

FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT INC

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-20

Executive Committee:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dr Sunita S Dhindsa | President |
| Dr Shanti Reddy | Vice-President |
| Mr Roshan Menon | Secretary |
| Mr Manohar Vemuri | Treasurer |
| Mr Rahul Ravi | Representative (Youth) |
| Mrs Deepali Jain | Representative (Women) |
| Mr Raj Reddy | Coordinator (Community Services) |
| Mrs Shahira Shaji | Coordinator (Cultural Programs) |
| Mr Ravi Krish | Public Officer |
| Mr Rattesh Gumber | AusIndia Fair Coordinator |

Annual General Meeting
25 July 2020

Member Associations

ACT Telangana Association (ACTTA)
Australian Anglo-Indian Association of Canberra
Australian Tamil Cultural Society of ACT (ATCS)
Bengali Cultural Association of Canberra (BCA)
Bihar Jharkhand Sabha of Australia and New Zealand (BJSM)
Canberra Hindu Mandir Incorporated (CHM)
Canberra Jain Mandal
Canberra Malayalee Association (CMA)
Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association (CPSCA)
Canberra Sikh Association (CSA)
Canberra Telugu League (CTL)
Gujarati Samaj of ACT (GSA)
India Australia Multicultural Sports Association (IAMSA)
Indian Australian Association of Health and Well-being
Indian Senior Citizens Association (ISCA)
Indian Students Association (InSA)
Initiatives for Women in Needs (iWiN)
Integrated Cultures ACT (ICACT)
Karnataka Association of Canberra (KAC)
Madhya Pradesh Association of Australia
Mandir School of Music
Mehak Punjab Di
Navya Andhra Telugu Association (NATA)
Oriya Association (OriOz)
Rajasthan Sabha of Australia and New Zealand
Rajdhani Marathi Mandal Canberra (RMMC)
Sprintz
Telugu Association of Canberra (TAC)
University of Canberra Indian Association (UCIA)

Acknowledgements

FINACT acknowledges the following wonderful people who were instrumental in FINACT's success and thanks them for their support:

Elected Representatives

Mr Chris Steel MLA, Patron of FINACT, ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Sen. Zed Seselja, Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters

Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister ACT

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Mental Health

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Community Services and facilities

Mr Alistair Coe MLA, Leader of Opposition ACT

Mr James Milligan MLA, Shadow Minister for Sports and Recreation

Mrs Giulia Jones MLA, Shadow Minister for Women

Ms Elizabeth Kikkert MLA, Shadow Minister Multicultural Affairs

Government Delegates

HE Mr A Gitesh Sarma, High Commissioner of India Canberra

Mr P. S. Kathigeyan, Deputy High Commissioner of India Canberra

Ms Jacinta Evans, Executive Group Manager ACT Community Services Directorate

Ms Jenny Wells, Director ACT Community Services Directorate

Ms Azra Khan, Senior Director ACT Multicultural Festival

Ms Naheed Hafiz, Community Engagement Officer Department of Home Affairs

FINACT Members

Mr Sanjay Pandey for supporting the social media, newsletters and Annual Report

Dr Shanti Reddy, Mr Roshan Menon and Mr Manohar Vemuri for T20 cricket tournament

Dr Harjinder Dhindsa for organising AusIndia Fair and helping with T20 BBQ

Mr Rahul Ravi for help with Annual Report

FINACT Past Presidents

Dr Krishna Nadimpalli (2017-19)

Mr Amardeep Singh (2015-17)

Dr Krishna Nadimpalli (2014-15)

Mr Amardeep Singh (October 2013-14)

Mr Hari Iyengar (July-October 2013)

Mrs Jayanti Gupta (2012-13)

Mr Jacob Vadakkedathu (2011-12)

President's Message

The year 2019-20 had been a tumultuous year for Australia. In the first quarter, no one could foresee what was to unfold and how life was going to change.

Our sincere condolences to those who lost their loved ones in Australia, India and all over the world. We pay our humble tribute to firefighters and health workers in the front line who lost their lives in trying to protect us. We thank Health Workers, Firefighters, SES, Police, Defence Forces, Volunteers, Communities, Community organisations, individuals, families and Governments at all levels for their great contribution.

Despite drought, fires, floods, hail storms, and COVID-19 pandemic, Australians have soldiered on. Governments came to aid to help residents and boost economy while keeping people safe from ravages of COVID-19. Many events were cancelled.

Success of Federation of Indian Associations of ACT Inc (FINACT) is due to the 27 Constituent Members and its Executive Committee. It is their sincerity, perseverance and hard work that gives FINACT its character and reputation. I am deeply grateful to the member organisations for supporting the Executive Committee to create new benchmarks. I pay my respects to the previous FINACT leaders who positioned FINACT strategically for collective representation. I express my sincere thanks to the hard-working executive committee members and their families. I feel privileged to have support and to be able to serve FINACT as its President.

Please join me in welcoming the new associations: UC Indian Association and Madhya Pradesh Association of Australia to the FINACT family. With contributions by FINACT's well-wishers and the 29 members, FINACT has become more relevant and meaningful.

Through this report I will briefly share how the FINACT Executive Committee has been able to work in these challenging times to forge greater partnerships to connect and promote FINACT's aims and objectives.

FINACT continues to provide collective representation and leadership in a responsible and responsive manner; work for culturally respectful community facilities for multicultural needs of ACT communities; support member associations; and be responsive to community issues and concerns. FINACT is committed to strengthening productive relationship with its stakeholders, in particular, the Federal and the ACT governments and the High Commission of India. FINACT continues to work for strengthening integration and social cohesiveness, and to operate as a responsible and active community organisation.

I would like to publicly thank Dr Shanti Reddy, Mr Roshan Menon, Mr Manohar Vemuri, Mrs Shahijra Karattiyattil, Mrs Deepali Jain, Mr Raj Reddy, Mr Rahul Ravi, Mr Rattesh Gumber, Mr Ravi Kris, Dr Krishna Nadimpalli, and Mr Sanjay Pandey for their support in this journey. I thank all the volunteers and sponsors who helped establish greater appreciation of our ethos and rich history.

On my behalf, and the Executive Committee, I wish the best for FINACT and the member organisations. May we continue to work for well-being of our beloved country Australia, Australian multicultural society and create stronger bonds between Australia and India.

