



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Celebrating 40 Years
of supporting migrant and refugee women

Table of Contents

<i>Our Vision and Values</i>	1
<i>SpeakOut: IWSA 40th Anniversary Publication</i>	2
<i>Chairperson's Report</i>	3
<i>Executive Officer's Report</i>	4
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	5
<i>Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Services</i>	6
<i>Homeless Multicultural Women Integrated Support Service</i>	7
<i>Multicultural Women's Shelter</i>	10
<i>Immigrant Women's Resource Centre</i>	12
<i>Year in Snapshot</i>	17
<i>Photo Gallery</i>	18
<i>Management Committee and Staff Acknowledgements</i>	19
<i>Membership Form</i>	20
<i>Contact Us</i>	21



Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Association of NSW (IWSA)

IWSA is a key women's organisation which acknowledges and values the cultural, linguistic and multigenerational diversity of migrant and refugee women. It empowers these women to achieve gender equality in all areas of their lives. IWSA provides education, information and other direct services to women of non-English Speaking Backgrounds/Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds in NSW.

IWSA is an independent advocate representing the issues and ideas of immigrant and refugee women at all levels of government, community services, industrial sectors and the media.

IWSA is committed to creating and sustaining lasting change by

- Giving women the confidence and tools to achieve political, social and economic autonomy,
- Creating awareness of the issues that face our clients and their communities through policy research, advocacy, consultation groups and training programs,
- Educating and supporting immigrant and refugee women to live free from domestic and family violence, and
- Providing a forum and opportunity for these women to have their voices heard.

Our Vision

We dream of a society that values the rich and diverse contributions of immigrant and refugee women. We endeavor to encourage culturally and linguistically diverse women by empowering them to access the resources they need to live independently – free of violence, oppression, exploitation and discrimination.

Our Values

Dignity

We take a person-centered, strength-based approach to empower women of non-English speaking backgrounds to speak, act, and choose with enhanced knowledge and confidence. We uphold the rights of all women to have dignity, choice, and independence in their lives.

Respect

We operate on the principles of anti-discrimination and respect. We strive towards equality and equity for culturally and linguistically diverse women by:

- Respecting their views and choices
- Fighting for their rights
- Challenging stereotypes seen in the mass media or other sectors of the community.

Safety

Women's safety is our priority. We have an inclusive environment which is free from violence and harassment. We provide culturally safe and culturally appropriate services to immigrant and refugee women. In all aspects of our work, we ensure that the rights and privacy of service-users are upheld.

Social Justice

We do what we can, to break down the barriers that prevent immigrant and refugee women from participating fully in the Australian society.

The IWSA 40th Anniversary Publication

Speak Out- 40 Migrant Women Tell Their Stories

celebrates the achievements of everyday women reaching their goals during or after their migration to Australia. These stories highlight the challenges of migration, gender equality, safety and respect.

To this date, the pressures that immigrant and refugee women face include employment, education and training, access and equity, housing, domestic and family violence, physical/mental health; childcare, legal, socio-cultural issues, issues specific to refugee women, older migrant women, those who live in rural areas, and women from smaller, emerging migrant groups.

Testimony on migration – a story from [“40 Migrant Women Tell Their Stories”](#)

Zainab’s story (first published in 2012: “30 Migrant Women Tell Their Stories”)

When she arrived in Australia, Zainab was surprised to see the diversity of the people living together. They had different languages, appearances, nationalities, which she found very interesting to hear and learn about. She had always wanted to have contact with new cultures and still enjoys making new friends from other countries.

She marvels at the kindness of strangers in Australia, one example being her young neighbour next door who always finds time to listen to her and help her practice her English.

“English [is a] general language all over the world. I am interested in connecting with people, even if they come from different countries. I decided to learn English as soon as possible.”

In 1997, the war in Afghanistan brought Zainab to Australia. Her family “suffered terribly, a terrible situation” and they were forced to leave their home in order to find safety. They were scattered and

IMMIGRANT
WOMEN'S
SPEAK OUT

40 Migrant Women
Tell their Stories

Speak Out



separated throughout different countries and now they are living in Ireland, Germany, America, and Australia. She says it’s still incredibly difficult to see one another because her family is still so scattered today.

Coming from a Muslim country, Zainab believed there were many limitations on being a woman in Afghanistan. The only roles open to them were as a mother or a wife, and they were not allowed to leave and go to a foreign country.

Zainab emphasizes that migrant women, especially older migrant women, should be aware of their rights and responsibilities. She says keeping an open mind about other cultures and countries is a good way of overcoming barriers in the community.

“The most important thing... keep trying to improve your English to settle well.”





Chairperson's Message

Gayathri Dharmagesan

Speaking out for 40 years and getting stronger!

This year in 2022, we celebrate the 40th Foundation Anniversary of the Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Association. We are also delighted to announce that we also celebrate the granting to IWSA of the ASES (Australian Service Excellence Standards) Certificate in Service Excellence. This celebrates our strengths and the sustainability of our services. Thus, we can continue to assist migrant and refugee women. Indeed, the ASES Certificate in Service Excellence is a very important milestone for IWSA.

