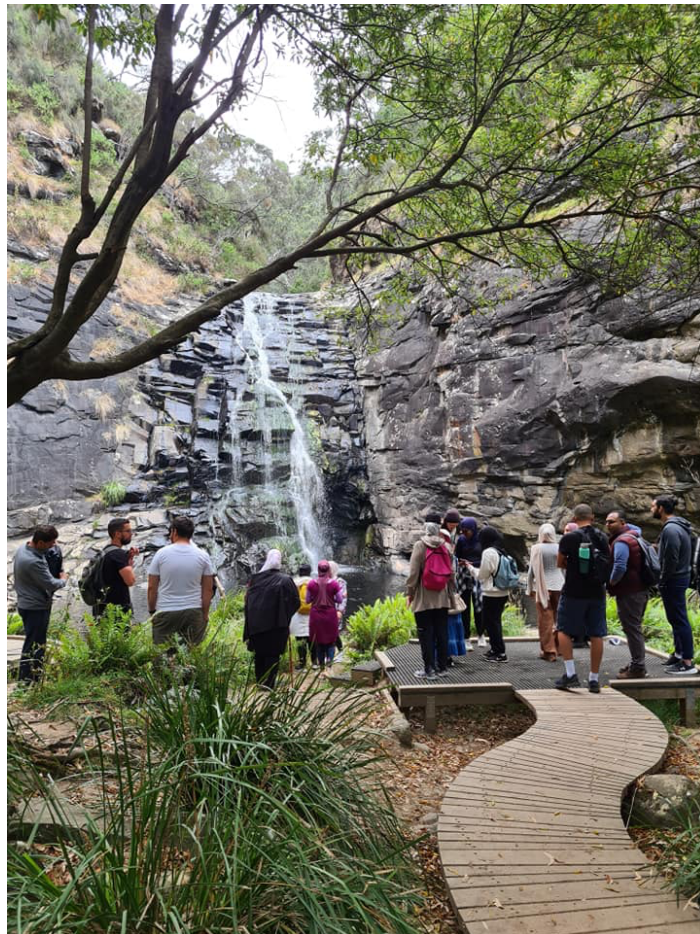


ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



MELBOURNE

Muslimahs

**Supporting women to achieve
better outcomes.**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*Melbourne Muslimahs acknowledges to Wurundjeri People of the Kulin nation who are the traditional custodians of the land in which Melbourne Muslimahs is based in Naarm *Melbourne).*

However, our members are from across Victoria and other parts of Australia, so we pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, waters and skies we all live and work on.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge First Nation people's rich cultures, histories, diversity and deep connection to waters, lands and skies across Naarm and Australia-wide. We celebrate and recognize the enduring leadership of First nations Australians in our community.



ABOUT US

Melbourne Muslimahs is a community organisation established by Muslim women to support vulnerable women in the community, helping them achieve better outcomes. Many of the women who we support have gone through challenging times that leave them vulnerable when restarting life after leaving prison, escaping dangerous relationships or when embracing Islam as new Muslims. Melbourne Muslimahs helps and empower women to flourish and see that there is nothing stopping them from achieving their dreams.

Our goal at Melbourne Muslimahs is to provide assistance and support to women suffering from abusive behaviours, misfortune, helplessness, poverty, distress or isolation. We plan to accomplish the following:

- developing and delivering programs and services addressing these issues in a way that is consistent with Islamic values but without advancing religion.
- providing support, including information and referral services.
- increasing women's defenses and resilience, by increasing self-confidence, self-esteem, independence and education.
- raising awareness and informing women and in particular, Muslim women, about social welfare services, the government and other relevant bodies, of the issues facing women, their causes and ways to assist.
- provide shelters, meals and financial assistance to needy and vulnerable women; and
- to assist other service providers, achieve better outcomes for women and in particular, Muslim women.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The team at Melbourne Muslimahs continue to help in emergency situations, provide holistic social and emotional support until a woman is comfortable in her new life with new friends and a positive support network.

