

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



AGM
2020

PROGRAM &
ORDER OF EVENTS

**2020 OACWA
FOCUS:**

**Engaging and
building
relationships
with African
Community
Leaders**

Contents

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ORDER OF PROCEEDING for 2020 AGM

| | |
|---------|--|
| 2:00 PM | Members & Guests arrive and sign register. |
| 2:30 PM | Welcome by AGM President |
| | Apologies |
| | Confirmation of minutes of the previous AGM |
| | Amendment of the constitution |
| | Voting and confirmation of new OACWA Elected Officials |
| | President's report |
| | Treasurer's report |
| | Presentation of the secretary's report |
| | General Business |
| | Date of next AGM |
| 4:00 PM | Close of AGM |

About OACWA

Formation History: Organisation of African Community in Western Australia Inc. (OACWA) is a not-for-profit organization that provides support, services, and representation for all Africans in Western Australia at a state and national level. OACWA has been in existence since 2012 but was officially inaugurated in late 2014.

Vision: Unite WA African Communities to enhance productivity, resilience, economic vibrancy, and community participation where our diversity is valued and integrated into the wider community.

Mission Statement: To collaborate with member countries, service providers, government, and other stakeholders to contribute to policies and decision-making processes, deliver culturally appropriate services, promote and commemorate the cultural heritage of Africans in Western Australia.

OACWA seeks to:

- ❖ design, implement, and deliver program services for the African communities in WA.
- ❖ advance the interests of African communities across WA.
- ❖ advocate for African issues to the State Government and other relevant bodies.

Objectives: OACWA sits under the umbrella organisation, the Federation of African Communities Councils of Australia (FACCA), based in Adelaide, South Australia and has aligned its objectives and long-term goals with those of FACCA. In brief, the OACWA is focused on working hard to achieve the following:

- ❖ Work with FACCA to advocate for and advance the welfare of Africans in Western Australia.
- ❖ Provide a platform for Africans in Western Australia to address economic, social and cultural issues of concern to the community, and work collaboratively to find solutions.
- ❖ Provide information and referral services for Africans in Western Australia.
- ❖ Promote entrepreneurship, trade and investment within and between Australia and Africa.
- ❖ Deliver Australian civic education and cultural orientation to people of African descent.
- ❖ Commemorate major African events and achievements of Africans in Western Australia.

Values

- Inspiration
- Engagement
- Consultation
- Unity
- Collaboration
- Commitment
- Inclusion
- Accountability
- Respect
- Integrity
- Leadership
- Representation
- Empowerment

