



IndianCare

IndianCare

13TH Annual Report

2025-26





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Key achievements

1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026



Celebrated International Women's Day by organising a Desi Women Sports fest, with 300 people present, attracting \$33,000 sponsorship and in-kind contributions.

Engaged 826 women through the Aao Khelo program (Come Play - women in sport), with 206 women participating each week equating to 564 hrs/week.

Finalised IndianCare's 2025-28 Strategic Plan.

Initiated 2 podcast series - Chai with Police and Matters that Matter.

Our YouTube channel was launched in October 2025 and 140 videos posted by June 2026.

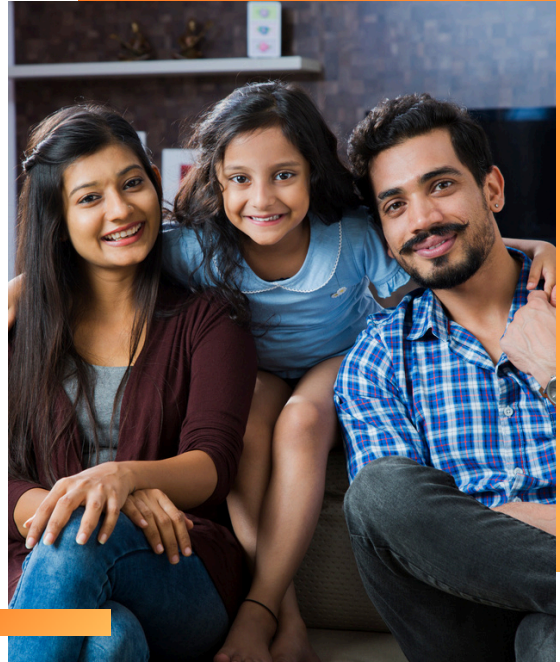
Began the adoption of a CRM for helpline data management.

Racism survey yielded 154 responses so far.

Overview

About us

IndianCare is a Victorian not-for-profit community based organisation committed to building a society where the Indian community is valued, included, and well supported. We work collectively towards improving the wellbeing of individuals and families so that they are able to contribute their best to the rest of the Australian society. This can be achieved by connecting them with appropriate services, fostering community participation, and advocating for equitable access to opportunities.



Our vision and mission



Vision

Victoria where the Indian community is valued and well supported.



Mission

- Serve as a culturally sensitive vehicle, facilitating community access to service providers.
- Collaborate with other organisations to support our community members facing hardship.
- Support and inform other organisations about meeting the needs of our community.
- Advocate for our community to all levels of government.

Our values



Cultural sensitivity

Understanding our community's issues in a culturally informed way.

Truth

Acting with integrity, honouring our beliefs, embracing reality, and educating others.

Respect

Being accountable, professional, and acting with regard to the wishes and rights of others.

Compassion

Listening, caring, and supporting those in need.

Peace

Creating organisational partnerships, societal friendships, connections, and harmony.

Courage

Embracing empowerment and self-determination, and unafraid to address hard issues.





Monia Choudhary
Secretary, IndianCare

Annual General Meeting minutes 2024-2025

Reporting period	1.07.2024 - 30.06.2025
Date	3 August 2025
Time	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Location	Millennium House, Seddon
Attendees	Rama Manchikanti, Jaya Manchikanti, Durga Warrior, Manjit Singh, Monia Choudhary, Sandeep Varma, Varun Joshi, Vasundhara Kandpal and other team members, volunteers, and guests. In total, 45 people in attendance. The required quorum of 75% was met.
Apologies	Saleha Singh, Anand Shome.

AGM minutes 2024-2025

No.	Summary
1.	The MC of the AGM, Monia Choudhary, welcomed everyone including Ms Maryanne Tadic, CEO AMCS (Millenium House is owned by AMCS) Manjit Singh did Acknowledgement of Country. All attendees joined in singing the national anthems of Australia and India.
2.	The minutes of the 11th AGM were read by Monia Choudhary and moved by Jaya, seconded by Manjit and accepted by all.
3.	Jaya Manchikanti presented the President's report and highlighted that IndianCare continues to focus on family violence prevention and intervention projects, as well as a range of other initiatives. She thanked fellow Board members, staff and partner agencies. Jaya moved the report, and Monia seconded it, which was accepted by all.
4.	Ramachandra Manchikanti, Treasurer, presented the Finance Report for the year 2024-2025. Income: \$325,043.92 Expenses: \$470,742.42 Net earnings (deficit): \$142,098.50 As of 30th June 2025, IndianCare had Total assets: \$ 306,285.58 Total liabilities: \$203,825.83 Equity: \$102,459.75 Finance statements moved by Rama seconded by Durga and accepted by all.

AGM minutes 2024-2025

No.	Summary
5.	Vasundhara Kandpal presented the Manager's report and highlighted our connections, collaborations and capacity of the organisation. The report included an update on our different projects.
6.	New committee was elected for 2025-26: Jaya Manchikanti: President Manjit Singh: Vice President Rama Manchikanti: Treasurer Monia Choudhary: Secretary Durga Warrior: Committee/Board member Anand Shome: Committee/Board member Sandeep Varma: Committee/Board member Saleha Singh: Committee/ Board member Varun Joshi: Committee/ Board member The announcement was made by the Returning Officer, Ms Harsiddhi Mody of Khelaiya Productions. Harsiddhi congratulated the newly appointed committee members and welcomed Varun as a new Board member.
7.	Mr. Tejinder Singh, an IndianCare volunteer, shared his experience of supporting IndianCare by conducting online English classes for seniors. He spoke warmly about his experience and acknowledged the valuable work and support provided by the IndianCare staff.
8.	Sandeep Varma delivered a formal vote of thanks, expressing his appreciation to all the speakers, distinguished guests and attendees for their participation.
9.	It was announced that the Annual Report was available on IndianCare's website. Meeting closed at 4.15 pm, followed by afternoon tea and networking opportunity.



President's message

-Jaya Manchikanti

Namaste (नमस्ते).

IndianCare's work during 2025 – 26 was steady and meaningful. The following pages of this annual report detail our work during the year. I will start mainly with a governance and strategic overview.

