



Afghan Australian Development Organisation



Annual Report 2020-2021 Annual General Meeting 7 December 2021

**Afghan Australian Development Organisation
Annual Report for 2020/2021**

Annual General Meeting 7 December 2021, 6.00pm Afghan Gallery Restaurant, Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

1. Introduction

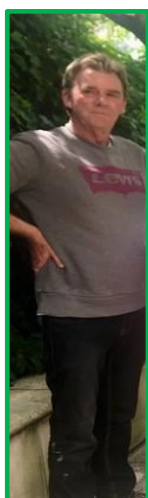
This Annual Report covers the activities of the Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) for the financial year from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

Established in 2002, AADO is committed to improving opportunities for the people of Afghanistan, particularly its women, providing education, training and support. AADO is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. AADO is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC). As a charitable development organisation, AADO relies on donations and benevolent funding and has accredited tax deductibility for such donations.

2. AADO Committee of Management (COM) members for 2020/21

COM members are elected at the AGM by AADO financial members who have voting rights. COM members for the 2020/21 financial year were:

Office	1/7/20 to 15/12/20	15/12/20 to 30/6/21
President	Sarina Greco	Homaira Mershed Acting President Jackie Fristacky AM, President Elect until commencing as President from 1/7/21
Exec Director	Dr Nouria Salehi AM	Dr Nouria Salehi AM
Vice-President(s)	Homaira Mershed Assad Najeem	Homaira Mershed
Secretary	Sarina Greco	Jennifer Davis
Treasurer	David Brennan	Tony Lister (to 30/8/21), David Brennan (from 30/8/21)
Members	Jenny Sharwood OAM	Jenny Sharwood OAM Assad Najeem Tony Lister (from 30/8/21)



Homaira Mershed
AFGHAN GALLERY RESTAURANT

AADO COM members 2020-2021

3. Brief Profiles of AADO COM Members

The backgrounds of AADO's COM members elected at the 2020 AGM are:

- **Dr Nouria Salehi AM - AADO Executive Director:** Nuclear physicist and biophysicist, AADO founder and Executive Director since 2002; formerly on the Board of the Refugee Council of Australia, Amnesty International Australia, Brotherhood of St Laurence
- **Jackie Fristacky, AM - AADO President:** Lawyer and public policy analyst; formerly taught at La Trobe University; worked in Federal and State governments including as a Tribunal member; former City of Yarra Councillor and Mayor; author of a book on Afghanistan
- **Homaira Mershed - Deputy President:** partner/manager at Afghan Gallery; formerly medical research assistant in nuclear medicine; laboratory assistant; community liaison officer, interpreter/translator, trainer, events coordinator with UNHCR
- **Jennifer Davis – Secretary:** retired microbiologist with background in public health; volunteer at Community Radio; former Board Member and Chair of The Leprosy Mission Australia
- **Tony Lister – Treasurer:** background in taxation law, finance and administration, worked within the Ministry of Finance (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan 2011-2013)
- **David Brennan – Treasurer:** retired CPA with a background in financial management of manufacturing companies in Australia and Asia
- **Jenny Sharwood, OAM – Member:** Former teacher of chemistry, science and maths and now an author in those fields and presenter of science and chemistry teacher workshops over many years. Chemistry education consultant to and writer for the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.
- **Assad Najeem – Member:** Practising engineer; active in Afghan youth communities; helped found the Afghan Youth Soccer initiative

4. Report from AADO President and Executive Director

The year 2020/21 saw substantial changeover in the COM at the last AGM with Sarina Greco stepping down after 6 years as President. This and the need to also fill both Secretary and Treasurer vacancies brought a largely new executive team, but one with fresh skills and experiences to help navigate AADO through a troubling period for those working to improve the lives of Afghanistan's women and families.

