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Vaccant

Vaccant

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President's Message

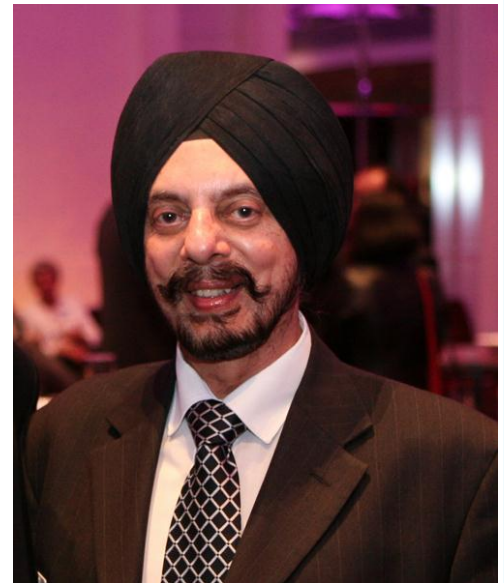
A fortnight ago, I received a phone call from a journalist working for SBS in Sydney asking me if I was aware of any cases of female foeticide in Melbourne or Victoria.

I told her that in my thirty six years of general practice and the same number of years as a senior visiting medical officer in a local public hospital, I had not encountered any such case.

She stated that in recent years, there had been thirty reported cases of 'female foeticide', in Australia, predominantly in the Chinese and the Indian community. This did come as a shock to me and I found it quite disturbing.

During my television interview I told her that I could cite two relevant examples in my general practice in the last ten years. They were both Indian families. The first couple had two daughters and wanted to find out the sex in their third pregnancy, stating that they would prefer to have a boy. I counselled them and was fortunately able to convince them otherwise. They had a third daughter and have been attending my practice quite regularly.

The second couple had three daughters and the wife was about six weeks pregnant. She had come to find out the sex in her fourth pregnancy, stating her unwillingness to go ahead with the pregnancy if it was another girl. I again counselled the couple. A few months later I met the husband who stated that his wife had gone to India and had had a miscarriage there. This did leave a lingering



Dr. Gurdip Aurora

doubt in my mind as to whether this had been a termination or a genuine Miscarriage.

Speaking to the Professor of Obstetrics in the hospital that I visit, I was told that he was not aware of any such cases in that particular hospital. However, speaking with my colleague in New Delhi, I was told that female foeticide and infanticide were still very common in India and that the latest Census figures in 2011 had revealed a national child sex ratio of 940 girls per 1000 boys.

I believe that shortly there will be a documentary released on 'female foeticide' on SBS television. It would be interesting to learn further about the facts and figures on this subject.

Dr. Gurdip Aurora, President.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM of Australia India Society of Victoria has been scheduled for Sunday 17th May 2015. It will be held at the Tandoori Junction Restaurant in Glen Waverley. Lunch will be served at 12.30 PM followed by the AGM at 1:30 PM. Please mark this date and I request all members to attend.

Inside this newsletter

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AUSTRALIA - INDIA SOCIETY OF VICTORIA IS HAVING ITS AGM IN MAY AND INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION AND BECOME COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2013: Winner of the most prestigious awards, the "Bharatiya Pravasi Samman Award" bestowed upon an Overseas Indian Association by the President of India.

2011: Winner of the Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence towards community services.

Australia - India Society of Victoria Inc. (AISV), established in 1963, is the oldest and the largest integrated non-sectarian Indian association in Victoria. It is recognised and respected as such by the Governments of India and Australia. The society represents all Indians irrespective of their place of origin. It also has a significant Australian membership.

The main aim of AISV is to assist Indians in the fulfilment of their aspirations in their adopted country (Australia) and to encourage their active participation in, and contribution to, a just and culturally diverse society.

The society aspires to achieve the above through:

- Promotion of understanding and friendship between new migrants from India, those from other countries and indigenous Australians.
- Serving as a vehicle for established Indian- Australians to assist newly arrived fellow countrymen and women.
- Promotion of Indian culture as a vehicle for improved understanding of Indian heritage of non-Indian- Australians through demonstrated support of activities of established Indian dance/ music/ other arts schools.
- Involvement with Local, State and Federal Government agencies to ensure that in addressing issues that affecting migrants, Indian-Australians' needs are not over- looked.
- Engaging in charitable activities to help Indian-Australians and other deserving persons in dire circumstances who do not receive mainstream social service support.
- Encouraging and facilitating networking and mentoring between established Indian- Australians and newly arrived Indian- Australians to help the latter succeed in their new and competitive environment.
- Enhancing quality of life of the membership through entertainment and other varied activities.

