

AFGHAN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

Working in Afghanistan as the Afghan Australian
Development and Rehabilitation Organisation

AADO ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending 30 June, 2016
ABN: 25 274 698 213





The Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) provides education and training in Afghanistan for those with minimal opportunities, in particularly women, to foster sustainable livelihoods and professional skills development.

Working in Afghanistan as AADRO, the Afghan Australian Development and Rehabilitation Organisation, AADO has a proven track record of high outcome, low cost programs which are delivered by local project staff with deep community networks and trusted relationships.





Report from the President & Executive Director

Worrying setbacks in the slow movement towards peace in Afghanistan have again been part of the landscape this year for the women and men, their families and the communities we have worked with. According to Afghanistan expert, Professor William Maley, momentum towards peace can be recovered in Afghanistan, but it will require the Afghan government retaining strong and credible international support.

For some, it is tempting to see Afghanistan as something of a lost cause. We understand the reality to be more complex. Significant social changes have also been part of this landscape with widespread current and future benefits for Afghans. AADO's social media pages this year, for example, are littered with stories of hope and optimism, of positive developments and, very often, of the exposure of young Afghans to the best that globalisation offers in ways not seen before.

In this current climate, governments may also be tempted to reconsider their commitment to fund program delivery into Afghanistan, because of the inevitable risks of working in an insecure environment. At a time of severe financial constraints on the overseas aid budget, we welcome the Government's recognition and growing interest in increasing and supporting the role of diasporas-led smaller NGOs in delivering Australian aid programs.

We at AADO continue to believe in the central role of education in hastening peace and prosperity in Afghanistan, and we urge the Government and the Australian public not to forget Afghanistan. The 'singing diplomat' Fred Smith reminded us at his 'Dust of Uruzgan' charity concert for AADO in May this year, that Afghanistan has been Australia's longest war, which has forged a significant and enduring connection between the Afghan people and Australians.

Our staff in Kabul are working hard and demonstrating the resilience of Afghans in the face of hardship and insecurity. While risk assessment remains a priority for AADO's leadership team, we are pleased to report a strong level of stability and continuity in both our Kabul team and our program offerings, and as a result, our work in Afghanistan is progressing

steadily and safely. Not only is our program design and delivery proven over many years, but our trusted trainers and program co-ordinators in Afghanistan have their ear to the ground for security risks and disruption, through their close community and neighbourhood networks.

DFAT sees the advantages of diaspora-led organisations like AADO being able to work effectively and efficiently through enduring and trusted relationships with local staff and community leaders. AADO has now been working in Afghanistan for fourteen years, delivering its programs from its purpose-built centre in Kabul and in village centres.

It works under the radar through local staff, and uses its networks and relationships to recruit and retain participants. And significantly, AADO's operations are widely seen as coming from 'an Afghan to an Afghan', supported by Australians.

Our tireless and 'hands on' Executive Director is connected day-to-day with the situation in Afghanistan and is the linchpin between the strategic and financial oversight of the voluntary Melbourne-based Committee of Management and the successful implementation of our initiatives by our local Kabul team. Her versatile networks and fruitful working relationships with local Governors and village elders, for example, allows AADO to work in places where it has strong local support, is able to keep costs low and have maximum chance of success.

The Committee of Management again committed time and energy to the strategy review process and have overseen the next stage of capacity building for the organisation. Late last year, we became members of ACBAR, the coordinating body for NGOs in Afghanistan, and this further strengthen our connectedness to the sector in Afghanistan beyond our program partners and networks, and gives our Kabul team access to quality professional development and resources. Deborah Rhodes kindly donated her deep experience and time to work with the team to articulate AADO's Theory of Change. This work will enhance our program design and delivery by making explicit the connection between the evidence on what works and what we at AADO believe and do in our program of activities to bring about desired change.



Again this year, we are greatly encouraged and re-invigorated in our work by the generous contribution of skills, experience and resources by our teams of volunteers working in various roles in fundraising and events, and in research, documentation and production roles.