Dr Sunita S Dhindsa
President



Background

Federation of Indian Association of ACT Inc (FINACT) is a peak umbrella body in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) with membership of diverse organisations of Indian origin representing regional, linguistic, youth, women, senior citizen aspects of the community, and much more. FINACT provides a unified voice for all its member associations, majority of Indian Australians and people of Indian origin in the Canberra region. It promotes advancement of people of Indian origin as responsible Australian citizens and their integration with the broader Australian society; and strengthening of social cohesiveness, shared values, mutual respect and harmony in the Australian society through increased participation in policy making, sports, cultural, social, and recreational activities, and in government initiatives.

FINACT acts as a channel of communication between the Indian community and the Governments Federal, the Territory/State or the Indian Government) on welfare, social and economic matters. FINACT also works with the High Commission of India for matters affecting the Indian diaspora.

The unified voice and inclusive approach of FINACT is reflected in its slogan:

Coordination::Cooperation::Collaboration. FINACT works closely with Federal and ACT governments to improve the well-being of all Australians.



FINACT ACTIVITIES

Strategic Issues

Submissions to Senate Committees

1. Senate Enquiry on Nationhood, National Identity and Democracy

Australian Parliament set up a Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee to set up an “Inquiry into Nationhood, National Identity and Democracy” in Australia. FINACT made a submission subsequent to a public consultation that was organised on 17 September 2019 at Gungahlin Library. FINACT submission is No. 125 and can be found at

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal and Constitutional Affairs/Nationhood/Submissions](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal_and_Constitutional_Affairs/Nationhood/Submissions)

2. Senate Enquiry on Temporary Migration

The Senate established a Select Committee on ‘Temporary Migration’ to inquire into and report on the impact that temporary migration has on the Australian economy, wages and jobs, social cohesion and workplace rights and conditions. FINACT organised a public consultation on 28 February 2020 at the Gungahlin Library and a report will be submitted.

Community Languages in Australia

In previous years, FINACT had made submissions to Federal Government and National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) for the Accreditation of Community Languages Review and three languages, Gujarati, Malayalam and Telugu were selected for translation and interpretation services.

FINACT, with the initiative of Dr Krishna Nadimpalli worked for recognition of Bengali, Malayalam, Telugu and Gujarati languages in 2015. FINACT made submissions to Senator Concerta Fierrvanti-Wells (Former Minister for Multicultural Affairs), Senator Zed Seselja, Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters, and many other decision makers. FINACT delegates met with Mr Mark Painting, Chief Executive Officer of NAATI a year ago to pursue the above languages.

Telugu Language has been recognised as a Credited Community Language (CCL) by National Accreditation Authority of Translators and Interpreters (NAATI). NAATI is seeking application for Telugu CCL tests to be conducted very soon. Those who qualify the CCL will get five points in some categories of permanent residency applications. Prior to that Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil and Bengali were on the list from the Indian sub-continent languages.

Congratulations to the Telugu community in Australia and Dr Krishna Nadimpalli for his initiative as FINACT President and community leader.

This year, thanks to the work of Chennai Tamil School and Australian Tamil Cultural Society, Tamil language has been approved by the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) as an ATAR subject that can be taught in all colleges.



INCLUSIVENESS and EVENTS

FINACT T20 Cricket Tournament

FINACT organised T-20 cricket tournament for its consecutive ninth year and is considered as one of the most popular community cricket tournaments in the ACT. With 14 teams participating, tournament ran for six

weeks. Finals were attended by Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Minister for community Services and facilities), Mr Alistair Coe MLA (Opposition Leader), Mr James Milligan (Shadow Minister for Sports) and Mr Ajay Srivastava (Consular High Commission of India). FINACT takes this opportunity to thank executive committee, over 200 players, 27 associations, volunteers and countless members of community for their support and contribution in its successful completion.

Congratulations to PK11 and Delhi Strikers for getting into the finals. Delhi Strikers defeated the 4-times champion PK11 in a nail-biting final to win the trophy. Organising a tournament of this scale takes a lot of planning and coordination with support from the players and umpires. Well done to all involved for cooperating and displaying sportsmanship.



Chief Minister's Diwali Celebrations

ACT Chief Minister Mr Andrew Barr MLA hosted the Diwali get together at the ACT Legislative Assembly on 22 October 2019. FINACT attended it along with other members of the Indian diaspora.

Diwali at the Parliament House

On 21 October 2019, Diwali was organised by the Hindu Council of Australia at the Australian Parliament House. It was graced by Prime Minister the Hon Scott Morrison (ScoMo), many Parliamentarians and members of the community. FINACT attended it along with other members of the Indian diaspora.



Participation in Multiculturalism

Since its start in 1996, the National Multicultural Festival has been the biggest celebration of multiculturalism in Canberra. FINACT and its member associations participated actively in the ACT Multicultural Festival. FINACT, ACT Telangana Association, Gujrati Samaj ACT, Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association, Canberra Sikh Association, Women In Need, Oriya Association, and many other communities/organisations displayed their stalls at the festival.







New Public Crematorium

The ACT Government is building a new public crematorium at the Gungahlin Cemetery and the Southern Memorial Park to ensure that our population can feel confident that they won't have to travel interstate to farewell a loved one," Minister Steel said. It will be the first public crematorium for the ACT that will meet the needs of diverse communities. FINACT attended community engagement meeting with Canberra Cemeteries regarding cremation rituals and practices. Special thanks go to Minister for Multicultural Affairs and FINACT Patron Mr Chris Steel and Mr Kanti Jinna OAM, for making this happen. FINACT had been lobbying for such facility for some time along with a large sized community hall to cater to multicultural needs of the ACT communities.



High Commission of India Events

With the High Commission of India Canberra, FINACT celebrated India's Independence Day, 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji, and Republic Day, Pravasi Diwas, Hindi Diwas and International Women's Day. FINACT also attended receptions of visiting teams and dignitaries hosted by the High Commission of India.



Bushfire Support

All of Australia was pained by the devastating bushfires across several states. The bravery of our firefighters, emergency services, volunteers and the military has been inspiring and the kindness of individuals and community groups incredibly heart-warming. We pay our humble tribute to firefighters who lost their lives in protecting us, our condolences to those who lost their loved ones, and those who suffered property losses. We thank firefighters, SES, police, defence force, volunteers and communities who rallied together to keep us safe and provided bushfire relief in multiple ways.

The Indian-Australians and communities raised funds and contributed to groceries/goods of need. Many FINACT member associations organised bush-fire support events.