Some of the noteworthy achievements have been

- Establishment of a facility to issue the Indian Visas in Melbourne.
- Establishment of the Victorian Indian Community Charitable Trust (VICCT). This is a recognised charitable agency approved by the Australian Taxation Office. It is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient (DGR). Donations of \$ 2.00 and above are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. It aims to provide support and assistance to the underprivileged and aged members in the community. Several hundred members and local Australians have been helped through this charitable trust.
- Submissions to various Governmental bodies such as the Law Reform Commission (re: multiculturalism and law, changes to Equal Opportunity Act), Council on Overseas Professional Qualifications on recognition of Indian Qualifications, Immigration Department on matters relating to Immigration policy and Acts of Parliament, Premier's Department on racial and religious tolerance.
- The establishment of special arrangements with Australian Unity for medical insurance for visiting Indians (a mandatory requirement for visitors).
- The establishment of the Koori scholarship fund in association with the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated and the B'nai B'rith Jewish community relations group to support Koori students through their secondary education.
- Domestic Violence task force helping victims of domestic Violence
- Organisation of cultural and social activities for the community, actively encouraging and promoting members talents along with visiting overseas artists.
- Participation in local community events such as the Australia Day celebrations.
- Celebration of the two Indian National functions - Republic Day and Independence Day.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- While remaining focussed on the Society's vision and mission in pursuing activities such as those listed previously, are the major initiatives in the medium term to actively canvass ways of addressing the needs of the disadvantaged and elderly in the community.
- With the maturing of the community, social challenges similar to those faced by the mainstream Australian community (e.g. divorce, death of spouse, drug and alcohol dependency, desertion of children, domestic violence, loneliness, poverty etc.) may also need to be managed from an Indian perspective.
- Aging of first generation Indians who reach the retirement age poses issues of retirement accommodation as well as nursing home care.
- The needs of the second generation Indians will have to be understood and addressed in order to ensure that they stay connected with their heritage.
- The community needs are many and varied. There are ample opportunities for members to become involved and make a difference in the quality of life of Australians of Indian origin.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Membership of AISV offers

- Opportunities for social interaction with other Indians, Australians of Indian origin and Australians who have an interest in India, particularly through the traditional celebrations of Independence Day and Republic Day.
- A two monthly newsletter
- Representation to relevant government agencies where appropriate to ensure Indian Australians' needs are not overlooked.
- Other special events from time to time to meet members' interests.

We invite you to belong to this extended family – AISV



Photos from AISV Celebration of India's Republic Day / Australia Day Function at Cinnamon Club on 26th Jan 2015.





AUSTRALIA INDIA SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Day: Sunday 17th May 2015

Time: 12.30 PM

Venue: Tandoori Junction Indian Restaurant, 29 Railway Pde, Glen Waverley

All financial members are requested to attend

NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

I, (full name)

.....

of (address).....

being a financial member of Australia India Society of Victoria Inc., nominate

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr/Prof

for the position of (position title)

I, (full name).....

of (full address).....

being the financial member of AISV, support this nomination

Signature of Proposer

Signature of Seconder

Acceptance of the Nomination

I

Being a financial member of AISV accept this nomination for the position of

.....

Signature of Nominee

Date.....

- Positions:
- President (must be a member of the previous Committee)
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Assistant Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Committee Members (5 positions)

Duly completed nomination forms should reach the Returning Officer, Australia India Society of Victoria Inc. 1401 Ferntree Gully Road Scoresby VIC 3179 by Friday 15 May 2015



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PROXY FORM

I,
(full name)

of

being a current member of AISV herewith endorse

Name

to act as my proxy for AISV's Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 17th May 2015

Signed

Dated.....

Please keep Saturday 15 August 2015 free

Australia India Society of Victoria will be celebrating India's Independence Day on Saturday 15 August 2015. The format of the celebrations will be dinner/dance and a cultural program by various ethnic groups. Please support our function by attending in large numbers.

Disclaimer

Australia India Society of Victoria Inc.(AISV) disclaim all and any liability to any person in respect of anything and of the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done by such a person, in reliance whole or partial, upon this newsletter or any part of the content of this newsletter.



Australia India Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 47 351 032 576 / Incorporated 1985 - A0004545G

Annual Membership* - New/Renewal Application Form

Select: **New Application / Renewal**

Title/s

First Name.....Surname.....

Partner/Spouse's First Name.....Surname.....

Children's names

1.....

2.....

3.....

Address

.....

CityPost Code

Tel (B/H)Tel: (A/H)

Mobile:

Email:

Other Details: (Hobbies, Interests)

.....

Would you be interested to join the committee of AISV Yes No.....

Membership Category (Circle one) Life: \$500, Family: \$80, Concession: \$50, Single: \$50

Cheque Payable to Australia India Society of VIC Inc. or Online transfer : BSB 083-414 Account number 69-047-1204

Do you want a receipt : Yes/ No

I hereby apply/renew membership of AISV in the above category. I am aware of the rules and regulations of the society.

Signature / Date / Place

Membership Application to be mailed to:

1401 Ferntree Gully Road, Scoresby, VIC 3179

* Except Life membership

Australia India Society of Victoria is an integrated non-sectarian, Indian Association in Victoria. It represents Indians and Australians from many parts of the world. AISV membership is open to anyone who is interested in India, her culture and her people. The aims of AISV are to promote cultural and social events in context of India, safeguard interests of its members and to act as representatives for the Indian community in Victoria at various Federal, State and Local governmental levels.