Another big milestone, that we must remember, was the Multicultural Family Support Services (MFSS) Early Intervention, that was delivered by IWSA from 2004 to 2006. This service provided intensive flexible support tailored to the specific needs of each family, including culturally appropriate casework, crisis counselling, ongoing center-based support, home-visiting and outreach, out-of-hours support, and parenting services as well as referrals for other issues related to settlement (housing, financial assistance, legal issues and more).

During the third decade, the years 2002 – 2012, the IWSA achieved another milestone. We held a Skilled Migrant Placement Program e-Commerce Skills Exhibit. The exhibit attracted 1,200 employers, recruitment agencies, education providers and job seekers. In this light, IWSA intends to study the emerging needs of migrant and refugee women for employment and issues of families with young children. The needs analysis of that study will be used to explore much needed services and community engagement activities.

As we call to mind our achievements, we also take note of our challenges. The period covering the years 2012 to 2022, has also brought significant challenges and we overcame these with support of all our members and stakeholders in the Domestic and Family Violence sector.

There were many communities, service providers (government and non-government) and politicians who appreciated and highly valued our work. They saw the positive outcomes for the immigrant and refugee women we had assisted. IWSA has been and continues to be funded by the New South Wales Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) in delivering the HoMWISS (Homeless Multicultural Women Integrated Support Service) and the IWRC (Immigrant Women's Resource Centre). The highlight of this decade is the establishment of the IWSA Multicultural Women's Shelter (MWS) in 2016. The MWS provides a glimpse of a bright future that awaits the grant and refugee women escaping domestic and family violence.

The IWSA success story is in its journey with thousands of migrant and refugee women to the road of equity and access continues.

I wish to thank all of you, our supporters and friends, for all the assistance that you have provided to IWSA through the years. I thank the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). Due to the Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) and Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) program grants, our core services IWRC and HoMWISS continue to provide vital services. We have also received funding through DCJ's Social Sector Transformation Fund (SSTF), Family Sexual Violence National Partnership Agreement (SFVN), and Women NSW. I also express our gratitude towards the Paul Ramsay Foundation for their funding for the IWSA's Multicultural Women's Shelter.

I thank our members, volunteers, my Management Committee members, staff members, our community partners and most of all, our service recipients who have put their trust in IWSA service provision.





Executive Officer's Report

Jane Brock

On 25th of March 2022, IWSA celebrated its 40th Foundation Anniversary. The day was filled with many recollections of migrant and refugee women stories, overcoming hardships and achievements of successes that they have experienced. It was the occasion to launch the IWSA publication, titled "Speak Out 40 Migrant Women Tell Their Stories". The booklet is a compilation of 40 success stories of migrant and refugee women. It also included experiences of CALD women during the COVID 19 pandemic lockdowns. The extraordinary courage of migrant and refugee women in asserting their right to be safe, reclaim self-esteem, and self-confidence were the core messages of this publication.

The Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Association conveys its gratitude to all migrant and refugee women who have shared their stories in this publication. Your stories show that migrant and refugee women can choose to have power to end violence against women. As an organised group, we bond ourselves to have stronger power in building a culture of equity, dignity, respect, and safety in all aspects of our lives.

The COVID 19 pandemic lockdowns brought difficulties in late 2019 until early 2022. It resulted in migrant and refugee women losing their jobs and income, and experiencing domestic and family violence. Communities, women's associations, and service agencies have reported there were increased incidents of violence against women during the COVID 19 pandemic lockdowns.

In the midst of the pandemic, on 30th December 2021, IWSA received its ASES (Australian Service Excellence Standards) Certificate for Excellency in Service Provision. I can say that this is the top highlight of IWSA's achievements for the past 40 years.

As IWSA celebrates its 40th Anniversary, we recall that from 25th to 27th March 1982, three hundred women gathered in Sydney to Speak Out on the pressures and problems that impact on migrant and refugee women.

Thus, the 27th March 1982 is the date of reference in celebrating the foundation of the IWSA/SpeakOut.

After March 1982, IWSA continued to hold other SpeakOut events of migrant and refugee women. On 16th and 17th October 1992 "The Politics of Speaking Out" was held. That SpeakOut event reviewed the main achievements of migrant and refugee women since its first gathering in 1982 and set the agenda of migrant women at the turn of the century. Then, the first rural migrant women's SpeakOut was held on 1st and 2nd of September 2005 in Coffs Harbour, NSW. Also, in the same year, on 25th November 2005, IWSA was given an award in recognition of IWSA's Outstanding Contribution to Prevention of Violence Against Women. On the 9th November 2016, we established IWSA's crisis accommodation – the Multicultural Women's Shelter. Those are some of the highlights of IWSA's achievements for the past 40 years.

In that regard, I thank all our partners in the SpeakOut journey. I send my gratitude to all IWSA members, volunteers, co-staff members, Management Committee members, community partners especially the peak bodies in the Homelessness and Domestic Violence sector, the Linker Network, the Harris Park Community Centre, DFV committees, Harmony Alliance, ERA (Equality Rights Alliance), WESNET (Women's Services Network), and the Community Planning Officer of the Department of Communities and Justice, Ozen Cemali.