Australian Tamil Cultural Society along with several other volunteering members organised a fund raising event Vegetarian Food Fair at the Shri Vishnu Shiva Mandir Mawson and collected over \$10,000 for Bushfire Relief support activities.



The ACT Telangana Association, Telugu Association of Canberra and Navya Andhra Tel Association organised a combined event of “Telugu Vari Vanbojanlu” at the Black Mountain Peninsula and contributed \$1000.00 donation to Red Cross.



Canberra's Sikh community organised the fund raising at Sikh Temple and generated significant donations in cash and kind and took a truckload of supplies including generators and stoves to Cobargo.

Mehak Punjab Di and Sikh community cooked lunch for victims and volunteers at Dickson relief centre in ACT.

Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association (CPSCA) raised over \$1,500 for bush fire appeal which was directly paid to the RFS NSW Account by the contributors. Many CPSCA members, Sikh community and many other community members who attended Gurudwara in Weston contributed generously to a truck load of required goods that were delivered to bushfire affected communities in the South Coast.

Gujarati Samaj of the ACT organised their annual event Kite Festival to celebrate Makar Sankranti festival (Uttarayan-2020) and raised the funds in excess of \$2,000 for Rural Fire Services and bushfire victims.

The Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre (HTCC) in Florey organised a Bhajan Sandhya and raised about \$1,000 to help bushfire affected areas. A special bushfire help appeal was also sent to its members to donate directly. A trip was also organised to visit bushfire-affected areas in Bungendore and Braidwood to support local communities.



COVID-19 restrictions

Support for People

FINACT and member organisations provided advice and support for health, jobs, rental, visa & returning to India issues; jobseeker payments; and moral/emotional support. In association with the High Commission of India, FINACT provided groceries to Indian Nationals.

Along with other federations of Indian associations across Australia, FINACT wrote to relevant authorities to assist international students and stranded Indian nationals. FINACT worked with the High Commission of India to help with repatriation of stranded Indian nationals.

Many FINACT member associations set up systems and organised support to help international students and vulnerable members of the society who were struggling in COVID-19 restrictions..

The Canberra Jain Mandal supported Indian international students and visitors stranded in Australia by providing groceries, food items, guiding them in exercising their rights on rent matters, and helping them find suitable housing arrangements. They also provided moral and emotional support to the students, visitors, and the parents of the students in India through regular follow-ups and by providing regular updates and arranged free medical services of doctors, counsellors, and psychiatrists to students and visitors.

Canberra Malayalees Association set up a CMA Corona Response Team (consisting of Doctors, nurses, Social workers and 60+ volunteers) to help and support people in over 1000 + Malayalee community including international students, parents and work visa holders & has set up a TOLL-FREE number to provide bulk billed or free telehealth GP consultation; social, emotional, psychological and pastoral care services; and delivered groceries, cooked food, medicines and other essentials for home.

Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association along with Indian Pantry Florey supported other organisations that were delivering groceries & cooked food through cash & kind continuously for two months for anyone in need.

Canberra Sikh Association provided provisions to students who contacted them.

Gujarati Samaj of the ACT provided assistance with groceries provision

The Oriya Association organised fundraising in Orioz community and raised \$4000. They provided financial support, fuel vouchers, groceries, and advise regarding rent reduction, medical, VISA to students; partnered with other organisations in Melbourne; and created a new Odia students portal under Orioz to get them connected with the main organisation during this time.

High Commission of India
Canberra, Australia

Federation of Indian
Associations of the ACT

Help is here!!

Supporting Our Communities
During COVID-19 Restrictions
We Are Here To Help, Please Reach Out

- Groceries
- Cooked food
- Counselling
- Medical consultations

SPREAD Kindness

For Updates, please visit: www.health.gov.au
www.australia.gov.au & www.covid19.act.gov.au

Australian Government
Department of Health

ACT
Government

Canberra Health
Services

Volunteers from Member Associations

Australian Anglo Indian Assn of Canberra - Joe Bailey (6241 4464)
Australian Tamil Cultural Society of ACT - Ravi Krish (0404 629 700)
ACT Telangana Association - Ramesh Kyla (0417 72 085)
Bengali Cultural Assn of Canberra - Chandana De (0433 169 562)
Bihar Jharkhand Sabha of ANZ - Rattesh Gumber (0433 029 389)
Canberra Hindu Mandir Inc - Anita Kandukuri (0402 013 793)
Canberra Jain Mandal - Praveen Jain (0401 629 617)
Canberra Malayalee Assn - Ajmal PN (0432 089 245) & Roshan Menon (0400 101 825)
Canberra Punjabi Sports & Cultural Assn - Harji Dhindsa (0490 082 930)
Canberra Sikh Association - Jasbir Gidda (0404 900 277) & Gurdev Singh Kang (0434 393 879)
Gujarati Samaj of ACT - Hardik Dakwala (0430 444 482) & Jay Patel (0430 521 415)
India Australia Multicultural Sports Assn - Sanjay Sharma (0420 559 139)
Indian Australian Assn of Health & Well-being - Krishna Nadimpalli (0499 199 910)
Indian Senior Citizens Association - Kanti Jinna (0421 117 430)
Indian Students Association - Shaanawaz (for ANU - 0401 605 995) Rohil Jain (for UC - 0406 281 415)
Initiatives for Women in Needs - Madhumita Iyengar (0432 261 541)
Karnataka Association of Canberra - Venkatesh Bidarkal (0438 446 268)
Mehak Punjab Di Radio - Amardeep Singh (0403 588 352)
Navya Andhra Telugu Association - Prasad Tirpineni (0479 062 256)
Oriya Association (OriOz) - Nalini Pati (0405 716 737)
Rajasthan Sabha of Australia - Lakhna Sharma (0407 245 525)
Rajdhani Marathi Mandal Canberra - Kedar Vedanti (0401 636 428) & Sanjay Lad (0409 245 655)
Telugu Association of Canberra - Manjula Pitta (0416 057 249)
PinkUmbrella International - Pravati Panigrahi (0406 349 999)

Federation of Indian Associations of the ACT (FINACT) Inc
www.FINACT.org.au | www.facebook.com/finact11
www.twitter.com/finact11

Events Postponed/Cancelled

FINACT postponed its signature event 'AusIndia Fair™' that builds on inclusiveness, harmony and social cohesiveness. Harmony Day celebrations, Family Picnic Day and Students Workshop were also cancelled. Member organisations also cancelled their events.