After six months of her internship with AADO, Jacqui Simondson was employed to implement our social media strategy and donor campaigns aimed at increase the monthly donations which give us certainty about income for our programs.

We feel fortunate to have the support of our sponsors, benefactors and donors without whom AADO would not be able to do its work. Our funding partners, Cabrini Mission and the Planet Wheeler Foundation, again provided the bulk of our financial resources for our programs and we thank them for their ongoing support. In addition to their significant financial contribution, their readiness to work so responsively and generously with the AADO leadership team has been mutually rewarding.

Our fundraising events this year successfully brought AADO into connection with a broader cross-section of Australians who now know of AADO's work. We wish to particularly thank Matthew Albert for very generously hosting a memorable 'Nowruz' Afghan New Year luncheon at his historic home in March this year. Chris Keogh as auctioneer put the fun into giving and also has our warm thanks. And for donating his time and talent, we thank Fred Smith for the stunning visuals and unforgettable words and music of his 'Dust of Uruzgan' charity concert for AADO in May.

During the year, we saw some renewal of our Committee of Management. Vice President Farhad Ahmadzai departed from the Committee and we thank him especially for his expertise in governance, strategy and people management. In February, we thanked Amanda Pagan for her hard work as Treasurer and we welcomed Geraldine Allen as the new Treasurer. Kim Shaw, our able Fundraising Subcommittee chair, also resigned after 4 years with the Committee. We thank Kim for her generous and many contributions to the work and governance of AADO, but also to the fun and enjoyment of our events. Kim handed the baton to Katie Murphy who now chairs the Fundraising Sub-Committee. More recently we were very pleased to welcome Mojda Hashemyan to the Committee as well. Our thanks

and appreciation goes to all departed and current members of the Committee who gave so generously of their time and skills to take on the responsibilities of governance of AADO.

There is no doubt that there are many challenges ahead for AADO as it continues to re-imagine its place within the aid sector and in the minds and hearts of the broader Australian community's giving. Our funding and income generation this year has broadened our connection with more and more Australians, both through our events and social media and we hope we have won their ongoing support. We are working hard to increase the number of monthly donors and appreciate the predictability of income this method of donation gives us.

We trust that the reports which follow of our program activities and finances, together with the stories and photos of those whose lives have been touched by AADO, will provide a picture of how we are working to achieve our purpose of providing education and training for livelihoods for those with minimal opportunities in Afghanistan. But most of all, we hope the following pages convey something of the courage, commitment and resilience of the Afghan women and men, and the teenagers, who embrace the opportunities AADO offers through its programs and activities, and return it in abundance to their families and communities.

Sarina Greco
President

Dr Nouria Salehi
Executive Director





Trade Training in Carpentry for Street Boys

Attaining a high school education and skills in a sought-after trade is something of which many young Afghan men can only dream. The harsh realities of life and the need to support their families' financial needs mean that many Afghan teens are forced to eschew an education in favour of precarious employment on the streets of Kabul.

AADO's 12-month long Carpentry Program is designed to offer opportunity to young Afghan men whose lives might otherwise have followed a different course. In doing so, the program also benefits the broader community by contributing to the development and growth of a class of young tradesmen in Afghanistan.

To date, the Program has provided 72 young men with the technical and communication skills that they need to find meaningful employment after graduation.

This year, the program was completed by eight young men aged between 14 and 19 and of these men, one has since started his own carpentry business, at least three have been employed by other local businesses, and the others have returned to their villages, where they will no doubt aid in the rebuilding of their local community's infrastructure. Throughout the

course, the students were offered carpentry work for the Kabul Business Centre, Afghan Telecom, Gul Bahar shopping centre, and for the United States' Armed Forces offices.

Part of the program's ongoing success is attributable to the wages paid to the program's participants, which ensure that the young men are able to continue external schooling in addition to attending AADO's program. We are also grateful for the hard work of the local teachers involved in the program, who contribute not only their technical skills, but also their understanding of the students' circumstances and the daily difficulties that they each face.

