



Afghan Australian Development Organisation

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

Statement of purpose

The Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) is a voluntary, non-profit, non-government member organisation. Its primary purpose is to implement projects that assist in the reconstruction and sustainable development of communities within Afghanistan. Within Australia AADO seeks to support the Afghan community.

History of AADO

The Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) was established in Australia in 2002 with the aim of providing community development assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

In Australia, AADO assists newly arrived Afghan refugees and immigrants, supports Afghan-Australian communities, raises awareness about the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and advocates for just refugee policy.

AADO empowers Afghan people by providing opportunities to access education and training, advance sustainable livelihoods, improve health and build stronger communities.

The focus of our work is the creation of formal and informal educational opportunities for disadvantaged Afghans. In the past, AADO has implemented projects in Kabul and Qarabagh districts, providing vocational training, basic literacy, in-service teacher training and resources for educational institutions.

We work with women and girls, particularly in rural communities, to improve their access to education, health care and employment, to overcome discrimination and to protect their human rights, while respecting Afghan culture and traditions.

AADO has received generous support from Australian foundations, corporations and community groups, including Australian Volunteers International (AVI), Aspire Foundation, Hope International, Portland House Foundation, Cabrini Health and Lonely Planet

Foundation.

AADO is registered as an international non-government organisation (NGO) with the Ministry of Education (MoEC) in Afghanistan and is incorporated in Victoria, Australia.

AADO is also a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is a signatory to the council's Code of Conduct which defines minimum standards of governance, management, financial control and reporting with which Australian non-government development organisations (NGDOs) should comply.

A small team of local project management and field staff are employed by AADO in Afghanistan.

AADO relies entirely on the work of dedicated volunteers in Melbourne for organisational management and governance, financial oversight and fundraising. The committee is composed of members who have experience in public sector management, health services, business administration and fundraising.

Dr Nouria Salehi is the Executive Director and founder of AADO and has oversight of the establishment and progress of all programs. Nouria spends time in Afghanistan twice a year,

President's Report 2008-2009

I am honoured to be presenting the President's Report for the Afghan Australian Development Organisation. The position of AADO President became vacant in June when the then President, Sevi Vassos resigned and I agreed to act as President until the Annual General Meeting. I would like formally record our warm thanks to Sevi for her leadership and contribution to the work of AADO.

Recently, there was considerable publicity related to an ABC Four Corners' expose of the maladministration and corruption that is wasting billions of dollars and undermining the attempts to rebuild Afghanistan. Despite all the negative messages about ways in which development funds get lost in this distressed country, we are very proud that AADO's funds are definitely reaching their targets and providing local people with skills to change their lives and those of others around them.

There are quiet but powerful stories to tell about how Australians can contribute to lasting change within such a troubled environment. Nouria Salehi as AADO's Chief Executive has just returned from 5 weeks in Afghanistan, her second visit this year, and her report outlines our continued work in Kabul and rural areas.

In the last year, your Committee has continued to monitor the progress of each of AADO's programs. Dr Salehi's visits not only provide us with first-hand observations of their impact, but they also mean she can visit and spend some targeted time in our local office in Afghanistan and keep things effectively moving along. In between times via the online wonder of Skype, she has regular, often daily contact with our staff

there. In even strife-torn Afghanistan, business does go on, and electronic communications systems mean we are able to manage and monitor the funds in our Kabul bank account.

We are proud of our very voluntary efforts with the most minimal infrastructure costs. We value the contributions and encouragement that we've received from some funding bodies such as the Planet Wheeler Foundation, Cabrini Hospital, Portland House, The Asia Foundation and the Social Justice Fund and SMEC. There has also been excellent support from the Australian Embassy in Kabul. In terms of moral support for our efforts, we also appreciate our links with Mark Purcell and the Australian Council for International Development.

As part of our year, we seriously committed some of our energies towards governance issues. In June we had an excellent working session with Professor Barbara van Ernst as our facilitator looking at our machinery 'behind the scenes'. The directions we agreed are gradually being integrated into our operations and systems and Committee members, Cath Garner and Jacki Willox were highly valued as strategic advisers in this process. We said farewell in June to Kate O'Rourke, our research assistant at the end of the grant period for her position. We don't believe we can continue for much longer without a staff person and in the next week or so, we will be seeking funds to support a new appointment.

One of our goals is to be able to provide for people and organizations to make tax deductible contributions direct to AADO. For various reasons this is still going to take some time but in the meantime in 2009 we signed a special agreement with the Global Development Group which for a small percentage

now collects funds on AADO's behalf and provides appropriate receipts to support tax refunds. We trust that this process will serve to attract further donations. We farewell two of our committee members Elleni Beshi and our Vice President Cath Garner. Cath's wise counsel and input will be long-remembered and missed at our Committee table. Our Committee meets monthly with always much to be done in between. I want to pay a warm tribute to each of the people who sit around the table for their strong leadership and commitment to their areas of responsibility. Over the last year Jude Mahoney has continued to be our highly efficient Secretary as well as linking with other members especially Loretta Little and Neri Adams to generate our social program. They put in a lot of energy towards the success of our film afternoons.

Rosemary Marquardt has also continued as our dedicated Treasurer. Typically in comparison to larger funding groups, AADOs programs involve tracking very small amounts of money into the field. Rosemary has closely monitored programs and their costs and she has developed excellent procedures for Kabul staff to report back to here.

AADOs Afghan Support Group with the leadership of Homaira Mershedhi has responded to many specific needs over the year in helping Afghan people become orientated to Australia. With practical assistance to promote self-reliance, Homaira has been involved with supporting their inclusion and participation. We are grateful to the Afghan community's network in also helping to make this happen.

