

# ANNUAL REPORT

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**2021 - 22**

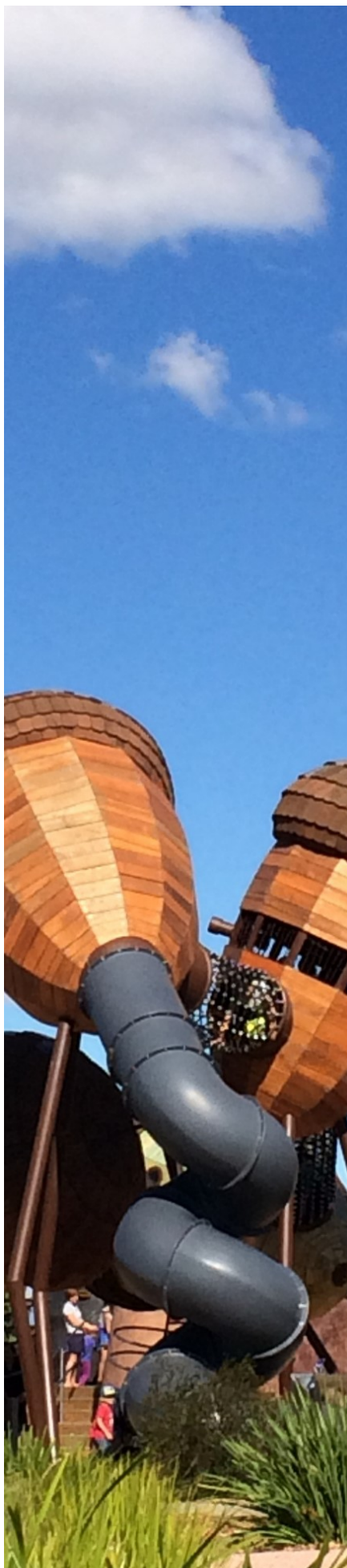
AGM, 24 July 2022





Federation of Indian Associations of ACT acknowledges the traditional custodians of Canberra and surrounding areas, the Ngunnawal people. We respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and the region.





## OUR PROFILE

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The Federation of Indian Association of the ACT Inc (FINACT) was officially launched on 31 July 2011.

The unified voice and inclusive approach of FINACT is reflected in our mantra - Coordination: Cooperation: Collaboration. FINACT develops and nurtures productive working relationship with government and non-government stakeholders and other key community service organisations in the ACT community.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

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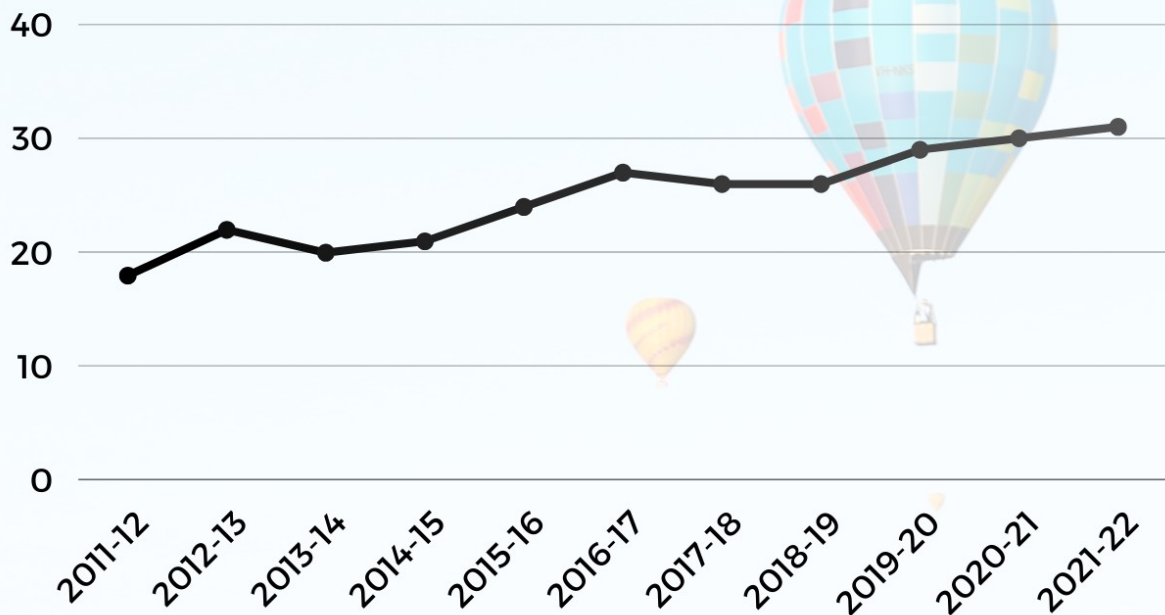
FINACT provides a unified voice for all its member associations and the people of Indian origin in the Canberra region.

It promotes advancement and integration of the Indian Australians as responsible citizens of 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.



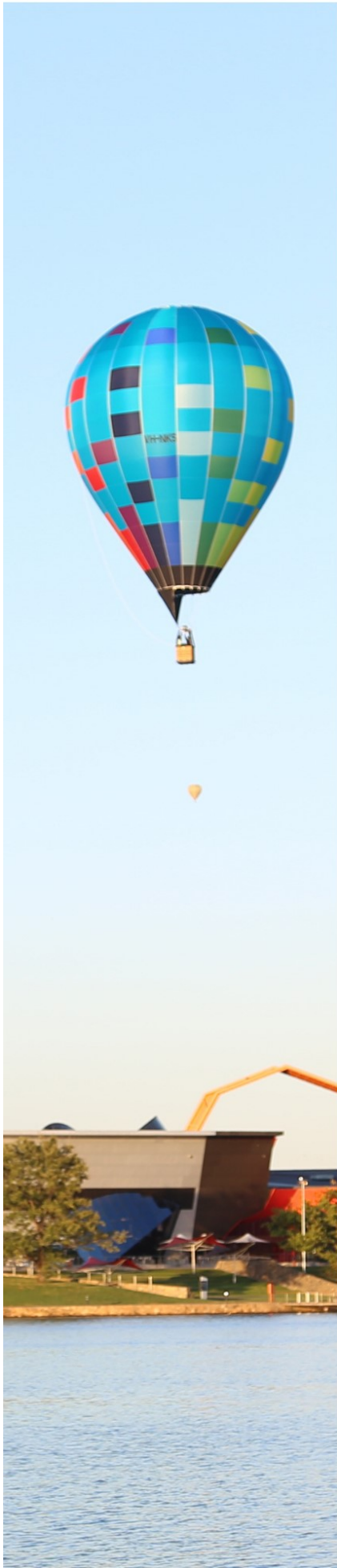
# OUR MEMBERS

FINACT welcomes all Indian associations to be part of this federation, join hands to achieve our shared goal. Steadily increasing number of associations is a testimony to our collaborative, cooperative approach and dedication to make a positive difference.



# TEAM FINACT





## FINACT EC 2021-22

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Dr Shanti Swarup Reddy	President
Mrs Sejal K K Patel	Vice-President
Mr Rahul Ravindranathan	Secretary
Mr Balinder Singh Khillan	Treasurer
Ms Soniya Jeena	Rep (Youth)
Ms Divya Ravikumar	Rep (Women)
Mr Praneeth Galla	Coord (community)
Mrs Kanchan Vaikyl	Coord (Cult Prog)
Mr Ravi Krish	Public Officer
Dr Sunita Dhindsa	Ex-officio

## OUR AMBITION & INTENT

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FINACT values and stands for

- **F**raternity
- **I**nclusiveness
- **N**etworking
- **A**ssistance
- **C**ooperation
- **T**eamwork.





# MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

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ACT Telangana Association  
Australian Anglo-Indian Association of Canberra  
Australian Multicultural Action Network  
Australian Tamil Society of ACT  
Bengali Cultural Association of Canberra  
Bihar Jharkhand Sabha of Australia & New Zealand  
Canberra Hindu Mandir  
Canberra Jain Mandal  
Canberra Malayalee Association (CMA)  
Canberra Punjabi Sports & Cultural Association (CPSCA)  
Canberra Sikh Association (CSA)  
Canberra Telugu League  
Gujarati Samaj of ACT  
India Australia Multicultural Sports Association  
Indian Australian Association of Health and Well-being  
Indian Students Association  
Initiatives for Women in Needs  
Integrated Cultures ACT  
Indian Senior Citizens Association  
Indian Students Association  
Karnataka Association of Canberra  
Madhya Pradesh Association of Australia  
Mandir School of Music  
Mehak Punjab Di  
Navya Andhra Telugu Association  
Oriya Association (OriOz)  
Pink Umbrella Inc  
Rajasthan Sabha of Australia and New Zealand  
Rajdhani Marathi Mandal Canberra  
Sprintz Inc  
Telugu Association of Canberra  
UC Indian Association (UCIA)

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## Contents

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1. Acknowledgements.....	1
2. President's Message.....	3
3. About FINACT.....	4
4. FINACT Activities 2021-22 .....	4
5. FINACT Sub-committee on Domestic and Family Violence.....	17
6. FINACT India Centre.....	17
7. FINACT Webinars .....	17
8. FINACT Stakeholder Engagement .....	20
9. FINACT General Council Meetings .....	25
10. FINACT Submissions.....	29
11. FINACT - Other Activities .....	30
12. FINACT Member Events.....	35
13. Homage to Paul Muthiah.....	42
14. FINACT 2022 Events Calendar .....	42
15. FINACT Sponsors.....	43
16. FINACT Member Associations At a glance .....	44

# 1. Acknowledgements

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We extend sincere thanks to the following leaders for their help, ongoing support, and encouragement to FINACT.

## Elected Representatives

### Federal

Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance, Minister for Women, Minister for the Public Service

Senator David Pocock

Former Senator the Hon Zed Seselja

Hon Andrew Leigh MP, Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury

Mr David Smith MP

Ms Alicia Payne MP

### ACT Legislative Assembly

Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister ACT

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Patron of FINACT, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, ACT

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Leader of Greens; Attorney General ACT

Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA, Leader of the Opposition ACT

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA

Mrs Giulia Jones ex-MLA

Ms Elizabeth Kikkert MLA

Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

Mr Mark Parton MLA

Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Mr James Milligan MLA

### High Commission of India

HE Mr Manpreet Vohra, High Commissioner of India Canberra

Mr Suneet Mehta, Deputy High Commissioner of India Canberra

### Australian Government Officials

Ms Christine Murray, Executive Group Manager ACT Community Services Directorate

Ms Azra Khan and Nadia, ACT Community Services Directorate

Ms Jenny Wells, Director ACT Community Services Directorate

Ms Naheed Hafiz, Community Engagement Officer Department of Home Affairs

### FINACT Past Presidents

Dr Sunita S Dhindsa (2019-20, 2020-21)

Dr Krishna Nadimpalli (2017-18, 2018-19)

Mr Amardeep Singh (2015-16, 2016-17)

Dr. Krishna Nadimpalli (2014-15)

Mr Amardeep Singh (2013-2014)

Mr Hari Iyengar (July – September 2013)

Mrs Jayanti Gupta (2012-13)

Mr Jacob Vadakkedathu (2011-12)

### AusIndia Fair 2022 volunteers

Latha Suresh, Ananya Banerjee, Ayush Nima, Ben Naiju, Rebecca Abraham, Rajitha Konda, Arvind, Narendra Vemula, Ammu Suresh, Kamlesh Patel, Rattesh Gumber, Sateesh Gade, Praneeth Galla, Divya Manohar, Harjinder Dhindsa, Krishna Nadimpalli & ACT Telangana Association EC members.

Sanjay Pandey for supporting with the social media and newsletters

### FINACT Harmony Day volunteers

Ragini Santanam (Mandir School of Music), Harry and Keo (Darling Street Studio), Anil George, Arun George, 20 kids and their parents



## 2. President's Message

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It is a privilege to lead FINACT during the last twelve months. I take this opportunity to thank FINACT member associations, past presidents, and Indian community more broadly for this opportunity and their support.

Although the risk of global pandemic isn't over yet, glad to see end of lockdowns, opening of international borders, arrival of international students and tourists. Thanks to the successful vaccination program, we were able to deliver our community work program in the last eight months.

This annual report summarises FINACT activities and achievements:

- Promotion of COVID-19 vaccination program
- International students meet and greet, February 2022
- Monthly webinars
- International women's day, March 2022
- AusIndia Fair, April 2022
- FINACT Harmony Day celebrations
- Stakeholder engagement
- Submissions to federal and ACT governments providing community inputs
- Collaboration with the High Commission of India
- FINACT job network



More than 50 volunteers contributed ~3865 hours of their time over the last 50 weeks to deliver FINACT activities. If valued at \$50/h, this equates to \$184K. It goes to show the value FINACT, and other associations give back to the community. I acknowledge and thank Sejal Patel, Rahul Ravindranathan, Praneeth Galla, Divya Ravikumar, Balinder Singh, Kanchan Vaikyl, Ravi Krish and Sunita Dhindsa for their significant contribution and unwavering support.

According to the latest census, number of people in the ACT of Indian ancestry has gone up from **14,483** in 2016 to **24,026** in 2021. Community work by FINACT and its member associations in welcoming new migrants, supporting them and providing them with cultural experience is an important contribution, which nicely complements the services provided by the ACT government. I'm glad to report that ACT government recognised our contribution in promoting diversity and inclusion across Canberra and ACT region through a multicultural excellence award in 2022.

FINACT welcomes the DFAT report published in March 2022, recognising the significant contribution of Australia's Indian diaspora. The work of FINACT in fostering people to people connection is an important contribution in advancing the enduring friendship between Australia and India. Quad and interim free trade agreement will see further collaboration, increased trade, and cultural exchange between the two countries. We look forward to continuing our work, making a positive contribution for a better future for all Canberrans.

**Shanti Reddy**

### 3. About FINACT

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The Federation of Indian Association of the ACT (FINACT) Inc is an umbrella body that represents the interests of more than 24,000 Indian diaspora in and around ACT. Formed in 2011, FINACT consists of 31 member associations representing a diverse community consisting of regional, linguistic, youth, women, and senior citizens interests.

FINACT provides a unified voice for its member associations in fostering integration and promoting multicultural Australia. FINACT's objectives include promotion of multicultural Australia by sharing Indian culture and heritage, integration with the broader Australian society, cultivating mutual respect through increased social & cultural interaction, sports, and recreation. FINACT works with the Federal and ACT governments by providing constructive feedback and inputs to policy formulation on matters related to welfare, social and economic matters. FINACT's operating principles are – Coordination, Cooperation and Collaboration for the broader good.

### 4. FINACT Activities 2021-22

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#### COVID-19 Vaccination Promotion

Uptake of COVID-19 vaccination was slow in the beginning because of concerns about side effects, scepticism and negative media reports. FINACT has partnered with the ACT Health Directorate's COVID-19 Response team, promoting vaccination to protect all Canberrans from the virus, making ACT the first jurisdiction in Australia to achieve high vaccination rates. This helped to curb the spread of the virus and eventually easing of COVID restrictions.

FINACT organised a video message - get vaccinated, follow health advice from the authorities, stay safe and save lives – in [multiple Indian languages](#). This was well received, prompting community members to sign up for vaccination.

Only 35% of people in Gungahlin aged 15 and over were fully vaccinated as of August 2021 when we released our video, compared to 95% by November 2021. Thanks to the excellent work undertaken by the ACT Health Directorate and cooperation of Canberrans for supporting the vaccination program.

Mass vaccination and effectiveness of vaccines allowed the ACT government to relax COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. It is however, important to note that COVID-19 pandemic declaration is still active in Australia as of July 2022. Experts warn that variants of the virus can still wreak havoc.

# Promotion of COVID vaccination & support



ACT Health @ACTHealth · 30 Sep 2021  
 (1/5) 'We have a simple message to Canberrans – get vaccinated, follow the health advice, stay safe and save lives,' says Dr Shanti Reddy, President of the Federation of Indian Associations of ACT Inc @FINACT11



ACT Health @ACTHealth · 4 Nov 2021  
 'I think all high school students should get vaccinated as soon as possible. We need to protect ourselves and keep our school healthy and safe – especially now that we're returning to on campus learning,' says Sonith



## COVID-19 vaccine pop up clinic at AusIndia Fair

FINACT lobbied for recognition of Covaxin, which allowed stranded Australian citizens to return to Australia free of quarantine, including immediate family members to reunite in Australia

**Pop-up COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine clinics**

<b>Isabella Plains Neighbourhood House</b> Ellenston Ave (opposite shops) <b>Thu 31 March</b> 12 noon to 6.30pm (last walk ins at 6pm)	<b>Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre</b> 22 Sidney Nolan St, Conder <b>Tue 29 March</b> 9am to 4.30pm (last walk ins at 4pm)	<b>AusFair India</b> Thoroughbred Park, 1 Randwick Rd Lyneham <b>Sat 2 April</b> 12 noon to 5.30pm (last walk ins at 5pm)	<b>Turner Scout Hall</b> 11 Mission St, Turner <b>Wed 30 March</b> 12 noon to 5.30pm (last walk ins at 5pm)
<b>Longstay Caravan Park</b> 189 Narrabundah Lane, Symonston <b>Fri 1 April</b> 9am to 4pm (last walk ins at 3.30pm)	<b>Coombs Park</b> Cnr of Bescroft St and Woodberry Ave <b>Mon 28 March</b> 11am to 6pm (last walk ins at 5.30pm)	covid19.act.gov.au/vaccine	

**Walk in for a free COVID-19 vaccine**  
**Saturday 2 April 2022**  
 12 noon to 5.30pm (last walk ins at 5pm)  
**Thoroughbred Park**  
 1 Randwick Rd Lyneham ACT





Daily cases are going up significantly, exceeding the numbers seen during the peak period. For example, 1407 new cases were reported in ACT on 21 July, a significant increase over the last seven-day average. We recommend taking fourth dose which is now available to Canberrans. Please follow public health advice and [Stay COVID smart](#).

