



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)



FINACT ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 25

AGM 17Aug 2025

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The Federation of Indian Associations of ACT Inc (FINACT) acknowledges the traditional custodians of Canberra and the surrounding regions, the Ngunnawal people. We respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of Canberra and surrounding regions.





OUR PROFILE

The Federation of Indian Associations of ACT Inc (FINACT) was officially launched on 31 July 2011. FINACT provides a responsible and responsive channel of communication between the Indian Australian community, and the Governments (Federal, the Territory/State and the Indian Government through High commission Of India).

FINACT stands for: **F**raternity, **I**nclusiveness, **N**etworking, **A**ssistance, **C**ooperation, and **T**eamwork.

OUR VISION

To be the peak body representing all Indian Community Groups in the Australian Capital Territory and surrounding region; to advocate on matters of interest to the Indian Communities; to promote Indian Art & Culture and to foster friendships with the wider Australian Community.

OUR OBJECTIVES

FINACT provides a unified platform for its member associations, working to advance the interests of people of Indian origin in the ACT and surrounding regions. We act as a bridge between the community and governments—Federal, Territory, and Indian—on matters of welfare, social, and economic importance.

We are committed to fostering mutual respect and inclusion through cultural exchange, sports, recreation, and community engagement. By promoting awareness of Indians as responsible Australian citizens, FINACT strengthens both multicultural understanding and social cohesion.

Looking ahead, a key goal is to establish an “India Centre” in the ACT—a community and resource hub for the benefit of our member organisations and the wider community.

OUR MEMBERS (2024-25)- Team FINACT

FINACT welcomes all Indian organisations whose membership includes a majority of persons of Indian origin and whose aims and activities are consistent with those of FINACT. Currently FINACT has 29 members and information about them is available at 'FINACT Members At A Glance' later in this Annual Report:



1. ACT TELANGANA ASSOCIATION (ACTTA)
2. AUSTRALIAN ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA
3. AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL ACTION NETWORK (AMAN)
4. AUSTRALIAN TAMIL CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ACT (ATCS)
5. BIHAR JHARKHAND SABHA OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND (BJSN)
6. CANBERRA HINDU MANDIR (CHM)
7. CANBERRA JAIN MANDAL (CJM)
8. CANBERRA MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION (CMA)
9. CANBERRA MULTICULTURAL ARTS ASSOCIATION (CMAA)
10. CANBERRA PUNJABI SPORTS AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION INC (CPSCA)
11. CANBERRA TELUGU LEAGUE (CTL)
12. GUJARATI SAMAJ OF ACT (GSA)
13. HARYANA ASSOCIATION OF ACT
14. INDIA AUSTRALIA MULTICULTURAL SPORTS ASSOCIATION (IAMS)
15. INDIAN AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING (HAWAII)
16. INDIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (INSA)
17. INDIAN SENIOR CITIZENS (ISC)
18. INTEGRATED CULTURES ACT INC
19. KARNATAKA ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA (KAC)
20. MADHYA PRADESH ASSOCIATION
21. MANDIR SCHOOL OF MUSIC
22. MEHAK PUNJAB DI RADIO
23. NAVYA ANDHRA TELUGU ASSOCIATION (NATA)
24. PINK UMBRELLA
25. RAJASTHANI SAMAJ OF CANBERRA
26. RAJDHANI MARATHI MANDAL CANBERRA
27. TELUGU ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA (TAC)
28. UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA INDIAN ASSOCIATION (UCIA)



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

FINACT Executive Committee 2024-25

FINACT had its AGM on 27th July and elected Office bearers and in turn selected the Executive committee members through EOI. Introducing our proud and dedicated Executive Committee members for 2024-25, who will work to manage and implement FINACT initiatives. Together, we bring diverse skills and experiences that will guide FINACT toward achieving our collective goals.



FINACT Executive Committee, Public Officer, Ex-officio 2024-25



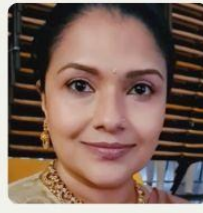
Roshan Menon
President



Manohar Vemuri
Vice President



Praveen Jain
Secretary



Tess Manuel
Treasurer



Paramdeep Nrain
Public Officer



Sridevi Embar Gopinath
Media Coordinator



Roopa Rao
Cultural Coordinator



Sudheer Madnure
Sports Coordinator



Praneeth Galla
Ausindia Coordinator



Pravati Panigrahi
Chetna Coordinator



Priyanka Mishra
Womens Representative



Vijay Kumar Puri
Seniors Representative



Mihir Pandey
INSA Students Coordinator



Sanjeevan Suresh
UCIA Students Coordinator



Harjinder Dhindsa
Ex-officio



FINACT's Financial Health and Fundings

FINACT continues to maintain a healthy financial position through a combination of grants, sponsorships, and upcoming funding commitments. The organisation has strategically allocated funds to support flagship events, initiatives like Sakhi and Chetna, seniors' programs, and collaborative community activities.

Major Funding Sources

Election Promise Funding

FINACT was offered **\$50,000** as part of a Labor election commitment by Senator Katy Gallagher and publicly announced by Dr Andrew Leigh MP prior to the elections. Following the Labor Party's re-election and Senator Gallagher's return to office, her team has confirmed that this funding will be **delivered in early 2026**. This commitment will provide a substantial boost to FINACT's ability to deliver impactful community programs.

Grants, Other sources Received in 2024–2025

- ACT Multicultural Participation Grant 2023–2024 – **\$3,500**
- Community Support and Infrastructure Grant 2023-24 - **\$2594**
- Australia Day 2025 Grant – **\$16,500** (incl. GST)
- Multicultural Grassroots Grant for Aus India Fair 2025– **\$16,500**(incl. GST)
- Youth Week Grant – **\$1,250**
- HCI Financial Support for events - **\$11000**
- MHUB - **\$1200**
- Sponsorship - **\$6100**

Grants to use and Commitment in 2025–2026

- ACT Multicultural Participation Grant 2024–2025(use by Jun2026) – **\$3000**
- Multicultural Grassroots Grant for Aus India Fair 2026 (Payment in Nov 2025)– **\$16,500**

Financial Sustainability Outlook

With the confirmed election promise and the successful acquisition of multiple grants, FINACT is well-positioned to continue delivering large-scale events, expand its community outreach programs, and strengthen collaboration with partners. The Executive Committee remains committed to ensuring prudent financial management, seeking new funding avenues, and increasing sponsorship engagement to sustain growth and impact in future years.



Acknowledgements

We extend sincere thanks to the leaders for their 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

Hon Senator David Pocock

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

Mr David Smith MP

ACT Legislative Assembly

Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister ACT

Mr Michael Petterson, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, ACT

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services, Minister for Seniors and Veterans

Ms Marissa Patterson, Minister for Women, Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence

Ms Rachel Steven Smith, Minister for Health, Minister for Finance

Mr Andrew Braddock MLA, Deputy Speaker

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Leader of Greens

Ms Leanne Castley MLA, Leader of the Opposition ACT

Ms Chiaka Barry MLA, Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Mr Mark Parton MLA

Mr James Milligan MLA

High Commission of India

HE Mr Gopal Baglay, High Commissioner of India, Canberra

Ms. Irina Thakur, Deputy High Commissioner of India, Canberra

Ms Sweety Agarwal, Counsellor (C & CW), High Commissioner of India, Canberra

Volunteers

Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped during FINACT events.



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

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President's Messages

I am deeply honoured to have served as the President of the Federation of Indian Associations of ACT (FINACT) for 2024–25. At the start of our term, we set out four key priorities: **Chetna – Stronger, Safer Families; Empowering Women through Sakhi; Engaging Youth and Students; and Supporting Our Seniors**. I am proud to report that, with the dedication of our Executive Committee and the active involvement of our member organisations, we have delivered meaningful progress in each of these areas.



Delivering on Our Priorities

- **Chetna – Stronger, Safer Families:** Through culturally sensitive workshops and awareness campaigns, we raised awareness about preventing family violence, reducing stress, and fostering resilience in Indian-Australian families. These programs not only created safer spaces but also laid the foundation for ongoing community wellbeing. Importantly, after consultations with stakeholders and member organisations, we developed and announced a **Community Champion Framework**—a pioneering initiative that will train and equip champions from each community to act as trusted first responders. This framework will ensure that families in need have immediate, culturally aware support within their own community.
- **Sakhi – Empowering Women:** Our Sakhi initiative brought women together through peer networks, social events, and workshops that encouraged participation across cultural and professional lines. These engagements strengthened women's confidence, visibility, and role in the broader Canberra community.
- **Youth & Students:** By creating opportunities for leadership development, mentorship, and cultural participation, we empowered young people to step forward as future leaders. Their active involvement in events has shown us that the next generation is ready to take FINACT's vision further.
- **Supporting Seniors:** We organised programs that enabled our seniors to remain socially connected and engaged, while celebrating their invaluable wisdom and experiences. This work strengthened intergenerational ties and reinforced respect for their contributions.



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

Financial Stability and Growth

Another major achievement this year has been securing **strong financial stability for FINACT**. Through successful grants—including the ACT Multicultural Participation Grant, the Australia Day 2025 Grant, the Multicultural Grassroots Grant for FY2024–25 and FY2025–26, and the Youth Week Grant 2025—we have expanded our funding base to support diverse community initiatives. Importantly, we also secured a **\$50,000 commitment from the Federal Labor Government**, reaffirmed by Senator Katy Gallagher and Andrew Leigh MP. This milestone provides FINACT with the resources and confidence to continue building programs of long-term impact.