Treasurer's Report Nelia Sumcad

With great confidence and on behalf of the Management Committee, I present the IWSA financial performance for the year 2021-2022. They are a true and accurate view of IWSA's financial position. I further state that IWSA is a financially viable organisation and is able pay its liabilities as and when they fall due.

IWSA acknowledges the long-term partnership we have with various government agencies we work with on state and local level. This is important in addressing the needs of migrant women and their children. This partnership with NSW government shows how we can effectively use taxpayers' money in achieving the best outcomes for migrant and refugee women seeking assistance. IWSA thanks Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) for this partnership.

We highly value the funding and support we receive from DCJ through its two funding programs: the TEI (Targeted Earlier Intervention) and the SHS (Specialist Homelessness Services). It allows us to respond to the needs of immigrant and refugee women with young children. The funding we received through DCJ's Social Sector Transformation Fund (SSTF), Family Sexual Violence National Partnership Agreement (SFVN), and Women NSW are resources that helped IWSA, and our clients overcome the challenges we faced during the COVID 19 pandemic and lockdowns. The Paul Ramsay Foundation also provided funding for the IWSA's Multicultural Women's Shelter (MWS). This financial support kept the shelter doors open even though in limited capacity.

In this financial year, IWSA received donations from the Delany College – Granville and Our Lady of Mercy College in Parramatta (OLMC). The donations were for IWSA's Multicultural Women's Shelter. IWSA thanks the OLMC and the Delany College students, teachers, Management, and staff. We will continue to nurture the partnerships with OLMC and Delany College in the near future.

As Treasurer, I must say that the Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Association has a great team of workers, volunteers, and members. I say a very big thank you for your hard work in service delivery and other support activities for clients.

All our achievements are possible due not only to a great team of staff and volunteers, but also due to sound management and support from a hard-working and dedicated Management Committee.

On behalf of the IWSA, I say thank you to Mohan Packianathan, our Accountant, Evelyn Boehringer, our Operations Officer, and Stephen A. Sproats, our Auditor and Jane Brock – IWSA Executive Officer for her great leadership. Jane has written and submitted the funding applications that resulted in more funding for IWSA.

Our being compliant with IWSA's financial accountability is made possible with the sound management and support by my co-Management Committee members. I thank my co-MC members for their support to me in fulfilling my duties as Treasurer.



Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Services

Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Association provides culturally specific services to women from non-English speaking backgrounds experiencing domestic and family violence or homelessness. We use a strengths-based, person-centred approach to provide 'wrap-around' services to migrant and refugee women.



ENDING DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE: HOMWISS



MULTICULTURAL WOMEN'S SHELTER



IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE



ADVOCACY

ENDING DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE: Homeless Multicultural Women Integrated Support Service



ADVOCACY



IWSA offers information, support and referral services for culturally and linguistically diverse women who are experiencing domestic and family violence, who are or are on the verge of being homeless.

Homelessness is a glaring problem in Australia. It does not discriminate. It exists in all geographical areas, urban, suburban and rural. Becoming homeless is often triggered by a personal crisis. Domestic and family violence is one of the root causes of homelessness.

IWSA Project Officers have been regularly providing support to women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Most of these clients are survivors of domestic and family violence (DFV) who are either homeless or at the risk of being homeless. The Homelessness Multicultural Women Integrated Support Service (HoMWISE) team provided wrap around services including intensive case management to clients with complex needs/situations in Western Sydney. In addition, the HoMWISE team also devoted considerable amount of time accommodating state-wide clients under the 'no wrong door' policy.

The HoMWISE Project Officers supported 244 CALD women and their children during the financial year 2020-2021. The team worked alongside these clients to empower them to deal with their situations, strengthen their skills and survive the global COVID-19 pandemic. Of these clients, 73 were homeless and 171 were at risk of becoming homeless due to domestic and family violence.

Direct Services:

The Project Officers provided direct services to the clients in the form of case management and co-case management. Around 95% of these 244 clients were on temporary visas. Most of them were on Bridging Visa and hence were not eligible for financial support from the government or special benefits from Centrelink.

These clients were referred to organisations such as the Victims Services and the Red Cross domestic and family violence financial assistance, for financial assistance. They were provided support letters and assisted with completion of required documentation. Those eligible were assisted to apply for special benefits with Centrelink. The officers provided support face-to-face and over the phone. Clients who were on Partner Visa; mostly on Bridging Visa, were guided to access the Family Violence Provisions (FVP) of the migration rules.

IWSA supported the clients by guiding them, providing referrals and advocating on their behalf with various government agencies.

HoMWISE team attended Expos at Wetherill Park and Bankstown TAFE to share and educate newly arrived communities about the impact of domestic and family violence.

Homeless Multicultural Women Integrated Support Service

Referrals to crisis accommodation and transitional housing:

It is difficult for women who escape domestic violence to find affordable private rental accommodation after they exit from emergency/transitional housing. Most of IWSA's clients could not afford private rentals. They had to couch surf. This added to their stress and trauma. Some clients had to return to their partners due to lack of other options. These clients had already exhausted the government support such as temporary accommodation and were on the waiting list for housing applications. Although they were receiving Special Benefit payment, it was not enough to sustain a decent living. The clients on Bridging visas could not access special benefits from Centrelink, neither could they access temporary/crisis accommodation due to lack of income.

