportunity for the families to engage with the Afghan Australian doctors, health practitioners, and other members of the community.

Other guest speakers included SSI (Settlement Service International), STARTTS (NSW Service for The Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors) and ARO (Australian Relief Organisation) provided care packages for over 50 attendees.

Our aim at The Massoud Foundation Australia is to provide aid for newly arrived refugees and support their transition smoothly into their communities.

## HEALTH & WELLBEING, REFUGEE SUPPORT AND RESETTLEMENT







## SOCCER TOURNAMENT: WELCOMING THE NEW REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN INTO OUR COMMUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA

On 11 November 2021, the Massoud Foundation Australia, in partnership with NSW Government, Blacktown City Council, MatchWorks, genU Training, and Valerio Daniel De Simoni Association arranged a friendly soccer match at Francesco Crescent Reserve, Bella Vista between Sydney Afghan Refugees and Ariana FC to welcome and support the new refugees from Afghanistan into our communities.

The newly arrived Afghan refugees have been through trauma and PTSD in Afghanistan including some who left families behind. Their feeling of isolation is immense so we wanted to create a welcoming environment where people could meet others within the community to reduce the sense of isolation and to provide hope and opportunity to these families.





On 7th December 2021, The Massoud Foundation Australia organised a trip to the Art Gallery of New South Wales and the surrounding area so they could explore Sydney. The group was made up of women and children from across Afghanistan.

The Art Gallery of NSW kindly organised for us to have a tour with one of their guides, Victoria, who showed us a range of works in the collection while our friend Belqis Yousofzay translated the tour into Farsi/Dari. We started in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art galleries where we saw bark paintings and the Beizam shark dance headdress by Australian artist Ken Thaiday, which is made of wood and feathers and used in ceremonial dance performances. The group made comparisons between carpet weaving in Afghanistan and some of the large-scale paintings by Aboriginal artists. We wandered through the galleries looking at works by Australian artist Sydney Nolan and at the impressive Pukumani grave posts. The gallery very kindly gave us lunch and also gifted the group beautiful gifts of craft materials.

We were also able to take some to distribute amongst the rest of the Afghan families at the Bella Vista Hotel.

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## CULTURAL AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

At the Massoud Foundation Australia we are keen to reduce the sense of isolation that many refugees feel upon arrival to Australia and give these groups opportunities to explore their new city

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On the 27th of the holy month of Ramadan, the Massoud Foundation Australia in partnership with Settlement Services International - SSI the largest humanitarian settlement services in Australia, hosted an Iftar dinner for the newly arrived refugees from Afghanistan who are still residing in temporary accommodations at the hotels.

The event afforded a great informal opportunity for the newly arrived refugees to connect with existing support services such as STARTTS, SydWest Multicultural Services and some members of our community.

## REFUGEE IFTAR DINNER







## FRIENDLY SOCCER MATCH: AFGHANISTAN VS ITALY

On Sunday, October 16 the Massoud Foundation Australia hosted a friendly soccer match between the Italians and the Afghanistan community. The game ended with a score of 2-0 for Italy. Many times during the match the Afghanistan team was very close to scoring a goal, but unfortunately, it just didn't eventuate. We'll do better next time!

Luigi Di Martino, president of Comites, the Italian government body that represents Italians abroad, was there, as was Vittoria Pasquini from VDSA who sponsored the Massoud Foundation Team's soccer gear. Silvia Greco from Amnesty International had petitioned to raise the intake of refugees.

Harry's Farm donated two big boxes of delicious fresh fruit that indeed refreshed both players and the public.

The Massoud Foundation is proud to be able to continue to sponsor events that promote values of integration and friendship between communities.





On Sunday, 28th August 2022, The Massoud Foundation Australia in Partnership with Community Migrant Resource Centre (CMRC) organised a Welcome Picnic in a friendly outdoor environment at Holroyd Gardens, Merrylands for newly arrived refugees from Afghanistan.

The CEO of CMRC, Melissa Monteiro, and Bilal Waheed the Executive director of Massoud Foundation Australia welcomed these families to the event. Approximately, 300 people, including children, women, men, and seniors attended this event. The kids enjoyed outdoor games and activities, such as face painting and more, families cherished a beautiful spring day outdoors. We provided care gift packages for over 200 attendees, and an opportunity to engage with existing members of the community, and CMRC staff, and introduce them to the services they are providing.