Strengthening Relationships

We engaged actively with dignitaries and stakeholders at the ACT, Federal, and Indian Government levels, as well as community organisations. These partnerships have reinforced FINACT's position as a trusted, unified voice of the Indian diaspora in Canberra.

Constitution Amendment

Another milestone was the **Constitution Amendment**, ensuring FINACT is prepared for the future. The Constitution Review Committee (CRC 2025), ably led by **Mr. Praveen Jain** with the guidance of senior members **Mr. Vijay Puri, Ms. Sahiti Paturi, and Mr. Venkatesh Bidarka**, undertook months of consultation and discussion. Their efforts culminated in the successful approval of amendments at the SGCM, laying a strong foundation for the organisation's long-term governance and sustainability.

Looking Ahead

As we conclude this term, I reflect with pride on how far we have come. Together, we have delivered on our priorities, strengthened the financial health of FINACT, and set a strong foundation for the future. The achievements of this year are not just ours—they are a platform for the committees that will follow, ensuring FINACT continues to grow as a unifying, empowering, and respected organisation.

I sincerely thank our member organisations, community partners, government stakeholders, and the dedicated Executive Committee for their support and collaboration. Together, we have shown what can be achieved when we act with unity, vision, and purpose.

Let us continue to work hand-in-hand to build a stronger, safer, and more vibrant community for all.

Thank you for your trust and support.

Warm regards,
Roshan Menon



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

Message from High Commission of India



On behalf of the High Commission of India, Canberra, I extend warm greetings and congratulations to the Federation of Indian Associations of ACT (FINACT) for its service to the multicultural Indian diaspora.

During 2024–25, FINACT delivered impactful initiatives including Chetna parenting and mental health webinars, the 5K Run for Wellbeing, International Women's Day, the Seniors Meet & Greet, the FINACT–HCI multicultural stall, and the India Parade. The High Commission was happy to lend its support. We also acknowledge your valued role in the Yuva Mela, continuing to welfare of students and further strengthening community bonds.

Your flagship events — Australia Day celebrations, the AusIndia Fair, and FINACT T20 Cricket — have enriched Canberra's cultural calendar and promoted unity, inclusion, and pride.

We commend FINACT's leadership in standing up against the menace of terrorism through initiatives such as the Candlelight Vigil in support of the Pahalgam victims and public statement condemning the barbaric terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

Chetna's initiatives — from building strong family dynamics through webinars to the new Community Champion Program — will be significant in training leaders as first responders to domestic violence and linking them with government services. Alongside Sakhi's work empowering women, these lay solid foundations for future progress.

The High Commission of India values its collaboration with FINACT and looks forward to continuing our shared journey of promoting community wellbeing, cultural pride, and stronger India–Australia ties.

Yours sincerely,

Gopal Baglay

High Commissioner of India to Australia

Canberra



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

Message from Minister Katy Gallagher

Dear Members and Friends of FINACT,

It is my pleasure to provide this message of support for the Federation of Indian Associations of ACT's Annual Report for 2024-25.

Throughout my years representing the ACT, I have watched with admiration as FINACT has grown to become a vital pillar of our multicultural community. As the Indian diaspora continues to be one of the fastest growing communities in Australia, your organisation's role in supporting new arrivals while strengthening established connections has never been more important.

Your tireless work throughout 2024-25 – from vibrant cultural celebrations to youth programmes and community support initiatives – exemplifies the spirit of inclusion that makes Canberra such a special place. The Indian Australian community's remarkable contributions across our public service, healthcare, education, business and technology sectors continue to enrich our territory.

I particularly commend FINACT's Executive Committee, member associations, and volunteers who work so hard to build bridges between communities. Your dedication to promoting cultural harmony and wellbeing benefits not just the Indian Australian community, but all Canberrans.

I look forward to continuing our partnership as we build an even stronger, more connected ACT together.

Kind regards,

Katy Gallagher

Senator for the ACT

Minister for Finance

Minister for Women

Minister for the Public Service

Minister for Government Services



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

Message from MP David Smith



In late August 2024, I had the opportunity to meet with the new executive team of FINACT. This new executive team projects energy and enthusiasm that will undoubtedly deliver great success for this multicultural organisation. Our meeting discussed a range of topics, and I look forward to working with this new team.

I would like to acknowledge the great work this Federation continues to do and its endeavours to promote an understanding and appreciation of culture and the contributions Indian-Australians make to the ACT. The events this organisation run are not exclusive, they are inclusive. They are focused on the participation of the greater community, sharing cultural tradition through education, music, charity, and my personal favourite: food.

I always value your input and collaboration when it comes to the challenges and opportunities that multicultural diasporas can have, and the collective spirit that brings you together to help everyone in the community.

The Albanese Government knows that the community is doing it tough right now, and that is why we are doing everything we can to deliver cost of living relief, without adding pressure to inflation. We will always show up, take responsibility, and bring people together to find solutions to the problems facing Australia.

If I can assist with any federal issues, such as Services Australia, immigration, NDIS , or Federal grants assistance, please do not hesitate to get in contact with my office on (02) 6293 1344 or on David.Smith.MP@aph.gov.au. Also feel free to drop into my electorate office, located at 205 Anketell Street, Greenway ACT 2900.

Mr David Smith MP

Member for Bean

Government Whip



Meetings with Dignitaries & Stakeholders

- **FINACT meeting with Senator Katy Gallagher**

In December 2024, representatives of the FINACT Executive Committee and the Chetna Team met with Senator Katy Gallagher to present and discuss FINACT's initiatives in supporting stronger, safer families and empowering women in the ACT Indian community.

During the meeting, FINACT highlighted two of its flagship initiatives: Sakhi & Chetna

Senator Gallagher acknowledged FINACT's proactive role in addressing sensitive community issues through culturally sensitive and early intervention strategies. She noted that the success of Sakhi and Chetna demonstrates their potential to create lasting change in the community by empowering women, families, and young people.

Following the meeting, Senator Gallagher issued a Letter of Support for FINACT's application under the 2024–25 ACT Government's Women's Participation Grant Program, recognising the importance of sustained funding to continue developing and delivering these vital programs.

She emphasised that the ongoing success of these initiatives would not only strengthen the Indian-Australian community but also contribute positively to the broader ACT society by promoting safety, resilience, and wellbeing.

- **FINACT meeting with Andrew Leigh MP**

Representatives from the FINACT Executive Committee met with Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Federal Member for Fenner, prior to the 2025 Federal Election. During the discussion, FINACT highlighted its role in advancing stronger, safer families (through Chetna), empowering women (through Sakhi), and fostering multicultural unity via community events like the AusIndia Fair, Australia Day celebrations, and the T20 Cricket Tournament.

The meeting helped underscore FINACT's holistic approach to supporting CALD communities—spanning social cohesion, public safety, and cultural celebration. Prompted by this engagement, **Dr Leigh announced, via a media release, a \$50,000 funding commitment for FINACT from the re-elected Federal Labor Government.**

This election promise will support key FINACT initiatives in 2026, including the Community Champions Program under Chetna, Sakhi Women's Day, Yuva Gala, AusIndia Fair, and community sports tournaments. According to Dr Leigh, "This funding recognises the real impact of their work—fostering inclusion, encouraging participation, and strengthening social ties."

Media release link -

https://www.andrewleigh.com/media_release_labor_government_to_invest_in_act_multicultural_community_programs



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

- **FINACT meeting with ACT Multicultural Minister**

The FINACT Executive Committee had the opportunity to meet with Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs, to discuss ongoing and future community initiatives.

During the meeting, FINACT highlighted its commitment to building stronger multicultural connections in Canberra through flagship events such as the Australia Day Community Celebration, the AusIndia Fair, and the FINACT T20 Cricket Tournament. These initiatives have become major cultural platforms that promote inclusion, diversity, and community spirit, drawing participation from both the Indian diaspora and the broader ACT community.

The Executive Committee also briefed the Minister on FINACT's social impact initiatives, including:

Chetna – Stronger, Safer Families, Sakhi – Empowering Women, providing peer networks, Seniors' Engagement Programs, designed to keep seniors connected, active, and valued within the community.

Minister Pettersson welcomed FINACT's contributions to multicultural Canberra and recognised the association's role as a peak umbrella body representing diverse Indian organisations. He encouraged continued collaboration with the ACT Government to ensure that multicultural initiatives not only celebrate cultural diversity but also address broader community needs such as social cohesion, wellbeing, and equal participation.

This meeting reaffirmed FINACT's partnership with the ACT Government and strengthened its position as a trusted voice in advancing multiculturalism, social harmony, and inclusivity in Canberra.

- **FINACT meeting with ACT Minister for Women & Domestic Violence**

The FINACT Executive Committee met with Ms Marissa Paterson MLA, ACT Minister for Women & Domestic Violence, to present and discuss FINACT's key initiatives, particularly Sakhi and Chetna.

The Committee provided a detailed briefing on:

Sakhi – Empowering Women, which creates peer support networks, encourages women's participation, and promotes mental health and financial independence.

Chetna – Stronger, Safer Families, which runs culturally sensitive education programs, workshops, and awareness campaigns to prevent family violence and foster resilience in Indian-Australian families.

The Minister commended these initiatives, recognising their role in addressing domestic and family violence in culturally diverse communities.