One of this year's graduates, Faisal, who is originally from Kandahar, said of the program:

"We came to Kabul three years ago. We lost everything during my father and uncles war. We had thanks to AADO for accepting me into this course. Before when I was seeing that other boys in my society can study and go to school, I said to myself I wish I was one of them, I wish I could go to school and continue my study. After joining carpentry course AADO 's staff took me to school for admission AND now I can continue my School and I have learnt so much from course. Thanks to AADO 's Support."





Life Skills Training for Rural Women

Now in its 13th year, AADO's Life Skills Training Program continues to provide basic literacy, and numeracy, health, hygiene and first aid training to rural women who have not received a formal education. This year, 100 women from 5 villages in the district of Qarabagh were educated through this program.

The courses, which run over 12 months, are conducted in the women's own villages, which reduces the risk that of their security becoming an issue. The classes are supervised by AADRO staff, and the teachers are all locally qualified women. In the second semester, dressmaking, tailoring and embroidery are added to the program and upon graduation, each of the women is presented with their own sewing machine.

The Life Skills program not only provides women with the skills to read and write, it also empowers them to establish their own businesses, earn their own income, and act as role models for younger women who may also have missed out on a formal education. Further, the health and economic knowledge gained by participants to the Program is then shared with their children, friends and communities.

To date, over 1,200 rural Afghan women have receiving training through the program, but the benefits of that training are felt even further than that.

"Before coming to this course I did not have ability to write and read, the doctor gave medicine to my child and wrote the usage and timings on the back of the bottles, but I did not understand and used it in a different way and my child's health got worse and when we went back to doctor he got mad on me.

Now I am in AADO s course and I am able to read and understand well, I am not like a blind person anymore."

– Safar Gul, mother and participant in the Village Life Skills program

In April 2016, the Program arranged for a greenhouse to be built in Baghar village. This provided a space for 4 widows, who had earlier completed the Life Skills course, to grow vegetables for their families. The women were given gardening tools, plants, seeds and ongoing education about plant cultivation. Their first crops were mostly cucumbers, however in time the most worthwhile and productive vegetables will flourish and might enable these women to market some of their produce.

Currently, a second, larger greenhouse is being built in Qala-e-Kohna village, and this greenhouse will need the addition of a water pump. The greenhouses are situated within the villages, so that once again, security concerns are alleviated.

AADO is grateful to Cabrini Health for its ongoing support of the Life Skills Program. Through its ongoing financial contribution, Cabrini has helped to empower several hundred women by equipping them with the skills to act as leaders within their communities and earn a livelihood to support themselves and their families.

Further case study: Student Bahar has praised the Life Skills Training Program,

"Now, I am much happy as I can read the name of the materials including Alnaweed ghee [cooking oil] and the expiration dates of the food stuffs...I also learned very useful matters from the health educator. I learned hygienic matters, other health matters ... My children illnesses decreased considerably. Your course brought happiness to my life. My family members, including my husband, thank you very much for arranging such literacy classes for the illiterate rural women."





Master Science Teacher Training

In a country in which many students are denied the benefit of a formal education, AADO offers hope and opportunity to young men and women who might otherwise never finish high school, let alone attend university. By providing teachers with the skills to educate others, the power of that education is extended even further to benefit the broader community and the next generation of young Afghans

December 2016 marks nine years since the inception of AADO's Master Science Teacher Training, and over that time, the program has grown from strength to strength. The program's aim is to provide further training to Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths Secondary School Teachers, many of whom are not yet well qualified. The training increases the teachers' learning to a level whereby they can teach their subject at university entrance level. It also enables them to adopt modern and improved teacher educational styles, making their students' learning more interesting and informative. To date, over 3,000 teachers have graduated from the program with the skills to teach high-school level science to university entrance standard.