Support for Other Causes

FINACT member Mehak Punjab Di under the leadership of ex-President of FINACT Mr Amardeep Singh arranged a 'singing bee' event to raise funds for victims of human trafficking.

FINACT member Canberra Hindu Mandir under leadership of Dr Krishna Nadimpalli organised 108 blood donation and bone marrow donations.

FINACT member, the Canberra Punjabi Sports & Cultural Association Inc along with the Fair Canberra, the Fijian Methodist Church, the United Neasian Movement and Communities@Work provided meals for people experiencing homelessness in Canberra during December-January holiday period.

FINACT member, the India Australia Multicultural Sports Association organised cricket competition in support of the Pink Stumps Day and raised \$1700 towards McGrath Breast Cancer Foundation.



Honours

FINACT congratulates **Mr Lakshman Rao Alluri** on receiving an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 2020 Queen's Birthday honours. It is a matter of pride for the Indian diaspora and for all who are engaged in community work.

FINACT organised a felicitation and farewell dinner on 17 November 2019 at Namaste India Restaurant Phillip, which was attended by Mr PS Karthigeyan (Deputy High Commissioner of India), Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA (Greens Leader and Minister), Mr Nic Manikis, Mr Kanti Jinna and community leaders and members to felicitate **Dr Krishna Nadimpalli** for receiving the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) 2019 for service to multiculturalism in the ACT; **Dr Dharmendra Sharma** for receiving the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) 2019 for significant service to higher education and computer science; and **Mr Deepak Raj Gupta** on becoming an MLA in the ACT Legislative Assembly in 2019. FINACT farewelled

Three FINACT members received the 2019 ACT Multicultural Awards:

Mr Rattesh Gumber nominated as ACT Multicultural Honorary Ambassador

Dr Madhumita Iyengar received commendation for ACT Multicultural Individual Champion Award

Dr Sunita S Dhindsa received commendation for ACT Outstanding Excellence Award for Diversity and Inclusion.



Farewells

FINACT, member organisations and members of Indian diaspora farewelled **HE Dr Ajay Gondane**, High Commissioner of India and Mrs Varsha Gondane on 24 September 2019. Dr Gondane retired on 30 September 2019. On behalf of FINACT and member organisations, we wish all the best to Dr Gondane and Mrs Varsha Gondane in their future endeavours.

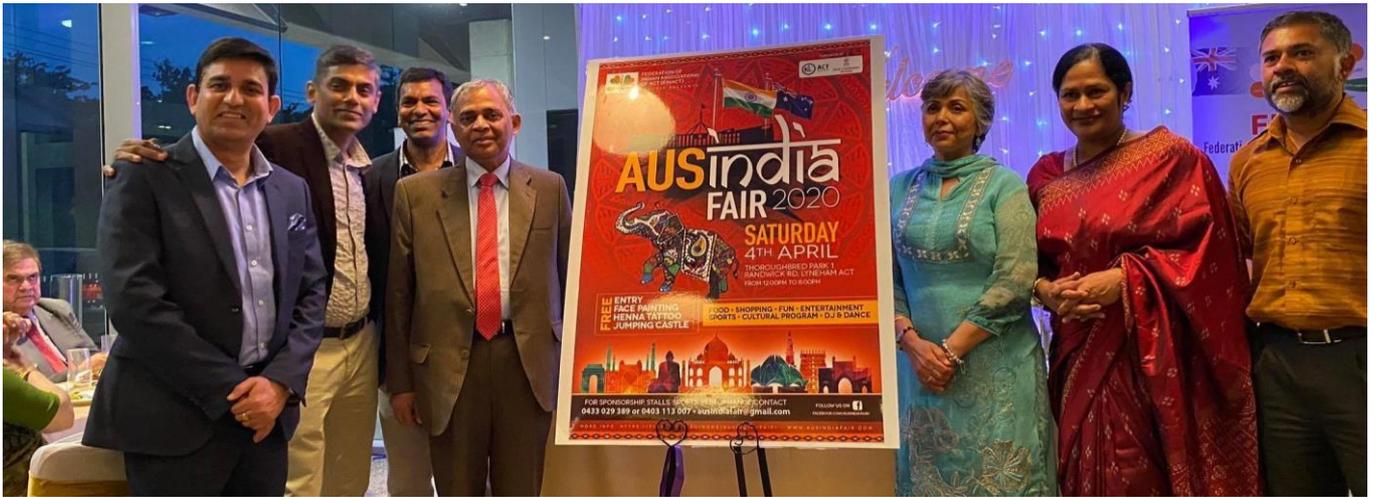


On 17 November 2019, FINACT farewelled **Dr Deep Saini**, Vice Chancellor University of Canberra (September 2016 - December 2019). On behalf of FINACT and member organisations, we wish all the best to Dr Saini and Mrs Rani Saini in their future endeavours.

Welcome

FINACT welcomed the new High Commissioner of India **HE Mr A Gitesh Sarma** and Mrs Ratna Sarma and hosted dinner at The Darbar Restaurant Braddon on 24 November 2019 where HE met with leaders from member organisations and other community leaders. HE Mr Sarma also launched the AusIndia Fair 2020, FINACT's flagship event.





Stakeholder Engagement

We worked to share information about FINACT and its history both at the Federal and ACT level and with the High Commission of India in Australia. FINACT had meetings and videoconferences with decision makers and brought to their notice issues impacting the Indian-Australian community and international students. FINACT also attended functions organised by diplomatic missions and other organisations.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

First GCM

The first general council meeting of FINACT was held on 31 October 2019 at the Australian Parliament House, hosted by the Hon. Senator Zed Seselja, Federal Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters. Meeting started with welcome and introduction of delegates. It was followed by inspiring address from the Senator including a briefing on portfolio activities and question and answer session. FINACT is appreciative of support from Senator and his office. The GC reviewed activities since last meeting, financial status, upcoming events and potential activities.