This financial year began by developing our three-year strategic plan (2025 – 28), which along with our updated policies and procedures (ratified last year) provide a strong foundation for moving forward in the next few years. The plan constitutes four strategic goals with several actions aligned to each goal. The four goals are:

1. Deepen collaborations and partnerships.
2. Diversify and bolster our financial sustainability.
3. Make information and referral service more impactful.
4. Strengthen the organisation through governance, people and culture.



Jaya with Viv Nguyen, Chairperson of Victorian Multicultural Commission - we thank Viv for her services to the Victorian multicultural community.

Financial sustainability always remains a challenge.

We have been working through these goals, especially concentrating on deepening our collaborations and partnerships (particularly with the many diverse groups within the Indian community). For, example, IndianCare collaborated with three other organisations to set up Arunya Productions – aiming to produce films on social issues. Unfortunately, we have so far not succeeded in securing any funds to produce films, but we will keep trying.

Financial sustainability always remains a challenge, which is the case for most not-for-profit organisations. We are grateful that private donations to IndianCare increased slightly this year and we hope that continues. Many grant applications were submitted (thank you to the staff), and while half of them were successful, the grant amounts received were significantly less than what were requested. Our Treasurer, Rama, and the finance team (Vivian and Ashok) have

done a mighty job managing our funds carefully to enable the ongoing work of IndianCare.

In relation to IT (information technology) improvements, our Vice-President, Manjit, had been supporting us for more than ten years. However, this year we decided to give Manjit a break, and appointed an IT contractor, Apurv. I would like to thank Manjit for his IT contributions over the last decade. In the coming year, we will particularly focus on a more streamlined data management system.

I take this opportunity to thank other fellow Board members who assist the staff with issues such as human resources (Anand), risk management (Monia), communications (Saleha), legal matters (Sandeep, who will sadly be leaving us) and prevention of family violence (Durga, Varun).

IndianCare's Aao Khelo program (women in sports) was the highlight of this year's





We are welcoming collaborations to reach out more to regional communities.

work and we thank the Federal government for the three-year grant which has helped us to empower women through sport. It has been delightful to watch women gaining physical and mental strength through physical activities.

The anti-racism project has unfortunately attracted painful, racist comments on our social media sites. Indians have been particularly targeted this year, one of the reasons could be the cost-of-living crisis. However, we are thankful to the Victorian government for providing us with a grant to survey our community about racism and for encouraging us to report racist incidents.

Our focus on prevention and early intervention in relation to family violence has continued since we began that work in 2018.

Unfortunately, during this year, another woman of Indian background was murdered by her partner (in August 2025) in regional Victoria (rest in peace, Anu Kumar). Countless women live in fear and coercion, and this is not unique to the Indian community. IndianCare will continue to push the message of respectful relationships and gender equality.

Through our Board member, Varun, we are trying to reach out more to regional communities and we welcome more collaborations with groups in the regions.

IndianCare continued its men's support group, education sessions for seniors, and developed unique podcasts with members of Victoria Police, as well as podcasts in relation to understanding family violence.

These podcasts can be viewed on IndianCare's YouTube channel which was set up this year.

Multiculturalism has come under attack this year, more so than otherwise, and IndianCare was involved in assisting the government with its new multicultural strategy. We sincerely hope that whichever political party is elected to lead after the upcoming State election that it focuses on nurturing multiculturalism and supporting organisations such as ours to build a thriving society.

I would like to end by thanking the intelligent and dedicated staff of IndianCare (Vasundhara, Druma, Vivian, Mariam, Sukhjit, Shivia, Nishant, Vidhi and Nupur), volunteers and students for yet another impactful year of work. I also thank funding bodies, private donors, and sponsors for their support.

Finally, I thank community members, partner organisations and researchers for placing faith in IndianCare.



Jaya Manchikanti

President, IndianCare





General Manager's report

In 2025-2026, IndianCare continued to support and empower Victoria's growing Indian community. Through targeted programs, we helped our community stay healthy, connected and supported.



This year, our work centred around three major themes - Family Violence (Project Ujala), challenging gender stereotypes (Project - Aao Khelo) and Anti-Racism (Project Breaking Stereotypes). We also focused on strengthening our organisational capacity through staff training,

Vasundhara Kandpal
General Manager



strengthening our partnerships with community organisations and improving our service delivery through our helpline.

Our most significant achievement this year was the continued success of Aao Khelo (Come Play - women in sports program), funded by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sports and the Arts. Over the year, we facilitated the establishment of 33 women's sports groups, of which 12 continue to operate, demonstrating the sustainability of the initiative beyond project funding. A total of 826 women participated in Aao Khelo activities, with 206 women now playing sport every week, collectively contributing over 564 hours of weekly physical activity. These figures represent far more than participation, they reflect increased confidence, stronger social networks, improved wellbeing and the emergence of women leaders within the community.

What began as a project to encourage sports participation among Indian women has grown into a vibrant community led project that is transforming lives through physical activity, friendship and social connections.

A highlight of the year was the Desi Women Sports Fest, which brought together 250 women from across Victoria to celebrate sport, community and inclusion.

Seeing women of all ages actively participating reinforced the importance of creating culturally safe spaces where women can prioritise their own health and wellbeing.

Through Ujala, funded by Family Safety Victoria, we continued challenging harmful gender stereotypes and promoting respectful relationships within the Indian community. Preventing family



violence requires changing attitudes before harm occurs, and Ujala has focused on creating opportunities for open, culturally relevant conversations around gender equality, healthy relationships and shared responsibility.

A significant milestone under this project was the launch of two podcast series. One of the series is in partnership with Victoria Police – Chai with Police. We produced a community awareness podcast addressing family violence, safety and available support services. Alongside this, we launched our in-house podcast series – Matters that Matter, creating a platform for conversations that are often considered difficult within multicultural communities.



These digital initiatives enabled us to reach audiences beyond traditional workshops and continue building awareness through accessible and trusted communication channels.

Our Anti-Racism Project continued to encourage community members to recognise, document and report experiences of racism. While racism often goes unreported, its impact on mental health, belonging and community participation can be profound. Throughout the year, we gathered 120 community surveys, helping us better understand lived experiences while reinforcing the importance of reporting incidents. Our work has focused, not only on, encouraging reporting but also on educating community members about where incidents can be reported, how to collect appropriate evidence and where to access mental health support when affected by racism. Increasing awareness is a critical first step towards creating safer and more inclusive communities.

