

Secretary's report 2020-21 13 August 2021

Introduction

[Alo Enlightened Women Incorporated](#) is a non-profit organisation founded in 2020, but has been active as a group since 2019. Alo's mission is to uphold and promote gender equality, women's leadership and empowerment, specifically within the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) women. Our motto is "Knowledge to empowerment", through our tagline *Alo – you enlighten me*. Our vision is to create a digital platform ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)), supported by f2f interactions and also work as a conduit with other relevant platforms on gender issues.

Alo will focus on four key areas to raise awareness for:

- 1) Women's leadership and progression
- 2) Financial inclusion of women
- 3) Violence against women and girls
- 4) Women in Technology

Alo is proud to report various activities in 2020-21 around these focus areas.

The official launch of Alo Enlightened Women incorporated

The official launch of Alo Enlightened Women incorporated took place on December 12, 2020. It was a very successful event. Due to Covid19 restrictions, the venue was limited to only 50 people. The program was attended by Liberal leader of opposition Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA and His Excellency the High Commission of Bangladesh to Australia Mr Sufiur Rahman and community leaders from CMCF, BAAC, IAAC, IWin, SAFACT and ACT multicultural advisory council. The launch included an exciting panel on "Youth, Identity and Intergenerational Gaps" moderated by Anika Nawar. The purpose of this panel is to understand the triumphs and challenges of CALD women's experiences over the generations, and offer a space to reflect and discuss the complexity of CALD identities. Panelists included Ghizala Jafri, Child and Adolescent Psychologist, Chin Wong, President CMCF, Monon Tarannum, Provisional Psychologist and youth advocate.

The launch video is available: <https://fb.watch/753V4LK11A/> <https://fb.watch/753QVTSbKt/>
Alo's launch was on SBS Bangla news: <https://www.sbs.com.au/language/bangla/audio/i-want-to-make-women-fluent-through-knowledge-dr-lubna-alam>

IWD and Women's leadership

International Women's Day celebration (IWD) is the flagship event – "Alo – you enlighten me". In celebration of IWD 2021 'Women in Leadership', Alo Enlightened Women team organised a buffet lunch at Rex Hotel Canberra on 14th March 2020. The program hosted a leadership panel with the Minister for Multicultural affairs Ms Tara Cheyne, A/Prof Fiona Jenkins, Director ANU Gender Institute, moderated by Ray Mardia. Hayley Latcham, empowerment and confidence coach, presented on fear and confidence building. The day also hosted cultural performances by local artists and hosted entrepreneurs from Sydney (Lais Fita) and Canberra (TN Regalia). More than 120 women (and men) attended the IWD2021.

Alo's #IWD2021 celebration was on SBS Bangla news:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/bangla/audio/international-women-s-day-canberra-dr-lubna-alam?fbclid=IwAR1r7eOtr8loHFEvQcb5ET5gGmD4YtM0tf-pVWbcGYndECfBf4-J88o76t4>

Financial Literacy 4 Women

Alo - Enlightened Women Incorporated, in collaboration with Canberra Multicultural Community forum, hosted inaugural Financial Literacy for Women workshop on 5 June 2021 at the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre (see [promo](#)). It was designed to assist women to improve their financial knowledge and help with financial management and planning, including superannuation. Presenters included [Ishara Rupasinghe](#) - Executive Director, Dixon Advisory and [Zakia Patel](#) - Regional Managing Director, Multicultural Hub Canberra.

ACT government funding for financial literacy workshop in 2021

Alo has been awarded funding of \$3900 from ACT government to conduct a financial literacy day long workshop (Multicultural (participation) grant). This is Alo's first grant and a milestone. The grant is titled: Harmony through Financial Security: Building capacity through increased financial awareness and literacy for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women in Canberra. Using a culturally appropriate training module, Alo will conduct a day-long interactive workshop (in line with Covid-safety restrictions) to build capacity in financial literacy and raise awareness on financial management and financial abuse among 20 to 25 women from South Asian migrant community living in Canberra. The funds are to be spent by 30 June 2022.

HerHealth Series

Women's health matters. All too often we ignore symptoms of health risks as we prioritise and try to balance work, family, social and self. Against this backdrop, Alo enlightened women incorporated has started [HerHealth series w/Alo](#) to raise awareness and share knowledge about diseases that women are vulnerable to. Every two months (6 per year) we bring you access to a health expert and tackle a Health aspect. Alo enlightened Women hopes to bridge gaps in knowledge and accessibility for CALD women, which so often act as barriers to improving health. HerHealth series episodes are also available from Alo's YouTube channel - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQSr5SH16hpUMH8_3VD9tgg.

1. Episode 1: "[Hormonal disorders, PCOS and Endometriosis](#)". Expert Guest: Dr Sonia Hossain OBGYN PTY LTDTD MBBS FRANZCOG. Host: Ayesha Sheikh. Views: 2K
2. Episode 2: "[Navigating the health system: Choosing the right service for you](#)" Expert guest: Yelin Hung, the Health Care Consumers Association's Multicultural Liaison Officer. Host: Ayesha Sheikh. [This episode](#) was also aired in Bangla Radio Canberra on 8 Feb 2021. Views: 291
3. Episode 3: "[Breast Cancer](#)", 9 May 2021. Expert guest: Dr Mahbuba Khanom Mukta, MBBS, MBH, FRACGP. Host: Aliva Evana. Views: 5.2K

Secretary 2020-21: Associate Professor Lubna Alam