Connecting with Support Services. As a result of the meeting, Minister Paterson facilitated connections for FINACT with key ACT services, including:

- Women's Legal Centre ACT
- Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS)
- ACT Legal Aid



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

These collaborations have strengthened FINACT's capacity to support women and families by ensuring access to professional services alongside its own community-based initiatives.

The Committee also provided the Minister with a brief overview of FINACT's flagship multicultural events—the Australia Day Community Celebration, AusIndia Fair, and FINACT T20 Cricket Tournament—highlighting their role in promoting inclusion, cultural celebration, and community wellbeing. This meeting strengthened FINACT's partnership with the ACT Government and reinforced its position as a community leader in the areas of women's empowerment, family wellbeing, and multicultural engagement.

- **FINACT meeting with HCI Officials, Counsellor Ms. Sweety Agarwal & First Secretary (Consular) Mr. Rajeev Goswami**

On 27th August 2024, the FINACT core team met with Highh Commission officials, Counsellor Ms. Sweety Agarwal & First Secretary (Consular) Mr. Rajeev Goswami. The meeting discussed key areas to enhance youth engagement within the Indian diaspora, strengthen India-Australia relations, and improve communication among the diasporas. The need for an effective communication platform was addressed, and a platform will be created for timely information sharing. Participants also discussed promoting non-cultural events to foster rapport with the Australian community and better marketing of Indian diaspora volunteer efforts. Additionally, FINACT will take a proactive role in addressing and countering anti-India narratives, where appropriate and adhering to FINACT constitution and ensuring the diaspora remains informed and involved.

- **FINACT meeting with MP David Smith @ Australian Parliament House**

On 28th August 2024, the FINACT core team met with David Smith MP at the Australian Parliament House. The meeting covered key topics, including an overview of FINACT initiatives like Sakhi, Chetna, and senior citizens' programs. A primary issue discussed was biased reporting by media outlets such as ABC's Four Corners and The Saturday Paper, with the MP expressing support for addressing the concerns raised. The expansion of Murray bus services and improved communication channels between FINACT and the MP's office were also discussed. The meeting concluded with mutual agreement to continue collaborating on community matters.

- **FINACT meeting with Deepak Raj, Advisor to CM**

On 6th September 2024, the FINACT team met with Mr. Deepak Raj Gupta at the ACT Legislative Assembly to discuss key initiatives aimed at strengthening the Indian-Australian community. Mr. Gupta commended FINACT's efforts in women's empowerment through the Sakhi program and family safety through Chetna. He emphasized the need to focus on addressing domestic violence and supporting seniors within the community.

- **FINACT meeting with Zakia, CEO, MHUB**

On 12th September 2024, the FINACT team met with Zakis at the Multicultural Hub Canberra Office to explore opportunities for collaboration. The discussion centered around FINACT's key initiatives, Sakhi and Chetna, which focus on empowering women and supporting families within the Indian-Australian community. With both organizations sharing similar goals of assisting and empowering the multicultural community, the meeting emphasized the potential for joint initiatives that can deliver impactful programs, address community needs, and improve the well-being of diverse groups across Canberra.

Meetings, AGM & GCM

FINACT AGM 2024–2025

FINACT Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 27 July 2023 at Bristol Club Kaleen. An annual report and financial report were presented, and other businesses were discussed. Mr Nic Manikis PSM was the Returning Officer.

A new Executive Committee has been formed to take FINACT to the next level - meeting community needs and expectations. Most of the incumbents are young, enthusiastic and friendly members from different groups. Ms Vidushi Jan, PSM, was honored for her service to the community.





FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

First General Council Meeting - 20 Nov 2024

On **20 November 2024**, Hon. **David Smith MP** hosted FINACT's first **General Council Meeting (GCM)** at the **Australian Parliament House**. He warmly welcomed members and reiterated his commitment to supporting Canberra's multicultural community.

Mr. Smith stressed the importance of addressing **racial and religious discrimination**, and acknowledged the need for a **dedicated multicultural facility** in Canberra, noting that funding discussions are expected during the **ACT election**. He also highlighted the **Albanese Government's commitment to delivering cost-of-living relief** while managing inflation responsibly.

Mr. Smith further assured his support in assisting with **federal issues** such as **Services Australia, immigration, NDIS, and federal grant applications**, encouraging FINACT members to reach out whenever needed.



Second General Council Meeting - 22 Mar 2025

The second GCM was held on 22 March 2025 at 24 Care, Dundas Circuit Philip ACT. Attendees discussed key activities, achievements of members in the past three months and upcoming events including key priorities for the next quarter. Meeting minutes from the first GCM meeting were tabled and Approved. President presented an update, and the Treasurer presented the financial report.



Third General Council Meeting - 29 Jun 2025

The third General Council Meeting was held on Saturday 29 June 2025 at Green Leaf Services. Attendees discussed past and future activities of FINACT and member organisations. Meeting Minutes from the 2nd GCM were tabled and approved. President presented an update on activities and financial report. Reports from FINACT initiatives e.g. Australia Day, AusIndia Fair, Chetna, Sakhi were presented by the coordinators and representatives.



Special General Meeting (constitution amendments) - 27 Jul 2025

A Special GCM(SGCM) was conducted to discuss and Approve the Constitution amendments which was done through discussions, consultations and feedback from members. The CRC team went through all amendments and conducted voting where required and passed the amendments.



FINACT Initiatives

Sakhi – Empowering Women

Sakhi, launched in July 2023 as FINACT’s women’s initiative, has grown into a strong and trusted platform supporting women of the Indian community in the ACT. In 2024–25, Sakhi consolidated its presence through impactful programs, capacity-building initiatives, and community outreach.

In 2024–25, Sakhi built a strong identity and extended its reach by:

- **Launching a new logo** symbolising unity and empowerment.
- Creating and distributing **informational pamphlets** to Ministers, community leaders, and at major events, raising awareness about Sakhi’s vision and services.
- Establishing a **dedicated Facebook page**, enabling women to stay informed, engaged, and connected digitally.

Through its events, outreach, and training, Sakhi:

- **Engaged women from almost all Indian associations** in Canberra, strengthening community bonds.
- Provided a welcoming network for women **new to Canberra**, helping them build connections and confidence.

Sakhi has proven to be more than a women’s group—it is a **community-strengthening initiative**. By empowering women through education, awareness, and peer networks, it has enhanced their role in community leadership and wellbeing. Its achievements in 2024–25 have laid a strong foundation for future growth and continue to position Sakhi as a vital pillar of FINACT’s mission.

Floriade Walk with Finact Sakhi members - 22 Sep 2024

Sakhi organised a spring walk at Canberra’s flower festival, fostering connections and wellbeing.



International Women's Day 2025 - 24 Mar 2025

FINACT Sakhi proudly celebrated *International Women's Day 2025* with an inspiring program honouring women's achievements and resilience. The event featured insightful discussions, engaging activities, and a strong spirit of unity. Distinguished guests included Deputy High Commissioner **Ms. Irina Thakur**, **Ms. Molina Asthana** (special guest speaker), **Ms. Yvette Poudjom Djomani** (President, African Australian Council ACT), and **Dr. Madhumita Iyengar** (Chair, CMCf). Ms. Asthana's powerful address on leadership and empowerment was a highlight of the evening.

Key Highlight was Felicitation of the Afghanistan Women's Cricket Team – A special moment of pride was recognising the Afghanistan women's cricket team, applauding their resilience and unwavering dedication to the sport despite challenges.

The event was made possible with the generous support of the **High Commission of India (HCI)** and the **Multicultural Hub (MHUB)**, whose commitment to inclusivity and empowerment remains invaluable. We also thank **Bharat Int** for delighting the audience with their delicious snack boxes.

Congratulations to the **Sakhi team** for curating yet another impactful and successful event. 🙌💡



Chetna – Stronger, Safer Families

Chetna is a FINACT initiative dedicated to raising awareness and preventing domestic and family violence (DFV) within the Indian-Australian community in the ACT. It takes a **family-centred and culturally sensitive approach**, focusing on relationship dynamics to encourage respectful, healthy interactions across all genders and generations.

By fostering **open, non-judgmental discussions** around stress, conflict, and family behaviours, Chetna reduces stigma and promotes early intervention. It also provides pathways to professional services while empowering community members to become part of the solution.

Through its workshops, awareness campaigns, and advocacy, Chetna has made a **tangible difference** in promoting DFV education and prevention in Canberra's Indian community. By blending cultural sensitivity with prevention strategies, it has built a **sustainable foundation for community wellbeing** and set a model that future initiatives can build upon.

FECCA Presentation – Dad & Daughter Family Dynamics - 18 Oct 2024

Chetna initiative presented its family bonding concept with MARSS support at the FECCA conference.

It was a proud moment for FINACT and the Chetna team when the social initiative **Chetna** was showcased at the 2024 **Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia (FECCA) Conference** in Brisbane. The paper *"Dad and Daughter – Working towards understanding domestic violence within a culturally appropriate model"* was presented by **Dr Sunita Dhindsa OAM** (Founder and past Coordinator of Chetna, and past President of FINACT) and **Mrs Sonia Di Mezza** (CEO, Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services).

The **relationship-focused family education model** was conceptualised by Dr Dhindsa and developed with the Chetna team as a pilot through the *Dad and Daughter* initiative. This culturally sensitive, family-friendly prevention model encourages reflection on behaviours that may lead to stress or domestic violence and highlights the long-term impact on children and families. Early trials have shown positive acceptance and outcomes.





FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

Chetna Webinars 2024–25:

1. **05 Dec 2024** – *Parenting as a Migrant in a Multicultural Setting*
2. **05 Mar 2025** – *Self Care for Busy Parents*
3. **29 May 2025** – *Navigating Education & Childhood Across Cultures*



CHETNA: A FINACT INITIATIVE
FOR STRONGER, SAFER FAMILIES

PARENTING ACROSS CULTURES

Live Online Panel Discussion
Please Join Us!
5 December 2024
Thursday
7:30 – 9:00 PM

Join us for an engaging, live, and interactive panel discussion on parenting, where honesty meets experience!



SHEELA AWADHWAL **SHANTI REDDY** **SHUBHRA A ROY** **SHASHI SAMPRATHI**

- Real stories of trials, tribulations, bouquets, & brickbats
- **Four parents** share their journeys: the joys, challenges, & lessons learned and the ups and downs of parenting
- How to preserve our culture & heritage while embracing the current environment
- Tips for raising modern global citizens who balance both worlds confidently & with ease

Be part of a candid conversation celebrating the beautiful & messy reality of parenting here in Canberra. Bring your questions and connect with like-minded parents!

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from parents who have been there, done that!

Contact Us
chetna.finact@gmail.com

Deepti Jajee – 0421 084 342
Chetna Coordinator
Raji Samprathi – 0405 121 405
Program Coordinator

Meeting ID: 714 609 7994
Passcode: Welcome

SCAN TO JOIN
ZOOM CALL



CHETNA: A FINACT INITIATIVE
FOR STRONGER, SAFER FAMILIES

SELF-CARE FOR BUSY PARENTS

Please Join Us!
5 March 2025
Wednesday
7:30 – 9:00 PM

Because YOU Deserve It
Self-care isn't selfish, it's essential



RAJI SAMPRATHI **DR ABRAHAM THOMAS** **DR CHIRICHU ANN VARGHESE**
Non-emergency Counsellor & Lifestyle Medicine Practitioner MScB, Dip. Counselling, PRACAP, Health Coaching in Family Health MScB, Dip. Child Health, PRACAP, Specialising in Women's Health

This interactive session is for parents (mums and dads) who've forgotten what self-care looks like and need a reminder that looking after yourself benefits everyone around you.

You'll:

- ★ Learn practical self-care strategies (that actually work!)
- ★ Understand why self-care is necessary for mental & physical well-being
- ★ Discover the long-term impact of neglecting your health
- ★ Walk away with tools you can use TODAY
- ★ Ask questions and get personalised advice

It's time to prioritise YOU – because when you're at your best, everyone benefits

Sign Up Now – Here's an opportunity to improve your life!
Join this whatsapp group to register your interest and to send in your questions in relation to the topic.

Contact Us
chetna.finact@gmail.com

Deepti Jajee – 0421 084 342
Chetna Coordinator
Raji Samprathi – 0405 121 405
Program Coordinator

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/g6vdxAG1QUB5m9t0v8>

SCAN TO JOIN
OUR WHATSAPP
DISCUSSION



CHETNA: A FINACT INITIATIVE
FOR STRONGER, SAFER FAMILIES

Join Us for another special Online Panel Discussion

**NAVIGATING
EDUCATION &
CHILDHOOD
ACROSS CULTURES**

29th May 2025
Thursday
7:30 to 9pm
Hosted by



DEEPTI JAJEE **SANKEERTHAN BADRINARAYAN**

with Experienced Educators as Panel Members



MANI RANGININI **SUMANA SATISH** **GIRISH SRINIVASA** **SHALINI HANSRAJ** **SHEELA AWADHWAL**

About the Event:
This interactive Q&A forum brings together a diverse panel of experienced educators – from early childhood to college level. The panel will explore the challenges and opportunities faced by children and families in today's multicultural, digital world.

Topics Include:

- Fitting in across cultural differences
- Addressing bullying with empathy and action
- Navigating electronic media and screen time
- Supporting every child to reach their full potential
- Personal hygiene and self-care from early years onward

Why Attend?

- Gain insights from professional educators
- Share your experiences as a parent or caregiver
- Learn strategies to support your child at every stage
- Ask questions and engage in meaningful dialogue

Let's come together to build understanding, resilience, and supportive communities for our children.
An initiative brought to you by Chetna

Deepti Jajee – 0421 084 342

Zoom link to be provided

Scan the QR code to join the Whatsapp group

5K Run for Wellbeing -22 Feb 2025

FINACT, in association with HCI, organised a **5K Run/Walk around Lake Burley Griffin** to raise awareness and support for **youth mental health**. The event, attended by enthusiastic community members, also served as a fundraiser for **Headspace**.

We were honoured to have **Mr. Chinmay Suresh Pandit Ji, First Secretary (PIC)** represent HCI and support the cause. The strong turnout reflected the community's commitment to promoting mental wellbeing among young people.



Chetna Men's Group Launch - 15 June 2025

On **15 June 2025**, FINACT launched the **Chetna Men's Group** at Zone Bowling, Belconnen, as part of its Men's Health initiative. More than ten men came together to enjoy bowling and food, but more importantly, to create a safe, supportive space for open conversations about stress, emotional wellbeing, and social connection.

Participants described the session as a place where they could “talk freely without judgment,” “feel heard and supported,” and realise “others face similar challenges.”

This initiative, led by **Mr. Praveen Jain** and supported by **Dr. Arjun Khaira**, has already shown its value in breaking stigma and building resilience. The Men's Group will continue with regular events, strengthening FINACT's commitment to holistic family and community wellbeing.



FINACT Events

Australia Day celebration - 26 Jan 2025

FINACT proudly organised **Australia Day 2025** celebrations, bringing together the Indian diaspora and the wider Canberra community in a vibrant showcase of culture, unity, and belonging.

The event began with a **traditional Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony, and Didgeridoo performance**, acknowledging the rich heritage of Australia's First Nations people. The program was graced by the **High Commissioner of India**, Minister Marissa Patterson, Hon Shane Rattenbury, other dignitaries, and community leaders.

With the theme **"Reflect. Respect. Celebrate."**, the event honoured Australian values while embracing multicultural contributions. A free **community BBQ** added to the spirit of togetherness, creating a warm and inclusive atmosphere. The **art workshop**, led by Ria's Creative Corner, was a special highlight — engaging children as young as three and drawing admiration from parents and guests alike.

This celebration was not just a cultural event, but also a symbol of **multicultural ethos and democratic values** shared by both India and Australia. It strengthened community bonds, gave members a greater sense of belonging, and showcased the best of collaboration, creativity, and cultural pride.





AusIndia Fair 2025 – 17 May 2025

The **AusIndia Fair 2025**, organised by FINACT in collaboration with community associations, was a grand celebration of **Indian culture, diversity, and community spirit in Canberra**. Held at [insert venue if you'd like me to add], the fair brought together thousands of attendees from all walks of life, highlighting the strong multicultural fabric of the ACT.

The day featured **vibrant cultural performances**, including classical, folk, and contemporary Indian dance and music, along with interactive activities that engaged both children and adults. The event also hosted a **fashion parade, art displays, and talent showcases**, reflecting the creativity and passion of the community.

Dozens of **food stalls and business exhibitors** added to the festive atmosphere. From authentic Indian street food to local multicultural delicacies, the fair created a sensory feast, while market stalls showcased Indian crafts, clothing, jewellery, and services.

The event was attended by distinguished guests, including representatives from the **High Commission of India**, Members of Parliament, ACT Government officials, and community leaders, all recognising the importance of multiculturalism and the contribution of the Indian diaspora to the ACT.

The AusIndia Fair has become one of Canberra's **signature multicultural events**, providing a platform for local associations, artists, and entrepreneurs to connect with the broader community. It celebrates not just Indian heritage, but the **spirit of inclusivity and togetherness** that defines Australia.





FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)



FINACT T20 2025 Cricket Tournament- Jun -Aug 2025

The much-awaited **FINACT T20 Cricket Tournament 2025** brought together Canberra's Indian-Australian community in a spirit of **sportsmanship, teamwork, and celebration**. The tournament featured **spirited matches across several weekends**, with teams representing diverse community associations showcasing their cricketing talent.

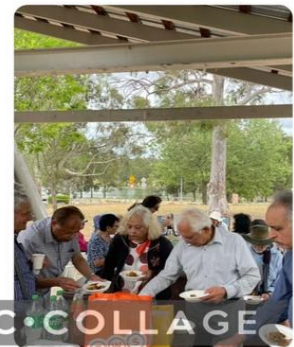
This annual event continues to grow as one of FINACT's flagship programs, providing a platform not only to **nurture sporting talent** but also to **strengthen community bonds**. The finals drew an enthusiastic crowd, with families and supporters cheering on their teams in a festive atmosphere.

FINACT sincerely thanks all 10 **participating teams, volunteers, sponsors, and community supporters** for making this year's tournament a resounding success. The T20 Cup stands as a shining example of how sport unites people and celebrates our shared passion for cricket.



Seniors' Program – 17 Nov 2025

Seniors Meet & Greet event fostering social connection and wellbeing - Jointly organised with the Indian Seniors Association at Belconnen Park.



PIC • COLLAGE

Collaborative Events with Other Organisations

Indian Parade & FINACT-HCI stall at NMF - 8 Feb 2025



Yuva Mela/Gala 2025 - 01 Apr 2025

Yuva Mela 2025, hosted by the High Commission of India and supported by FINACT with IAMSA, CIC, and CBTC, was a vibrant celebration of Indian-Australian youth in Canberra. The event featured cultural performances, insightful discussions, and youth leadership in action.