Beyond our funded projects, IndianCare continued responding to emerging community needs wherever possible. We supported Palliative Care Victoria's work on the development of a Hindi-language palliative care booklet, helping improve access to important end-of-life care information for Hindi-speaking community members. These initiatives demonstrate the value of collaboration and the important role community organisations play in improving access to culturally appropriate health information.

Internally, we continued investing in strengthening our organisation. We have started work on implementing a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system for our community helpline. This will lay the foundation for more effective client support, improved reporting and evidence-based data base management. This investment will enhance our ability to understand community needs, evaluate outcomes and advocate for future services.



These achievements would not be possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, Board members and community partners. Their professionalism, compassion and unwavering commitment continue to be the foundation of IndianCare's success. I extend my sincere gratitude to every member of our team, whose passion for serving the community inspires the work we do every day.

Thank you to our funding bodies, government agencies and partner organisations for their continued trust and collaboration. Together, we have demonstrated lasting change is achieved through partnerships, shared purpose and community leadership.

As we look ahead, IndianCare remains committed to expanding culturally responsive services, strengthening organisational capability and creating opportunities for every member of our community to feel safe, connected and empowered. While challenges such as family violence, racism, social isolation and barriers to accessing services remain, we are confident that by continuing to listen, innovate and collaborate, we can help build a stronger and more inclusive future for Victoria's Indian community.

The past year has shown what is possible when communities come together with a shared purpose. We look forward to building on this momentum in the years ahead.

Treasurer's Report



Brief overview of financial performance

These financial reports are presented in accordance with the standards and templates set by the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC).

The total income for the last financial year was \$600,798. Our main source of funding was grants from Federal and Victorian Governments, Local councils and other organisations. IndianCare also provided services to other organisations which resulted in some income.

We also received a total of \$6,381 in donations. We are extremely grateful to all our donors and well-wishers – we look forward to their contributions and continued support.

IndianCare recognised \$590,097 of grant, service and other income in FY25–26. Of this, \$439,727 was received in cash during the year; the balance (\$150,370) represents prior-year grant funds brought forward from FY24-25. We received grants principally from Federal Government (Department of Health), the Victorian State Government, local councils, VicHealth etc.

I will highlight the top 2 grants that we received – please refer to note 2 in the financial statement for details of the income. The top 2 grants were:

1. Federal Government Department of Health for 'Play our Way' project of \$421,965. This includes \$320,000 of cash received; unexpended amount of \$131,927 brought forward from FY24-25; unexpended amount of \$29,962 carried forward to FY26-27.
2. Victorian State Government (Department of Premier and Cabinet) for the prevention of Family Violence of \$67,453. This includes \$60,000 cash received; unexpended amount of \$7,453 brought forward from FY24-25.

The surplus for FY25-26 is \$5,133.

Our total expense for FY25-26 was \$595,665. Our top 2 expenses for the year were:

1. Employee benefit expenses of \$446,495 comprising wages of \$384,651, Superannuation \$45,263, Work Cover insurance \$10,399 and Portable Long Service Payment backlog payment of \$6,182. This is 75 percent of the total expense.
2. \$144,752 for Administration and Operational Expenses. This is 24 percent of the total expense.

Please refer to notes 4 and 5 of Financial Statement for a breakdown of expenses.

As at 30th June 2026, IndianCare had total assets of \$181,729 comprising cash in Bendigo Bank accounts. Please refer to notes 7 of Financial Statement for a breakdown of assets.

Our total current liabilities as at 30th June 2025 were \$74,136. Our current liabilities comprised mainly of unexpended grants of \$65,358, which we carried over to FY26-27. Other than that, we had the usual current liabilities such as Payroll, Superannuation of \$5,271 and GST liabilities of \$1,507. The equity for the year was \$107,593.

Please refer to notes 8 and 9 of Financial Statement for a breakdown of liabilities.

We had a successful FY25-26 where we met all our financial commitments and obligations.



Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income/Expenditure Statement	Notes	2026	2025
Income			
Donations	1	\$6,381.00	\$3,012.00
Grants, services and other income	2	\$590,097.00	\$313,594.00
Interest	3	\$4,320.00	\$8,438.00
Total Income		\$600,798.00	\$325,044.00
Expenditure			
Administration and operating expenses	4	\$144,752.00	\$73,850.00
Finance expenses (i.e. Bank charges & fees)		\$317.00	\$221.00
Employee benefit expenses	5	\$446,495.00	\$392,112.00
Depreciation expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00
Audit/Financials review fees	6a	\$2,000.00	\$1,700.00
Advertising and promotion expenses		\$2,101.00	\$2,260.00
Total expenditure		\$595,665.00	\$470,143.00
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		\$5,133.00	(\$145,099)



Statement of Financial Position

Balance Sheet Statement	Notes	2026	2025
Asset			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	\$181,729.00	\$306,286.00
Accounts receivable and other debtors		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total current assets		\$181,729.00	\$306,286.00
Non-current assets		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total assets		\$181,729.00	\$306,286.00
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Payroll, superannuation liabilities	8	\$5,271.00	\$14,920.00
GST payable		\$1,507.00	\$177.00
Unexpended grants	9	\$65,358.00	188,728
Accrued Expenses	6b	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Total current liabilities		\$74,136.00	\$203,825.00
Non-current liabilities		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total liabilities		\$74,136.00	\$203,825.00
Net assets		\$107,593.00	\$102,461.00
Equity			
Accumulated funds		\$107,593.00	\$102,461.00

Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 1 Donations

Total donations of \$6,381 were gratefully received by IndianCare from 8 donors during the year ranging from \$20 to \$3,000. The total donation amount includes Stripe platform fees of \$67.42.

Note 2 Grants, services and other income

IndianCare recognised \$590,097 of grant, service and other income in FY2025–26. Of this, \$439,727 was received in cash during the year; the balance (i.e. \$150,370) represents prior-year grant funds brought forward and expended in FY2025–26. Grants were provided principally by the Federal Government (Department of Health), the Victorian State Government, local councils, VicHealth and Palliative Care Victoria Inc. Service income was earned from organisations including for, example, Good Things Australia.