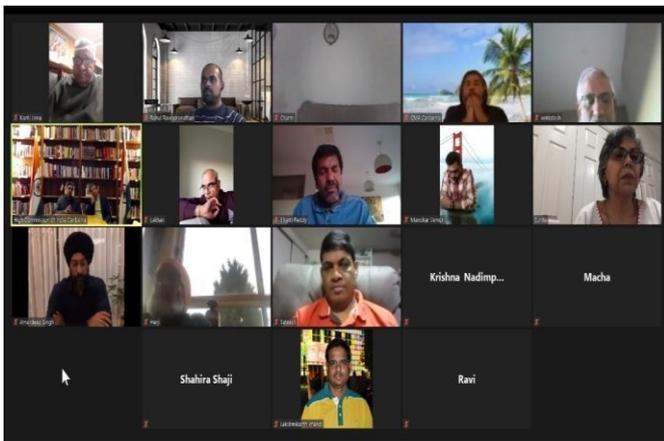
Second GCM

The second General Council Meeting was hosted by the ACT Multicultural Minister and FINACT Patron Mr Chris Steel MLA at the ACT Legislative Assembly on 05 February 2020. Minister Steel shared with members about progress on several important activities and appreciated bushfire relief support by member organisations. The Minister informed about first Multicultural Ministers (federal and state/territory) meeting in February and the Canberra Benchmark study, both being opportunities for communities to contribute. FINACT is appreciative of support from Minister and his office. The GC reviewed activities since last meeting, financial status, upcoming events and potential activities.



Third GCM

COVID-19 restrictions saw new work arrangements come into play such as working from home for those who can. Videoconferencing and webinars became the norm. FINACT organised its 3rd General Council Meeting as a videoconference on 30 May 2020. The GC reviewed activities since last GC meeting, financial status, upcoming events and activities and AGM date was decided. As a few topics needed in-depth discussion, it was decided to call for Special General Council meeting.



Canberra Hindu Mandir (CHM)

Canberra Hindu Mandir (CHM) was established in 2014 to build a community facility in Gungahlin. CHM was offered land in Moncrieff in 2018-19, subject to demonstration of available funds to build and approval of plans. CHM has submitted the plans to Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and the development approval application is in process.

The master plan of the facility is covering about 2,500 sq meters consisting of Shiva, Vishnu and Guru premises along with a Utsav hall. In addition, the facility is planned to have vegetarian canteen and community halls.



Canberra Malayalees Association

Canberra Malayalees Association (CMA) has been actively engaged in many of the community service activities for the past several years and we receive immense support from numerous other organisations including FINACT. Recently, CMA received enormous support from FINACT for several matters particularly, escalating international student's issues to the state and federal ministry, rescue of stranded community members during COVID-19, OCI card related issues to the high commission of India etc. CMA acknowledges all the individual and organisations who work along with CMA and express our sincere gratitude for their continuing support. As a responsible association, some of CMA contributions are:

- Established Corona Response Team – Formed a 100- member voluntary team based in 7 major locations in Canberra headed by professional experts and delivered free grocery and medicines
- Provided free telehealth GP and counselling service to the community members during COVID-19
- Provided job support and financial assistance to international students who were extremely struggling
- Conducted online Malayalam language learning classes for adults from a multicultural background
- Organised bushfire donations to NSW Rural Fire Service
- Organised Onam and Christmas festival celebrations



CANBERRA MALAYALEES ASSOCIATION
 ക്യാൻബറ മലയാളീസ് അസ്സോസിയേഷൻ

CORONA RESPONSE TEAM (CMA - CRT)

CMA TELE HEALTH GP CONSULTATION
1800 956 015
 (9AM - 7PM)

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Groceries and Dally supplies for Home Isolated people

BELCONNEN

ASHWINI GOPAKUMAR - 0468 359 586
 REJI VARKEY - 0404 466 576

CITY

ASHWIN EDAKANDI - 0430 155 394
 RAHUL RAVI - 0452 325 687

WODEN

SHAJU RAVI - 0432 988 202
 NEELU VINOD - 0478 584 675
 DILJO AUGUSTIN - 0422 561 117

LADIES COORDINATORS

DELPHIN ELDBHOSE - 0466 832 264
 SHIJI TITUS - 0405 516 642

GUNGAHLIN

OBILY WATTASSERIL - 0421 816 012
 THOMAS JOHN - 0435 754 171
 JACOB VADAKKEDATHU - 0431 538 867

QUEANBEYAN & GOOGONG

KATHIK KESAVAN - 0470 633 877
 RANJITH RADHAKRISHNAN - 0470 655 376

TUGGERANONG

ANISH KAVALAM - 0450 865 524
 ELDHO POULOSE - 0432 539 803
 VINOOTH KUMAR - 0424 308 266

CMA CONTACTS

ROSHAN MENON - 0400 101 825
 AJMAL P N - 0432 089 245

COUNSELLING SUPPORT HOTLINE

1800 956 015
 (9AM - 7PM)

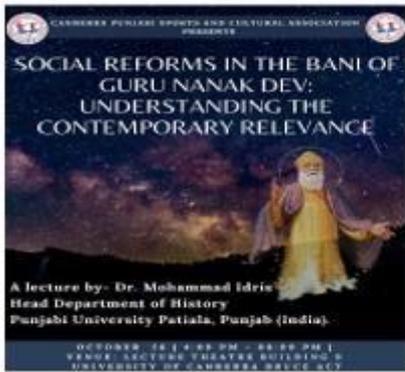
Together we fight, together we survive



Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association

Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association (CPSCA) aims to broaden awareness and acceptance of Punjabi culture and traditional sports. As a responsible community association, CPSCA organised following activities:

- Royal Punjabi Dinner with renowned Punjabi artist and singer Harbhajan Mann who enthralled 750 strong members of different communities and local Punjabi community artists performances
- Celebrated 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji by organising a lecture on teachings of Guru Nanak Dev ji by Dr Mohamad Idris from Punjabi University Patiala
- With members from many communities, planted 550 plants and established a Guru Ka Bag at John Knight Park to mark the 550th Guruprabh of Guru Nanak Dev ji
- In December 2019-January 2020, participated in 'Feed the Homeless Program' organised by Fair Canberra
- Raised over \$1,500 for bush fire appeal which was directly paid to the RFS NSW Account by the contributors. Many CPSCA members contributed generously to a truck load of essential goods that were delivered to bushfire affected communities in the South Coast
- Showcased Punjab in a stall along with the High Commission of India stall at the ACT National Multicultural Festival
- During Covid-19 lockdown provided groceries, food, emotional/moral support and advice to needy.



Oriya Association (OriOz)

OriOz is a collective of residents of Australia who originate from or have connections to the state of Odisha in India.