This year alone Melbourne Muslimahs has ran many activities that help bring the community together and raise awareness as well as help to raise funds for the Rebuilding Lives Project. Some of these include:

- Get a Life Camp
- Regular Hikes
- Sister's Picnic
- Community fundraising events like “Children’s Fun Day Out”
- Rebuilding Lives Fundraising Event
- The Launch of MM Care to support adults and children living with a disability



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Name	Date Acted
Najah Soufi	February 2023
Ayana Lokhandwala	December 2023

BOARD SECRETARY

NAJAH SOUFI

Najah joined the Melbourne Muslimahs in February 2023 as the Board Secretary and comes with extensive administrative experience spanning over 24 years.

Najah has worked in Federal Government Agencies for nearly 10 years and has recently started working at the National Disability Insurance Agency and hopes to be able to help Melbourne Muslimahs behind the scenes with administrative assistance.

YOUTH ADVISOR

AYANA LOKHANDWALA

Ayana has joined the board of Melbourne Muslimahs as of 2024 as a youth advisor. Having vast experience in organising and leading events in the local community she will not be transferring her knowledge and skills to Melbourne Muslimah to improve youth engagement.

In 2023, Ayana actively participated in many Melbourne Muslimahs events and even volunteered for the event of the year: Rebuilding Lives Gala. She was the marketing lead as well as volunteer coordinator on the night. Ayana is active with Melbourne Muslimahs community and can't wait to join the board as of 2024.

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

Melbourne Muslimahs wishes to express its deep appreciation and gratitude to all our board members and volunteers leaving, who have contributed enormously to the organisation's success. We greatly appreciate the commitment, and hard work demonstrated.

Marsellina Mutagubya – Board Secretary
Nez El Rawi- Advisor and long-term Volunteer
Yasmine Hassan- Board President
Asmaa Coowar- Board Treasurer

VOLUNTEERS

As a purely volunteer-run organisation and charity, Melbourne Muslimahs relies on the support of our amazing volunteers to make our programs and events possible. In 2023 we thank the following volunteers for their support:

Rebuilding lives gala:

Nez E
Seba K
Christine M
Arshad A
Ahmed A
Maryam A
Ayana L
Adela O
Sonia H
Sammar

Sarah A
Jedda V

Hike events:

Ozlem O
Maryam A
Sarah A

Sister's Picnics:

Adela O
Shazna C

Children's Fun Day Out event:

Sonia H
Elaa C
Abdillah S
Mohammed H
Rachael H
Jedda V
Al Siraat College high school students.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the President of Melbourne Muslimahs in 2023, I am proud to present a summary of our achievements and financial health. This year has been a testament to our commitment to the community, marked by significant growth and impactful projects.

Community Engagement and Projects

Our adaptation of the monthly sister's picnics and Hike events into two separate events addressed diverse community needs, leading to increased participation and engagement. The 'Get A Life Camp' in January was a highlight, attracting young attendees and renowned speakers, and it's a pleasure to announce its nomination for the Best New Community Project award.

Collaboration with an international Islamic event management organisation - Olive Tree Events; MM was chosen as a local collaborator to host and deliver a successful event which saw international sensation and motivational speaker The Sunnah Guy & Belal Assaad come together for 'The Battle Within' Tour. MM was also instrumental in initiating and facilitating a first ever podcast by 'Fairdinkum'. We made a significant impact with the Rebuilding Lives Gala and the upcoming High Tea event, raising substantial funds for emergency accommodation for vulnerable sisters. These efforts underscore our commitment to supporting our community's most urgent needs. The launch of MM Care, our disability support provider, marks a milestone in extending our services to a wider community segment. We're already seeing positive outcomes, with our first client signed up and more interest growing.

Our first Children's Fun Day Out was a resounding success, bringing families together for wholesome activities and establishing a stronger sense of Muslim identity among our youth. The introduction of a playgroup in 2024 is eagerly anticipated.