Funding body	Amount
Federal Govt – Dept of Health – Play Our Way (received \$320,000; unexpended b/f from FY24–25 \$131,927; unexpended c/f to FY26–27 \$29,962)	\$421,965
Vic Govt – Dept of Families, Fairness & Housing – Anti-Racism Project (received \$32,025; unexpended b/f from FY24–25 \$39,802; unexpended c/f to FY26–27 \$8,396)	\$63,431
Vic Govt – Dept of Premier & Cabinet – Family Violence (received \$60,000; unexpended b/f from FY24–25 \$7,453; total \$67,453 fully expended in FY25–26)	\$67,453
Alcohol & Drugs Foundation – Local Drug Action Teams (LDAT) (unexpended b/f from FY24–25 \$9,546; fully expended)	\$9,546
Wyndham City Council grant (received \$4,547; fully expended)	\$4,547
VicHealth grant (received \$5,000; fully expended)	\$5,000
Services	\$18,155
Total grants, services and other income *	\$590,097

* In addition, the Victorian Government's Multicultural Community Capacity Building program grant of \$27,000 was received in June 2026. This amount is fully unexpended and has been carried over to FY2026–27 (see Note 9).

**Note 3 Interest**

Interest of \$4,320 was earned on the term deposit held with Bendigo Bank.

Note 4 Administration and operating expenses

Administration and operating expenses totalled \$144,752, comprising:

Item	Amount
Hire of facilities (e.g. badminton courts) for Play Our Way	\$36,150
Hire of facilitators (yoga, swimming and dance instructors, etc.)	\$16,927
Consulting – Play Our Way sports project	\$9,773
Other project costs (catering, travel, printing & stationery, room hire, etc.)	\$15,396
Software subscriptions (Wix, Canva, Zoom, Adobe, ChatGPT)	\$3,474
Rent	\$18,540
Telephone & internet	\$19,733
Laptop for social media staff	\$2,315
Training	\$1,888
Accounting & bookkeeping	\$3,942
Office purchases	\$1,841
Consulting – other	\$14,773
Total administration and operating expenses	\$144,752

Note 5 Interest

Employee benefit expenses were \$448,061, as follows:

Item	Amount
Wages	\$384,651
Superannuation	\$45,263
Workcover	\$10,399
Portable long service leave backlog payment	\$6,182
Total employee benefit expenses	\$446,495

Note 6 Audit / financial review fees

6a Awaiting Auditor invoice for estimated \$2,000.

6b The Auditor expenses accrued during FY25-26 is recognised as Accrued Expense to be paid during FY26-27.

Note 7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents totalled \$181,729:

Item	Amount
Bendigo Bank account *9446	\$100,929
Petty cash	\$800
Bendigo Bank – term deposit	\$80,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	\$181,729

Note 8 Payroll and superannuation liabilities

Item	Amount
PAYG withholding payable	\$3,456
Superannuation payable	\$1,796
Payroll clearing	\$19
Total payroll and superannuation liabilities	\$5,271

Note 9 Unexpended grants

Grant funds received but not yet expended at 30 June 2026, carried forward to FY2026–27:

Item	Amount
Federal Govt – Dept of Health – Play Our Way	\$29,962
Vic Govt – DFFH – Anti-Racism Project	\$8,396
Vic Govt – Multicultural Community Capacity Building Program	\$27,000
Total unexpended grants	\$65,358

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the members of IndianCare INC

Report on the Financial Report

I have reviewed the accompanying annual financial report of IndianCare Inc which comprises of income and expenditure and statement of financial position and notes thereto for the year ended 30 June 2026.

The Committee has considered an audit was not required as it is a tier 2 Incorporated Association under the Association Incorporations Reform Act 2012.

The committee is responsible for the fair presentation of the annual financial report.

This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the annual financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Independent Examiner's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the annual financial report based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Standard on Review Engagements in order to state whether, on the basis of procedures laid down by the Act, anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial report is not presented fairly, in all material respects in accordance with the basis of accounting and showing a fair value of assets.

A review of the annual financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable me to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion.

Matters coming to my Attention

Superannuation payable in note 8, \$1,796 needs to be reconciled to identify what amounts are held for which employees and paid to the member's funds.

Conclusion

Based on my review, which is not an audit and subject to the above matter, I believe that the annual financial report of IndianCare Inc does in all material respects, give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30th June 2026 and of its investments and bank accounts ended on that date.



Bruce Hydon
Chartered Accountant
11th September 2026



Projects 2025-26



Start Date - Oct 2024
End Date - June 2027
Location - 7 councils and
expanding to more
Funding body - Department
of Health and Aged Care

Aao khelo

For Indian women

Increasing Indian women's participation in sports by
addressing the barriers to engagement.

Start Date - Oct 2025
End Date - Dec 2026
Location - Across Victoria
Funding body - Department
of Family, Fairness and
Housing

Ujala

Empowering the Indian community

Addressing family and gender-based violence by
raising awareness and promoting healthy
relationships grounded in respect, equality and safety.

Start Date - July 2025
End Date - Dec 2026
Location - Across Victoria
Funding body - Department
of Premier and Cabinet

Breaking stereotypes

For the Indian community in Victoria

Understanding racist experiences of the Indian
community and building awareness about reporting
racist incidences.

Start Date - April 2026
End Date - Mar 2027
Location - City of Wyndham
Funding body - Good Things
Foundation

Digital Literacy

For Indian seniors

Building digital literacy skills amongst senior members
in the Indian community. (Funding received before
June and activities planned for next FYI 2026-27).



Aao Khelo

Come, Let's Play

Project overview

- Supporting Indian women to increase physical activity, wellbeing and social connection through sports.
- Helping Indian women to establish their local sports groups such as badminton, yoga, dance, swimming and aqua-aerobics.