### Recognition of Covaxin (Bharat Biotech, India)

Recognition of Covaxin allowed stranded Australian citizens to return to Australia free of quarantine, including immediate family members who can reunite with family, which is great news. FINACT raised the issue with relevant authorities, and we are very pleased with the positive response and fast action from the Federal government. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) recognised Covaxin for the purpose of establishing a traveller's vaccination status.

FINACT welcomed the news and timely decision as it paved the way for Australians stranded in India to take advantage of the opening of international borders from 1 November 2021. This was also a positive news for international students to resume studies on campus, parents and other immediate family members to reunite with their family in Australia.

### COVID-19 Vaccination pop-up Clinic

FINACT collaborated with the ACT Health's COVID-19 Response Team to organise a COVID-19 vaccination pop-up clinic at the AusIndia Fair for individuals and families to receive their vaccination, open to all members, including international students, even without a Medicare card were eligible to get their free vaccine.

### COVID Promotion ACT Health

Uptake of COVID-19 vaccination was slow in the beginning because of concerns about side effects, negative propaganda in the social media and fear of the unknown. ACT Health sought help from FINACT. We acted quickly by providing promotional material, published on the ACT Health Twitter account.

## Opening of International Borders

FINACT welcomed the opening of international borders from 1 November 2021 ending two years of disruption and separation from near and dear ones. SBS and ABC 666 radio sought FINACT interviews seeking community view at the time.

## AusIndia Fair 2022

AusIndia Fair is FINACT's flagship event that promotes harmony and brings communities together; celebrates Australia-India friendship and showcases India's rich cultural diversity. Most importantly this year it provided an opportunity to showcase creative artistic talents, after a two-year gap because of global pandemic, contributing to the post-COVID-19 'social recovery', and well-being of all participants.

This year's event held at Thoroughbred Park on 2 April 2022 was a huge success. More than 2000 people attended the event. Nearly 150 performers participated in the event from Indian, Sri Lankan, Tibetan, Australian and Brazilian backgrounds. Everyone immensely enjoyed in-person social interaction which has been missing in the last two years because of the global pandemic. FINACT received lots of compliments from the community and lots of thank you's on our Facebook.

His Excellency Mr Manpreet Vohra, High Commissioner of India to Australia, noted in his speech "the immense contribution made by the Indian diaspora to Australian economy and Australia society, and to our bilateral relations is deeply appreciated by all Australians. The AusIndia Fair represents the best of India's and Australia's inclusive traditions. I am happy to see this wonderful display of India's rich cultural diversity in conjunction with the multicultural ethos of Australia. Congratulations to all."

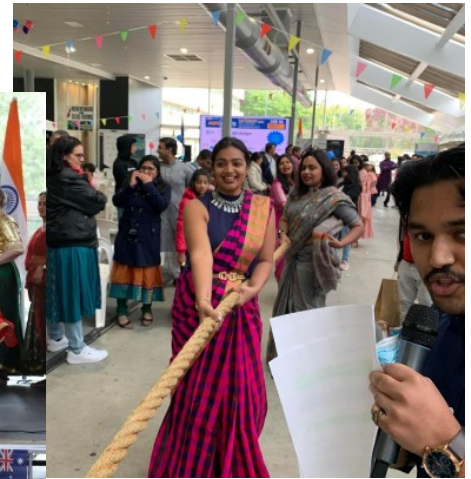
The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Federal Member for Fenner, spoke about the excellent relations between India and Australia, and the significant contribution of the Indian diaspora. Congratulations to all.

Shane Rattenbury, ACT Attorney-General, appreciated the significance of the event, congratulated the organisers.

# AusIndia Fair 2 April 2022







## AusIndia Fair 2 April 2022



Tara Cheyne, the ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs noted “this [AusIndia Fair] is the reflection of the extraordinary relationship between India and Australia, and how wonderful it is to come together to celebrate that relationship and bonding between the two countries. Congratulations to the organisers”.

Elizabeth Lee, Leader of the Opposition, ACT Liberals, noted - “Great event. What a happy occasion for the Canberra Indian community to celebrate.”

Chris Steel, ACT Minister for Transport and City Services presented an Event Sponsorship plaque to Arvensys CEO Sesidhar Kolikonda.

David Smith MP, Federal member for Bean; Alicia Payne MP, Federal member for Canberra; Andrew Braddock, MLA for Yerrabi; Rebecca Vassarotti, MLA for Kurrajong; Suzanne Orr, MLA for Yerrabi; Nicole Lawder, MLA for Brindabella, Leanne Castley, MLA for Yerrabi; Mark Parton, MLA for Brindabella; Peter Cain, MLA for Ginninderra also graced the occasion.

Please read the full report on [AusIndia Fair 2022](#), published by Desi Australia

- You can view [video highlights of AusIndia Fair 2022](#) on FINACT Facebook
- You can view [photo highlights of AusIndia Fair 2022](#) on FINACT Facebook
- The event was reported in the [India Star News website, USA](#)
- Video highlights [published by our media partner Desi Australia](#)
- You can also listen to the full interview on AusIndia Fair and FINACT broadcasted by [ACT Desi Radio on 1 April](#).

## FINACT Harmony Day Celebrations

FINACT and Mandir School of Music mobilised resources to record a patriotic Australian song with 20 kids to mark the Harmony Day 2022, fostering integration and inclusiveness. We sincerely thank kids who performed in this video and parents for their support, Mrs. Ragini Santhanam, music director, Arun and George - background music, Keo and Harry - Darling St recording studio, Mitchell.



# FINACT Harmony Day Celebrations 2 April 2022



## Indian Students Meet & Greet

FINACT organised a meet and greet workshop on 28 February 2022 to welcome students from India studying at ANU and UC. Lifting of international travel restrictions allowed students to resume study on campus after a two-year gap. Mr Narendra Rana from India In Australia (High Commission Of India, Canberra) welcomed students, offered assistance during their studies in Australia. FINACT continues to provide support and facilitate interaction with local community members to experience Australian lifestyle and culture. For this purpose, FINACT established a chat group to network, exchange information and seek help and support when needed. FINACT wishes students all the best with their studies and enjoy your stay in Australia.

## International Women's Week Celebration

FINACT organised a workshop to share success stories and experiences of inspiring women of Indian heritage from various fields, focusing on their journey, challenges, obstacles and pathways they undertook to achieve in their field. The theme for the workshop was - Indian women in leadership roles and managing work life balance. Great to see such a large turnout. Participants appreciated the event, thankful for the opportunity to listen to several inspiring women on the International Women's Day. Having a very good panel of speakers and unsung heroes in the community was also well appreciated. Several members expressed thanks for organising the event.

## ANZAC Day Memorial Service

FINACT president attended Anzac Day Dawn Service at Tuross Head Memorial Gardens. It was a special day and a special location overlooking the coastal waters, and a rare alignment of four planets in the dawn sky. Anzac spirit is as relevant today as it was then. More than 5000 people gathered to pay respect to the ANZAC heroes and prayed for world peace. We also commemorate more than 15,000 Indian Anzacs who fought at Gallipoli. Here is a [picture gallery](#).



# International Students Meet & Greet Feb 2022





# FINACT Women's Day Celebrations



## AIBX India Market Update

On 2 April 2022, the Government of India and Australian Government signed an interim trade agreement. Hon Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce and Industry, Government of India, noted the historic significance of this agreement in this [letter addressed to the Indian diaspora](#). Further details of the agreement can be found [here](#). FINACT has been working with relevant industry bodies to raise the awareness of this new initiative and what it means for Canberra businesses. FINACT delegates and business members attended the breakfast briefing session organised by the Austrade and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DAFT) on [22 June](#) at QT Hotel. This was a great networking opportunity. We met with several interested groups who have expressed interest to arrange follow-up meetings with FINACT.