Clients with no children who were homeless were accommodated in IWSA's Multicultural Women's Shelter. Others were referred to other Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS) funded Women's Shelter for crisis accommodation.

Food vouchers and Opal cards:

IWSA provided clients food vouchers. These vouchers helped supplement the limited financial assistance they received. They were also provided pre-paid Opal cards which they could use to attend their meetings/appointments with psychologists, counsellors and General Practitioners.

Life Skills:

Clients were assisted with writing their Statutory Declarations to support their claim of domestic and family violence.

Education about the global pandemic was provided on a regular basis via emails and phone messages. They were sent information in their own languages to keep them up to date with the latest information from WHO, state and national health authorities. When it was safe to do so, the HoMWISS team assisted clients to look for employment to be job ready.

Collaborative Partnerships

IWSA's partnerships with the government, industry and community organizations helped the HoMWISS team deliver their services to effectively meet the clients' needs and achieve their goals in accordance with their case plans.

Because of the perceived stigma and gossip within their communities after separation, clients did not want to return to their countries of origin. With the support from IWSA and partnership with other SHS services, most of the clients were successful with their permanent residency applications and are now living safely and happily in Australia, with the majority contributing by paying their taxes.

IWSA HoMWISS team connected majority of the clients, who consented, with their communities, to ease the stress and the feeling of isolation.

IWSA continued to work in partnership with different organisations such as Link2Home, Domestic Violence Help line, Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (DVCAS), Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS), NSW Legal Aid, Centrelink, Department of Home Affairs, Relationships Australia and other charitable organisations. The Domestic Violence Financial Assistance from Red Cross helped IWSA's clients with their financial needs.

IWSA also worked with organisations and committees within their networks such as Outer West Domestic Violence Network (OWDVN), Metwest, Violence Prevention Network, Domestic Violence Community of Practice, Cumberland Holroyd Domestic Violence Committee, Blacktown Mt Druitt Interagency and other interagencies to address the issues and concerns of migrant and refugee women, including culture specific issues such as 'Forced Marriage'.



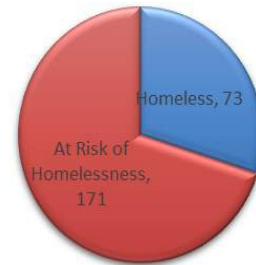
Homeless Multicultural Women Integrated Support Service

Continuous Professional Development:

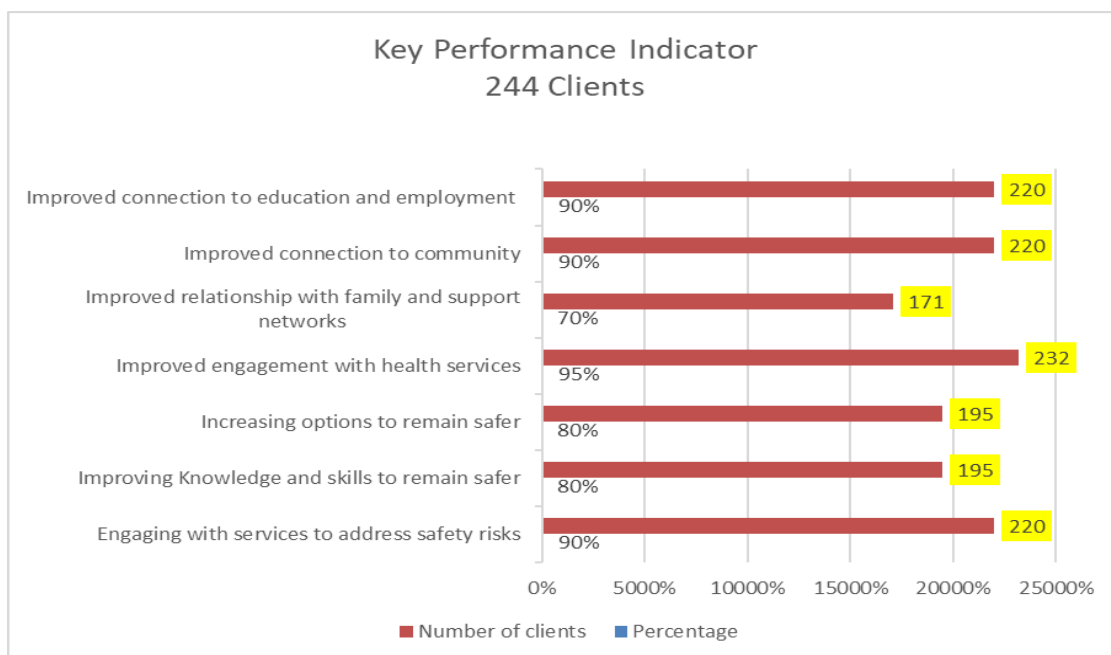
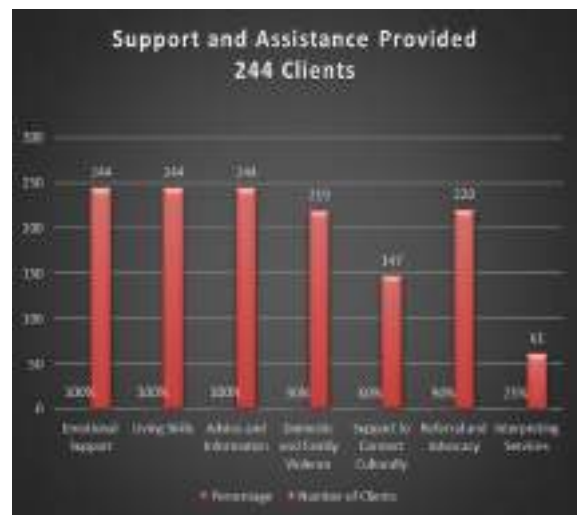
IWSA attended domestic violence forums, information sessions, webinars, online and face to face meetings to keep up to date with understanding of issues affecting women and their children experiencing DFV. The team also learned about the support and services available around Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountain area.