Community participation (as on June 2026)



7 LGAs

Councils reached



13

Suburbs



12

Active sports groups



826

Women registered



206

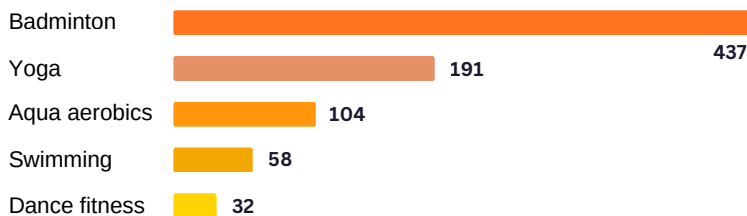
Weekly participants



564

Participant hrs/week

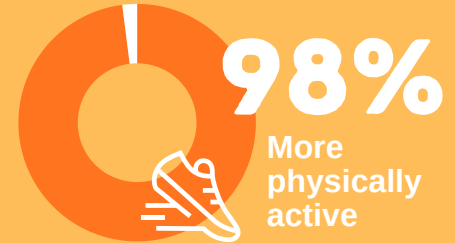
Sports offered



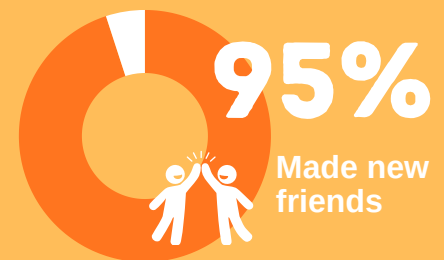
Highlights and wins

- Expanded from 3 to 7 LGAs on community demand.
- Expanded activities to include aqua aerobics and dance fitness.
- Delivered the *Desi Women Sports Fest*, engaging 270+ women.

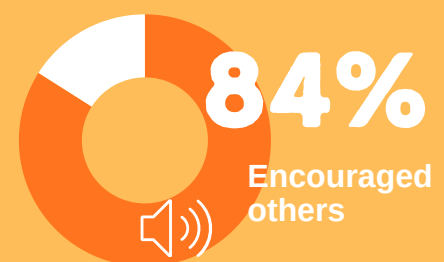
Key Achievements*



Participants reported being more physically active since joining Aao Khelo program.



Participants made new friends through the program.



Encouraged others to become more active/ join sports.

*Based on interim survey responses received as on July 2026 (n=87). Survey remains open

Challenges



- Limited availability of sporting facilities in certain areas.
- Fluctuating participation and attendance.
- Conflict amongst participants in sports groups.
- Meeting the range of expectations by participants.
- Matching participants' and facilities availability.

What's next?



- Continue adapting the program based on participant's feedback.
- Develop and train sport group leaders.
- Build self-sustaining sports groups.

Impact stories

Joining the IndianCare program has made a really positive difference in my life.

I feel much better about my health and have developed a healthier daily routine. It has also helped me focus more on my mental wellbeing and consistently take time to care for myself.

I have enjoyed connecting with beautiful people and building meaningful friendships.

It has been wonderful getting to know each other, sharing experiences and supporting one another.

Before joining, I found it harder to stay consistent with my health and self-care. I am truly grateful for this program and the positive changes, confidence and connections it has brought into my life.

– Sathiya Thangavel, City of Casey



Impact stories

IndianCare has given me a wonderful opportunity to play badminton and stay active. The badminton sessions have helped me improve my fitness, meet new people, make friends, and feel more connected to the community.

I really enjoy playing badminton, having some healthy competition, and spending time with everyone. It has also given me something positive and enjoyable to look forward to.

I am very thankful to IndianCare for organising these badminton activities and creating such a friendly and welcoming environment.

– Karthika Balamurugan, Ravenhall



Impact stories

This program means a lot to me and is very close to my heart because it supported me during one of the most crucial times in my life. It not only helped me stay active but also gave me the opportunity to make new friends and brought so much positivity into my life.

I never imagined that being part of this program would also help me lose the weight I had gained during my pregnancy. I always look forward to our badminton sessions and the social activities focused on mental health. This all has become something I genuinely enjoy and look forward to.

It has been a blessing to have a program that keeps me active, connected to my community, and engaged with local people. The positive impact has extended beyond just me—it has also had a wonderful influence on my family.

I am truly grateful for this program and everything it has brought into my life. It has helped me become more active, connected, confident, and positive, and I feel very fortunate to be a part of it. Thanks 🙏

— Nalini Bansal, Burnside





Saturday, 7
March 2026



Victoria University
Community
Sports Stadium,
Footscray

We marked International
Women's Day by
celebrating Indian women
through sports.



Sports and activities



Participants feedback

Of all the activities, badminton was the best.



Staff went out of their way to attend to everybody



Participant's experience

Overall experience rating

4.03 / 5.0

Staff helpfulness

4.41 / 5.0

Satisfaction with activity variety

4.1 / 5.0



270+

Attendees from
across Melbourne



20

Sponsors and
Partners



40

Volunteers at
the event



83%

Participants want
to attend again



Community groups participating at *Desi Women Sports Fest*, 7 March, 2026, Victoria University Community Sports Stadium, Footscray

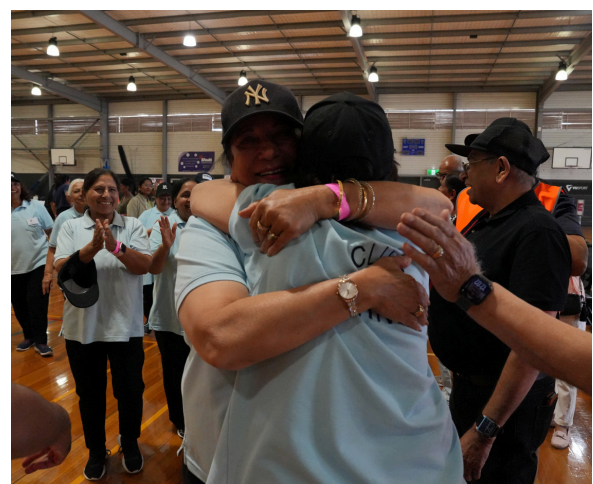
Senior women racing in lemon spoon race



Prize distribution by Tej Krishan, Consul (CGO)



Kalaripayattu, Indian martial art performance by Kalari Healing



Social connections built during games



A senior after winning a race.



Women racing in Lemon spoon race.



Men participating in activity organised by Dadfit.



Women participating in Kalaripayattu.



A badminton player in competition.