Despite the difficult political climate in Afghanistan, the Master Science Teacher Training has equipped its graduates with the skills to educate close to 70,000 high school students.

Recent program graduate, Nazia, has said:

"I am Nazia and I am a physic teacher in high school and I am a participant of AADRO courses. Before attending this seminar I had a lot of problems in school books, we contacted our education departments to solve our problems but nothing useful happened. AADRO's seminar has been useful and solved our problems a lot.

Our trainer is very experienced and talented, since we are attending this seminar we have changed and learned a lot. This type of seminars must keep repeating till we don't have any problem left.

I would like to thank AADRO for making all this happen."

AADO is grateful to the ongoing support of the Planet Wheeler Foundation, without which we would not be able to continue providing training to the hundreds of students that take part in the course each year.





Events

The 2015/2016 period has been a year of firsts for AADO, with a highly successful music performance and the laughter and chatter-filled Nowroz event.

In October 2015, a trivia night hosted by the hilarious John Callinan saw 100 participants attend the Fitzroy Bowling Club to battle it out in order to raise funds for the Carpentry Program. The night was a great success, with lots of laughter and over \$2,000 raised through ticket sales.

In December 2015, we hosted a screening of the award-winning documentary, Frame by Frame in the Library at Docklands. The film was screened in a relaxed environment which introduced a number of LaTrobe Journalism students to AADO, and facilitated conversations about the state of Afghanistan today. Although it was a small event, the film night was a successful event that will be replicated again in the near future.

In March 2016, we welcomed the Afghan New Year with a Nowroz celebration to outdo all others. Hosted over a lunchtime in the beautiful home of human rights barrister, Matthew Albert, the event saw guests feast on a generous banquet provided by our friends at the Afghan Gallery, watch videos of our work in Afghanistan, and listen to Afghan music. Chris Keogh once again conducted a fun filled auction, and, through

the generosity of the more than 110 guests in attendance on the day, we raised over \$10,200 in ticket and auction sales.

The next great success of the year was the Fred Smith concert, held on a cold Autumn evening at the Brunswick Town Hall in May. Despite the threatening weather, some 120 people attended to hear diplomat and musician, Fred Smith and his band perform a moving catalogue of songs about his experience working in the Uruzgan province of Afghanistan.

We were incredibly fortunate that Fred and his band very generously donated their time on the evening, which enabled us to raise over \$4,000 through proceeds from food, drink and ticket sales. However, perhaps more importantly, the event served to introduce a number of Fred Smith's fans to AADO and received several large donations on the evening.

Throughout the past year, a number of other events were held with a view to strengthening and growing AADO's support base by introducing the organisation to a wider range of people.

In the coming year, we look forward to consolidating the work that we have done so far to welcome new members into the AADO family, and to continue to remind old friends of the wonderful work that we do.





Volunteers and Donors

AADO would like to give special thanks to the following volunteers who contributed their time and talents in a range of capacities over 2015-16:

Deborah Rhodes
Joshua Callanan
Caresse Constandinides
Geeta Heffernan
Chris Keogh
Baheer Komak
Julian Hallowell
Lora Hares
Sofia Lo Bianco
Afroza Rahman Rima
Jacquelin Simondson

AADO would like to thank the following monthly donors for their vital ongoing support of our projects in 2015-16:

John and Rosemary Barry
Elizabeth Brown
Julie Ellis
Jennifer Godfrey
Chris Jensen
Assema Lalzad
Glenn Simondson
Kristin Simondson
Carol Webley
The Old Cogs: David Brennan, Ian Butler, Peter Carney and Eddie Farbrother

We thank the following for their various donations for prizes and events in 2015-16:

Chris Young Prahran Market prize donation
Gary Paddick Spokes Bike Shop prize donation
Hajo Ohlert Champion Clothing prize donation
Timur Salehi The Afghan Gallery Restaurant
City of Greater Dandenong Afghan Bazaar
Cultural Tours prize donation
Fitzroy Bowls Club Trivia Venue Host
Matthew Albert Nowroz Venue Host
Fred Smith Dust of Uruzgan Charity Concert
Performance



‘On a warm sunny afternoon enjoying the hospitality of AADO and some delicious Afghani food, a small group of social athletes realised we could make difference. Only a small difference but our combined contributions go towards Science teacher summer schools.