Telugu Association of Canberra

The Telugu Association of Canberra (TAC) works with and for the people to bring everyone together and being there for each other in the hour of need. TAC engaged in many activities during the year. Through the food drive called 'Loving Hearts-Helping Hands', TAC collected non-perishable goods which were donated to Kippax Uniting Church and Canberra Community Care for less privileged people in our community.

TAC initiated a Facebook live talk show called 'TAC Mukha-Mukhi' showcasing TAC community people. First interview was with 'Brinda', who is bringing Indian summer to Canberra winter by importing Indian mangoes, famous summer fruit. The 2nd interview was with 'Sumana', an educator. Samana raised awareness about how teachers work with/for kids in educating them, how as parents we can help kids and teachers, and many more important facts about education system in Australia.



Council of Indian Federations of Australia (CIFA)

FINACT is working at the national level with other federations of Indian associations across Australia for better good of Indian-Australians and the broader Australian society. The unprecedented and unpredictable situation that arose due to COVID-19 pandemic required extensive collaboration and cooperation at national level not only to help international students but to also assist stranded Indian nationals. and to maintain momentum. This created the need to formally establish a body to deal with issues nationally leading to formation of the Council of Indian Federations of Australia (CIFA)



CIFA is a national peak body of Indian Australian organisations representing all states and territories of Australia. As a network of federations, it had been working informally for last few years. CIFA committee comprise of two members from each state and territory of Australia. The inaugural chair is Federation of Indian Associations of ACT, Secretary is Federation of Indian Associations of Western Australia; and Treasurer is Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland.

CIFA works to advocate and influence national policies through government and diplomatic channels on matters affecting the Indian Australian Diaspora, while fostering integration, social cohesion and inclusion.

CIFA worked tirelessly to get results for those impacted, particularly international students, stranded Indian nationals, and stranded diaspora in India. Currently, it is working on raising awareness for international students about mental health issues and employment exploitation.

ACT Elections

For the first time in the ACT election history, five candidates of Indian origin will be testing their destiny in the forthcoming elections to be held on 17 October 2020. FINACT congratulates all candidates and wishes them the best in the elections and they are:

- Liberal Candidates:
 - Dr Krishna Nadimpalli from Yerrabi
 - Mr Amardeep Singh from Murumbidgee
 - Mr Jacob Vadakkedathu from Yerrabi
- Labor candidate:
 - Mr Deepak Raj Gupta from Yerrabi
- Independent candidate:
 - Mr Vijay Dubey, Independent candidate from Ginnindera

Member Associations – At a glance

1. ACT Telangana Association (ACTTA)

ACTTA is a not-for-profit association of likeminded Australians of Indian origin from the Telangana State in India. Objectives of the ACTTA are:

- To provide a platform for Telangana people to promote the rich cultural diversity and traditions of Telangana.
- Celebrate Telangana festivals with fellow citizens.
- To strengthen collaboration between the two countries.
- ACTTA also aims to strengthen community harmony by engaging with the broader ACT community.



Contact Details

- Contact Persons - Sateesh Reddy and Shanti Reddy
- Email: members@actta.org.au ○ Website: <http://www.actta.org.au/>

2. Australian Anglo-Indian Association of Canberra (AAIAC)

The Association is working to cater to the needs of the Anglo-Indian Community in Canberra.

Contact Details

- Contact Person - Joe Bailey
- Email: joe.bailey@bigpond.com

3. Australian Tamil Cultural Society (ATCS)

ATCS organises cultural and social functions, helps Tamils and people from India to settle in Australia, educates people about Tamil literature, runs Tamil language classes (Chennai Tamil School), teaches cultural activities like dancing and singing, and organises tours, etc. ATCS brings together Tamil community and mix with the Australian Society.

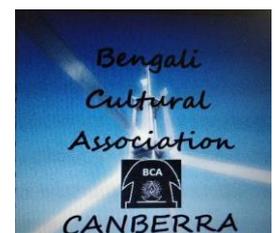


Contact Details

- Contact Person - Ravi Krishnamurthy
- Email: atcs.act@gmail.com ○ Website: <http://www.atcs.org.au/>

4. Bengali Cultural Association of Canberra (BCA)

Bengali Cultural Association (Canberra) Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation serving the Bengali (and Indian) community in and around Canberra, Australia. The Association promotes Bengali culture and community activities, organises durga puja and food festivals.



Contact Details

- Contact Person – Chandana Day and Rakesh Roy
- Email: secretarycanberra.bca@gmail.com ○ Facebook: www.facebook.com/bcaCanberra

5. Bihar Jharkhand Sabha of Australia and New Zealand (BJSM)

With 'Connecting people abroad' as their objective and acknowledging 'संघे शक्ति कलियुगे' (unity is strength in this age), BJSM organises family get togethers (Milans), celebrate festivals, assists new migrants, share information and cooperate with other community groups across Australia and New Zealand. The association has been organising 3 Milans in Canberra from 2006 - Holi Milan, Sharad Milan, and Diwali Milan on the last Sunday of March, July and October respectively.



Contact Details

- Contact Person - Sanjay Pandey
- Website: <https://www.bjsm.org/>
- FaceBook – www.facebook.com/BiharJharkhand
- Twitter – www.twitter.com/BJSMAusNZ

6. Canberra Hindu Mandir Incorporated (CHM)

Canberra Hindu Mandir (CHM) provides a platform based on Agama Sastra (traditional temple architecture) in meeting the religious and spiritual needs of those who seek God realisation through His various manifestations, in accordance with traditional Hinduism following the doctrine of Sanatana Dharma.



Some of the key Activities of CHM –

- Monthly meets, important festival celebrations including Ram Navami, Guru Poornima, Dussehra and Diwali.
- Fundraising events and donations to communities@work, blood donations and other activities incidental to the functioning of the temple.

Contact Details

- Contact Person - Krishna Nadimipalli
- Website – www.hindumandir.org.au ○ Facebook - www.facebook.com/canberrahindumandir

7. Canberra Jain Mandal (CJM)

Canberra Jain Mandal (CJM) is the representative association of the Jain community in Canberra. The aim of the organisation is to promote the principles of Jainism and keep the community members associated with these principles. We aim to achieve it by organising recognised Jain religious events, such as Mahaveer Jayanti, Diwali etc. and social gatherings to discuss the principles of Jainism and its relevance in the present world.