## Tribute to Community Heroes

While many of us can work from the safety and comfort of our homes, there are plenty of frontline workers who have to get up and go to work everyday during lockdowns, to deliver essential goods and services such as medical treatment, vaccinations, harvesting crops, lugging produce from farms to shops, delivering groceries, etc. FINACT acknowledged and paid tribute to these unsung heroes who are keeping us going. They do such an amazing job, risking their own comfort and safety in times like these. [FINACT September 2021 Newsletter](#) we shared with you a few stories from selected members of our community heroes - huge thanks to you from all of us!



# ANZAC Day Celebrations



FINACT President attended ANZAC Day celebrations at Tuross Head, NSW



## 5. FINACT Sub-committee on Domestic and Family Violence

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Following the approval by FINACT General Council in 2021, we now have a full-fledged team to assist with domestic and family violence matters in the community. The sub-committee consisting of following members are progressing this important task, in collaboration with other members and organisations working in this space. The sub-committee will facilitate referrals, provide information, and raise awareness to support individuals of all ages and gender, mainly focussed on the Indian diaspora affected by domestic and family violence. They will engage communities in supporting, developing, and implementing prevention strategies, under the administrative oversight of the FINACT Executive Committee, following FINACT's policies and constitution.

The Sub-committee coordinator is Dr Sunita S Dhindsa, and the members include Dr Pravati Panigrahi, Mrs Raji Samprathi, Mrs Deepti Jajee; Mrs Divya Ravikumar.

## 6. FINACT India Centre

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FINACT sub-committee consisting of Krishna Nadimpalli, Venkatesh Bidrakal, Shanti Reddy and Harjinder Dhindsa prepared a draft paper on the India Centre Business Case, which was circulated to members at the March General Council meeting. Sub-committee sought comments and suggestions from the members on the proposed steps. The sub-committee has been asked to explore options and develop a proposal for consideration. Members suggested fund-raising activities for the proposed centre to initiate the process, adopting models implemented in other states which were receiving good financial assistance from the State & Federal Governments. Members noted that there is a need for all member associations to work together to progress the implementation of India Centre. Sub-committee will continue this work in consultation with the General Council.

## 7. FINACT Webinars

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### ABS Census 2021

FINACT organised a webinar on Census 2021, delivered by ABS staff on 7 August 2021. The Q&A session following the presentation led to a good discussion on the question of ancestry and how this info should be captured

in future. FINACT will engage with ABS so that the community can provide feedback in preparing the questionnaire for the next census. ABS Census 2021 results show that ACT had the fastest population growth with 14.4 % increase since 2016. Proportion of Australian residents born overseas (first- and second-generation migrants) is more than half of the total population which is notable. Number of people in the ACT of Indian ancestry has gone up from 14,483 in 2016 to 24,026 in 2021. See [this ABS website](#) for full report.

## Remote Learning in ACT Schools

FINACT hosted a successful webinar on 21 September, discussing various aspects of remote learning and home schooling, in collaboration with the ACT Education Directorate. Mark Alliston, Kym Turnbull and Murray McKay from the Learning and Teaching branch at the ACT Education Directorate presented the webinar. They have a vast range of experience across primary, high school and tertiary education settings and have been involved with leading the ACT Education Directorate's response to COVID, including developing resources and websites for teachers and families. They've shared with the community members on how the ACT Education Directorate is helping our teachers and students during remote learning.

Smt Sheela Awadhwal, who has been teaching in the ACT for more than 20 years, provided additional information, including several valuable tips for parents, which are summarised in the FINACT Newsletter.

## Commemoration of Victims of Mumbai Attacks

FINACT, in association with the Hindu Council of Australia, hosted a virtual Commemoration event in memory of the victims of 26/11/08 Mumbai Attacks on Friday 26 Nov 2021, 7 to 8 pm. This event was graced by HE Mr Manpreet Vohra, High Commissioner of India; Sri Ram Madhav, Member Board of Governors, India Foundation; Col Tej Tikoo (Retd), Distinguished Army Officer, Author and Media personality; Smt Monika Arora, Author, Lawyer, Supreme Court of India, High Court of Delhi, Standing Counsel for Govt of India.

## Other Events attended by FINCT delegates



Team FINACT at cyber safety seminar

India Market Update - Austrade breakfast briefing



India - Bangladesh Maitri Diwas



ABC roundtable



## 65th Mahaparinirvan Day of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar

In collaboration with Ambedkar International Mission (AIM) Australia, FINACT jointly hosted a webinar on Saturday the 11 December from 5 to 6 pm (AEST), to mark the 65th Mahaparinirvan day of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. In this well attended session, distinguished speakers reflected on the life and great contribution of Dr. Ambedkar. HE Deputy High Commissioner of India Mr Suneet Mehta, Associate Prof Peter Fiedlander from ANU, Prof K Venkat, President, Parivarthana Society for Social change, AP, India, Mr Vijay Kumar, Investment Banker, India, spoke on this occasion.

## 8. FINACT Stakeholder Engagement

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### New Federal Government

In response to FINACT President's email congratulating the new Prime Minister on his election win, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, replied "***Australia and India share a close and enduring friendship underpinned by our deep personal bonds. The Federation of Indian Associations of the ACT is emblematic of the important contribution the Indian diaspora makes to our successful multicultural society. The Prime Minister looks forward to working with Prime Minister Modi to advance Australia's interest in the region and the world. This includes working to tackle the biggest challenges of our time, including climate change and the security of our region. I wish you every success for the future***".



**FINACT team congratulating newly elected member for Fenner, Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury**

**FINACT team congratulating newly elected ACT Senator David Pocock**



**FINACT team with Senator Zed Seselja, the then Minister for International Development and the Pacific**



## Meeting with Minister Shane Rattenbury & Andrew Braddock MLA

FINACT EC had a productive meeting with Minister Rattenbury and Andrew Braddock, MLA on 24 September. Soon after the AGM 2021, the new EC wrote to several members of the ACT Assembly and all five members of Federal Parliament to introduce the new committee with a request for a follow-up meeting to discuss community issues.

Minister Rattenbury and MLA Braddock were interested to hear about community views on several topics such as COVID impacts and how we are coping, vaccination in general and vaccination of children, and wellbeing of our community in general. Minister Rattenbury was impressed by the work done to date, noting that the practical things we do are very valuable. The Minister also noted that FINACT does a great job in representing the community, as an umbrella body, providing collective views of diverse Indian diaspora.

The Minister assured his support to FINACT going forward in improving our services to the community. Thank you, Minister Rattenbury and MLA Braddock.

## Meeting with Ms Tara Cheyne, Minister for Multicultural Affairs

FINACT Executive Committee members had a productive meeting with FINACT patron Tara Cheyne, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, on 2 Feb. We briefed the Minister on upcoming events, discussed important topics of interest to the community, sought help in organising the AusIndia Fair and FINACT Job Network. Minister Cheyne was happy to connect us with the relevant groups/directorates so we can follow-up on these topics. Minister Cheyne was highly appreciative of FINACT's work. To quote her "I'm very impressed with the work FINACT is doing and that your efforts are as strong as ever". Thank you for your support, Minister!

Minister Cheyne updated us on the status of the Multicultural Recognition Act - Exposure Draft seeking further comments from stakeholders before the bill is presented to the Parliament. FINACT subsequently consulted members seeking community views on the proposed bill.





### Meetings with Senator Zed Seselja

FINACT EC had a productive meeting with Senator Zed Seselja, the then Minister for International Development and the Pacific on 23 February 2021. We discussed upcoming activities - international students meet & greet, General Council meeting, International Women's Day seminar and most importantly our flagship event AusIndia Fair on 2 April. We conveyed the immediate need for a decent size community facility for celebrating multicultural events in Canberra.

### Meetings with David Smith MP

FINACT EC had a productive, virtual meeting with David Smith MP, Member for Bean on 25 February, covering a wide range of topics including our upcoming events, key issues of interest to the community such as access to a decent size community hall for celebrating multicultural events.

### Meeting with the Executive Group Manager, ACT CSD

FINACT EC had a very productive Zoom meeting with Christine Murray, Executive Group Manager, Community Service Directorate (CSD), on 25 October 2021. We discussed a wide range of topics of community interest such as - guidance on unrecognised vaccines in Australia (which has been subsequently resolved on 1 November), extension of approved grants beyond December 2021 without impacting next round of applications due in November, community engagement in the design of proposed Community Centre, reporting mechanism to capture racism incidents, opportunity for FINACT to provide community views on the proposed Multicultural Act, and

FINACT's dedicated team which will be providing assistance to domestic and family violence victims. We will continue our engagement with CSD in a constructive and positive way, providing community inputs.