Financial Health

Financially, we have remained robust and proactive. Our income streams diversified through events like the 'Get A Life Camp', Rebuilding Lives Fundraisers, and membership fees. Notably, the Rebuilding Lives fundraiser alone contributed significantly to our revenue. Our expenses were well-managed, focusing on client support, project development, and operational costs. The balance between our income and expenditures reflects our commitment to responsible financial management and our ability to sustain and grow our programs effectively.

Personal Involvement and Future Directions

As President, my role involved not just overseeing these projects but actively engaging with the community. My connections and efforts have been instrumental in expanding our reach and impact, recognising the importance of empowering others. In 2024, MM looks forward to enhancing the existing programs, introducing new events, and continuing their journey towards supporting and empowering the Melbourne Muslimah community.

Conclusion

In summary, 2023 was a year of growth, impact, and community engagement for Melbourne Muslimahs. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to our mission of supporting and uplifting the lives of Muslim women in Melbourne. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to lead this incredible organisation and excited about what the future holds with the new management team. I regret to inform you of my decision to resign as the recognised President of Melbourne Muslimahs, effective immediately. In saying that, I will be happy in providing guidance, advice and support where needed. My involvement with Melbourne Muslimahs will always be wholeheartedly executed.

Yasmine Hassan,

President of Melbourne Muslimahs.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am honoured to introduce myself, Jemma Van Rooyen, the co-founder of Melbourne Muslimahs and the Vice President for 2024. I have a deep passion for empowering Muslim women.

I have dedicated my time and efforts to creating a supportive and vibrant community for Muslim women here in Melbourne. As a co-founder, and one of the founding board members of Melbourne Muslimahs, I have been involved in shaping the vision and mission of the organisation.

In 2023 I completed two courses, graduating with a Bachelor degree in Education and completing a Diploma in Community Services. I am now excited to be back on the board and focus my time on some new projects with Melbourne Muslimahs.

In 2024 I am looking forward to the launch of our new playgroup as well as our NDIS provider MM Care and exploring how we can fill some of the gaps in the community supporting children and their families.

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

The year of 2023 presented opportunities to expand on our monthly sisters picnic and walk event into two separate events. One addressed the problem of sisters not wanting to walk far with children by instead holding monthly picnics at various local parks, while the other addressed the community interest of wanting longer hikes by holding monthly hikes.

Both events have proved to be quite successful, with large numbers regularly attending. Both events are now organised with a team of volunteers specific to that event.

The 2023 Get A Life camp held in January consisted of 60 attendees between the ages of 16-30 yrs. Many speakers were given a space to talk about sensitive subjects within an Islamic setting including "The Dangers of Social Media" by Dean Mousad (Sydney), "Drugs and Alcohol" by Mohamed Fenj (Sydney) along with other local speakers such as Dr Lucy Verwey, Nina Fashik, Belal Assaad and Sheikh Abdullah Hawari. Sheikh Bilal Ismail (South Africa) also was a guest facilitating campfire and Fajr reminders.

Feedback from this camp was great, although it was suggested that next year's camp present less speakers, while leaving more time for recreational activities. The Get A Life Camp has recently been nominated as the Best New Community Project of the year award at the Australian Muslim Achievement Awards to be held on Saturday 11th February 2024.

In light of our constitution not allowing us to send money overseas, our next Get a Life Camp for 2024 has been postponed from January to mid-2024 with the confirmation of Sheikh Ibrahim Menk (South Africa) being able to attend as our highlight speaker. This camp will go ahead as a winter retreat given the constitution is voted in agreement of being able to pay overseas speakers at the 2023 AGM.

The Rebuilding Lives Gala held on Friday June 2nd attracted 200 attendees to Aerial in South Wharf raising just over \$125,000. This project is aiming to raise 2 million dollars to facilitate the building of emergency accommodation for vulnerable sisters within our community. A second fundraiser was organised as a High Tea at Werribee Mansion in December, but given recent events in Gaza, a

decision was made to move this event to February 17th, 2024. The High Tea is aimed at sisters only. Continuous efforts will be made throughout 2024 to highlight the importance of this cause.