At Massoud Foundation Australia we are committed to reducing the sense of isolation that many refugees feel upon arrival in Australia and giving these groups opportunities to explore their new city and life.

Thank you to CMRC for their partnership, Sydney Community Group for the contribution towards the gifts, and our volunteer team for making this day a success.

## REFUGEE WELCOME PICNIC TO SYDNEY





The Massoud Foundation Australian in partnership with Ariana Australian Association, Co-hosted by the NSW Parliamentarians, the Hon. Mark Coure MP and the Hon. Jihad Dib MP, held a conference at NSW Parliament to commemorate the martyrdom of Afghanistan's national hero, Ahmad Shah Massoud.

The night also featured the incredible newly elected Western Australian Senator, Fatima Payman, who is the first female from Afghanistan and a hijab-wearing member of federal politics. Inspiring the entire audience, Senator Payman called Ahmad Shah Massoud a legendary leader and quoted him, "Life without freedom is nothing". She insisted on how important it is to have freedom in life and reminded the audience that it is important to remember that she is more than just her hijab - she is an advocate, a parliamentarian, a degree holder, a community worker, and a resilient daughter, among many others. While Senator Payman is the first hijab-wearing Senator, her efforts will ensure that she is not the last.

It was indeed a huge success and highlighted the many facets of the year that was after August 2021 and the years that preceded it. While we were reminded of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, we were also provided with a beacon of hope through all the words of the speakers and hearing the incredible efforts of the broader community in Australia. Indeed, this reflects the core of what our national hero, Ahmad Shah Massoud, stood for.

## ANNUAL MASSOUD CONFERENCE

### Afghanistan in Turbulent Transition: A Year After the Taliban - 2022







Marking the 2nd year of the Taliban's military takeover of Afghanistan on the 22nd anniversary of the martyrdom of Afghanistan's national hero, Ahmad Shah Massoud, the Massoud Foundation Australia in partnership with Ariana Australian Association held an event in Sydney and Melbourne to discuss "Massoud, Resistance and the Prevailing Situation in Afghanistan" and honor the late Commander Massoud's life and legacy.

### Speakers:

- Emeritus Professor William Maley AM FASSA, FAIA - He served as Professor of Diplomacy at the Australian National University and was Foundation Director of the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy. He is currently Vice-President of the Refugee Council of Australia.
- Prof. Amin Saikal AM FASSA - Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University and Adjunct Professor at the University of Western Australia, and author of Modern Afghanistan: A History of Struggle and Survival
- Mitra Frogh - Human Rights Activist
- Dr. Nilofar Ibrahimi
- 

### Topics of discussion:

- Afghanistan two years after the Taliban takeover and the emergence of international terrorism
- Human Rights abuses in Afghanistan (Panjshir)
- Girls' Education and Women's right in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan
- Australia's role in Afghanistan post 15 August 2021  
Afghanistan refugee crisis and Australia's response

## CONFERENCE 2023

Massoud, resistance and the prevailing situation in Afghanistan







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## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IFTAR DINNER 2023

On Friday 14 April, the Massoud Foundation Australia hosted its first Diversity & Inclusion Iftar Dinner. The Iftar Dinner marked the 23rd night of Ramadan and was an occasion to celebrate our diverse backgrounds and multiculturalism within the Sydney community.

We had both our Muslim and non-Muslim stakeholders at the event, as well as newly arrived families from Afghanistan, to break our fast together and increase awareness about Islam and its fundamental teachings of coexistence.

Our Iftar was followed by traditional food, dessert, and a spiritual music performance by the Hira Music School.

We hope that our Diversity & Inclusion Iftar Dinner will become an annual event during Ramadan to share our similarities and celebrate our differences.

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Massoud Foundation Australia is a recognised and respected organisation in the Afghan community and organisations such as ours are essential partners to the Australian Government when attempting to deal with threats to social cohesion and harmony. We have extensive grassroots contacts and play the role of a bridge builder between our community and wider society. We can engage with our community in ways not accessible to mainstream organisations.