We must celebrate two remarkable personal efforts. It is already six months since Dick Marquardt set off on his bike in Adelaide covering an amazing 3051 kilometres to Darwin. The Riding for Afghanistan website documents his terrific journey and the folk he met along the way, many of whom are still staying in touch with him. Dick's solo effort was a real highlight in the year with over \$14,000 being raised. These funds are going to support some specific water and sanitation projects. Thanks go to Dick for his wonderful success.

Lastly, we thank Nouria Salehi, AADOs founder as well as Chief Executive, whose efforts are indefatigable, in other words, tireless, determined and dogged in seeking help for Afghan people. She is unwavering as a change agent with a remarkable network and record in ensuring that change really happens. We celebrate another year of positive outcomes and the success of her efforts.

Lee Tregloan
President

Executive Director's Report

During 2009 and since the last AGM the executive committee has continued to pursue AADOs principal objectives both in Afghanistan and Australia.

In Afghanistan AADO has continued to implement projects that assist in capacity building, sustainable development and foster peace through supporting Afghans. Currently, 493 trainees in science teacher training have completed their course. Basic health education has been taught to 20 women. Basic education and vocational training has helped 120 rural women and ten male trainees have completed their carpentry training and are already in the labour force, six are still training.

To enhance the international NGOs cooperation in Afghanistan and to promote our projects AADO formed a strong relationship with The Asia Foundation. TAF funded four of the seven science teacher training courses with contributions from the Deutsch Afghan Initiative (DAI) and German Teachers Association (AYENDAH) in cooperation with national authority the Afghan Ministry of Education. AADO was proud to receive the award of excellence from the Ministry of Education in Kabul for their program of science teacher training. In Australia AADO has provided settlement assistance to newly arrived Afghan immigrants and refugees. AADO has also been involved with human rights advocacy and awareness raising.

AADO aims to engage the peace loving Australian community in the plight of Afghans living in their country.

I would like to thank the committee for their support and all of AADOs sponsors for their continued generosity.

Cabrini Health
Planet Wheeler Foundation

Cabrini Health
Planet Wheeler Foundation
SMEC
Portland House
The universities of Melbourne,
Monash and Swinburne
David Morowitz
The Asia Foundation
Deutsch Afghan Initiative
German Teachers Association
Australian Embassy
Dick & Rosemary Marquardt
Lee Tregloan
Loretta Little

Nouria Salehi
Executive Director



AFGHAN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION INC
252 746 982 13

INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
REVENUE		
OTHER REVENUE		
Gross profit from trading	<u>246,233.00</u>	<u>190,659.00</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Bank Charges	128.00	2.00
Fundraising Costs	200.00	476.00
Subscriptions/ Memberships	1,595.00	1,562.00
Traveling Expenses	2,900.00	-
Project Costs	<u>242,833.00</u>	<u>122,390.00</u>
	<u>247,656.00</u>	<u>124,430.00</u>
Profit (Loss) from ordinary activities before Income tax	<u>(1,423.00)</u>	<u>66,229.00</u>
Profit (Loss) from ordinary activities after Income tax	(1,423.00)	66,229.00
Retained earnings at the beginning of the Financial year	<u>72,260.00</u>	<u>6,031.00</u>
Profit attributable to members of the entity	<u>70,836.00</u>	<u>72,260.00</u>


**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF AFGHAN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION INC
252 746 982 13**

Auditor's opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the AFGFHAN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION INC as at 30 June 2008 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Name of Firm: W.F.Titchener & Co. Pty. Ltd
Certified Practising Accountant

Name of Director:



Mark Donald Crew CPA

Address: Suite 1/84 Johnston Street, Fitzroy, 3065

Dates this 26th day of October 2009

Quiet but powerful stories

Vocational carpentry skills training at trade level for young men in Kabul

Few Afghans with technical and trades skills have returned to the country since the defeat of the Taliban regime in 2002. Now that reconstruction, especially in major cities such as Kabul, is progressing quickly, skilled tradespeople are urgently needed in all building and construction trades. However, unemployment in Kabul is very high. Unless specialised training in trade areas is in place, the pace of reconstruction will be delayed with jobless young people facing a future of poverty, and so subjected to poor outcomes and adverse influences. The AADO carpentry program was completed in mid 2009 with all ten participants immediately employed with some even considering starting up their own small businesses. A further pilot is currently underway.

The objectives of this program are:

- Involve 10 selected trainees instructed by two Afghan leaders to complete trade skills in 1 year
- Be supported with appropriate tools, machines and maintenance for the duration of the project
- Be guided towards employment opportunities related to their skills at the end of their training
- Aim towards ensuring that the carpenters will be able to achieve continuing employments

Community based education for rural women

Female literacy rates in Afghanistan are approximately 14% in cities and far below this figure in the rural areas. Research,

also AADOs last three years of experience working with rural women after completing their literacy training, shows that women with some education are more likely to:

- Take a more active role in their communities
- Tell their children stories, and send them to school with support to complete their education
- Ensure their children are immunized
- Be more aware of hygiene and nutrition.

AADO has now delivered basic education programs to 120 women and several of these people are now teaching others. However, there are many other villages where women are seeking to improve themselves through programs such as AADO offers.



Science Teacher Training

AADO under the auspices of the Ministry of Education in Afghanistan been involved in science teacher training. This program started in 2007 and at the end of 2009, 593 teachers have completed their training. The training is over a 14 week period and maths, chemistry, physics and biology are the subjects taught.



In 2009 the Ministry of Education awarded AADO a 'certificate of excellence' for continued support of this program. AADO aims to continue with the science teacher training in 2010.