Partnerships with organisations such as Afghan Women Association, Noor Association, Chinese Australian Service, Harris Park Community Centre, Thai Welfare Service, Muslim Women’s Association, Philippine Australian Community Services (PACSI) enabled IWSA to empower women by having information sessions on domestic violence awareness and related events.

244 Clients Provided with Support and Assistance



■ Homeless ■ At Risk of Homelessness ■ ■



Multicultural Women's Shelter



Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Association provides temporary accommodation for culturally and linguistically diverse women who are:

- Homeless or at risk of being homeless.
- Experiencing or have experienced domestic and family violence.

The Multicultural Women's Shelter is a safe place that accommodates single women (without children) on temporary visas when they are escaping domestic or family violence.

Over the year 2021-2022, IWSA has worked hard to make links to all kinds of partners in mitigating the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We established strong partnerships with the government and non-government organisations, health care providers, donors, volunteers, and many others. In the midst of the COVID-19 public health crisis, we drew heavily on these relationships to help us adapt to the new realities. We are truly grateful for all of the support we received. We will draw on our partners and collaborate again as we enter what IWSA hopes as a quieter year of recovery from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

When IWSA looks back on the last year, the biggest realisation is that we bonded together in facing the challenges ahead of us. In the face of the unrelenting pressures of 2021-2022, IWSA found the strength to carry on.

Never in the history of IWSA have we encountered such multi-layered challenges---the pandemic, the lockdowns, the constantly changing protocols, the need for a whole new approach to assistance, the wearing of Personal Protective Equipment, the writing and implementing new protocols on COVID-19 Infection control. And just when we felt there might be a chance to breathe, the Omicron variant arrived. It was a very difficult year for MWS clients, our staff, and Management Committee members.

IWSA Shelter is 24/7 provider of care and support to some of the most vulnerable women. During COVID-19 we operated with limited resources. We were able to do so because of our volunteers and funding partners such as Women NSW and Paul Ramsay Foundation. IWSA would like to thank all our partners. We would not have been able to assist these women without your support. The Shelter clients experienced the power of community to heal, to lift-up and to offer solace. This is a remarkable phenomenon to witness in action at the IWSA's Multicultural Women's Shelter.



Multicultural Women's Shelter

Testimony of a client: Jo

You could feel the joy in Jo's voice as she rang the Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Association that she was granted a Permanent Resident visa!

Here is her story:

Jo reported that during the COVID-19 lockdown, she was stuck at home with her violent husband. She did her best not to make him angry. She made him nice breakfast, lunch, dinner, cleaned the house, and did all the household chores. But she was so scared of living with her husband that often she could not sleep at night.

The constant kicking and hitting by her husband took a toll on her health. Her culture does not accept a woman leaving her marriage. Her relatives advised her to stay, sort out the differences and continue the relationship. But when she tried talking to her husband, he became more angry.

He stopped her from attending English lessons at TAFE because he wanted her to be home. She was not allowed to make friends. Her husband was unemployed and always at home, so she could never get away from him.

Her family overseas came across the Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Association website. They gave Jo IWSA's phone number. With all the courage she had, she decided to call IWSA.

Fortunately, IWSA's Multicultural Women's Shelter had a vacancy. Jo was provided accommodation as well as food and transport (Opal card) vouchers and other much need support. She was also assisted to apply for the financial assistance through Red Cross. She was successful in her application.

At the first support session with the IWSA Project Officer, Jo asked if she could get counselling as she was always fearful and anxious. From then on, she had regular therapeutic counselling sessions until this day.

IWSA Project Officer helped Jo navigate the government system, guided her to fill in relevant application forms, provide supporting evidence and finally she got what she wanted!!

It is stories like this that make all our efforts worthwhile.



Immigrant Women's Resource Centre (Targeted Earlier Intervention)



Immigrant Women's Resource Centre facilitates a range of culturally safe activities to promote community engagement and skills development. We ensure that the participants learn in a culturally safe and accepting environment.