Chief Guest **H.E. Gopal Baglay**, High Commissioner of India, spoke on youth empowerment and multicultural strength. The program, planned by the **FINACT Youth Representative** with UCIA and INSA students, highlighted the creativity and energy of our young leaders.



Candlelight Vigil & Shraddhanjali Sabha for Pahalgam Victims

On 27th April 2025, FINACT, along with Indian Diaspora community associations and multi-faith leaders, came together in solidarity following the tragic **Pahalgam terror attack**.

A **Candlelight Vigil** in Canberra and a **protest at the ACT Legislative Assembly** gave voice to our collective stand against terrorism, peace, and justice for victims.

FINACT was also honoured to join the **Shraddhanjali Sabha** on the 13th day after the tragedy, attended by **H.E. the High Commissioner of India, HCI officials, and community leaders**, offering prayers and demanding accountability.

These solemn acts of unity reaffirm our shared commitment to **peace, justice, and humanity.**



Events Attended by FINACT (Non-Member Organisations)

ACT MACM) Community Consultation Forum -10 Aug 2024

FINACT executive attended this well-organised forum at the Nara Centre with over 50 community leaders. Discussions included multicultural engagement strategies, the National Anti-Racism Framework, and future consultation plans.



78th Anniversary of Indian Independence Day at HCI Canberra-15 Aug 24

A proud moment celebrating India's freedom at the High Commission with the diaspora, HCI staff, and dignitaries. Flag hoisting, anthem singing, and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" echoed across the grounds.



ONAM Celebrations by Canberra Malayalees Association (CMA)-1 Sep24

FINACT proudly joined the **Onam celebrations** organised by the **Canberra Malayalees Association (CMA)**, showcasing Kerala's rich cultural heritage. The event featured vibrant **traditional performances** and concluded with the iconic **Sadhya feast**—served on banana leaves with over 20 curries—bringing the community together in a spirit of unity and joy.

The celebration was graced by dignitaries including **Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Suneet Mehta**, **First Secretary (Consular) Mr. Rajeev Goswami**, along with many community leaders and well-wishers.



ATCS Kalaichaaral by Australian Tamil Cultural Society (ATCS) -1 Sep 2024

FINACT attended **Kalaichaaral 2024**, hosted by the Australian Tamil Cultural Society of ACT. The event was a spectacular celebration of Tamil heritage, showcasing rich cultural performances and community talent. It was well attended by distinguished guests and community leaders.

FINACT sincerely thanks **ATCS** for the warm invitation and opportunity to be part of this wonderful celebration. 🙏



30th Anniversary Grand Anglo-Indian Ball - 1 Sep 2024

FINACT was delighted to attend the **Australian Anglo-Indian Association of Canberra's 30th Anniversary Grand Anglo-Indian Ball** at the Hellenic Club of Canberra. The evening offered a refreshing and unique experience, distinct from the usual Indian cultural celebrations. It was a beautifully organised event, featuring a three-course fine dining experience and vibrant entertainment.

FINACT extends heartfelt thanks to **Mr. Joe Bailey and the Anglo-Indian Association of Canberra** for their warm hospitality and for including us in such a memorable celebration. 🙏



155th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi - 2 Oct 2024

FINACT attended the celebration of 155th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Glebe part on October 02nd. High Commissioner His Excellency Gopal Bhaglay, Prof Satendra Nandan & Shri Niranjan Aggarwal, spoke about Gandhiji & highlighted the relevance of his teachings, his principles, legacy, thoughts & philosophy in the modern world.

Event was attended by High Commissioner, HCI staff, Community leaders and people from Indian Diaspora and paying homage to Father of Indian Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.



HCI Meet & Greet - 2 Oct 2024

FINACT attended the Meet & Greet hosted by High Commission of Canberra on Tuesday, 01 Oct. It was a great interactive session with students from ANU, UC ,delegates, business people and community leaders. FINACT thanks HCI Canberra for giving us the opportunity to be part of the panel addressing the queries of International students from ANU & UC.



Bathukamma Festival by ACT Telangana Association (ACTTA)- 6 Oct 2024

On **6 October 2024**, FINACT proudly participated in the vibrant **Bhathukamma (floral)** festival organised by the ACT Telangana Association (ACTTA). The celebration was a colourful display of cultural pride, marked by beautiful floral arrangements and traditional dances led by women.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including **Emma Davidson, ACT Minister for Mental Health**, and **Mr. Nadulal from the High Commission of India (HCI)**, along with many community leaders. The festival highlighted the richness of Telangana's traditions while strengthening community bonds in Canberra.

FINACT thanks ACTTA for their warm hospitality and for showcasing such a meaningful cultural celebration.



Canberra Mela 2024 by CPSCA - 6 Oct 2024

FINACT hosted a stall at this large Punjabi cultural fair, featuring stalls, live concerts, and Red Cross blood donation awareness.

FINACT was part of Khed Mela organised by CPSCA on 06 Oct, where FINACT had a stall to promote its key initiatives, “CHETNA” and “SAKHI”. FINACT collaborated with Multicultural HUB in hosting the stall. FINACT distributed a Goodie bag with brochures, Stress ball, Trial mix, Fridge magnets.



HUMARI DIWALI by ANU INSA - 18 Oct 2024

FINACT had the pleasure of attending the much-anticipated “**Humari Diwali**” event organised by **ANU INSA at Bristol Club, Kaleen**. The celebration beautifully blended tradition with modern festivity — beginning with a traditional *Pooja* and *Aarthi* and concluding with a vibrant DJ and dance session. The event was graced by the presence of **Mr. Rajeev Goswami**, First Secretary of the Indian High Commission, alongside community leaders and enthusiastic students..

Congratulations to **ANU INSA** for delivering such a memorable enriching Diwali celebration! 🙌🌟



Shades of Strength by Australian Multicultural Action Network-18 Oct 24

Team **Sakhi** proudly participated in the **Shades of Strength** event organised by the Australian Multicultural Action Network. The team supported women interested in experiencing traditional attire by helping them try on sarees, creating a warm and welcoming cultural exchange. FINACT thanks AMAN for hosting such a meaningful initiative that aligns closely with Sakhi's mission of women's empowerment and community support. 🙏



Diwali at Government House - 29 Oct 2024

FINACT and its members were honoured to join the **Diwali celebrations at Government House**, hosted by **Her Excellency, Sam Mostyn**. In her address, Her Excellency highlighted the festival's significance in uniting communities and celebrating Australia's cultural diversity across all spheres, including sports and business. The celebration was further enriched by the presence of the **High Commissioner of India, Mr. Gopal Bagley**, who spoke on the spiritual, cultural, and social importance of Diwali and the enduring friendship between Australia and India. The evening brought together **multi-faith leaders, community representatives, and dignitaries**, and featured **vibrant cultural performances** that truly reflected the spirit of Diwali — harmony, light, and togetherness.



Inaugural Diwali at BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir Canberra- 3 Nov 2024

FINACT was honoured to be invited to celebrate the **inaugural Diwali** at BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir, Canberra. The event was beautifully organised, featuring **vibrant festivities and captivating cultural performances** that highlighted the richness of Indian traditions.

The celebration was graced by the presence of **Hon. Senator Katy Gallagher** and several community leaders, who joined in marking this special occasion with the local community.

It was a truly memorable afternoon of togetherness, joy, and cultural pride, and FINACT extends its heartfelt gratitude to **BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir** for their warm hospitality and for bringing the community together in the spirit of Diwali.



ACT Chief Minister's Diwali Reception -7 Nov 2024

FINACT was delighted to participate in the **ACT Chief Minister's Diwali Reception**, an evening that beautifully captured the joy, warmth, and cultural richness of Diwali.

The event brought together **distinguished guests from the High Commission of India, representatives from other embassies, community leaders, and multicultural organisations** in a vibrant celebration of unity. FINACT extends heartfelt thanks to the **Chief Minister and the Office for Multicultural Affairs** for hosting such a wonderful celebration, highlighting the spirit of **togetherness, inclusivity, and cultural pride** in the ACT.



Karnataka Rajyotsava by KAC - 17 Nov 2024

FINACT proudly participated in the **Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations**, organised by the **Karnataka Association of Canberra (KAC)**. The event was a vibrant tribute to Karnataka's rich cultural heritage, featuring **traditional music, dance, and community performances** that created a joyous and festive atmosphere. The celebration was graced by **Ms. Sweety Agarwal, Counsellor**, representing the **High Commission of India**, alongside community leaders and representatives from diverse organisations. FINACT extends its heartfelt thanks to **KAC** for the warm invitation and recognition and congratulates them for hosting such a well-organised and culturally enriching celebration.



Kho-Kho World Cup Reception – Jan 2025

The **High Commission of India** hosted a special reception to honour the **Australian National Men's and Women's Kho-Kho Teams** ahead of the **inaugural Kho-Kho World Cup 2025** in New Delhi.

The event was attended by Canberra's Kho-Kho team, DFAT officials, community leaders, Radio Manpasand, and HCI staff. **HE High Commissioner Gopal Baglay** shared childhood memories of playing Kho-Kho, praised the sport's popularity in India, and rallied the teams with the spirited cheer: *"Aussie Aussie Aussie, Kho Kho Kho!"*



76th Indian Republic Day Celebration – 26 Jan 2025

FINACT proudly joined the **76th Indian Republic Day** celebrations at **India House**, honouring India's unity, democracy, and cultural heritage. The event was beautifully hosted by the **High Commission of India**, bringing together community leaders, dignitaries, and well-wishers for a memorable celebration.