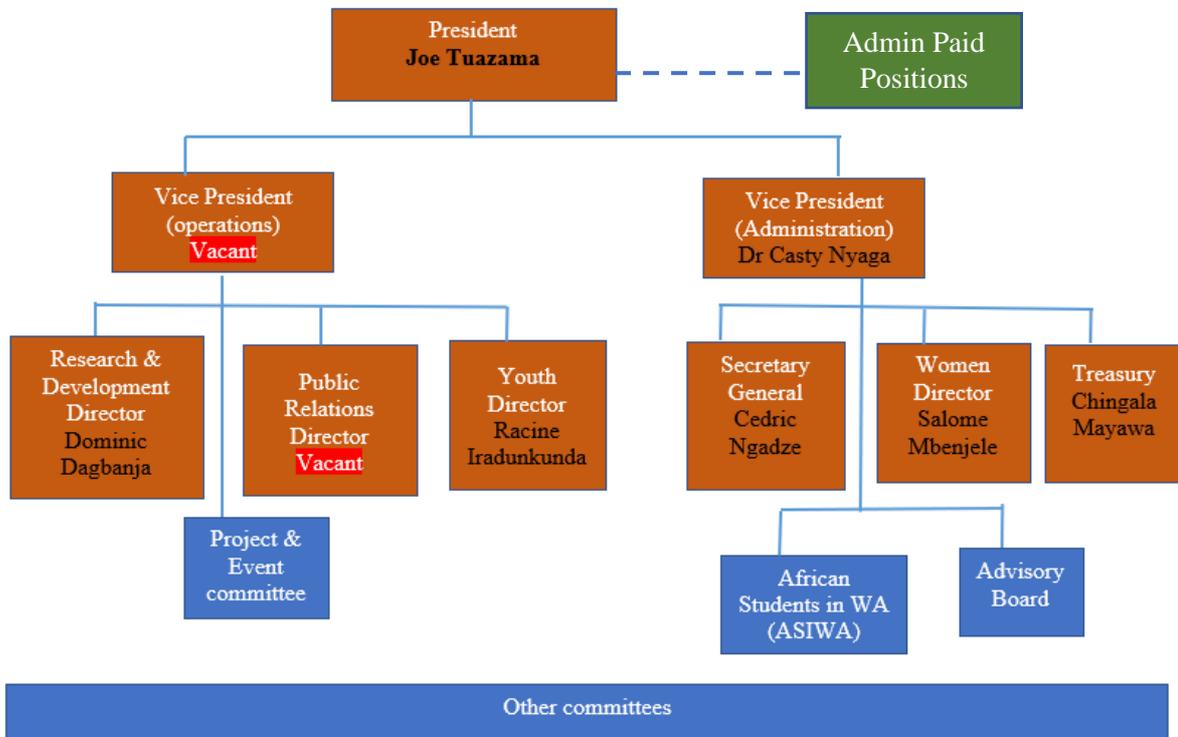
OACWA Strategic Plan 2021 and beyond

Strategic Plan Summary

| S/N | Areas of Need/Objective | Goal |
|-----|---|--|
| 1 | Collaboration and partnership | Collaborate and partner with stakeholders such as local, state, and federal governments and other institutions to foster mutual understanding and cohesion to create a vibrant and resilient African community in WA. |
| 2 | Advocacy, policy and lobbying | Empower African Australians in WA to challenge public policies that limit their capacity and involvement in decision-making processes, and advocate and lobby for those that enable them to reach their full potential. |
| 3 | Information, entrepreneurship, and recognition | Create awareness about opportunities and services available to African Australians in WA, promote and support innovative and entrepreneurship initiatives, recognise and reward achievements that positively impact African communities in WA. |
| 4 | Education, research, empowerment, and culturally appropriate community support programmes | To enhance understanding and access to the education system, promote studies completion, identify, and address the challenges through research, build capacity and confidence, develop, and offer culturally appropriate gap programs for African Australians in WA. |
| 5 | Membership support and community harmony | To promote and coordinate a culturally diverse and harmonious community of the 54 African countries where African Australians may have the opportunity to participate and contribute towards multiculturalism in Western Australia under one umbrella body —OACWA. |
| 6 | African Community Centre | To acquire or build a multipurpose centre to promote innovation, wellbeing and activities that enhance friendship, reduce social isolation, and improve quality of life among African Australians in WA. |
| 7 | Management and administration | To optimise the management of OACWA to support the sustainability, expansion of operations, initiatives, services, and resources. |

NOTE: Detailed plan supplied separately

2020 OACWA Organisation Chart:



Key

- Elected positions
- Appointment positions

President's Report

In my last and final year as President of OACWA, I am proud to say that our Community continues to thrive and achieve its goals of delivering member value and increasing our Community's visibility. By all accounts, 2020 was a very challenging year. Last year has seen us face many challenges on a broad and personal scale due to the world-wide outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. In complying with the health regulations and community safety, many of our meetings were online. At this stage, we do not know how long these restrictions will be in effect or how they will impact the degree to hold functions and gatherings for the remainder of 2021. One certainty is we can all be very proud of all that we achieved throughout 2019/20, and I thank most sincerely the wonderful group of dedicated OACWA Executive Management Team, WA African Community leaders, and our invaluable volunteers.

Highlights of the 2019/20 fiscal year include:

- A record-breaking attendance and highly successful 4th Jambo Africa Festival held on February 29th, 2020;
- An initiation of collaborative Mentor Me ReConnect program with the WA Police Force, jointly sponsored by the WA Police Force and Department of Home Affairs;
- A joint Women in leadership program with the University of Western African Research and Engagement Centre;
- A very successful third WA African Community Awards Gala 2020;
- Establishment of an Emergency Relief Team to support our students and those affected by COVID-19 within the African Community in WA;
- Establishment of OACWA Media Hub at Yokine.

I would like to personally thank our sponsors, stakeholders, local, state, and federal governments for the continued support and handling of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Their leadership and hard work has contributed significantly to where we are as a nation today.

I would also like to thank our part-time contract administrator, Sarah Kiden, for assisting the Executive Management Team on critical tasks such as coordinating the Emergency Relief Team, event marketing, registration, updating the website, and organizing meetings. A special thanks and appreciation to Mark Hughes, Gunnel Vielliesse, Susan Langoya, and Prince Toweh for their tireless contributions to the Emergency Relief Team. Our most valuable committee members and volunteers have been our ambassadors, using their precious time and extensive network to connect us with the Western Australia community.

In conclusion, this past year has been a year of challenge, change, and hope and has allowed us to make a difference. I want to take this opportunity to appreciate my Executive Management Team, the WA African Community leaders, and all our fantastic volunteers for their excellent service this past year. I will be stepping down as OACWA President at the 2021 Annual General Meeting when my three-year term ends. It has been both an honour and a privilege to have served as our Community President and worked with such a fantastic group of fellow African Expats, Government Departments, Political Leaders, and Service Providers.