### Meeting with the ACT Discrimination, Health Services & Disability and Community Services Commissioner

FINACT, along with several ACT multicultural community leaders from Chinese, Lebanese, Bangladesh, African, Chilean and Indian background attended a meeting with Ms. Karen Toohey, the ACT Discrimination, Health Services & Disability and Community Services Commissioner, on 2 Feb 2022.

The meeting was convened by MLA Giulia Jones, the then shadow minister for Multicultural Affairs. The meeting discussed increasing reports of discrimination in Canberra, which is a concern shared by all attendees. Meeting discussed what can be done about this, how to promote awareness of citizens' rights, etc. We agreed to work with the Commissioner to raise the awareness through targeted webinars, tailored promotional materials, etc. FINACT has subsequently provided a written submission on this topic to the ACT Standing Committee.

### ABC Roundtable Meeting

Several members of FINACT General Council were invited to a roundtable meeting organised by the ABC News Canberra team led by Julie Doyle and Troy Cuthbertson, on Wednesday 8 December at Nicholls Community House.

We had a good conversation, discussed how the ABC can better serve the audience and also issues that are important to provide coverage in local news. We thank ABC for taking time to listen to suggestions to improve TV and radio of coverage of our community events. Since the meeting, FINACT members have had increased engagement and coverage of news of interest to the community.

## 9. FINACT General Council Meetings

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### First GC Meeting October 2021

FINACT hosted its first General Council (GC) Zoom meeting on 18 October. Multicultural Minister Tara Cheyne graced the meeting as the chief guest. We thank the minister for taking time to meet with member organisations. The Minister acknowledged the amazing work done by FINACT members in the past 12 to 18 months in terms of supporting the Canberra Community during the pandemic. She also briefed the audience about the upcoming Multicultural Act as well as the community centre at EPIC. Finally, she encouraged associations to apply for the Multicultural Participation Grant.

It was a great opportunity for our member organisations to interact with the Minister showcasing the depth and breadth of community services provided by FINACT member organisations covering a wide range of topics such as organising cultural events, festivals, health and sports activities, music competitions, webinars, etc.

Minister Cheyne appreciated the introductions and expressed interest in engaging with FINACT and its member organisations in future. FINACT looks forward to continuing engagement with the Minister on a number of initiatives highlighted in the meeting including the community centre.

The meeting also hosted Azra Khan, Senior Director, Dr Sally Singleton, Medical Officer and Vanessa Dal Molin, Executive Branch Manager (Exemptions) from the ACT Health Directorate as guest speakers who have provided an update on various issues related to post-lockdown strategies.

### Second GC Meeting March 2022

Second GC meeting was held on 2 March 2022 hosted at Jaga in the City. We thank Laurie Blackhall, President and Clare McGrath Vice President, Neighbourhood Watch ACT for presenting an informative session on safety and security - Be Aware, Be Safe. Further information on GC proceedings can be found in the meeting minutes.

### Third GC Meeting May 2022

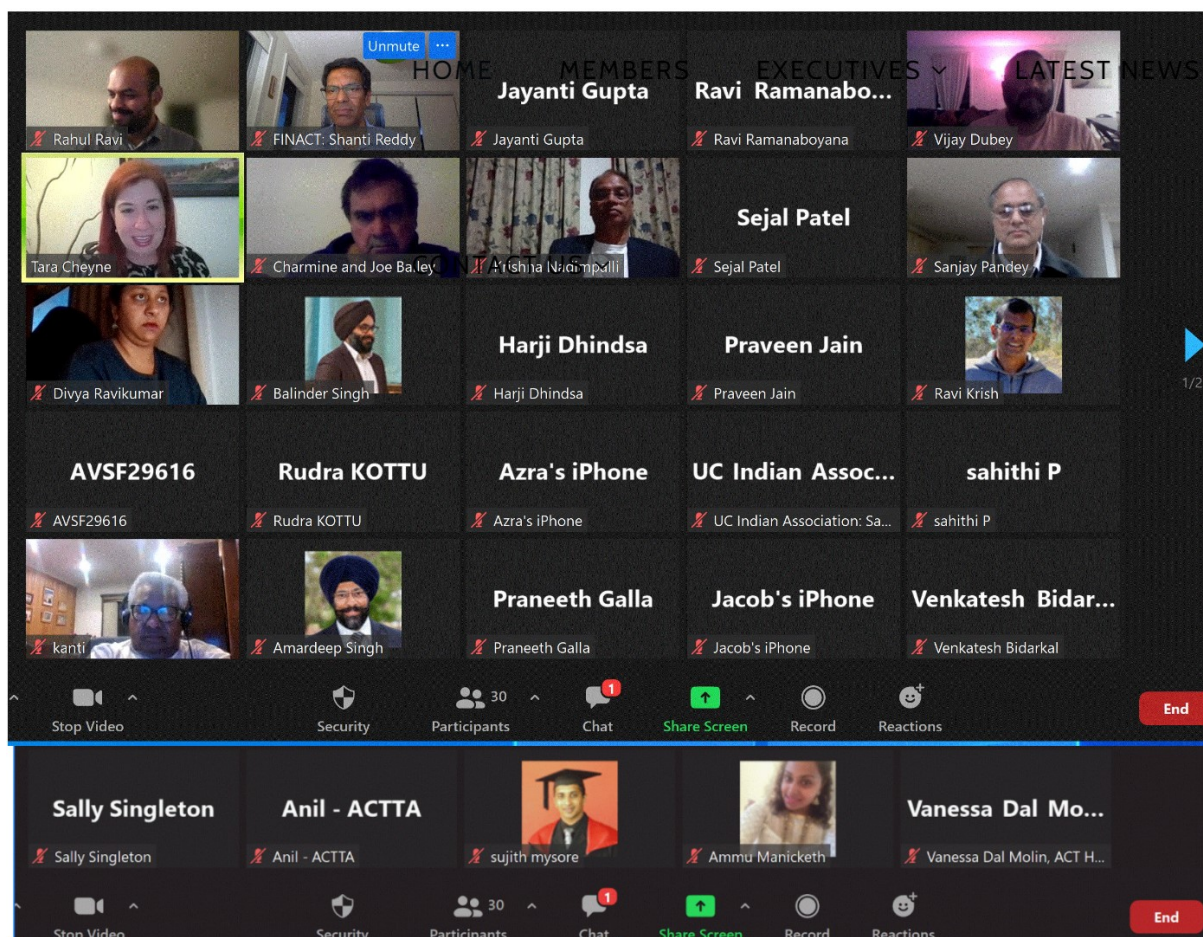
Dr Sally Gavin from Red Cross was the guest speaker at the FINACT General Council Meeting on 15 May. Dr Gavin highlighted a few facts related to



blood donation, encouraged the Indian community to come forward to donate blood, save lives.

1 in 3 of us are likely to need blood in our lifetime, yet only 1 in 30 donate. Aside from saving lives through blood donation, it's a unique opportunity for all of us to band together and give something more powerful than money.

Donated blood can be used to help people in all sorts of life-giving ways. The need is constant and the person receiving it could be fighting cancer or going through a difficult pregnancy, or they could be someone who relies on regular transfusions to stay healthy — or even, stay alive. Now that's something worth uniting for! FINACT encourages community members to come forward and support this good cause. You can donate at: GARRAN DONOR CENTRE, Red Cross House, 3 Dann Close, Garran or CIVIC PLASMA DONOR CENTRE 4 Mort St (Civic Bus Interchange). Please call 13 14 95 to make an appointment.



First GC Meeting (virtual), October 2021

# FINACT Second GC Meeting, March 2022





# FINACT Third GC Meeting, May 2022





## 10. FINACT Submissions

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### Inquiry into Racial Vilification

FINACT has been invited to make a submission to the inquiry into racial vilification in the ACT being conducted by the Education and Community Inclusion Committee.

FINACT hosted a community consultation session on 14 June 2022. The group discussed - social and work context in which discrimination occurs, effectiveness of existing reporting mechanisms, adequacy of existing processes and practices, value of establishing Anti-racism strategy for the ACT and raise the awareness through education. FINACT its report to the Committee on 26 June 2022. It will be available from ACT website once authorised for publication.

A person who faced racial discrimination in Canberra has created [the Hard Project](#), a platform for people to come forward and share their stories. It is dedicated to creating awareness and bringing about a social change in our multicultural society. This is a really good initiative to not only raise awareness but also do something about it. We encourage readers to look at [the Hard Project](#) and promote it.

### ACT Multicultural Recognition Bill 2022

FINACT welcomes the ACT Government's Exposure Draft Multicultural Recognition Bill 2022 for public consultation, open until 26 July.