As better engineers than cyclists we hope our contributions will in some way assist young women in bettering their lives. Hopefully it will also give them and their nation the opportunity to eventually start rebuilding towards the peace and normality we take for granted.’



AFGHAN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION INC
25 274 698 213

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Donations and gifts		
Monetary restricted	360,713	219,111
Monetary – non restricted	39,618	41,322
Non-monetary	218,547	104,605
Investment income	1,816	2,309
Other Income	631	540
TOTAL REVENUE	621,325	367,887
EXPENDITURE		
International programs		
Funds to international programs	274,930	272,780
Fundraising costs	5,797	7,182
Accountability and Administration	5,543	9,868
Non-Monetary Expenditure	218,547	104,605
TOTAL EXPENSES	504,818	394,435
EXCESS (SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE	116,508	(26,548)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	170,999	191,991
Other financial assets	588	-
Total Current Assets	171,587	191,991
Non Current Assets	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	171,587	191,991
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	19,386	1,468
Income in advance	-	154,830
Current tax liabilities	-	-
Other financial liabilities	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	19,386	156,298
Total Non Current Liabilities	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	19,386	156,298
NET ASSETS	152,201	35,693
EQUITY		
Reserves	-	-
Retained earnings	152,201	35,693
TOTAL EQUITY	152,201	35,693

Grants (all), Program support costs, Bequests and Legacies, Revenue and Expenditure for International Political or Religious adherence promotion programs and Domestic programs all recorded a zero balance.

AFGHAN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION INC
25 274 698 2134
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Other	Total
Balance at 30 th June 2015	35,693	-	-	35,693
Shortfall of Revenue over expenses	116,508	-	-	116,508
Balance at 30 th June 2016	152,201	-	-	152,201

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016


Cash Flow from Operating Activities	2016
	\$
Interest Received	1,816
Donations and Grants	225,583
Fund Raising	19,918
Memberships	510
Exchange Rate Fluctuations	121
Total	247,948
Payments	268,949
Cash at Beginning of Year	191,991
Cash at End of Year	170,991

Our table of cash movements produced to comply with the ACFID Code of Conduct can be found within our full financial report on our website

Auditor's opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the AFGHAN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION INC as at 30 June 2016 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the full financial statements.

Name of Firm: W.F.Titchener & Co. Pty. Ltd
Name of Director: Certified Practising Accountant


 Mark Donald Crew CPA
 Suite 1/84 Johnston Street, Fitzroy, 3065

Dated this 11th day of November 2016

The Full Financial Report for 2016 is available on our website www.aado.org.au or a hard copy is available on request. The above Summary Financial Statement Report format complies with the standard set out by the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at www.acfid.asn.au.

AADO Committee of Management

President Sarina Greco

Vice President Farhad Ahmadzai (to June 2016)

Treasurer Amanda Pagan (to February 2016)

Treasurer Geraldine Allen (from February 2016)

Secretary Rosemary Marquardt

Committee members

Kim Shaw Chair Fundraising Sub-Committee (to April 2016)

Carlie Adamek

Katie Murphy Chair Fundraising Sub-Committee
(from March 2016)

Mojda Hashemyan (from October 2016)

Executive Director Dr Nouria Salehi AOM

Intern and Administration, Communications and
Supporter Relations Officer Jacquelin Simondson
(February to December 2016)

Afghan Australian
Development Organisation

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Afghan Australian Development and
Rehabilitation Organisation

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The Afghan Australian Development Organisation 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 AADO at aadoevents@gmail.com. Our complaints handling policy can be found in 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



The Village Life Skills program expanded to include vegetable production in Greenhouses.