Joe Tuakeu Tuazama
president@oacwa.com.au

Treasurers Financial Report:

ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN COMMUNITIES (OAC)

Balance Sheet

Profit & Loss

Notes to the Financial statement

Management committee Declaration

Auditors Report

Balance Sheet

ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN COMMUNITIES (OAC)

As at 30 June 2020

| | Notes | 30 Jun 2020 | 30 Jun 2019 |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Bank | | | |
| OACWA CBA A/C 6277 | | \$6,263.52 | \$166,656.07 |
| OACWA Cheque Acct 1206 | | \$5,259.74 | \$2,220.64 |
| Total Bank | | \$11,523.26 | \$168,876.71 |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Accounts Receivable | 2 | \$7,755.00 | \$9,300.00 |
| Bond | | - | \$3,770.00 |
| Total Current Assets | | \$7,755.00 | \$13,070.00 |
| Fixed Assets | | | |
| Computer Equipment | | \$6,982.73 | \$6,982.73 |
| Office Equipment | | \$3,578.18 | \$3,578.18 |
| Plant & Equipment | | \$1,055.85 | - |
| Re-usable Small items | | \$3,163.04 | \$1,308.50 |
| Table clothes at cost | | \$4,600.00 | \$4,600.00 |
| Total Fixed Assets | | \$19,379.80 | \$16,469.41 |
| Non-current Assets | | | |
| Restricted funds A/c 1405 | | \$258,128.60 | - |
| Total Non-current Assets | | \$258,128.60 | - |
| Total Assets | | \$296,786.66 | \$198,416.12 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Accounts Payable | 3 | \$1,739.00 | \$27,586.30 |
| Funds payable to third party | | \$10,682.24 | - |
| GST payable (receivable) | | \$10,746.09 | \$7,754.11 |
| PAYG Withholdings Payable | | \$4,010.00 | - |
| Total Current Liabilities | | \$27,177.33 | \$35,340.41 |
| Total Liabilities | | \$27,177.33 | \$35,340.41 |
| Net Assets | | \$269,609.33 | \$163,075.71 |
| Equity | | | |
| Current Year Surplus | | \$106,533.62 | \$115,738.25 |
| Retained Surplus | | \$163,075.71 | \$47,337.46 |
| Total Equity | | \$269,609.33 | \$163,075.71 |

Profit & Loss

ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN COMMUNITIES (OAC)

For the year ended 30 June 2020

| | Jun-20 | Jun-19 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | AUD\$ | AUD\$ |
| Income | | |
| Africa day income | 740.00 | 17,769.18 |
| ASIWA Grant and Sponsorship | 5,000.00 | - |
| Award Night Income | 31,847.55 | 48,597.76 |
| Capacity Building Grant | 3,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| COVID-19 Grant | 52,026.00 | - |
| Equipment Grant | 28,932.00 | 4,545.45 |
| Jambo Africa Grant | 60,000.00 | 54,563.40 |
| Mentor-reconnect Grant | 45,000.00 | 25,000.00 |
| Office Coordinator Grant | 14,000.00 | 108,500.00 |
| Stop the violence Grants | 48,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| IWD Income and Grants | 9,389.00 | 11,924.09 |
| Women A-LEAD Support | 10,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| KIN Program | 5,000.00 | - |
| Total Income | 312,934.55 | 285,899.88 |
| Plus Other Income | 49,918.69 | 16,664.80 |
| Less Operating Expenses | | |
| Africa Day | 1,097.73 | 28,216.78 |
| ASIWA | 5,327.73 | - |
| Award night | 21,702.16 | 43,203.83 |
| Jambo Africa | 61,732.25 | 64,013.24 |
| Women A-LEAD | 16,845.46 | - |
| Covid-19 Support | 3,173.16 | - |
| stop the violence exp | 38,212.99 | 14,492.96 |
| mentor me reconnect | 30,524.11 | - |
| International Women Day | 13,384.76 | 8,927.80 |
| Training & Capacity building | 6,796.74 | 7,066.38 |
| Meetings, Members Welfare & Support | 5,303.31 | 10,957.93 |
| Office Coordinator Costs | 52,219.22 | 9,947.51 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 256,319.62 | 186,826.43 |
| Net Surplus (deficit) | 106,533.62 | 115,738.25 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN COMMUNITIES (OAC)

For the year ended 30 June 2020

1. Statement of Accounting Policy

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared for use by the management of the OACWA and their stakeholders as determined appropriate. The Management Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity. The financial report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 1031 Materiality

AASB 110 Events after the Balance Sheet Data

The financial report is prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated current valuations of non-current assets.