Contact Details

- Contact Person - Praveen Jain, Rishabh Jain
 - Email: president.cjm@gmail.com, secretary.cjm@gmail.com
-

8. Canberra Malayalee Association (CMA)

The Canberra Malayalees Association (CMA) was formed as an informal organisation in the mid-nineties by Canberra Keralites for arranging social functions relating to Keralite/Malayalee culture. Since then it has steadily grown with families from various parts of Kerala, other parts of India and overseas. CMA organises four get-togethers during the year: for Onam, Christmas, Cultural Nite and Malayalee barbecue; and sports activities that include cricket (Canberra Malayalee Cricket Club), soccer, basketball, and badminton.



Contact Details

- Contact Person - Roshan Menon and Ajmal PN
- Email: coordinators@canberramalayalee.org
- Facebook: @CBRMalayalees
- Website: <http://canberramalayalee.org/>

9. Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association Inc (CPSCA)

The Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association (CPSCA) is an incorporated and a not-for profit community organisation. CPSCA works with and for the communities to broaden awareness and acceptance of Punjabi language, culture and traditional sports. Punjabi language is spoken in many parts of the world and has rich literature and heritage. CPSCA organises an annual cultural family dinner, organises programmes on Punjabi literature with visiting dignitaries, promotes interaction with community groups and broader Australian society, shares information and supports multiculturalism, social cohesiveness, and integration.



Contact Details

- Contact Person - Harjinder Singh Dhindsa and Surjit Kang
- Email: cpsca2014@gmail.com
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cpsca2014/>

10. Canberra Sikh Association (CSA)

The Canberra Sikh Association (CSA) is a non-profit religious, educational and social organisation representing the Sikh population of the ACT and surrounding regions. The aims and objectives of the CSA are to:



- Promote understanding of the Sikh philosophy, religion and culture.
- Provide a common meeting ground for persons interested in Sikh culture and philosophy and to exchange ideas with other ethnic, cultural, community and religious groups.
- Establish charitable and welfare programs for the community in general and assist new Sikh migrants to settle in Canberra.
- Organise activities connected with education and social development of the community.
- Establish and support research programs, and provide scholarships to students in need for further education.

Contact Details

- Contact Person - Jasbir Singh Gidda and Bharpur Singh
 - Email: canberrasikhassociation@gmail.com
 - Website: <https://www.canberrasikhassociation.com/>
-

11. Canberra Telugu League (CTL)

Canberra Telugu League (CTL) has been formed on the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup Format where each of the seven Telugu Teams play against each other with a total of 24 matches inclusive of the Family Friendly Grand Finals.

Contact Details

- Contact Person - Sridhar Guda
 - Facebook: @ Canberra Telugu League
-

12. Gujarati Samaj of ACT (GSA)

Gujarati Samaj of ACT (GSA) organises many Gujarati cultural events and programs in Canberra such as Navaratri Celebrations, Gujarati Movie Screenings, Kite Flying festivals, etc. GSA also provides ongoing support to new migrants for settlement in Canberra.



Contact Details

- Contact Person - Jay Patel
 - Email: volunteers@gujaratisamajcanberra.com
 - Facebook: @Gujarati Samaj of Canberra
-

13. India Australia Multicultural Sports Association (IAMSA)

The India Australia Multicultural Sports Association (IAMSA) organises sports competitions, particularly cricket and does fund raising through cricket for cancer on MacGrath Foundation's Pink Stumps Day.

Contact Details

- Contact Person - Sanjay Sharma
 - Email: sanjay231sharma@yahoo.com
-

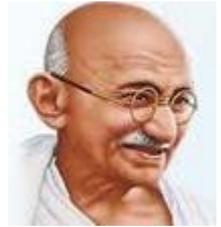
14. Indian Australian Association of Health and Well-being (HaWIAA)

Contact Details

- Contact Person - ChittiBabu Divi and Manohar Vemuri
- Email: Divi.Haritha@gmail.com

15. Indian Senior Citizens Association (ISCA)

Recognising the cultural differences and demands, Indian Senior Citizens Association (ISCA) was formed in Canberra (ACT) in 1995 to cater to the social, welfare and cultural needs of aged persons of Indian cultural background. The Association has the following objectives



- To facilitate the provision of welfare and social services for aged persons
- To act as spokesperson on behalf of aged persons
- To organise cultural and recreational activities for our seniors.

Contact Details

- Contact Person - Subhash Jalota and Kanti Jinna
 - Email - kantijinna@gmail.com ○ Website: <http://indianseniors.org/>
-

16. Indian Students' Association - ANU (InSA)

Indian Students' Association (INSA) at the Australian National University (ANU) is a nodal association for the Indian Students pursuing their studies at ANU. With about 300 members registered with the Association, it is affiliated to the clubs and societies of the ANU Students Association (ANUSA) and the ANU Postgraduate and Research Students Association (PARSA). The association's key objective is to ensure the common welfare of its members and the student community in general at the ANU. INSA acts as a platform for its members to network with each other as well as other students in the ANU through various social and community building events.



Contact Details

- President – Shanawaz Mirza
 - Email – weareinsa@gmail.com
 - Facebook - @ Indian Students' Association-ANU
-

17. Initiatives for Women in Needs (IWiN)

Initiatives for Women In Need (IWiN) is an Indo-Australian volunteer-led organisation based in the Australian Capital Territory to support and advocate for women and children, particularly coming from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and families experiencing domestic violence and discrimination at home and at work. Established in 2013, IWiN also supports activities to elevate wellbeing of under-privileged women and children in India through partnership with NGOs operating at a grassroot level, such as EK PRAYAAS in Kolkata and Pazhassi Raja Tribal School in Wayanad, Kerala.



Contact Details

- Contact Person - Dr. Madhumita IYENGAR
- Email: iwinact@gmail.com ○ Website: <https://www.iwinact.org/>
- Facebook: @ Initiatives For Women In Need – IwiN

18. Integrated Cultures ACT (ICA)

Integrated Cultures ACT Inc (ICA) aims to bring different cultures into an interaction that allows them to adjust their personal norms to accommodate others' norms and, in the process, deal effectively with the tensions of cross-cultural interaction and develop a harmony that allows for better understanding, inter-mixing of races and cultures. It allows for expressions of that harmony to occur through the medium of the arts, social engagements, exchange of ideas on issues of common concern and, through a variety of interactions between and amongst the different people that compose Australia.