This program aims to engage Afghan Youth Leaders as Ambassadors for Social Cohesion. They will receive training in a residential setting focusing on the following topics – leadership, media, social media, community organising, conversations about social cohesion, and creative ways of building social cohesion such as poetry, theatre, art, and sport.

The Ambassadors will also receive support to deliver story-telling/social cohesion conversations with their peers in schools. This will facilitate mutual understanding and address misconceptions about Muslims and Islam thus reducing the incidence of Islamophobia.

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## YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Addressing Islamophobia  
and Strengthening Social  
Cohesion

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**THE AMBASSADORS ALSO RECEIVED SUPPORT TO DELIVER STORY-TELLING/SOCIAL COHESION CONVERSATIONS WITH THEIR PEERS IN SCHOOLS. THIS WILL FACILITATE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESS MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT MUSLIMS AND ISLAM THUS REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF ISLAMOPHOBIA.**





On Saturday October 29 2022, the Massoud Foundation Youth Ambassadors held a day event, The Virtual Tour of Afghanistan and Australia at The Leo Kelly Blacktown Arts Centre. Over 50 attendees from diverse backgrounds went on a walk-through of Afghanistan and Australian landmarks and points of cultural significance through virtual screening, followed by a Kahoot and delicious Afghan cuisine for lunch, mutual understanding and appreciation were fostered between the cultures.

This event was intended to bridge the gap between the people of Afghanistan and wider Australian communities by fostering a mutual understanding of one another's cultural history and longstanding relationship. It also created an opportunity and a friendly and welcoming environment for youth from diverse backgrounds to meet and greet.

### The aspect of Afghanistan:

- Ahmad Shah Massoud - The national hero of Afghanistan
- Buddhas of Bamiyan
- Koche Murghaa
- Pamir Mountain
- Band e Amir

### The Aspect of Australia:

- Central Adelaide Mosque - The first Mosque in Australia
- Australian Landmarks (Uluru, Opera House, Harbour Bridge, Anzac Bridge)
- Afghan Cameleers and Indigenous Australians

## THE VIRTUAL TOUR OF AFGHANISTAN AND AUSTRALIA





## INTERCULTURAL YOUTH FORUM 2023

On Saturday 8 October 2022, the Massoud Foundation youth ambassadors successfully conducted an intercultural youth forum at Western Sydney University to discuss the cultural challenges faced by refugees in Australia, how the wider community interacts and responds to multiculturalism and how the youth can find the motivation to become leaders in any environment.



The panel discussion was led by three inspiring speakers, Tamkin Essa, Hameed Sekandari and Nazmiya with an engaging conversation by the audience who shared moving stories and personal experiences of their journeys in Australia.



The event was hosted by Dr. Daine Colman, Lecturer of History, International Studies and Politics at Western Sydney University.







**THIS PROGRAM  
AIMS TO ENGAGE  
AFGHAN YOUTH  
LEADERS AS  
AMBASSADORS  
FOR SOCIAL  
COHESION AND  
WILL FACILITATE  
MUTUAL  
UNDERSTANDING  
AND ADDRESS  
MISCONCEPTIONS  
ABOUT MUSLIMS  
AND ISLAM THUS  
REDUCING THE  
INCIDENCE OF  
ISLAMOPHOBIA**







**MASSOUD FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020 - 2022**

**ON WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2022, WE HELD OUR FIRST AGM TO BRING OUR BOARD, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TOGETHER TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE AND CELEBRATE OUR PAST YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS.**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORTS.**





We had the pleasure of celebrating the New Year 2023 with the Melbourne Community.

On Sunday 01 January 2023, we held an event to appreciate the Afghan Premiers team for their partnership and collaboration with Massoud Foundation Australia and provided an update to the community members about our past year's activities and achievements.

Last year we proudly sponsored the team at the Unity Cup 2022 Tournament organised by the Melbourne Afghan Soccer Association - MASA. The team managed to make it to the quarter-final.

It was a great opportunity for Massoud Foundation Australia to engage with the Melbourne community and empower youth through sports.