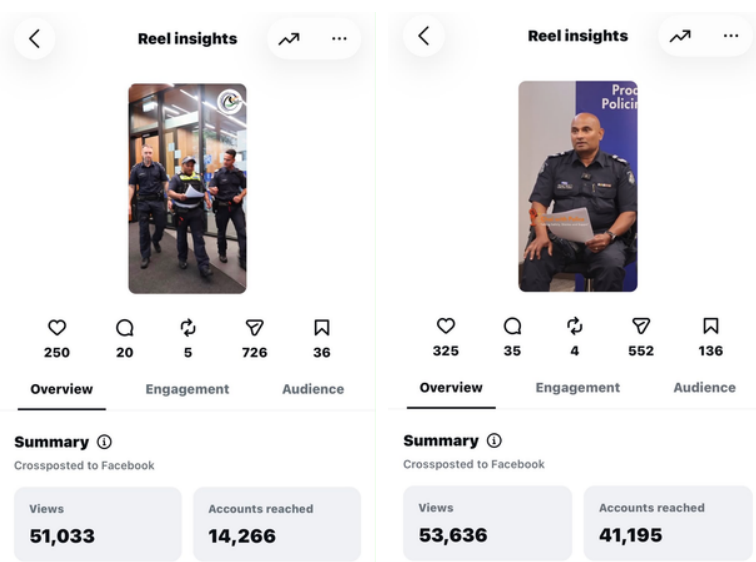
Ujala

Project overview

- Social media outreach to the Indian community on family violence
- Have important conversations such as mental health, selfcare, healthy relations initiated in IndianCare's Men circle.



Community outreach (2025-26)



Highlights & Wins

- Total 125 men participated (repeat participants) in 16 wellness sessions delivered at the Men's circle.
- Total videos published under our podcast were 30.
- Total views received on FV content videos were 300K+.

Key Achievements



Launched *Chai with Police*, a video podcast to help community ask questions anonymously and give information to address their concerns.



Launched *Matters that Matter With IndianCare* video podcast where our senior social worker shared important information on family violence and support and services around it.

Challenges

- Recruiting experienced Indian male social worker.
- Lining up facilitators for sessions for Men's circle.
- Retaining and recruiting participation in Men's circle.

What's next?

- Greater outreach to women to raise awareness about prevention and responses to family violence.
- Secure funding to sustain the project.



IndianCare team and Victoria Police officers meeting to shoot the first episode of video podcast - *Chai with Police*



First shooting of *Chai with Police*

IndianCare team outreaching the Indian community on family violence at Diwali festival at Fed Square



Our regular Namaste Network - Men's circle at Tarneit Community Centre





Breaking stereotypes

Project overview

- Understand racism faced by the Indian community through survey analysis.
- Build awareness and trust for reporting incidents through social media and online resources.

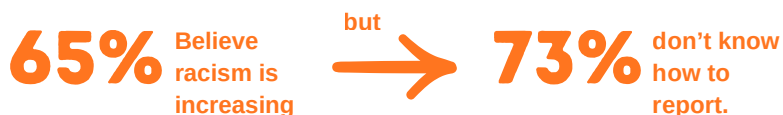


Key highlights:

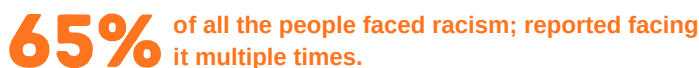
1. Experienced it but rarely reported it.



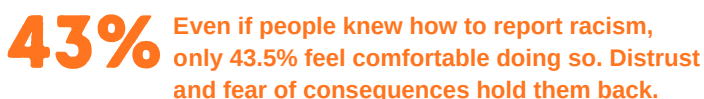
2. Everyone sees the problem, but few know the process.



3. Racism is rarely a one-off.



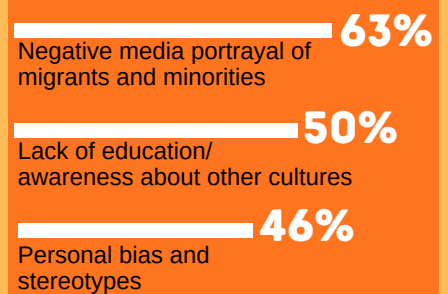
4. Knowledge of reporting process won't close the gap.



Key Insights

What's driving it?

Top perceived drivers



VS

What would help?

Top suggested solutions



Challenges



- Extreme hate comments on our social media.
- Motivating community to fill out the survey on racism.
- Managing emotional impact of hate comments on team members.

What's next?



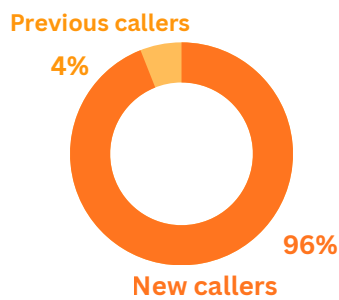
- To sustain funding for this work.
- To help build respectful relationships.



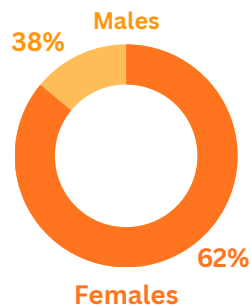
Helpline

We received 194 calls in last financial year with the largest number from Wyndham Council area.

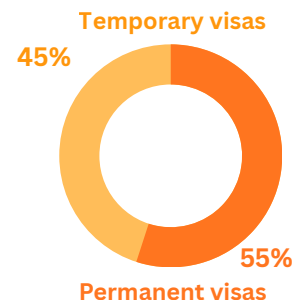
Unique callers



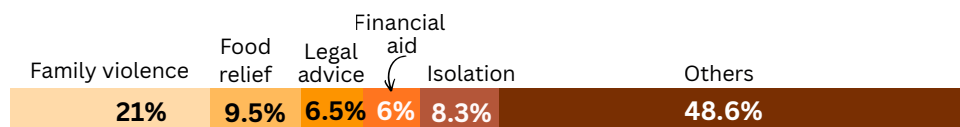
Gender



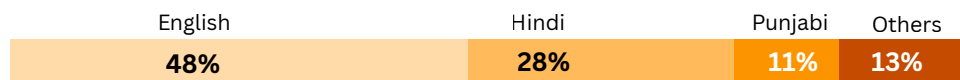
Visa status



Service sought

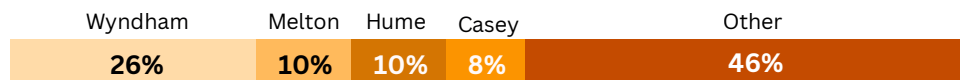


Language



Councils

(Number of calls)



Support requirement	2025 - 26*
Emergency relief	16
Family violence	36
Legal support	11
Financial support	10
Social isolation	14

*Table only includes top 5 categories of support sought in the year

We are working towards implementing a CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system to strengthen data management and streamline service delivery, thanks to funding provided by the Victorian government. This initiative will improve tracking, reporting and coordination across IndianCare's programs and services.