Contact Details

- President – Jayanti Gupta
- Email - iwomensnetwork@gmail.com ○ Website: <http://www.integratedcultures.org/>

19. Karnataka Association of Canberra Inc (KAC)

Karnataka Association of Canberra (KAC), also referred to as KAC is a non-profit organisation primarily aimed at networking for Kannadigas in the Australian Capital Territory. KAC was founded in 2004. On November 2010 KAC became a registered association, where office-bearers were elected. The organisation hosts numerous festival events, ceremonies, and excursion throughout the year for its members.



Contact Details

- Contact Person - Venkatesh Bidarkal and Satyendra Bhojendra
- Email - venka@tpg.com.au
- Website: <https://www.kannadaincanberra.com/>

20. Madhya Pradesh Association of Australia Inc (MPAA)

Madhya Pradesh Association of Australia (MPAA) was formed in 2020 to promote Madhya Pradesh amongst the people hailing from Madhya Pradesh in the ACT as well as work with the Indian Community at large.

Contact Details

- President – Vijay Dubey
- Email – vicdubey@gmail.com

21. Mandir School of Music (MSM)

The Mandir School of Music (MSM) operates in Canberra to enable the members of the Indian community to pursue their passion for Carnatic music. The MSM offers Shastriya Sangeetham classes to students of all ages and shloka classes to children. MSM provides an opportunity to the local Indian community to continue to connect and keep alive the rich Indian culture. The students have access to a structured



classical music curriculum and children sit through exams starting with basic to advanced levels. MSM conducts annual stage concerts and actively participates in the local events.

Vriksha is a group of professionals with branches of education, culture, music and mathematical learning for kids.

Contact Details

- Contact Person – Ragini Santhanam
- Email - raginis@inet.net.au
- Website: <http://vriksha.org/>

22. Mehak Punjab Di Radio (MPDR)

Mehak Punjab Di Radio (MPDR) aims to engage with the community from the Indian subcontinent through the Punjabi language, catering to all tastes and interests, while promoting Punjabi language, literature, and culture, from both sides of the border.



MPDR provides local and subcontinental news, sports news and weather updates, including information on current activities in the ACT and the region. It features Punjabi music, both old and contemporary. MPDR broadcasts every Saturday from 8am to 9am.

Contact Details

- Contact Person– Amardeep Singh
- Email - mehakpunjabdiradio@gmail.com
- Website: <https://www.cmsradio.org.au/programs/punjabi-program/>
- Facebook: @ Mehak Punjab Di Radio

23. Navya Andhra Telugu Association (NATA)

Navya Andhra Telugu Association (NATA) was formed in 2014 after Andhra Pradesh evolved as a new state with an old name. NATA aims to support all associated with Andhra Pradesh in every possible way. NATA makes best efforts to integrate culture from homeland with Australian culture. NATA conducts Yoga seminars to promote healthy lifestyle and IT seminar every year where subject matter experts run a workshop with information of emerging technologies & associated career opportunities. NATA takes every opportunity to organise cultural & spiritual events.



Contact Details

- President– Prasad Tipirneni
- Email - president@nata.org.au
- Website: <http://content.nata.org.au/>
- Facebook: @ Navya Andhra Telugu Association-Canberra (NATA)

24. Oriya Association (OriOz)

OriOz is a collective of residents of Australia who originate from or have connections to the state of Odisha in India. OriOz vision is to sustain an Odia Community in Australia that is engaged, vibrant and inclusive.



OriOz maintains a community platform so that members can support each other for social and emotional wellbeing. It provides a community infrastructure and facilitate existing and newly arrived Odias to be active members of the local community and the Odia community of Australia.

Contact Details

- Contacts - Nalini Pati and Pravati Panigrahi
- Website: <https://www.orioz.org.au/>
- Facebook: @ORIOZCommunity

25. Rajasthan Sabha of Australia and New Zealand (RSANZ)

Rajasthan Sabha of Australia and New Zealand (RSANZ) are a group of individuals who originate from the State of Rajasthan in India and work together to promote the Rajasthani Culture in Australia and New Zealand.



Contact Details

- Contact Person – Lakhan Sharma
- Email: lsharma.act@gmail.com
- Facebook: @rajasthansabha

26. Rajdhani Marathi Mandal Canberra (RMMC)

Rajdhani Marathi Mandal (RMMC) is a non-profit and a non-political organisation formed to cater to the needs of the local Marathi community of Canberra. RMMC aims to:



- Promote Marathi culture e.g. literature, music, dance, drama, and community activities in general.
- Promote mutual understanding and goodwill between the people of Marathi origin, the Indian sub-continent, and other communities in Australia with interest in Marathi culture.
- Provide and promote social and cultural contact among its members and the broader Australian community in general.

Contact Details

- Contact Person – Sandesh Shelar and Vikrant Vandale
- Email: rmmc.can@gmail.com
- Facebook: @Rajdhani Marathi Mandal Canberra
- Website: <https://canberramarathi.org/>

27. Sprintz Inc

The association carries out various cultural as well as sports activities in Canberra such as weekly Basketball, Basketball Training for kids, Weekly Volleyball.



Contact Details

- Contact Person - Shaji Karattiyattil and Benedict Cherian
- Facebook: @ Sprintz Inc

28. Telugu Association of Canberra (TAC)

The Telugu Association of Canberra (TAC) is a cultural and non-profit organisation representing the Telugu speaking people. TAC promotes language, culture, music, dance, and drama and our rich heritage among the Telugu and non-Telugu speaking people.



TAC works with and for the people to bring everyone together and being there for each other in the hour of need. TAC works to reinforce and refine outreach efforts by bringing people and traditions together.

Contact Details

- President – Manjula Pitta
- Email: teluguassociationcanberra@gmail.com
- Website: <https://tacanberra.org/>
- Facebook: @TACanberra

29. University of Canberra Indian Association (UCIA)

University of Canberra Indian Association (UCIA) is a non-profit organisation aimed at facilitating a space of sharing for the students of University of Canberra away from their homes. UCIA aims to support the Indian students currently studying at University of Canberra through various social and cultural events.



Contact Details

- President – Rohil Jain
- Email: uc.indianassociation@gmail.com
- Facebook: @UCIndiAssoc

Due to unpredictable circumstances caused by COVID-19 pandemic, many activities had to be cancelled. We thank all our sponsors, supporters and partners for their support throughout the year 2019-20 and look forward to their patronage in the coming year.

Website: <https://finact.net.au>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/finact11> | Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/finact11>