Community Development

For forty years IWSA has been empowering CALD women, by breaking down structural barriers to enable refugee and migrant women to participate fully in the Australian society. IWSA places great emphasis on community development through different activities such as English conversation classes, computer classes, sewing classes, information sessions, excursions and celebration of cultural events. These gatherings have provided opportunities for IWSA to connect with the multicultural communities such as Afghan, Arabic, Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Iranian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan and Vietnamese.

The aim of these classes is to empower women by teaching them new skills, reducing isolation and improving their mental health. The participants enjoy the interaction with women from different communities.

Computer Classes

IWSA provided educational and skills development support to women through computer courses for Microsoft Office. The lessons were aimed at enhancing career development and employment pathways. These courses equipped them to complete their TAFE assignments and projects in a professional manner. In addition to this, it also helped them assist their communities at language classes.

Students continued to visit IWSA Computer Centre for ongoing learning and further practice.

The students learned how to use social media platforms like Facebook and video conferencing applications such as Zoom. This assisted students in their search for employment, especially during COVID-19 lockdowns. IWSA teacher helped them create their own email addresses and use relevant applications on their mobile phones. Students were taught how to create their digital accounts and access services such as Centrelink, Immiaccount and myGov.

The teacher used interactive methods to engage the students. Teacher and students co-determined their needs and the teacher monitored their progress towards achieving their goals. This has been one of the most successful initiatives to equip women to be a part of the digital world.



Immigrant Women's Resource Centre (Targeted Earlier Intervention)

Sewing Classes

As COVID-19 was at its peak from July to October 2021, IWSA started face-to-face sewing classes in November. During COVID lockdown, from July to October, Zoom sessions were organised. Total number of classes conducted this financial year was 31.

During lockdown, the sewing teacher made several videos, uploaded them on YouTube and provided links to the students. She created interesting projects such as making a coin purse, storage box and baby blanket. She also taught them how to make alterations to gowns, pants and shirts.

From November, face to face classes students completed projects such as

- Wall hangings for TV remote, small objects
- Pencil cases. Students made pencil cases for their kids and husbands
- Mobile phone covers
- Cushion covers using left over fabric pieces
- Quilting, making colourful flower-shaped tablemats.

IWSA received positive feedback from all the students. They were very happy with the teacher and proud of their new skills. They started creating small projects at home on their own.

The students were so happy with the teacher that they requested her to teach their daughters. During summer holidays, the teacher conducted online and face to face sewing classes for them. They made hair scrunches and learned hand sewing. During their first term school holidays, they made fabric butterflies, their own box pencil cases and fabric flowers. The girls were happy, excited and proud of their achievements.

Other projects included making

- fabric tote bag
- different kinds of storage boxes
- pin cushions
- small coin purses
- needle book to store needles of all sorts
- fabric basket for sweets or bread.

The women were excited to learn new skills, had a sense of belonging and formed close friendships in these classes.



Immigrant Women's Resource Centre (Targeted Earlier Intervention)

Conversational English Classes

The students were from varying age groups, some with caring responsibilities as mothers, aunts, grandmothers and family friends. Young mothers with higher education and work experience in their own countries were keen to improve their English to get a job. English conversation sessions were a platform for further education in TAFE and other institutions. The sessions were student-centered and focused on women's requirements and enhanced their knowledge about local services.

Group discussions on women's issues such as Domestic Violence, Women's Rights, Women & Peace, Women's Health and COVID-19 pandemic were the main topics this year. The sessions also dealt with a range of important issues such as Child Protection and Safety, Parenting and eSafety. These sessions assisted women to get useful information, refresh their knowledge and gain more confidence. They also gave them opportunities to share their own knowledge in an informal supportive environment.

These sessions helped women get together in an environment where they felt comfortable discussing issues of concern openly and exchange ideas. The English classes helped women improve their self-esteem, confidently book doctors' appointments, read and write phone messages and send emails. They developed 'women support women' groups and formed deep friendships.

Information Sessions

COVID-19 pandemic affected all people across Australia, more so the CALD communities, who experienced serious challenges that extended beyond immediate health concerns. The combination of financial pressures, job losses, debts, mortgages and social disconnection increased mental health issues and depression within these communities. Even when the face-to-face sessions were disrupted, IWSA made every effort to keep the participants engaged and supported.

IWSA developed a plan to maintain contact with women's groups via telephone and Zoom. Sessions on raising awareness about COVID-19, the precautions and protection were carried over every week to the participants of the English, Computer and Sewing classes, through Facebook, Viber, Messenger, phone messages, emails and Zoom. Tips on practicing good hygiene, including physical distancing, wearing masks and isolation were highlighted and sent weekly to the women. Posters and resources in Farsi, Dari, Urdu, Arabic, Chinese were uploaded and sent to them regularly. This helped women better protect their families and reduce the spread of virus in the community.

During COVID-19 restrictions, significant attention was paid to senior women living alone, who were less likely to seek help due to language barriers. IWSA familiarised them with Zoom on their mobiles. However, for the majority of them it was too expensive to use. As a result, it was difficult to form a group for the English Conversation class via Zoom.