The purpose of the Bill is to ensure that the ACT continues to grow as a welcoming, diverse, unified, and inclusive community. The Bill is set to be presented to the Legislative Assembly later this year and demonstrates a strong commitment to the vision of Canberra as a diverse and inclusive community. The Bill replaces the ACT Multicultural Framework and legislates the ACT Multicultural Advisory Council. A Multicultural Charter (Schedule 1) included in Bill describes eight principles declaring the Legislative Assembly's support to each and every individual in the ACT. FINACT organised a virtual consultation session with community members on 10 July seeking feedback on this topic. We received very good responses, including excellent

discussion on all four parts of the proposed bill. Currently drafting feedback for submission to the ACT government on 26 July.

## 11. FINACT - Other Activities

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### FINACT Ten-Year Celebrations & Special souvenir

As agreed at the FINACT General Council Meeting, a document capturing FINACT achievements over the last decade has been prepared. FINACT EC acknowledges the excellent leadership of the last six presidents who have steered the organisation to become such a successful and well-respected community group in the ACT. Currently the document is being finalised for release at a special function to be organised, following discussions at the July 2022 Annual General Meeting.

### AIBC Industry Networking

FINACT attended a fantastic networking event hosted by India in Australia (High Commission of India, Canberra) Australia India Business Council Ltd promoting Defence Industry collaboration between Australia and India as many members of Indian diaspora work in this industry specialising in STEM subjects. Increased industry collaboration between the two countries is great news for all of us.

### FINACT Job Network

Current labour market is very tight with the unemployment rate at historic lows. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find the right people for the right jobs. It is not uncommon to see job ads in the community WhatsApp groups. Despite this, temporary visa holders and students are finding it particularly difficult to find a suitable job in their respective field of study. This situation has prompted FINACT to start a new initiative to connect job seekers with employers. It is early days but we have taken small steps so far, such as creation of a WhatsApp chat group and a [FINACT LinkedIn business page](#) to connect with businesses. FINACT can support local businesses by connecting with potential employees from the community. We expect the next EC can take further action to promote it further and take it to a more operational

level. This initiative would also support large number of students who have finished studies, awaiting PR.

## FINACT Admin functions

To run an organisation like FINACT takes a lot of behind-the-scenes administrative work. For example, during this term we -

- submitted two grant acquittals (for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21)
- created an asset register, which we expect to maintain going forward
- established Google Workspace for not-for-profit, yet to be fully operationalised
- One successful grant application approved by the ACT Govt
- Submitted a detailed proposal for consideration under the federal government “fostering integration” grants round 2022.

## Media engagement

FINACT has had considerable, productive engagement with media outlets this year with ABC 666 Radio and local TV, SBS Radio and online news, Canberra Times, Riot ACT, Mix106.3, etc. We received considerable attention in the media this year and are happy to have established a very good working relationship with the media. FINACT is seen as a default point of contact for news items relevant to the Indian community.

## Australia celebrates India@75

FINACT works closely with the High Commission of India (HCI) on a range of issues of community interest, including celebration of India's 75th year of Independence ([Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav](#)). The Australian Government also celebrates [India@75](#).

FINACT supported High Commission Of India, Canberra, in organising a Bicycle Rally to celebrate India@75. It was a great day with fine weather and great company to ride around the lake with fellow Canberrans. FINACT intends to continue to work with the High Commission to organise similar events more often in future.





## India-Bangladesh Maitri Diwas

FINACT president was delighted to join 'Maitri Diwas' (Friendship Day) celebrations on 6 Dec marking the 50th anniversary of India-Bangladesh friendship.

## Cyber Safety Seminar for Parents Helping children to thrive in the digital world

FINACT members attended a very useful seminar organised by Fair Canberra, in partnership with the Research Cluster of Digital Inequality and Social Change (RC-disc) of University of Canberra, to support parents from multicultural and indigenous backgrounds. This event was held on Sunday 26 June 2022 from 10 to 1 pm at Lake Ginninderra College, 2 Emu Bank, Belconnen, ACT.

Thanks to Dr Ahmed Imran, Dr Catherine Jeffery, and Dr Suzi Keser for leading insightful discussion and strategies to ensure safe cyberlearning for kids. Presenters discussed additional online resources to help parents. Check out this online guide for parents - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/online-safety-book>. The session ended with an excellent networking lunch where attendees interacted with participants from diverse backgrounds.

## ANU 75th Anniversary

FINACT joined the ANU 75th anniversary celebrations at ANU campus, to acknowledge seventy-five years of outstanding service to the nation! FINACT congratulates ANU students, staff, and alumni on this occasion. We wish ANU many more years of success.



## Farewell Dinner for Mr Ajay Agarwal

FINACT hosted in-person get together on 23 October to say goodbyes to Mr. Ajay Agarwal from the High Commission of India. After 3 years of outstanding service in Canberra, Mr Agarwal is heading over to the next posting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Thanks to the gradual easing of COVID restrictions in ACT from 18 October, it was a great occasion to meet in-person over dinner. It was a quite relaxed and special evening where all members in attendance recounted fond memories working with Mr. Agarwal over the last three years.



HE Mr Manpreet Vohra, High Commissioner of India, thanked Mr Agarwal for his excellent service and support to the community. Mr Agarwal thanked everyone for the kind words and warm farewell.

## International Mother Language Walk

Lovely to see a large turnout at the International Mother Language Day walk and celebrations. Thanks to Telugu Badi for leading the Telugu language group, supported by Telugu Association of Canberra, ACT Telangana Association, and ACT Community Language Schools Association.

## International Day of Yoga - 18 June 2022

Thanks to the High Commission Of India, Canberra for organising a successful yoga workshop today at Melrose High School, on the occasion of 8th international day of yoga. Many community members participated in the yoga session under the guidance of yoga guru Vijay Arora.





## 12. FINACT Member Events

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### Canberra Hindu Mandir (CHM)

Canberra Hindu Mandir (CHM) was established in 2014, as a charitable organisation to build a large temple and vedic education facility in Canberra with the support from FINACT and its member associations. After strong lobbying over the years CHM has procured 1.5 acres (6000 square meters) land in Moncrieff, ACT to build the facility with over 2400 square meters of covered area.



The Development Plans were approved and Bhumi Puja was performed as per Agama Sastra. The facility will include temple, Utsav Hall for cultural celebrations festivals or all communities, weddings and functions for rituals, Vedic Education that includes library, yoga, meditations, language classes, a large kitchen to provide free meal once a week, Vegetarian Canteen for sustained funding and parking. Currently CHM is in the Building Approval process and planning to start the construction from 5 October 2022.



## Navratri Celebrations by Gujarati Samaj of ACT

Navratri is celebrated with devotion and full enthusiasm in Gujarat; however, it looked a little different this year for the Gujarati community in Canberra. The community sadly didn't enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of their favourite festival gathering together because of COVID restrictions, but they were fortunate to have a taste of the action by tuning into the virtual Navratri and live dandiya event organised by Gujarati Samaj of ACT. All the members, traditionally dressed, participated by playing Garba in their own home. Glimpse of which could be seen in the pictures below.

## IMSA - Pink Stump Day

The Indian Australian Multicultural Sports Association (IAMSAs), member of FINACT, organised a fun-filled, entertaining Pink Stump Day at Bonner Oval on 12 February

2022. The event was well attended including large number of dignitaries from ACT assembly and HCL.



## CMA Cultural Night

Canberra Malayalees Association (CMA) annual cultural night was a grand success. It was a fantastic, top-class entertainment that rocked the town! Hearty congratulations to CMA EC, volunteers and performers for bringing such a fabulous, inclusive event. Events like this not only bring out personal best in individuals and community, but also foster integration with the broader community.





### Canberra Telugu League (CTL) Award Ceremony

FINACT congratulates Canberra Telugu League, FINACT member, for successfully concluding the cricket season with a grand gala award ceremony at Albert hall on 10 April. With eleven teams playing in this tournament and more than 250 players, it was a massive effort that ran for more than 3 months with lots of fun. Congratulations to all participants, winners and runners of the 2022 cricket tournament. Award night was a memorable event! Well done all.





## TAC Ugadi / New Year Celebrations

FINACT member Telugu Association of Canberra organised a fabulous new year (Ugadi) celebrations on 1 May 2022. Apart from fantastic performance, the highlight of the program was awarding of graduate certificates to three young participants who have finished a 6-



language course on top of their regular studies - really amazing! Also, special on the night was awarding of winners of a popular music competition - Raagam Taanam Pallavi! Well done TAC. Keep up the great work!



## NATA Yug-adi / New Year Celebrations

FINACT member Navya Andhra Telugu Association (NATA) celebrated Yug-adi on 17 April 2022 at Albert Hall. It was such a fantastic showcase of cultural performances especially from the younger generation. Hearty congratulations to award recipients - Dr Govind Kotha and Dr Jackson Thomas for community and professional excellence.