Helpline Client story

**Names and photos have been changed to protect privacy*

Hiruni, a mother of two, contacted our helpline after being called to court following a case of misidentification as perpetrator. Facing family violence, she had been forced to leave her home with her children, leaving the family vulnerable and uncertain about their safety, housing and future.

Our team explained the court process and connected Hiruni with the police, duty lawyer and court respondent practitioner. She provided a statement clarifying the circumstances surrounding the misidentification.

Hiruni was also informed that her spouse visa application had been withdrawn by her husband. We referred her to Victoria Legal Aid and encouraged her to seek legal advice about her immigration options. Recognising the family's broader needs, we connected Hiruni with a specialist family violence service for housing, wellbeing and ongoing support.

Our support

Coordinated information, advocacy and referrals helped Hiruni navigate the legal process, understand her options, and access appropriate support for herself and her children.

Client's feedback

Hiruni was very thankful for the information provided to navigate the court system. She appreciated our social worker listening and believing in her, and also the emotional support she received from us.



Helpline Client story

**Names and photos have been changed to protect privacy*

Priya's father contacted our service seeking support for his daughter, who was living in Australia on a work visa. Her parents were visiting from overseas and were concerned about her mental health and wellbeing, particularly after they returned home.

Our team provided information about mental health assessment, health and wellbeing services, and emergency support options, including the Crisis Assessment and Treatment Team (CATT).

To reduce isolation and strengthen Priya's support network, we also connected her with local social groups and community services - providing opportunities to build relationships, access practical support and develop a stronger sense of community.

Our support

Through early intervention and targeted referrals, Priya and her family gained a clearer understanding of available support.

The case highlights the importance of timely information, crisis pathways and community connection for people experiencing mental health concerns away from their usual support networks.

Client's feedback

"Thank you Indiacare team.
Just the feeling of your team there with us is so heart filling. From my heart I thank you team. We will keep this bonding."

Grants applied 2025-26



Family Violence and Emergency Relief

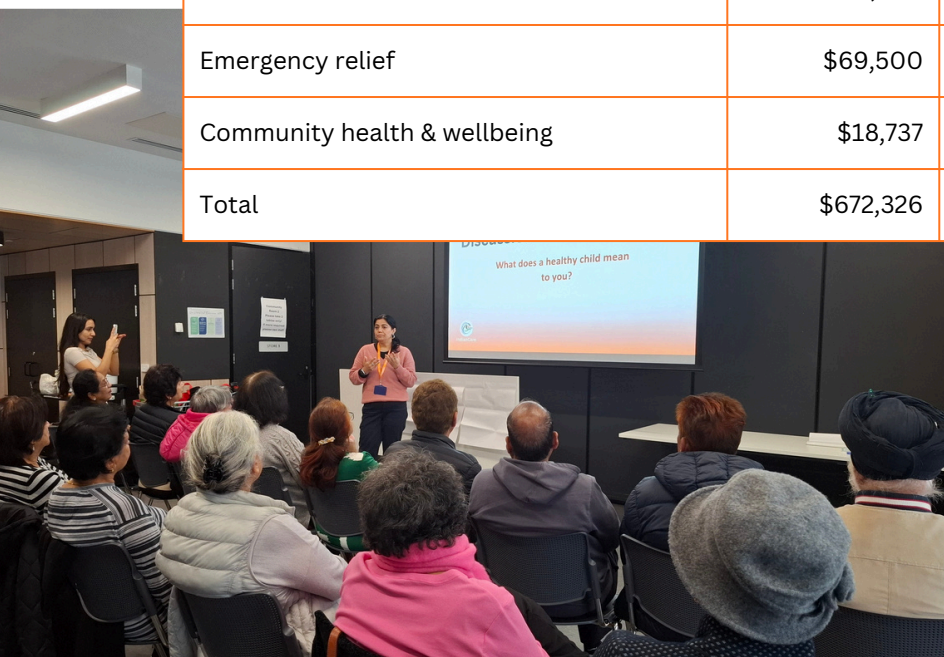
\$456,541 requested, with only \$7,250 (1.6%) secured.



Women's welfare

Funding success is higher for Women's Welfare/Play Our Way, likely because it is an established program with demonstrated outcomes and smaller funding requests.

Funding theme	Funding requested	Funding received	% of funding requested secured
Family violence prevention & response	\$387,041	\$5,000	1.30%
Youth	\$30,000	\$0	0%
Seniors	\$43,000	\$3,000	7.00%
Organisational capacity building	\$103,000	\$31,000	30.10%
Women's welfare	\$21,048	\$6,500	30.90%
Emergency relief	\$69,500	\$2,250	3.20%
Community health & wellbeing	\$18,737	\$0	0%
Total	\$672,326	\$47,750	7.10%



Overall, only 7.1% of funding requested was secured, highlighting a gap between identified community needs and available funding.

Our Board



Jaya Manchikanti
President



Manjit Singh
Vice President



Monia Choudhary
Secretary



Rama Manchikanti
Treasurer



Anand Shome
Board Member



Durga Warrior
Board Member



Saleha Singh
Board Member



Sandeep Varma
Board Member



Varun Joshi
Board Member

Team members



Vasundhara Kandpal
General Manager



Druma Datey
Social Welfare Manager



Mariam Jafri
Lead - Grants, Fundraising
and Philanthropy



Vivian Stanley
Finance Officer



Nishant Sharma
Community Development
Officer



Nupur Joshi
Community Development
Officer



Shivia Mahajan
Community Development
Officer (Feb 25 - Jun 26)



Sukhjit Singh
Social Media Coordinator
(Sep 25 - Jun 26)



Vidhi Parihar
Social Media Coordinator
(Sep 25 - Feb 26)