Our yearly Ramadan iftars to provide isolated sisters with a welcoming place to meet other sisters was successful with at least two iftars held per week. Taraweeh prayers were also encouraged. These iftars are of great benefit to sisters with no family to spend time with, therefore will continue through Ramadan of 2024.

As voted by Melbourne Muslimah voting members at the 2022 AGM, steps were taken throughout 2023 to launch the opening of MM Care, a disability support provider. A consultant was utilised to initiate all the legal requirements of opening MM Care and although we await formal registration, we can legally start taking self or plan managed clients. As also voted by MM voting members, the money needed to open MM Care was borrowed by the Rebuilding Lives account. In a short space of time one client has already been signed up, with other appealing programs designed to attract more ongoing clients. In October Melbourne Muslimahs hosted a 'Children's fun day out' to celebrate children's week. This event was the first of its kind that that we have put together at Melbourne Muslimahs. The children's fun day out was an opportunity for children and their families to engage in a range of fun activities and entertainment, a variety of workshops focusing on their Muslim identity and wellbeing and showcased local Muslim run businesses that are child and family focused. This event had a great response from the community, and we look forward to more child and family focused events in 2024 with the launch of our first playgroup.

Other plans for 2024 include offering volunteers opportunities to take on administrative and project management roles of events with myself giving notice of being less active in my role of Projects Manager.

Sarah Akkus,
Founder and Project Manager.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Ways you can help our cause:

If you are an individual, company, business, service or organisation, you can partner with Melbourne Muslimahs by financially supporting and funding our programs.

Melbourne Muslimahs will assist by providing support and empowering women in our community who need a positive social network. Our services specialise in helping vulnerable women from all walks of life, especially those who maybe be:

- Victims and Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence
- Released Offenders
- Single Parents or carers

This allows Melbourne Muslimahs to extend beyond our current scope, through partnerships with organisations such as Melbourne Muslimahs to tackle issues in our community at the grass roots level and provide those in need with support.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Melbourne Muslimahs Inc
10 Prowse Walk
Epping Vic 3076
0430545112

Profit and loss report.

Accrual mode

01 Jul 2022 - 30 Jun 2023

	Actual	Last Year
Income		
Event Ticket Sales - Sharehouse Fundraiser 2022	0.00	11,403.45
Event ticket sales - 'Get a Life Camp 2023'	18,434.64	0.00
Event ticket sales - Sharehouse Fundraiser 2023	6,254.58	0.00
Event Ticket Sales - 'Pre Marriage Prep Dr Lucy'	543.07	0.00
Auction income - Sharehouse Fundraiser 2023	12,218.18	0.00
Membership Fees	0.00	40.74
Donations	8,901.10	41,156.72
Donations-Zakat	3,850.00	9,458.42
Donations - Sharehouse	92,917.78	41,593.68
Sponsorships	13,000.00	0.00
Govt Grant	0.00	2,000.00
Total Income	156,119.35	105,653.01
Cost Of Sales	0.00	0.00
Gross Profit	156,119.35	105,653.01
Expenses		
Advertising & Marketing	413.06	1,368.03
Internet & Website Expenses	112.02	54.05
Legal Fees	0.00	545.46
Subscriptions & Memberships	999.89	813.42
Bank Fees	0.00	191.32
Operational Expenses	457.01	387.97
Stationery & Office Supplies	373.46	427.01
Telephone - Mobile	600.05	684.60