Launch of Australian Indian Muslims Association - 18 Mar 2025

The **FINACT** team was honoured to attend the launch of the **Australian Indian Muslims Association**, a memorable event celebrating community spirit and unity.

A special thank you to **Mr. Yusuf Mansuri (President)** and **Mr. Khaleel Shaik** for their warm hospitality and leadership. The evening was enriched with heartfelt conversations, a sense of togetherness, and delicious food served with love.

We look forward to building **future collaborations** with the Association to strengthen our shared vision of inclusivity and community wellbeing.



Ramadan Iftar Dinner -24 Mar 2025

FINACT sincerely thanks the **ACT Government** and the **Imams of Canberra** for the invitation to this year's Ramadan Iftar Dinner — a meaningful evening of reflection, unity, and community spirit.

Multicultural Minister, Mr Michael Petterson, spoke about the Importance of Multiculturalism and the values and ethics it brings in Individuals and community.

Our President, **Roshan Menon**, spoke on *"Unity in Diversity"*, drawing from his upbringing in **India**, the world's largest democracy, to highlight how multiculturalism and diversity strengthen communities both in India and Australia.

We extend our warm wishes of **Ramadan Kareem** to all observing — may this holy month bring peace, reflection, and togetherness.



NATA Ugadi – 07Apr 2025

The FINACT Executive Committee had the privilege of attending the colourful and culturally vibrant UGADI 2025 celebrations, which also marked the 10th Anniversary of NATA (North America Telugu Association – ACT Chapter), one of our valued member organisations.

The evening was a true reflection of heritage, unity, and community spirit, featuring rich cultural performances and joyous celebrations. The event was graced by ministers, dignitaries, and community leaders from across Canberra, adding to the festive spirit and significance of the occasion.

FINACT extends heartfelt congratulations to NATA and its President, Ms. Sahiti Paturi, on reaching this remarkable milestone. We also sincerely thank the NATA team for their warm hospitality and for their continuous contributions to strengthening the Indian-Australian community in the ACT.





Nav Varsh (Hindu New Year) 2025

The event was graced by dignitaries including **HE Gopal Baglay (High Commissioner of India)**, the **High Commissioners of Mauritius and Nepal**, **Mr. Peter Cain MLA**, along with many community leaders.

The celebration beautifully showcased Indian traditions while strengthening multicultural harmony and community spirit across Canberra.



TAC Ugadi 2025 – 04 May 2025

The FINACT Executive Committee had the pleasure of attending the vibrant Ugadi celebrations organised by the Telugu Association of Canberra (TAC).

Congratulations to TAC on organising such a culturally rich and joyous event! 🎉 From energetic cultural performances to delicious traditional food, and electrifying live music by talented singers from India — every moment reflected the true spirit of Ugadi.

Our heartfelt thanks to TAC for the warm invitation and hospitality. 🙏



Shraddhanjali for Air India Express Accident Victims - 21 June 2025

FINACT joined the Indian community in a solemn **Shraddhanjali (memorial service)** to honour those who tragically lost their lives in the recent **Air India Express accident in Ahmedabad**.

Organised by **HTCC**, the service was attended by **H.E. Gopal Baglay, High Commissioner of India to Australia**, along with officials from the High Commission, FINACT representatives, and community leaders from across Canberra.

🙏 **Prayers were conducted by the Gayatri Parivar**, offering moments of reflection, solidarity, and healing during this time of collective grief.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families and loved ones of the victims. **May their souls rest in peace.**



International Yoga Day Celebration by HCI & HCA – Jun21-22 2025

On 21 June 2025, FINACT joined the High Commission of India, Canberra in celebrating the International Day of Yoga with a special Yoga and Meditation session. The session was led by renowned yoga teacher Vijay Arora, alongside Robyn Lewis from Yoga Enlightenment, and attended by a vibrant mix of beginners and seasoned yoga enthusiasts.

🧘 Participants engaged in asanas, breathing techniques, and meditation, fostering an atmosphere of positivity, relaxation, and unity. The session not only promoted physical and mental wellbeing but also reflected the deep cultural and spiritual significance of yoga.

🤝 The event created a strong sense of community, with participants sharing their personal journeys and experiences, reminding us that yoga is more than just exercise — it is a path to health, peace, and togetherness.



Member Organisations' Events

Rajasthan Sabha's Gangaur Milan Potluck Picnic at Lake Ginninderra - 20 Apr 2025

Rajasthan sabha, Canberra celebrated the Gangaur Celebrations on 20 April 2025. So glimpses of the celebration below;





AMAN (Australian Multicultural Action Network) Programs

Aman has delivered a powerful year of meaningful impact, community engagement, and prestigious recognition.

1. Multicultural Celebrations & Community Events

- **National Multicultural Festival 2025:** AMAN hosted the vibrant **Echoes of Delta** cultural showcase, attended by dignitaries including Senator Katy Gallagher and ACT Multicultural Minister Michael Peterson.
- Organized a mental health workshop “**Shades of Strength**” in October 2024 - raising awareness and resilience in multicultural communities.
- Supported flagship events including **Community Barter Day, Language Day, Reconciliation Day** and **Story Circles**, promoting intercultural connections and social inclusion.

2. Awards & Recognition

- **Winner - ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Award 2024** for leadership in inclusion, honouring Ravi's two decades of advocacy and reform efforts in health and disability sectors.
- **Winner - ACT Mental Health Community Coalition Award 2024**, recognizing innovative preventive approaches to community mental health.
- **High Commendation - ACT Multicultural Excellence Award 2024**, acknowledging AMAN's outstanding contribution to diversity and inclusion in Canberra.
- **Finalist - ACT Outstanding Excellence Award for Diversity and Inclusion**, further underscoring AMAN's leadership in advancing inclusion.
- **Winner - Community Excellence Award 2025 (NATA):** Ravi honoured by the Telugu community for his exemplary service and empowerment initiatives.
- **Australian Women's Small Business Champion Award Finalist 2024**, celebrating AMAN's advancement of women's empowerment and policy reform.

3. Strategic Focus & Advocacy

- **Health symposiums (May - June 2024):** AMAN engaged in health forums to exchange strategies on well-being, disability support, and multicultural access to care.
- Champions ongoing priorities in youth employment, aged care, disability, mental health, and linguistic equity across ACT communities.
- Ravi continues to serve on numerous national and ACT advisory boards, including ACT Reconciliation Council, Mental Health Carers Voice, DeafnessForum, ACT Health, and more - a testament to his broad-based influence.



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)





FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

Letters, Submissions & Advocacy

Letter to ACT CM condemning temple vandalism, response received.

Andrew Barr

Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

30/10/2024

Canberra

Dear Chief Minister Barr,

Congratulations on your recent election victory. Your continued leadership and dedication to our city's development are highly appreciated.

As the umbrella body representing the Indian diaspora in Australia, FINACT strongly condemns the recent attacks on Hindu temples in Canberra. These acts of vandalism and theft have deeply affected not just the Hindu community but all who value respect, tolerance, and Inclusivity. Such attacks on places of worship undermine religious freedom and community harmony. We urge the government to publicly condemn these acts, which will provide much-needed confidence and assurance to the community.

We also call on authorities to take swift action to bring the perpetrators to justice, restoring a sense of safety. Furthermore, we request the establishment of a **special fund or grants** to support the security and protection of religious institutions. This could include enhanced security infrastructure, assistance for repairs, and community education programs to promote unity and understanding.

By supporting these initiatives, your government can help ensure that all faith communities feel safe and protected. FINACT remains committed to promoting peace, interfaith dialogue, and the multicultural fabric of our city.

We look forward to your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Roshan menon

President, Federation of Indian Associations of ACT Inc. (FINACT)



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

Letters to PM condemning Pahalgam terrorist attack.



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

To: The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Canberra, 21 April 2025

Prime Minister of Australia

Subject: Condemnation of Terrorist Attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir

Dear Prime Minister,

I hope this message finds you well.

On behalf of the **Federation of Indian Associations of ACT (FINACT)**, I am writing to express our deep concern and sorrow over the recent **terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir**, which tragically targeted innocent civilians and pilgrims.

As an Australian-registered organisation representing the Indian diaspora in Canberra and the broader ACT region, FINACT unequivocally condemns this heinous act of violence. Terrorism, in any form and in any part of the world, is a direct threat to the values of peace, democracy, human rights, and multicultural harmony—values that Australia holds dear.

Prime Minister, we respectfully urge the **Australian Government** to formally **condemn this act of terrorism** and stand in solidarity with the victims and their families. A clear stance from Australia, as a leading democracy and advocate for global peace, will send a strong message against such atrocities and reaffirm our nation's commitment to opposing terrorism wherever it occurs.

The Indian Australian community is deeply affected by this tragedy, and many families within our diaspora have close ties to the region. Your support and the Australian Government's acknowledgment of this incident would provide comfort to those grieving and reinforce Australia's position as a nation that stands firmly against violence and extremism.

We remain committed to promoting peace, inclusivity, and mutual respect within Australia's multicultural framework and globally. We trust that your esteemed office will consider this request and respond appropriately to uphold the principles we collectively cherish.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Roshan Menon

President, Federation of Indian Associations of ACT (FINACT)

president.finact@gmail.com www.finact.net.au



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

Public statement condemning Pahalgam terrorist attack.