The year 2020/21 was particularly challenging, due to:

- The impact of the 29 February 2020 Trump US Agreement with the Taliban on US military withdrawal from Afghanistan, initially from May 2020, but extended by new President Biden to August 2021. This saw a major step-up in Taliban military activity in Afghanistan's Provinces with heightening security risks, bombings in cities, and closure of the Australian Embassy in Kabul in May 2021;
- Limitations in meetings and some activities for much of 2020/2021 as well as reduced staffing of our Team in Kabul due to: the impacts of COVID-19; heightened security risks in Provinces; and lower than usual income with loss of funding from some Trusts and Foundations;
- New President, Secretary, Treasurer as AADO COM members half way through the year and not previously having served on the COM; the new President not able to assume her role for 6 months of the year; and health challenges of executive team members.

Despite these challenges, AADO continued its development and other activities, amidst also prioritising emergency humanitarian aid for needy families to alleviate the current food crisis:

- **Literacy and livelihoods training for village women:** AADO has, over the years, provided this training for thousands of disadvantaged women in Afghanistan's provinces. In 2020/21, a further 150 women attended programs in 5 villages in Kabul Province assessed as safe. Needed now more than ever, AADO is liaising with AADRO in Kabul for this program to continue, despite current constraints in training for women;
- **Master Science Teacher Training (MSTT):** Over 5,000 science teachers have been through this program. In 2020/21, a further 220 science teachers attended MSTT through to March 2021 upgrading their skills to improve science student outcomes for tertiary entrance. Regrettably, due to constraints, AADO was not able to continue MSTT beyond March 2021;

On 8 March 2021, the Afghan General Directorate of Science Center and Education Technology wrote (See **Attachment** to this report) commending our award winning "*outstanding work in STT*" delivering reputable, efficient and effective training at high benefit value for cost. This request has since been re-iterated. AADO is examining how best to provide MSTT for 2022 given restrictions in women attending courses;

- 31 July 2020 **Submission to the Senate Inquiry into issues facing Diaspora** communities in Australia, on AADO's development role and seeking a Diaspora funding stream. Sarina Greco and Nouria Salehi spoke on the submission to the Senate Committee by teleconference on 29 September 2020;

- 21 March 2021 a very successful **Nowroz celebration** and fundraiser at the Afghan Gallery and **ongoing fundraising** through the website and Mailchimp mailouts to cover AADO programs and humanitarian aid for displaced women and families;
- Continuing to sell copies through the AADO website, of Sally Morrison's book ***A Future Worth Having*** covering Nouria Salehi and AADO's role in Afghanistan; and
- Planning AADO's activities for the following year 2021/22 in the context of added security, financial and access issues.

This report concludes with appreciation to all who have contributed to AADO's exceptionally demanding work this year.

A special **thanks to Sarina Greco** for her legacy – as an outstanding President over 6 years from 2014 to 2020 and formerly as a COM member. AADO is indebted to Sarina for this service and also for her ongoing involvement and support to the COM – continuing AADO mailouts using Mailchimp, generously hosting the orientation workshop for new COM members, and being available to assist Deputy President, Homaira Mershedhi as Acting President for the 6 months to 30 June 2021, before the new President was able to take up her role.

Sincere thanks to all AADO COM members, embracing their roles as volunteers: especially our extremely thorough Secretary, Jennifer Davis; Tony Lister as the new Treasurer; David Brennan for resuming the Treasurer role after the end of the financial year and preparing the annual reports for 2020/21 and other accounts; Nouria Salehi for her amazing work as Executive Director over near 20 years; Deputy President, Homaira Mershedhi for hosting AADO events so efficiently at the Afghan Gallery; and Assad Najeem for his assistance with our website, events and diaspora links.

Huge thanks to our dedicated team in Kabul delivering training programs in difficult and risky circumstances. Finally, hearty thanks to AADO's highly valued members and supporters for your donations which make AADO's vital work possible.