Filing Fees	0.00	308.10
Sundry Expenses	0.00	8.61
Client Expenditure		
Clothing & Garments	0.00	464.33
Client Relocation Expenses	454.55	1,373.59
Client Emergency Accommodation	819.38	1,759.99
Client - Rent	700.00	1,391.00
Client Food and Grocery (GST Free)	0.00	76.84
Client Food and Grocery	0.00	1,297.06
Client Meetings Food & Beverages	124.36	519.22
Client Entertainment (GST Free)	1,683.40	1,161.50
Client Community Support - Food & Bev	3,426.41	2,877.16
Client Utilities Support	596.93	958.69
Client Medical Expenses	0.00	11.73
Client Gift Cards - various	2,500.00	4,380.00
	Actual	Last Year
Client - Various expenses	111.10	53.18
Total Client Expenditure	10,416.13	16,324.29
Projects		
Eid toy drive	0.00	800.00
Garments for homeless people	0.00	1,200.00
Meals for Covid positive families	0.00	2,666.88
Laptops for disadvantaged girls	0.00	2,577.81
Meat Drive - Covid	0.00	2,955.00
Total Projects	0.00	10,199.69
Donations Given	1,965.52	0.00
Events		
Events - 'Get A Life Camp 2023'	22,387.50	0.00
Events	0.00	150.00
Event Guest appearance - 'Get A Life Camp 2023'	1,696.31	0.00
Events - Bushwalking Group	0.00	366.35
Events - Cooking Classes	0.00	35.69
Events - Community Hiking	2,099.74	0.00
Sharehouse Fundraiser 2022 - Guest appearance	0.00	1,126.49

	Total	
	Actual	Last Year
Net Profit	61,879.70	57,751.85
Sharehouse Fundraiser 2022 - Expenses	0.00	8,779.98
Sharehouse Fundraiser 2023 - Advertising and Marketing	2,423.71	0.00
Sharehouse Fundraiser 2023 - Expenses	31,784.48	0.00
Sharehouse Fundraiser 2023 - Guest appearance	2,122.29	0.00
Sharehouse Fundraiser 2023 - Auction items	3,237.35	0.00
Sharehouse Fundraiser 2023 - Travel & Accom Operations team	734.90	0.00
Total Events	66,486.28	10,458.51
Insurance Expenses		
Insurance - Business	1,595.11	1,629.16
Total Insurance Expenses	1,595.11	1,629.16
Motor Vehicle Expenses		
Motor Vehicle - Parking/Tolls	0.00	18.27
Motor Vehicle- Repairs & Maintenance	335.45	0.00
Staff Expense Reimbursement - Petrol	3,272.72	2,454.54
Total Motor Vehicle Expenses	3,608.17	2,472.81
Grant Expenses		
Grant Expense	0.00	2,028.13
Total Grant Expenses	0.00	2,028.13
Sponsorship Expense	150.00	0.00
Staff Amenities	157.43	0.00
Staff Training & Education	560.00	0.00
Program delivery		
Program delivery - 'Know Your Worth'	828.18	0.00
Program delivery - 'Home is where the heart is'	937.80	0.00
Program delivery - Youth event 2022	3,822.27	0.00
Program Delivery - Arafat Day	757.27	0.00
Total Program delivery	6,345.52	0.00
Total Expenses	94,239.65	47,901.16
Operating Profit	61,879.70	57,751.85
Other Expenses	0.00	0.00

BALANCE SHEET



Melbourne Muslimahs Inc
10 Prowse Walk
Epping Vic 3076
0430545112

Balance sheet report

Accrual mode

30 Jun 2023

	Actual	Last Year
Assets		
Cheque Account	7,681	12,145
MELBOURNE MUSLIMAHS ZAKAT ACCOUNT	5,808	8,181
MELBOURNE MUSLIMAHS SHAREHOUSE	108,054	43,015
Paypal Account	-4,674	-1,624
Trade Debtors	5,022	22
Total Assets	121,891	61,739
Liabilities		
GST Balance	-2,325	-597
Total Liabilities	-2,325	-597
Net Assets	124,216	62,336
Equity		
Retained Earnings	62,336	4,585
Current Year Earnings	61,880	57,752
Total Equity	124,216	62,336

KEY SPONSORS

In the 2022-2023 financial year we had two key sponsors that helped made our projects possible. We'd like to thank them both for their support of Melbourne Muslimahs from day one.



**Brothers
in Need**

CONTACT US

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W: muslimahs.org.au

SM: Melbourne Muslimahs or @MelbourneMuslimahs