When the restrictions were lifted, the classes resumed and the weekly women's gathering in the Parramatta Park on Thursdays restarted. Participants welcomed these changes.



Immigrant Women's Resource Centre (Targeted Earlier Intervention)

The COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test kits were distributed to the participants with instructions on their use in their own languages. Entertainment activities such as cultural events and excursions for women with young children and carers of children were restarted. English class participants along with other women from the Afghan community celebrated Eid and cultural events at Granville Town Hall and Granville Community Centre in March and May 2022.

However COVID-19 variants continued to emerge. So when Omicron emerged, one- on-one classes were organized.

We all are looking forward to the time when we can resume our normal activities without any concern and restriction.

IWSA is grateful to Department of Communities and Justice Targeted Earlier Intervention Program for providing funds to organise these activities.

Feedback from the students:

"It's amazing class. It gives me a chance to learn to express my thoughts in simple sentences."

"Though COVID restriction was tough, it helped me learn how to use the social media (Zoom, WhatsApp) properly."

"I have missed the face-to-face interaction in the class, the short walk to office and a cup of tea with other women."

"Teachers are very friendly and kind. They are good at engaging women, making us feel comfortable participating in the class. They are very approachable and knowledgeable."

"The English class materials are interesting because they refer to real issues and scenarios which women need to know and discuss."

"I've learned useful and valuable stuff about services in the area, women's rights, women's health issues and international events such as 16 days of activism, one million rising. I'm really happy to be aware of this. It has improved my knowledge"



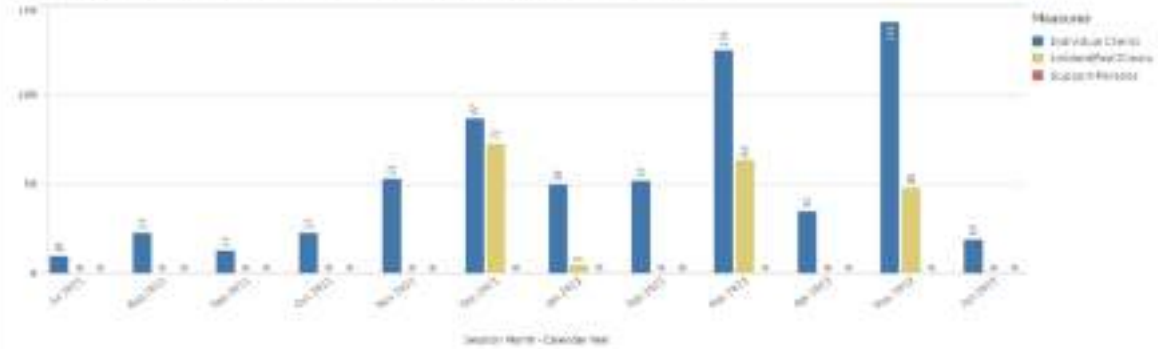
Immigrant Women's Resource Centre (Targeted Earlier Intervention)

Clients Numbers (Individual Clients and Unidentified) (July 2021-June 2022)

Individual Clients
310
Unidentified Clients
178
Support Persons
0

Clients and Support Persons per month

Note: In some 12th month figures for various reporting purposes, percentages may be greater than 100, which may be due to rounding, the amount entered or a spreadsheet error.



Overview of Client Numbers

Clients and Support Persons per Activity and service type

Activity	Service Type	Individual Clients	Unidentified Clients	Combined total Individual and Unidentified Clients	Support Persons
Totals		310	178	488	0
TEI - Community Support	Advocacy/Support	10	0	10	0
TEI - Community Support	Education and Skills training	23	0	23	0
TEI - Community Support	Facilitate Employment Pathways	6	0	6	0
TEI - Community Support	Information/advice/counseling	251	0	251	0
TEI - Community Support	Social participation	79	0	79	0
TEI - Community Connections	Community Engagement	175	112	287	0
TEI - Community Connections	Information/advice/counseling	18	0	18	0
TEI - Community Centres	Community Engagement	53	0	53	0
TEI - Community Centres	Education and Skills training	7	0	7	0
TEI - Community Centres	Social participation	110	0	110	0

Client Demographics with sessions by age group (July 2021-June 2022)

Number of clients with sessions by age group and percentage assessed

Note: Age equals the client's age at session conducted date



CALD status



Disability status



Indigenous status



Year in Snapshot



ENDING DOMESTIC AND FAMILY
VIOLENCE: HOMWISS

Number of women supported
through HoMWISS

244



MULTICULTURAL WOMEN'S
SHELTER

Number of bed nights provided through
Multicultural Women's Shelter

1168



IMMIGRANT WOMEN RESOURCE CENTRE

Number of clients who participated in
Immigrant Resource Centre Activities

Identified clients	310
Unidentified clients	178
Total	488



COVID-19 Partnership Grants
No of Individuals supported
(Sept 2021 to 20 February 2022)

853

Photo Gallery

IWSA 40th Anniversary Celebrations



Immigrant Women's Resource Center Activities



2021-2022

Management Committee	
Gayathri Dharmagesan	Chairperson
Vivi Germanos – Koutsounadis	Vice Chairperson
Nelia Sumcad	Treasurer
Kyungja Jung	Secretary
Fatema Hasan	Member
Margaret Ng (Sister of St. Joseph)	Member
Myra Hechanova	Member
Radha Ravindra	Member
Ronnie Wang	Member

Staff	
Jane Brock	Executive Officer
Rukhshana Sarwar	Project Officer
Mariam James	Project Officer
Marichu Gloria	Project Officer
Carielyn Tunion	Project Officer (July - Dec 2021)
Evelyn Boehringer	Operations Officer
Summera Hafeez	Sewing Class Facilitator
Mohan Packianathan	Accountant

Acknowledgements

Thanks to our members and partners

We thank our students in placement and volunteers for their enormous contribution.