Student placement

**Samira Noor**

Master of Social Work

Sep - Nov 2025
First placement
ACAP

**Muhammad Daim Masood**

Master of Social Work

Sep - Nov 2025
First placement
ACAP

**Harjinder Kaur**

Master of Social Work

Feb - April 2026
First placement
Acknowledge Education

**Divyashree Sharma**

Bachelor of Community Development

Feb - April 2026
Second placement
Acknowledge Education

Student placement

**Ramneet Ashraf**

Master of Social Work

Feb - April 2026

First placement

Acknowledge Education

**Shaksham Sharma**

Master of Sports Management

Feb - April 2026

Internship

Deakin University

**Philip Sebastian**

Master of Social Work

Feb - May 2026

Final placement

Flinders University

**Tejinder Kaur**

Bachelor of Social Work

Jan - April 2026

Second placement

Institute of Health and Management

Student placement

**Yash Raj**

Master of Social Work

Feb - April 2026

First placement

ACAP

**Damanpreet Kaur**

Master of Social Work

Jun - Sep 2026

Final placement

ACAP

**Ijaz Ul Haq**

Master of Social Work

Jun - Sep 2026

Final placement

ACAP



Volunteers

IndianCare organised a special dinner during Volunteer Week in May 2026 to thank our volunteers.

Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers, whose time, passion and commitment continue to strengthen our work and impact in the community. Their invaluable contribution is at the heart of everything we achieve.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our dedicated volunteers whose generosity, time and commitment have strengthened IndianCare's work throughout the year. Special thanks to Irinpal Kaur and Sandhya Vaishnav, who consistently stepped forward to support us, often at very short notice.

We sincerely thank the seniors from Point Cook Indian Seniors Club, Club 60 and Yogesh Bhatt for their enthusiastic support at the Desi Women's Sports Fest. Special appreciation also goes to Prasanna Manam for her interest and contribution to our Anti-Racism Project, and Apurv Singhal for voluntarily assisting us in resolving our IT issues.

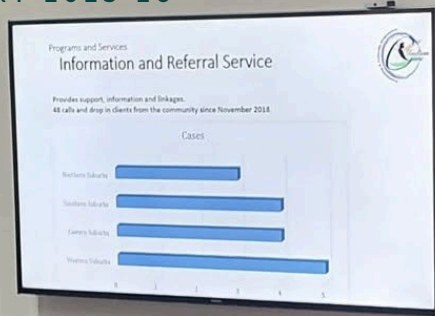
A special thank you to Amritha Jathar, Anitha Konda, Ana, Kriti Parekh, Nalini Bansal, Neethu Roshan, Purbhasa Mishra, Raji Kunnath Muraleedharan, Rini Regina, Ritu Mohandas, Shebna Fazil Rahiman, Sunitha Chetan, Swathi Chintala and Urvi Atul Bhai Patel for voluntarily leading our women's sports groups. Your dedication, leadership and generosity have made a meaningful difference to our community.



Partnerships and Collaborations

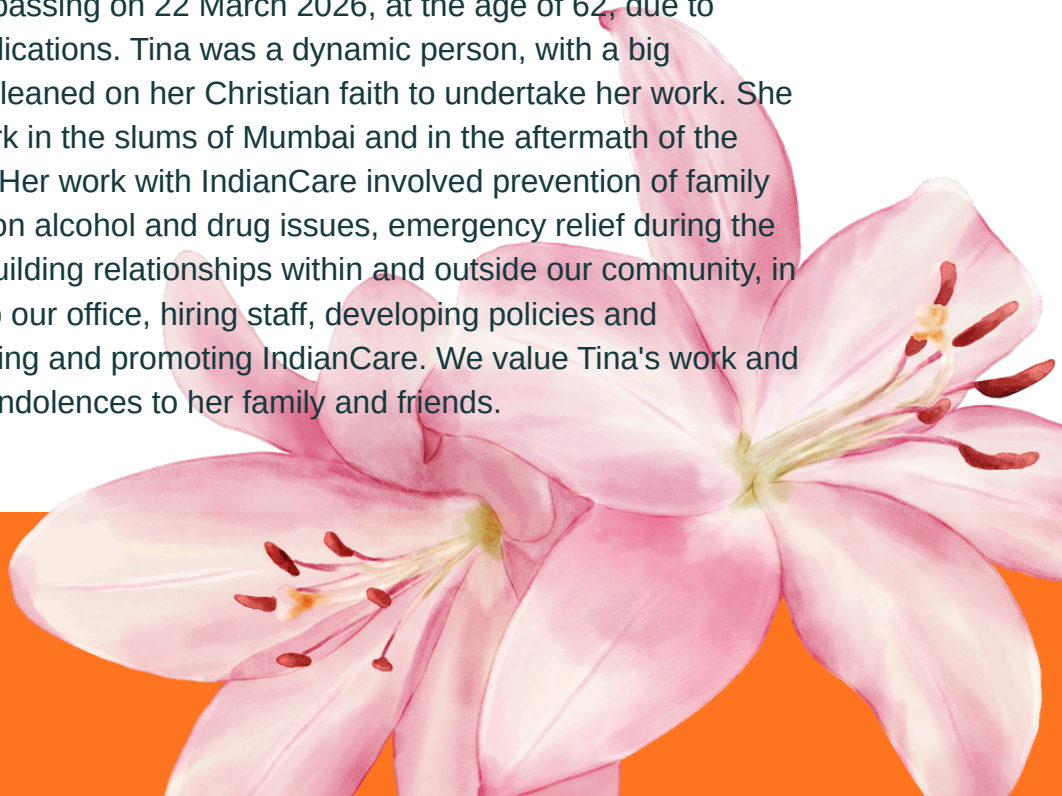
Thank you to our donors and funding bodies who supported our work in the last financial year.





Vale Tina Guido

Tina was the first employee of IndianCare starting as Manager and then progressing to General Manager during her tenure from 2018 - 21. We were saddened by Tina's passing on 22 March 2026, at the age of 62, due to cancer related complications. Tina was a dynamic person, with a big personality, and she leaned on her Christian faith to undertake her work. She began her social work in the slums of Mumbai and in the aftermath of the Bhopal gas tragedy. Her work with IndianCare involved prevention of family violence, education on alcohol and drug issues, emergency relief during the COVID pandemic, building relationships within and outside our community, in addition to setting up our office, hiring staff, developing policies and procedures, advocating and promoting IndianCare. We value Tina's work and express our deep condolences to her family and friends.





Contact Us

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indiancare.org.au

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Melbourne 3000