Jackie M. Fristacky

Jackie M Fristacky AM, President



N. Salehi

Dr Nouria Salehi AM, Executive Director

Letter from Afghan Ministry of Education, 8 March 2021



دولت جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
وزارت معارف

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوري دولت
د پوهنې وزارت



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Ministry of Education

سپی عدلی اطمنینتیه ابلاغیه سفیر

شماره: ۵۳۰۵۸۲۱
تاریخ: ۱۴۰۰/۱/۱

To whom it may concern

Re: Afghan Australian Development & Rehabilitation Organization (AADRO)

The General Directorate of Science Center and Educational Technology is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Afghan Australian Development & Rehabilitation Organization (AADRO) which has received a number of awards for its outstanding work in science teacher training across Afghanistan.

AADRO's Science Teacher Training (STT) Program commenced in December 2007 in direct response to the poor performance of Afghanistan's students in Science which is an impediment to their transition to senior secondary school and achieving university entrance.

Working in close partnership with the Afghan Ministry of Education (MoE) and General Directorate of Science Center and Educational Technology, AADRO has far exceeded its original aim to train 1,000 in-service Science and Mathematics teachers to have appropriate theoretical and practical knowledge and ability, to improve the quality of teaching and the educational outcomes of year 12 students in Afghanistan.

A new 3 year program was developed by AADRO in 2012, this time to train Master Science Teacher Trainers recognized by their principals as teachers with the potential to provide in-service training to colleagues as Master Teachers. Since 2012, AADRO has trained 6000 Master Science Teachers in Kabul and in many provinces.

AADRO has developed a strong reputation for high quality, cost program delivery. For these reasons, AADRO has received a number of awards in recognition of this work.

The General Directorate of Science Center and Educational Technology is pleased to be able to recommend AADRO as a reputable, efficient and effective local NGO with a strong track record over more than decade of delivering high quality education and training to Afghanistan's teachers.

Assoc. Prof. Sayed Asghar Haidari
DG, Science Center and Education Technology



5. Annual Financial Statement

The full audited Financial Statement, with explanation of Notes and the Independent Auditor's Report, PMK Partners, dated 24 November 2021 (14 pages) is available on AADO's website: www.aado.org.au/resources/ or on request

AFGHAN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION
ABN 25 274 698 213

INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
INCOME			
Donations and Gifts		63,248	36,842
Commercial Activities Income		-	3,817
Grants Received		-	156,000
Interest Received		47	227
Membership Fees		210	330
Foreign Currency Exchanges		(834)	(104)
	3	62,671	197,112
EXPENDITURE			
International Programs		101,373	223,494
Accountability and Administration		6,015	4,568
		107,388	228,062
Loss for the year		(44,717)	(30,950)
Total income for the year		(44,717)	(30,950)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4	165,961	187,451
Other Current Assets	5	-	600
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		165,961	188,051
TOTAL ASSETS		165,961	188,051
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	6	37,657	15,030
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		37,657	15,030
TOTAL LIABILITIES		37,657	15,030
NET ASSETS		128,304	173,021
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained earnings	7	128,304	173,021
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		128,304	173,021

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	Retained earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2019		203,970	203,970
Profit attributable to members		(30,949)	(30,949)
Balance at 30 June 2020		173,021	173,021
Profit attributable to members		(44,717)	(44,717)
Balance at 30 June 2021		128,304	128,304

Humanitarian Emergency Aid

An estimated 3M of 39M Afghans have been forced to flee homes, with another 600,000 just since mid-2021. Many are now subsisting in Kabul and other cities.

The UN estimates a near record 23M Afghans face acute hunger due to drought, conflict, displacement, and economic crisis amidst freezing winter conditions to February 2022.

A sample of recipients of AADO Emergency Aid - Displaced Afghan families in Kabul 2021, funded by your donations, is pictured below:



Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self - regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity.

To lodge a complaint against our organisation, please email info@aado.org.au. Our complaints handling policy can be found on our website. If you are not satisfied with the response and believe our organisation has breached the ACFID Code of Conduct, you can lodge a complaint with the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee at code@acfid.asn.au. Information about how to make a complaint can be found at www.acfid.asn.au