Volunteers

Nadera Hakimi, Khadija, Eelyn Tsingolis, Anthony Montebello, Shafigheh Rafat, Lilibeth Munar, Nadia Sediqi, EJ dela Cruz, Meynardo Argana and Jojo Severino Lovero.

Students in Placement

Ankit Kumar, Gurpreet Kaur, Manpreet Kaur, Prashannata Maharjan and Shatarup Dhar.

The Management Committee commends and thanks the SpeakOut staff.

Staff

Jane Brock, Evelyn Boehringer, Rukhshana Sarwar, Mariam James, Marichu Gloria, Carielyn Tunion, Mohan Packianathan and Summera Hafeez.

We said farewell to Carielyn Tunion in December 2021. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

SpeakOut is grateful to the [Department of Communities and Justice](#) for their assistance and support.

We thank the DCJ SHS TEI Commissioning and Planning officer Ozen Cemali for her ongoing guidance and support.





2022 – 2023 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name:	
Organisation:	
Tick the box <input type="checkbox"/> if your organisation is a member of IWSA/SpeakOut	
Contact Person of your organisation:	
Email address of contact person:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please tick the box if you are an Individual Member or individual who is a member of an IWSA/SpeakOut member organisation	
Telephone:	(H)..... (W)..... (M).....
Fax:	Email:
Language/s Spoken:	

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: New Renewal

<u>Individual membership (unwaged):</u>	Free
<u>Individual membership (waged):</u>	
<input type="radio"/> Annual Income less than \$35,000 per year	\$11.00 (incl GST)
<input type="radio"/> Annual Income \$35,000 to \$50,000 per year	\$16.50 (incl GST)
<input type="radio"/> Annual Income more than \$50,000 per year	\$27.50 (incl GST)

ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP: New Renewal

<input type="radio"/> Unfunded Organisation	Free		
<input type="radio"/> Funded Organisation	\$22 (incl GST)		
<input type="radio"/> Reciprocal Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
 Your Organisation is (please tick all applicable):			
Ethno-specific Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-ethnic Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women's Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic Violence Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Women's Organisation: Name –			

DONATION

Amount:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

I agree to abide by the aims and objectives of Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Association NSW Inc.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

PO Box 9031, Harris Park NSW 2150
 Telephone (02) 9635 8022 • Fax (02) 9635 8176
 Email: women@speakout.org.au

Contact Us



PO Box 9031, HARRIS PARK NSW 2150
Ph: (02) 9635 8022 Fax: (02) 9635 8176
Email: info@speakout.org.au
www.speakout.org.au
Facebook: [wespeakout](https://www.facebook.com/wespeakout)

SpeakOut via dance!

PARRAMATTA



Jane Corpuz-Brock (centre in purple top) with Lima Canaletto, Vyshall Dharmagesan, Marl James, Marl Chu Gloria and Gayathri Dharmagesan do a flash mob in Church Street Mall as a protest against violence against women and children around the world.

Picture: SIMON CHILLINGWORTH

Dancers get in step to protect women

Elias Jahshan

AN estimated 250 people converged on Church Street Mall last Thursday morning to take part in a flash mob protest aimed at bringing an end to violence against women.

Organised by Harris Park-based Immigrant Women's Speakout Association, the event was done as part of V-Day, a global One Billion Rising campaign

that raises awareness about domestic violence, rape and sexual assault.

"It was really about celebrating with women in bringing the message that we have to end violence against women," Speakout executive officer Jane Corpuz-Brock said.

At around 3am, Speakout employees suddenly burst into dance moves in front of Parramatta Town Hall while the Filipino song A

Billion Women played on the speakers.

Soon after, many others joined in, including students and teachers from Arthur Phillip High School, and employees of the NSW Attorney-General's office.

Passers-by, who were not briefed on the dance moves beforehand and had no prior knowledge of the flash mob, also jumped in.

"The steps were easy to follow. Boys and girls, men

and women, were all involved," Ms Corpuz-Brock said. "We have to live and relate to each other in a respectful way."

She said V-Day was named so because the flash mob coincided with Valentine's Day and because "V" represented victory over violence against women.

Speakout, a government-funded service, targets female migrants who are escaping violence or rape.

Published by: Parramatta Advertiser, 22 February 2013

PO Box 9031 HARRIS PARK NSW 2150
Ph: (02) 9635 8022 Fax: (02) 9635 8176
Email: info@speakout.org.au
www.speakout.org.au