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President's Message

This year we celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Victorian Indian Community Charitable Trust (VICCT). The trust was founded on 28th October 1986. Australia India Society of Victoria had encountered several cases of financial hardship amongst members of the Indian community. Furthermore, there was no suitable accommodation for the aged people in the community and the committee foresaw a need for a retirement village for the elderly people in the not too distant future.

The Indian community in Victoria has in the last few years grown from a small closely-knit community into a very large multi-centric society. The second and third generation Indian migrants have increased in number and there is an estimated 450,000 Indian living in Victoria today. As the Indian Community is growing, types and magnitudes of its problems will increase enormously. In order to cater for this need, Australia India Society of Victoria foresaw the need to establish the V.I.C.C. Trust.

Under the provisions of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936, gifts to the trust of the value of \$2.00 and upwards made by a taxpayer in the year of income are fully deductible.

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) has now taken over the governance of all charities and is the independent national regulator of charities. The ACNC has been set up to:



Dr. Gurdip Aurora

- Maintain, protect and enhance public trust and confidence in the sector through increased accountability and transparency
- Support and sustain a robust, vibrant, independent and innovative not-for-profit sector
- Promote the reduction of unnecessary regulatory obligations on the sector.

The ACNC has powers to gather information, and monitor whether charities are meeting their obligations, and formal compliance powers to respond to charities not meeting their obligations (for example, not acting for their charitable purpose).

The first focus of ACNC is on helping charities to meet their obligations through guidance, education and support. Where charities do not respond to this and still fail to meet their obligations, the ACNC may use formal powers to:

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- warn charities that they are not meeting their obligations and explain what action the ACNC may take (warnings)
- direct charities to do or not do something (directions)
- make arrangements with charities about what they need to do to meet their obligations - these arrangements can be enforced by a court (enforceable undertakings)
- ask a court to make charities to do or not do something (injunctions)
- suspend or remove a 'responsible person' such as a board or committee member (suspension and removal)
- Disqualify a responsible person (such as a committee or board member, or trustee) who has previously been suspended or removed for 12 months. During that time, the person is not allowed to be a responsible person of any charity (disqualification) and will be listed on the disqualified persons register
- in exceptional circumstances, revoke (cancel) a charity's registration (which may affect a charity's eligibility for tax concessions and other government benefits, concessions or exemptions), and
- Apply administrative penalties if a charity makes false or misleading statements or fails to lodge documents (such as reports, notices, returns or statements) on time.
- Where appropriate, ACNC has powers to revoke a charity's registration or apply administrative penalties against any charity.

As chairman of the VICCT, I have been fulfilling all the legal and mandatory requirements laid down by ACNC since 2014 as a result of which VICCT continues to be functional and registered as a charity. ACNC has closed several thousand charities since 2014 for noncompliance and failure to submit their annual financial statements, reports and notices.

However, I am concerned that VICCT is not fulfilling the purpose for which it was established and as a result has already come under the radar of ACNC.

I am seeking help from the Indian community to help VICCT raise funds for the establishment of a community centre and a retirement village solely for the Indian community. Failure to do so will jeopardise the continuation of the charitable trust. We need to be seen to start collecting funds before the end of this year so that it can be reflected in the trusts returns to ACNC before 31 December 2016.

Dr. Gurdip Aurora, President.

AISV's India's 69th Independence day Celebration

This year AISV held its Independence Day Celebration at Cinnamon Club for a dinner-dance. There was an abundance of food and the dance floor was jam packed. Just like a typical Indian celebration should be. Thank you to all who came to share with us in the festivities and join in on the fun.

Our special guest and Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs, Hon Robin Scott joined us to commemorate the auspicious occasion and shared with us his heartfelt thanks and praise towards the Indian community, their achievements and contribution to the society at large.

Once the formalities for the evening were over, dinner was served. And did someone say limitless Indian cuisine? The variety, the spices, the smells! The food was fit for Indian Royals. So we dug in and soon enough the lights dimmed and the music started and we were dazzled by the Bollywood performances and taken by the old 'n' golden and the new 'n' groovin' tunes of the live band for the evening. The night took off and the crowd united on the dance floor with full gusto - hips swinging and wrists flicking. What better way to celebrate the independence of such as a rich colour than to fully immerse yourself in it!

The evening was truly spectacular and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Although not entirely grand, the occasion was fitting. Friends and family of difference cultural backgrounds and age groups came together to celebrate a monumental occurrence in the history of Indian heritage and culture.

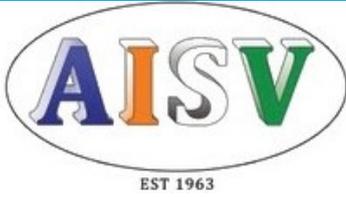


Dr. Gurdip Aurora and committee members with Our special guest and Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs, Hon Robin Scott.

A big thank you to our AISV members and guests for organising and attending the event. AISVs ongoing mission is to support the hopes and aspirations of newly arrived Indians in Australia, as well as promote active participation in and contribution to a just and multicultural society. We welcome others to join us in our efforts to actively promote Indian culture and endeavour to celebrate our part in society through events such as our Independence Day festivities. Next year we plan to go a little bigger and Bollywoody and hope that you will join us in recreating the magic that the Indian culture inspires in recognition of sovereignty.

Roshni Francis
Cultural Committee (Chair)





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

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.