At the Massoud Foundation Australia, we are keen to reach out to wider Australian communities, extend our activities to other states, and support communities through sports, education, and meaningful cultural exchange.

We would like to thank the Australian Relief Organisation and Sirius College - Keysborough Campus for hosting us and making this event successful and joyful.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MELBOURNE 2023





Flash flooding hit Parwan, Panjshir, and Kapisa province in late August 2020 which killed around 160 people, more than 250 people were either injured or missing (likely trapped under debris); more than 500 homes were destroyed, and an estimated 4500 people required shelter and necessities. In addition to the tragic loss of life and homes, the flooding in these provinces has destroyed hundreds of acres of agricultural land, with the heavy rain wiping out all crops.

The Massoud Foundation put a step ahead to lead a joint effort to raise money for the neediest people who were in desperate need of basic food, medication, and shelter, with on-the-ground help from several other non-profits, emergency response, and civil society organizations of Parwan Province.

With the support of the Afghan community in Australia, we were able to raise around AUD 25,000 which was an incredible achievement within a short period. During this time we were working directly with the head of Massoud Foundation in Afghanistan, Mr Ahmad Massoud the head of Massoud Foundation in Afghanistan to ensure that all donations reach the victims of the disaster. The donations were distributed to 180 affected families.

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## HUMANITARIAN AND CHARITABLE EFFORTS

We act fast when disaster strikes and crisis hits. We work hand-in-hand with people on the ground to provide day-to-day needs for the most impoverished populations, whose lives have been impacted by natural disasters or conflicts.

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# Emergency Response





On 15th August 2021, the Taliban seized control of Kabul. Almost immediately, they banned secondary and tertiary education for girls. Education is a fundamental human right, but now in Afghanistan, they are deprived of this basic right.

The Taliban have systematically imposed gender-based discrimination and restrictive measures that target women and girls to force them to stay home and erase them from public life.

The impact of the fall of Afghanistan into the Taliban's hands has put women's futures in an anxious and uncertain condition. Women across Afghanistan continue to protest to reinstate their rights to education, work, and freedom.

The Massoud Foundation Australia in parallel with other organisation is sponsoring women teachers to carry on teaching secondary school subjects through private institutions across Afghanistan so that girls can go ahead with their education.

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## GIRLS' EDUCATION PROGRAM

Through online webinars and social media platforms, we increased awareness about women's education and the situation in Afghanistan in order to raise funds to secure our girl's education project in Afghanistan.

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# MASSOUD'S LEGACY IN PARIS

On Saturday, 27th of March 2021, the city of Paris honored the National Hero of Afghanistan Commander Ahmad Shah Massoud with a plaque naming a square to his name, recognising his ideals of liberty, justice, and peace for Afghanistan. On this occasion, Mr. Ahmad Massoud the son of late commander Massoud, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Hamid Karzai the former President of Afghanistan, Bernard-Henri Lévy, the Mayer of Paris & other dignitaries attended the inauguration ceremony to honor the memories of the national hero of Afghanistan as a champion of freedom & a fighter against terrorism.