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

PUBLIC STATEMENT

Canberra, 21 April 2025

Subject: Condemnation of Terrorist Attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir

The Federation of Indian Associations of ACT (FINACT) expresses its deepest sorrow and strongest condemnation of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, India which targeted innocent civilians and pilgrims.

This heinous and cowardly act is an affront to humanity, peace, and the fundamental values that unite civilised societies across the world. FINACT, as a representative body of the Indian-Australian community in Canberra, stands in solidarity with the victims, their families, and all those affected by this tragedy.

We call upon the international community, including the Australian Government, to condemn such acts of terror unequivocally and support efforts to combat extremism in all its forms. Terrorism has no place in any society, and it is only through unity, vigilance, and shared commitment to peace that we can hope to overcome these threats.

FINACT pledges its full support to both the Government of India and the Australian Government in their continued efforts to promote peace, security, and justice. We also encourage our community members to stand together during this difficult time, offering compassion and solidarity to those impacted.

Let us reaffirm our collective stance against violence and work towards a world where harmony and humanity prevail.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Roshan Menon

President, Federation of Indian Associations of ACT (FINACT)

 president.finact@gmail.com  www.finact.net.au



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

Submission to ACT Government's "Inquiry into Men's Suicide Rates."

Recognising the urgency of addressing men's mental health, **FINACT's Chetna team** actively engaged with doctors, community leaders, religious representatives, and other stakeholders to prepare a comprehensive submission to the *Inquiry into Men's Suicide Rates*.

The submission highlighted the importance of early intervention, community support, and culturally sensitive approaches to mental wellbeing. It underscored the critical message that ignoring men's mental health challenges can lead to devastating outcomes, including suicide.

We are proud that FINACT was invited to contribute to this important national dialogue. The submission was formally acknowledged, reflecting the growing recognition of Chetna's role in advocating for mental health awareness and support within the community.

Good afternoon Roshan,

Thank you for sending through a submission to the Inquiry into men's suicide rates on behalf of the Federation of Indian Associations of the ACT (FINACT). Please accept my apologies for the delay in confirming your submission was received.

FINACT's contribution is greatly appreciated, particularly given the inquiry's complex and sensitive focus.

Please find below a formal acknowledgement that the submission has been received by the Committee (this is sent to everyone who submits to an inquiry):

Acknowledging receipt of submission — Inquiry into men's suicide rates

Thank you for your submission in relation to the above inquiry. We will refer your submission to the Committee for consideration. Once received, a submission becomes the property of the Committee. You may not disclose or publish the document to a person unless it has been authorised by the Assembly or the Committee. Until this occurs, the submission remains confidential. Any wider publication will not be protected by parliamentary privilege and may give rise to a matter of contempt. Further, unauthorised disclosure may result in the Committee declining to use it for the inquiry, or accepting it without publishing it. We will advise you once the Committee has considered your submission and made a decision regarding publishing it on the Legislative Assembly website. Please see our page on [writing a submission](#) for more information.

You are most welcome to contact us with any questions. Otherwise, we will be in touch once the Committee has considered the submission. Don't be concerned if you do not hear from us immediately, timeframes for submission consideration can vary.

Kind regards,
Erin.

Erin Dinneen

Assistant Committee Secretary | Parliamentary Support Branch

T 02 620 51253

Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions | E LACCommitteeCaretaker@parliament.act.gov.au

Standing Committee on Social Policy | E LACCommitteeSP@parliament.act.gov.au



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

parliament.act.gov.au | Facebook | Instagram



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

FINACT Pamphlets & Banners



FINACT Sakhi: Empowering Women in the ACT



Established in July 2023 by the Federation of Indian Associations in the ACT (FINACT), Sakhi is dedicated to supporting women belonging to the Indian community.

In just one year, Sakhi has made remarkable strides, securing community grants and hosting numerous impactful events, including celebrations for *Mother's Day*, *International Women's Day*, and *Mental Health Awareness*. These events have touched the lives of **over 350 women**, offering support, connection, and empowerment.

Sakhi's programs focus on **women's safety, mental health, and first responder training for domestic violence victims**. By engaging women from nearly all Indian Associations across Canberra, Sakhi has proven to be a vital resource, particularly for newcomers.

Sakhi, a FINACT initiative, is a movement for collaboration, empowerment & community support!



Supported by:



Be part of Sakhi

Join Sakhi today, make connections with other Indian women and become part of one big safe, supportive community.

Contact Us

✉ womens.finact@gmail.com

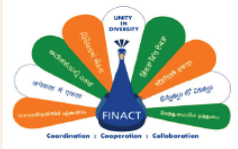
🌐 finact.net.au

Join our WhatsApp Group





FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)



Chetna: A FINACT Initiative for Stronger, Safer Families



Ongoing support and love is the foundation of strong family relationships and it benefits every member.

Healthy relationships can:

- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Improve communication and understanding
- Build resilience and coping skills
- Create a nurturing environment for children



Every family faces challenges—whether it's communication issues, conflicts, or external stress. **Chetna** is here to help. It's important to remember that you are not alone, and resources are available to help you navigate these challenges and strengthen your ability to handle them with confidence.

What is Chetna?

Chetna is a FINACT initiative supporting Indian–Australian families in the ACT. We focus on culturally sensitive, early intervention strategies to foster healthy relationships, prevent family violence, & create strong, happy families. Through workshops, support groups, and awareness campaigns, Chetna empowers families to resolve conflicts, maintain healthy relationships, & connect with others facing similar challenges.

“Respect is one of the greatest expressions of love.”

~Miguel Angel Ruiz

Supported by:



Get Involved

Join our workshops and access resources designed to strengthen family bonds and build a safe, supportive community.

Contact Us

✉ chetna.finact@gmail.com

🌐 finact.net.au

Join our WhatsApp Group



What can relationships look like?

HEALTHY BEHAVIOUR

- My partner treats me with respect, encourages me, supports me and is proud of me
- My partner listens to me and cares for my welfare
- My partner gives me freedom to do things I like
- My partner allows me to make decisions independently

UNHEALTHY BEHAVIOUR

- My partner puts me down or criticizes me when we're alone or when we are with friends
- I don't feel respected and valued
- My partner makes me feel guilty
- My partner is suspicious and looks through my phone, social media or web history.

National Helplines

- For free, confidential counselling call **1800 RESPECT** on **1800 737 732**
- Lifeline (24-hour crisis line): 131 114
- Women's Crisis Line: 1800 811 811
- Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491
- Relationships Australia: 1300 364 277
- Connect Women line: 1800 811 811 (24x7)
- DV Connect Men line: 1800 600 636 (9 am to 12 midnight, seven days a week)

Websites for Support & Information

- <https://www.1800respect.org.au/violence-and-abuse/domestic-and-family-violence/support>
- <https://www.redcross.org.au/migration/family-and-domestic-violence-financial-assistance-program/>
- <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/family-and-domestic-violence>
- <https://www.hrc.act.gov.au/victim-support>
- <https://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/talk-someone/advice-line>

Canberra Services

- **DVCS**–DVCS is open 24X7. Call **02 6280 0900**, email crisis@dvcs.org.au (during business hours) or visit Domestic Violence Crisis Service.
- **Victim Support ACT**–Victim Support ACT supports people who have experienced family violence or sexual assault. You can use VSACT services if you are a victim of crime, a witness, or a family member of a person who has experienced a crime. Call **02 6205 2222** or **1800 8222 72**, email VictimSupport@act.gov.au
- **YWCA** –Domestic Violence Support Service: Call **02 6185 2000**, email respect@ywca-canberra.org.au
- **Counselling**: Relationships Australia runs confidential specialist domestic and family violence counselling service for couples and families and programs for women, men and families. Call **1300 364 277** or visit Relationships Australia.
- **Care Inc**–Care can help you if you are experiencing financial hardship, including financial abuse. Call **02 6257 1788**, email admin@carefcs.org or visit Care Inc.
- **Women's Legal Centre ACT**–Call **02 6257 4377** or free call **1800 634 669**, fill in the online form or visit Women's Legal Centre.
- **Legal Aid ACT**–Call the Family Violence and Personal Protection Unit on **1300 654 314** or the Family Advocacy and Support Service on **02 6243 3411**. Text Legal Aid on **0427 143 401**, email civil@legalaidact.org.au or visit Legal Aid.
- **Canberra Community Law**–Call **02 6218 7900**, email: info@canberracommunitylaw.org.au



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

FINACT Sponsors & Supporters

FINACT sincerely thanks all our sponsors, partners, and supporters for their invaluable collaboration and trust. Your partnership has been instrumental in enabling us to deliver meaningful programs, foster community spirit, and create positive impact across Canberra. Together, we continue to strengthen multicultural unity and build a more connected, resilient community.

Our Sponsors:



Partners and Supporters:





FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

FINACT Member Associations At a glance

Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN)



AMAN promotes and fosters 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 – Mrs Radha Ravi

Email - president.amanact@gmail.com

Facebook - facebook.com/AmanActCanberra

website - www.amanact.org.au(under construction)

ACT Telangana Association (ACTTA)



ACTTA is a not-for-profit association of like-minded 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.