## Australian Tamil Cultural Society of the ACT celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Congratulations to Australian Tamil Cultural Society of the ACT for hosting a fabulous cultural night on 7 May 2022 celebrating 30 years of service in nurturing and showcasing Tamil culture. All performances were very creative and entertaining. Well attended and very well organised event. Thanks to the Executive Committee and volunteers.





## ACT Telangana Association Cultural Night

ACT Telangana Association hosted its annual cultural night on Saturday 18 June from 4.30 to 11.30 pm at Harrison School. The event was attended by many dignitaries, Minister Tara Cheyne, Deputy High Commissioner Mr Mehta and Telugu Film industry legend Mr Ali, TV star Rakesh who have come all the



way from Telangana. It was a grant event that attracted more than 1000 people. A memorable night indeed - well done ACTTA!



## Royal Punjabi Gala Dinner

The Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association (CPSCA) is joyous that after two years of COVID-related restrictions it is holding its signature event, the fifth annual Royal Punjabi Dinner and Cultural evening (RPD) on 23 July 2022. The last pre-COVID RPD in 2019 was sold out and could not accommodate all requests to attend due to space limitation. It attracted over 750 people. It is a non-alcoholic family only event and participation are by invitation.

## 13. Homage to Paul Muthiah

Dr Palaniappan Muthiah, B.Sc, B.Sc (Tech), M.Sc (Tech), Ph.D, B.B.A., Grad. Dip in Public Administration, CPA, Justice of the Peace of ACT

Dr Muthiah has been a resident of Australia for 46 years. Well known in the Tamil community as "Uncle", contributed so much to the Tamil Society, Chennai Tamil School and the multicultural community in Canberra. He is the founder and president of Tamil Society over 30 years. We fondly remember his contribution, energy and dedication to the Canberra Tamil community and broader community. He was deeply passionate about promoting the Tamil Language, culture and Thirukkural. He was so passionate in getting the Tamil language recognized. He gave his knowledge, expertise, and skills to the Chennai Tamil School. Albert Einstein said, "The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive".



With his passion in Thirukkural, he lived a life to the high values as per this kural. தோன்றின் புகழொடு தோன்றுக அஃதிலார் தோன்றலின் தோன்றாமை நன்று.

It translates to "If you are born in this world, be born with qualities and use it for fame. From those who are destitute of them it will be better not to be born". A genuinely warm and wonderful individual will be missed greatly. We have the honour to know him personally. The inspiration and commitment he has shown will live in the hearts of Canberrans forever.

## 14. FINACT 2022 Events Calendar

A [live calendar showing key events](#) of FINACT and its member organisations is now available. This should help member organisations and community members to see all the upcoming events in one place. This should also allow members to plan better and hopefully avoid scheduling conflicts in planning major events. We encourage members to enter their events in the calendar to ensure it is up to date.

## 15. FINACT Sponsors

Sincere thanks to our sponsors. Please support them so they can support us!



The High Commission of India

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government

**Event sponsor** - Arvensys Group of Companies

**Gold sponsor** - Aris Zinc & Strategic

### Silver Sponsors

Aussie Gungahlin  
 State Bank of India, Australia  
 EmploySURE  
 Canberra BMW  
 HSBC  
 Blu Ginger  
 FLINTPro

### Other Sponsors

Desi Canberra (media partner)  
 Associated Accounting Services  
 Punjab Homes  
 Capital Green Energy



## 16. FINACT 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, South 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.

Some of the key events conducted are Telangana Formation Day celebrations, Bathukamma festival,

Educational Scholarships in Telangana State, Clean-up Australia, Tree plantations with High Commission of India and ACT Government, participated in Multicultural Festival, Vanabojanalu and Bush fire fund rising, Stall in Diwali festival in Parliament and Donated Groceries for 150 families in Telangana during COVID-19.

#### Contact Details

- Contact Persons – Ramesh Kyla
- Email : [members@actta.org.au](mailto:members@actta.org.au)
- Website: <http://www.actta.org.au/>

### 2. Australian Anglo-Indian Association of Canberra

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](mailto:joe.bailey@bigpond.com)

### 3. Australian Tamil Cultural Society (ATCS)

ATCS provides cultural and social functions and helps Tamils and people from India to settle in Australia. Organises debates and educates people in relation to Tamil literature. Classes teaching Tamil for children. Participate in the Multicultural programme at the ACT. Bring

together the Tamil Community. Teach Cultural activities such as Dancing, Singing etc to our community people. Running the Chennai Tamil School to teach Tamil Language to our community. Organize tours etc. Organise cultural programmes. Bring together our community people and mix with the Australian Society.



#### Contact Details

- Contact Person - Ravi Krishnamurthy
- Email: [atcs.act@gmail.com](mailto:atcs.act@gmail.com)
- Website: <http://www.atcs.org.au/>

### 4. Bengali Cultural Association of Canberra

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

#### Contact Details

- Contact Person – Soma Chakrabarty
- Email: [secretarycanberra.bca@gmail.com](mailto:secretarycanberra.bca@gmail.com)

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

With 'Connecting people abroad' as our objective and acknowledging 'संघे शक्ति कलियुगे' (unity is strength in this age), we organise family get together, celebrate festivals, assist new migrants, share information and cooperate with other community groups across Australia and New Zealand.



The association has been organising 3 Milans (get together) in Canberra uninterrupted for since 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.bjism.org/>
- FaceBook - @BiharJharkhand
- Twitter - @BJSMAusNZ

### 6. Canberra Hindu Mandir Incorporated (CHM)

The aim of CHM is to provide 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 donations to communities at work blood donations Cedric classes and music other activities incidental to the functioning of the temple.
- Activities include fund raising at multicultural festival celebrations of Guru poornima, world curry festival, procured statues from India for the temple in June 2016 and celebrated the anniversary of the statues' reception day.

#### Contact Details

- Contact Person - Krishna Nadimpalli
- Website – [www.hindumandir.org.au](http://www.hindumandir.org.au)
- Facebook - @canberrahindumandir



## 7. Canberra Jain Mandal (CJM)

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

- President - Praveen Jain
- Email: [president.cjm@gmail.com](mailto:president.cjm@gmail.com), [secretary.cjm@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cjm@gmail.com)

## 8. Canberra Malayalee Association (CMA)

The Canberra Malayalees Association celebrates festivals and organises cultural programs relating to Keralite/Malayalee culture. CMA organises four get-togethers during the year: for Onam, Christmas, Cultural Nite and Malayalee barbecue. Sports activities include cricket (Canberra Malayalee Cricket Club), soccer, basketball, and badminton.



### Contact Details

- President : Ammu Suresh
- Email: [president@canberramalayalee.org](mailto:president@canberramalayalee.org)
- Facebook: @CBRMalayalees
- Website: <http://canberramalayalee.org/>

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

The Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association promotes Punjabi culture through literature, music, dance, food, traditional knowledge and sports; provides guidance and support to community; and advocates



for community issues. CPSCA participates in the ACT multicultural activities and

#### Contact Details

- President : Harjinder Dhindsa
- Email: cpsca2014@gmail.com
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cpsca2014/>

### 10. Canberra Sikh Association

The Canberra Sikh Association (CSA) is an incorporated association and a not-for-profit charitable organisation that achieves its aims and objectives through the active involvement of its members. We are witnessing many of these changes and it could not be better time to be part of CSA and help



drive the change for better. There are significant areas of potential development for the Sikh Community in the ACT region and this cannot be done without the support.

#### Contact Details

- Contact Person - Jagjit Singh Ramgharia
- Email: [canberrasikhassociation@gmail.com](mailto:canberrasikhassociation@gmail.com)
- Website: <https://www.canberrasikhassociation.com/>

### 11. Canberra Telugu League

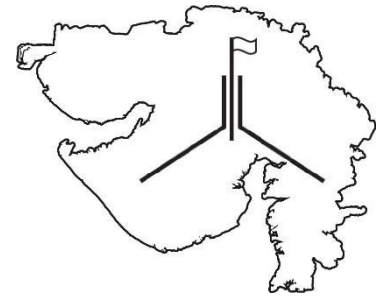
CTL has been formed in the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup Format where each of the 7 Telugu Teams play against each other with a total of 24 matches inclusive of the Family Friendly Grand Finals.