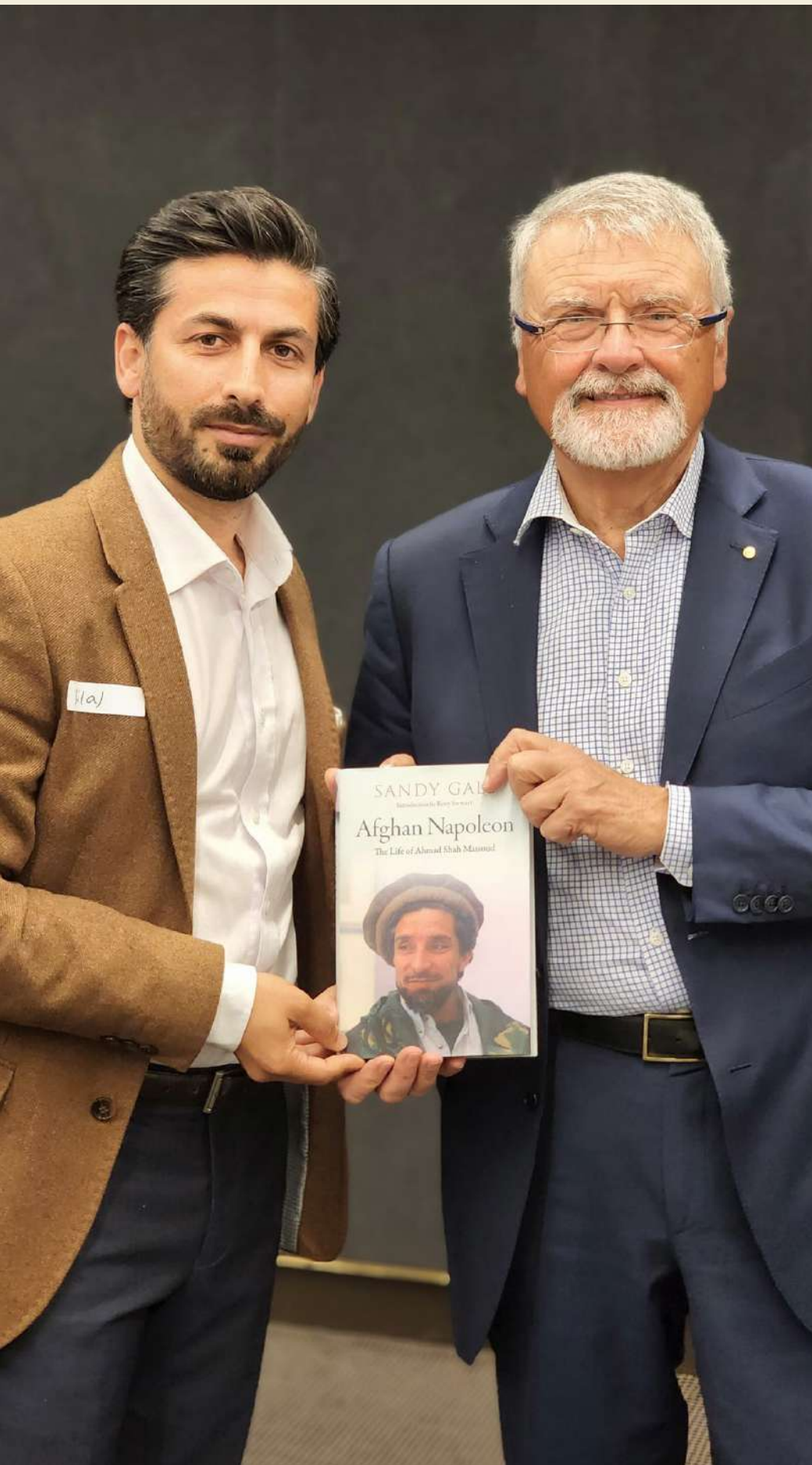


Mr Ahmad Massoud, the son of late commander Massoud showed his gratitude to the French nation saying, "During the centennial of Afg-French Relations and twenty years after my father's trip to France, his spirit and memory continues to live. Paris, the City of Light, paid homage to Cmdr Massoud, the embodiment of enlightened Islam & and the symbol of liberty and resistance. This honor that was bestowed upon my family and country will never be forgotten and we will cherish it forever."



Massoud Foundation Australia





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## MASSOUD'S LEGACY

### **Professor Peter Shergold**

AC, is the Chancellor of Western Sydney University and the NSW Coordinator-General for Refugee Resettlement. He has been tirelessly advocating for refugee communities in NSW. Since the crisis in August 2021, Prof. Shergold has chaired the Afghanistan Community Advisory Forum. As a form of appreciation to his dedication and advocacy for our community, the Massoud Foundation Australia's Executive Director, Mr. Bilal Waheed presented him with the most recent book on Ahmad Shah Massoud, at the Parliament of NSW.

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**WE BRING COMMUNITIES  
CLOSER THROUGH AWARENESS-  
RAISING, EDUCATION, AND  
MEANINGFUL CULTURAL  
EXCHANGE**







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**"I BELIEVE THAT THE COHERENT  
GUIDELINE OF MASSOUD'S ENTIRE  
PUBLIC LIFE WAS HIS PATRIOTISM  
AND CONCEPTION OF PUBLIC  
SERVICE."**

Prof. Michael Barry

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