Contact Details

Contact Persons – Mr Sunita Robinson, President

Email : members@actta.org.au

Website: <http://www.actta.org.au/>



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

Australian Anglo-Indian Association of Canberra

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

Contact Details

Contact Person - Joe Bailey, President

Email: joe.bailey@bigpond.com



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. FINACT Annual Report 2023-24. 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

President- Mr Nantha Kumar

Email: atcs.act@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.atcs.org.au/>



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 three 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 – Mr Sanjay Pandey

Website: <https://www.bjsm.org/>

FaceBook - @BiharJharkhand

Twitter - @BJSMAusNZ



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)



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

Chairperson – Mr Prasad Gutta

Website – www.hindumandir.org.au

Email: info@hindumandir.org.au

Facebook - @canberrahindumandir



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 – Mr Praveen Jain,

Email: president.cjm@gmail.com, secretary.cjm@gmail.com



Canberra Malayalee Association (CMA)



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

The CMA 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 : Mr Roshan Menon

Email: coordinators@canberramalayalee.org

Facebook: @CBRMalayalees

Website: <http://canberramalayalee.org/>



Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association (CPSCA)

CPSCA 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 promotes interaction with community groups and broader Australian society, shares information and supports social cohesiveness, and integration.

Contact Details

President: Mr Jatinder Majithia

Email: info@cpsca.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cpsca2014/>

Website: <https://cpsca.org.au/>

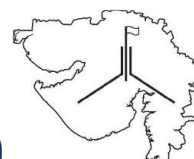
Canberra Telugu League (CTL)

CTL has been formed in 2019, following the ICC Cricket World Cup format, with 10 Telugu teams currently participating in the annual competition.

Contact Details

Contact Person – Mr Sudheer Mandure

Facebook: @ Canberra Telugu League



Gujarati Samaj of ACT (GSA)



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

GSA organises 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 – Mr Jay Patel

Email: volunteers@gujaratisamajcanberra.com

Facebook: @Gujarati Samaj of Canberra



India Australia Multicultural Sports Association (IAMSAs)

IAMSAs is a vibrant organisation committed to promoting sports and fostering multicultural harmony within the community. Established to unite individuals from diverse backgrounds, IAMSAs organises various sporting events and activities that encourage participation and engagement among Indian Australians and other cultural groups. The association aims to build strong community ties, enhance social integration, and promote a healthy lifestyle through sports. IAMSAs recently won awards from both the ACT Cricket Association and the National Cricket Association, presented by Cricket ACT and Cricket Australia, recognising its significant contributions. With a commitment to inclusivity and unity, IAMSAs plays a pivotal role in celebrating cultural diversity and fostering mutual respect through the power of sports.

Contact Details

Contact Person – Mr Sanjay Sharma

Email: sanjay231sharma@yahoo.com

Web - <https://iamsacanberra.com.au/>

Indian Australian Association of Health and Well-being (HAWAAI)

HAWAAI was formed with the aim of fulfilling what its name denotes namely the Health and Well-being of the Indian diaspora in Australia. The organisation was formed after noting the need for Health and Well-being initiatives to be organised with the increase in the number of Indian origin people in the ACT and considering the need for awareness to be increased. HAWAAI organises programs such as Yoga, Spiritual discourses, health advisory through qualified health professionals and partnering with several organisations in organising events to promote good health and well-being.

Contact Details

Contact Person – Mr ChittiBabu Divi

Email: divi.haritha@gmail.com



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

Indian Senior Citizens' Association (ISCA)



Recognising the cultural differences and demands, ISCA was formed in Canberra (ACT) to cater for 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 – Mr Vijay Puri

Email: vijaypuri63@hotmail.com

Website: <http://indianseniors.org/>

Indian Students' Association - ANU (InSA)



InSA is a nodal association for the Indian students pursuing their studies at the Australian National University (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. 61

Contact Details

Contact Person – Ms Vanshika Gandhi

Email – weareinsa@gmail.com

Facebook - @ Indian Students' Association-ANU

Integrated Cultures ACT





FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

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 – Ms Jayanti Gupta

Email - iwomensnetwork@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.integratedcultures.org/>



Karnataka Association of Canberra Inc (KAC)

KAC is a non-profit organisation primarily aimed at networking for Kannadigas in Australian Capital Territory. KAC was founded in 2004, after Kannada speaking community leaders of the time envisioned a bright future for the Kannadigas of Canberra. By November 2010 KAC was a registered association, where office-bearers were elected. The organisation 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 – Mr Sujith Mysore

Email - kac_committee@yahoo.com

Website: <https://www.kannadaincanberra.com/>

Madhya Pradesh Association of Australia (MPAA)

MPAA is a vibrant and dynamic organisation dedicated to fostering connections between the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh and Australia. This unique association serves as a cultural bridge, bringing together people of Madhya Pradesh origin living in Australia and promoting the rich heritage, traditions, and opportunities of both regions.

Founded with the vision of creating a strong community network, MPAA has quickly become a cornerstone for individuals and families from Madhya Pradesh who have made Australia their home. The association recognises the importance of maintaining cultural roots while embracing the diverse Australian society, and strives to create a harmonious balance between these two worlds.

Contact Details



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

President – Mr Vijay Dubey

Email – vicdubey@gmail.com

Mandir School of Music



The school operates in 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 – Mrs Ragini Santhanam

Email - raginis@iinet.net.au

Website: <http://vriksha.org/>

Mehak Punjab Di Radio



Mehak Punjab Di Radio aims to engage 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– Mr Amardeep Singh

Email - mehakpunjabdiradio@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.cmsradio.org.au/programs/punjabi-program/>

Facebook: @ Mehak Punjab Di Radio

Navya Andhra Telugu Association (NATA)





FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

Representing Andhra Pradesh in Australia NATA was 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 conducts Yoga seminars 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 organise cultural & spiritual events.

Contact Details

President– Mrs Sahithi Paturi

Email - president@nata.org.au

Website: <http://content.nata.org.au/>

Facebook: @ Navya Andhra Telugu Association-Canberra (NATA)

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: Ms Rozaline Raut

Email: oriozcommunity@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.orioz.org.au/>

Facebook: @ORIOZCommunity

Pink Umbrella Inc





FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pinkumbrella/>

Rajasthan Sabha of Australia and New Zealand (RSANZ)



RSANZ 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 – Mr Lakhan Sharma

Email: lsharma.act@gmail.com

Facebook: @ rajasthansabha

Rajdhani Marathi Mandal Canberra (RMMC)



RMMC caters to the needs of the local Marathi community of Canberra as a non-profit and a non-political organisation. 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

President– Ms Sonali Rabade,

Email: rmmc.can@gmail.com

Facebook: @Rajdhani Marathi Mandal Canberra , Website: <https://canberramarathi.org/>

Telugu Association of Canberra (TAC)





FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ACT (FINACT)

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. It works to reinforce and refine our outreach efforts by bringing people and traditions together and being there for each other in the hour of need.

Contact Details

President – Mr Rajesh Pinnamaraju

Email: teluguassociationcanberra@gmail.com

Website: <https://tacanberra.org/>

Facebook: @TACanberra



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

Contact Details

President – Ms Lin Maria

Email: uc.indianassociation@gmail.com

Facebook: @UCIndiAssoc

FINACT Drawing Competition for Indian Independence Day Celebration on August 15, 2024

AGE GROUP 3-8 YEARS OLD

First Prize - Amudha Suresh (5 years old)

Participant- Amudha Suresh (5 years old)

Title of the drawing - [www\(whole wide world\).Indian and Australian.com](http://www(whole wide world).Indian and Australian.com)

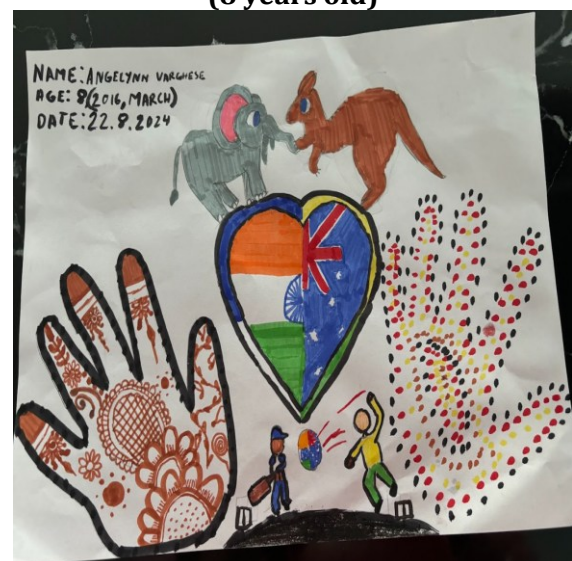
Amudha was born an Australian and loves going to school. She loves being an Indian and goes to Tamil school and is also learning Indian classical singing and dancing! She embraces being both Indian and Australian.



Second Prize - Rihaan Ravikumar (6 years old)



Third Prize - Angelynn Varghese (8 years old)



AGE GROUP 9-12 YEARS OLD

First Prize - Sejal Urolagin (10 years old)



- Second Prize - Rykaa Ramkumar (10 years old)



- Third Prize - Mananya Thobula (10 years old)



Australia Day 2025 Drawing Competition Winners

Age 3-8 yrs



First Prize - Kashi Soni 7 yrs



Second Prize - Avin Vineeth 8 yrs



Third Prize- Venisha Krishna



Fourth Prize- Kiara Pachika 7 yrs

Age 9-12 yrs



First Prize - Sree Saranya Lakkaraju 11 Yrs



Second Prize- Neha Kuriakose, 11 year



Third Prize- Anna Joseph Age 11 Yrs



Fourth Prize - Siqi Tang 10 Yrs