#### Contact Details

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

## 12. Gujarati Samaj of ACT

Gujarati Samaj of Canberra organizes many Gujarati cultural events and programs in Canberra. It has organised various events 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](mailto:volunteers@gujaratisamajcanberra.com)
- Facebook: @Gujarati Samaj of Canberra

## 13. India Australia Multicultural Sports Association

### Contact Details

- Contact Person - Sanjay Sharma
- Email: [sanjay231sharma@yahoo.com](mailto:sanjay231sharma@yahoo.com)

## 14. Indian Australian Association of Health and Well-being

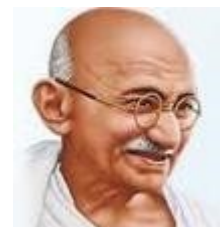
### Contact Details

- Contact Person - ChittiBabu Divi
- Email: [Divi.Haritha@gmail.com](mailto:Divi.Haritha@gmail.com)

## 15. Indian Senior Citizens Association

Recognising the cultural differences and demands, Indian Senior Citizens Association was formed in Canberra (ACT) caters 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

- President – Vijay Puri
- Email: vijaypuri63@hotmail.com
- Website: <http://indianseniors.org/>

## 16. Indian Students' Association - ANU (InSA)

Indian Students' Association (INSA) at 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 – Rushabh Khara
- Email – [weareinsa@gmail.com](mailto:weareinsa@gmail.com)
- Facebook - @ Indian Students' Association-ANU

## 17. Initiatives for Women in Needs

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 by Dr. Madhumita IYENGAR, IWIn also supports activities to elevate wellbeing of under-privileged



women and children in India through partnership with NGOs operating at a grassroots 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](mailto:iwinact@gmail.com)
- Website: <https://www.iwinact.org/>
- Facebook: @ Initiatives For Women In Need – IwiN

### 18. Integrated Cultures ACT

Integrated Cultures ACT Inc. 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](mailto:iwomensnetwork@gmail.com)
- Website: <http://www.integratedcultures.org/>

### 19. Karnataka Association of Canberra

Karnataka Association of Canberra, also referred to as KAC is a non-profit organization primarily aimed at networking for Kannadigas in Australian Capital Territory. It is incorporated in Canberra, Australia. KAC was founded in 2004, after Kannada speaking community leaders of the time envisioned a bright future for the Kannadigas of Canberra. On November 2010 KAC is a registered association, where office-bearers were elected. The organization hosts numerous festival



events, ceremonies, and excursion throughout the year. KAC has history of celebrating these events with pomp and glamour and dedicated to members of KAC.

### Contact Details

- President – Deepashri Bargur
- Email - [\\_ kac\\_committee@yahoo.com](mailto:kac_committee@yahoo.com)
- Website: <https://www.kannadaincanberra.com/>

## 20. Madhya Pradesh Association of Australia

It is a newly formed association in 2020, formed to promote Madhya Pradesh amongst the people hailing from Madhya Pradesh in ACT as well as the work with the Indian Community at large.

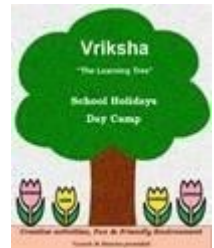
### Contact Details

- President – Vijay Dubey
- Email – [vicdubey@gmail.com](mailto:vicdubey@gmail.com)

## 21. Mandir School of Music

The school operates in the Canberra to enable the members of the Indian community to pursue their passion for carnatic music. The school offers shastriya sangetham classes to students of all age groups as well as shloka classes to children. The school provides an opportunity to the local Indian community to continue to connect and keep alive our rich Indian culture. The students have access to a structured classical

music curriculum and children sit through exams starting with basic to advanced levels. Mandir School of Music conducts annual stage concerts and actively participates at the local events e.g. multicultural festival, Diwali mela. Vriksha is a group of professionals with branches of education, culture, music and mathematical learning for your kids.



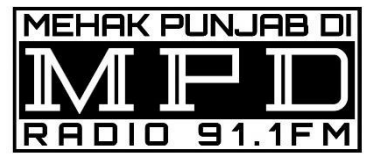


### Contact Details

- Contact Person – Ragini Santhanam
- Email - [raginis@iinet.net.au](mailto:raginis@iinet.net.au)
- Website: <http://vriksha.org/>

## 22. Mehak Punjab Di Radio

Mehak Punjab Di Radio 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. The program provides local and subcontinental news, sports news and weather updates, including information on current activities in the ACT and the region. Also featuring Punjabi music, both old and contemporary. Mehak Punjab Di Radio broadcasts every Saturday from 8am to 9am.



### Contact Details

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

## 23. Navya Andhra Telugu Association (NATA)

Representing Andhra Pradesh in Australia NATA is formed in 2014 after Andhra Pradesh evolved as new state with an old name. Our motivation is to support everyone associated with Andhra Pradesh in every possible way. We put our best efforts to integrate culture from our homeland with Australian culture. We strive to help



community and other local communities to understand different lifestyles associated and develop harmony within. NATA on its part contribute to help local communities in various aspects.

NATA conducted Yoga Seminars which helps to promote healthy lifestyle. NATA conducts IT Seminar every year where successful Subject Matter Experts from various domains run a workshop with information of emerging technologies & associated career opportunities NATA takes every opportunity to organize cultural & spiritual events.

### Contact Details

- President– Sahithi Paturi
- Email - [president@nata.org.au](mailto: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. The vision is to sustain an Odia Community in Australia that is engaged, vibrant and inclusive.



We work to build an active, engaged, and inclusive Odia community in Australia. We maintain a community platform so that members can support each other for social and emotional wellbeing. We provide 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

- Contact: DR Nalini Pati
- Email: [oriozcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:oriozcommunity@gmail.com)
- Website: <https://www.orioz.org.au/>
- Facebook: @ORIOZCommunity

## 25. Pink Umbrella Inc

The Pink Umbrella Inc is a registered public charity established in 2014. It works for the immigrant communities for their physical and social health, awareness of mental health stigma, social issues like domestic abuse prevention, and empowerment of youth and women.



### Contact Details

- Contact Person - Dr Pravati Panigrahi
- Email: [pinkumbrella01@gmail.com](mailto:pinkumbrella01@gmail.com)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pinkumbrella/>

## 26. Rajasthan Sabha of Australia and New Zealand

Rajasthan Sabha of Australia and New Zealand is a group of individuals who originate from the State of Rajasthan and work together to promote the Rajasthani Culture in Australia and New Zealand.



### Contact Details

- Contact Person – Lakhan Sharma
- Email: [lsharma.act@gmail.com](mailto:lsharma.act@gmail.com)
- Facebook: @ rajasthansabha

## 27. Rajdhani Marathi Mandal Canberra (RMMC)

RMMC was 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.
- Function as a non-profit and a non-political organization.

### Contact Details

- Contact Person – Vikranth Vandale
- Email: [mmc.can@gmail.com](mailto:mmc.can@gmail.com)
- Facebook: @Rajdhani Marathi Mandal Canberra
- Website: <https://canberramarathi.org/>

## 28. 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

- President – Shaji Karattiyattil
- Facebook: @ Sprintz Inc

## 29. Telugu Association of Canberra

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



TAC Has been working with and for the people to bring everyone together and being there for each other in the hour of need. Telugu Association of Canberra works to reinforce and refine our outreach efforts by bringing people and traditions together.

### Contact Details

- President – Rudra Kuttu
- Email: [teluguassociationcanberra@gmail.com](mailto:teluguassociationcanberra@gmail.com)
- Website: <https://tacanberra.org/>
- Facebook: @TACanberra

## 30. UC Indian Association (UCIA)

UCA is a non-profit organization aimed at facilitating a space of sharing for the students of University of Canberra away from their homes. The Association is aimed to supporting the Indian students currently studying at University of Canberra through various social and cultural events.



### Contact Details

- President – Ashwin Padmanabhan
- Email: [uc.indianassociation@gmail.com](mailto:uc.indianassociation@gmail.com)
- Facebook: @UCIndiAssoc

## 31. Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN)

Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN) was created to promote and foster better connections among multicultural community including youth, women and seniors.

AMAN aims to achieve this by:

- providing opportunities to connect, develop and maintain interest based activities;
- developing and promoting friendships with other multicultural groups within the community;
- promoting art, education and cultural of the multicultural community and
- where possible, providing opportunities to learn from each other in a fun

environment

### Contact details

Contact person - Radha Ravi

Email - [president.amanact@gmail.com](mailto:president.amanact@gmail.com)

Facebook - [facebook.com/AmanActCanberra](https://www.facebook.com/AmanActCanberra)

website - [www.amanact.org.au](http://www.amanact.org.au)(under construction)





# 2021-22 Annual Report

A Year of Accomplishments.

We thank all our sponsors, supporters and partners for their support throughout the year 2021-22 and look forward to their patronage in the coming year.



**Federation of Indian Associations of ACT**

**Coordination :: Cooperation :: Collaboration**

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