2. Accounts receivable

| | Total AUD\$ |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Receivables | |
| Alphonse Mulumba | \$2,500.00 |
| Healthway | \$1,650.00 |
| Ibrahim Kebe | \$900.00 |
| University of Western Australia, | \$2,705.00 |
| Total Receivables | <u>\$7,755.00</u> |

3. Accounts Payable

| | Total AUD\$ |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Payables | |
| Beyond Filmz | \$850.00 |
| PLENARY IT SOLUTION | \$440.00 |
| Seychelles club WA | 250.00 |
| The Good Guys | \$199.00 |
| Total Payables | <u>\$1,739.00</u> |

DECLARATION

The Management Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The Management Committee of the Association declares that:

1. The financial statements present fairly the organisation's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. In the Association's opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Association.

President:



Joe Tuazama, Executive President

Dated this day of

18th Dec 2020

Treasurer:



Chingala Mayawa, Treasurer

Dated this day of

18th Dec 2020



Jett Consulting (Australia)
36 The Circus
Burswood WA 6100
T 0432 439 987
E info@jettconsulting.com.au
ABN 40 527 450 248
jettconsulting.com.au

Auditor's Report

To the Members of Organisation of African Communities of Western Australia Incorporated

Scope

We have examined the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020. The Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the statements and the information they contain and have determined that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent examination of the financial statements in order to express an opinion to the members of the Association. No opinion is expressed as to whether the basis of accounting used is appropriate to their needs.

The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the accountability requirements under of the Association's own rules and regulations. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the statements to which it relates to any person other than the members or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our examination has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the statements are presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 1 to the financial statements.

The opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualifications

1. The previous financial report was not audited. We were unable to satisfy ourselves by alternative means concerning a number of opening balances disclosed in the statements of financial performance and the statement of financial position, as comparative figures. Since opening balances in the financial position enter into the determination of the financial performance, we were unable to determine whether adjustments might have been necessary in respect of the profit for the year reported in the income statement.

Qualified Audit Opinion

In our opinion, except for the qualification above:

1. the committee and the Association have complied with the obligations imposed by the regulations and the rules of the Association; and
2. the financial statements are based on proper accounts and records and are in agreement with those accounts and records.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toby Yu", is written over a light grey, stylized graphic element that resembles a large, abstract letter 'Y' or a similar shape.

Toby Yu
Dated this 18th December 2020
Perth, Western Australia

BUSINESS ADVISORY · TAXATION · ACCOUNTING · SUPERANNUATION · AUDITING

Liability limited by a scheme approved under the Professional Standards Legislation.

Secretary General's Report

OACWA Update: The office of the Secretary-General has largely been involved in coordinating the secretariat administration and working with the various OACWA departmental heads and WA communities.

A. On behalf of the OACWA President, Executive and Management Committee and Board of Elders, I welcome you all to the OACWA 2020 Annual General Meeting.

B. Under the reporting period, we have held a total of 53 meetings at the general, adhoc, and subcommittee levels all aimed at building networks and giving direction to the organization. We are looking forward to continuous productive meetings in 2021.

C. The organization has within the reporting period improved on the quality of the organisation's website, making it more interactive, user friendly as well as detailing all our programs currently on offer within our organisation.

D. OACWA community engagement reached out and worked with the African communities in WA,

Activities of the OACWA Departments

Women's Department

Though 2020 was a difficult year we managed to:

- Meet quarterly
- Organised leaders Valentines dinner and brought about 22 couples together
- Facilitated 1 food handling training,
- Coordinated the first phase of women leadership course (A LEAD) and graduated 22 women leaders
- Organised and hosted our biggest Women Gala Dinner
- Commissioned additional office bearers,
- Started the Phase 2 leadership program (A LEAD)
- Three women from the women leadership program (A LEAD Phase 1) were appointed and completed Mentor Me Reconnect program

Youth Department

- **Jambo Africa Sausage sizzle:** The Youth Department was selling sausages sizzles and drinks at the Jambo Africa 2020 with the main purpose of raising money for the youth department and developing new skills to the department's members.

- **Basketball Tournament:** the tournament was organised as a tribute to the legendary Kobe Bryant for all the impact that he contributed on the court and into the young community. The tournament created a platform that enable engagement among young people with a turnout of young people between 15 to 25 years. Overall, the event was successful.
- **Re-Assessment of the Roles and Responsibilities to the new members of the department:** Each member was given their roles and responsibilities with members contributing with input on how their responsibilities will be implemented within the organisation.
- **Preparation of Youth Engagement strategy 2020-2021:** An extensive consultation with local African Youth groups, community leaders, prominent youth leaders provided 4 recommendations for the year 2021 onwards:
 - *Developing and growing potential future African Australian leaders*
 - *Developing a strong and impactful targeted capability services for young people of African Origin*
 - *Establishing a platform/activity to change the negative narratives and perception of young Africans in Western Australia*
 - *Engage in Youth centered sport, recreational and entertainment activities*
 - *Establishing an African Youth Advisory Board*
- **OACWA Family Fun Day:** The event was an end of year Christmas party organised by the youth department with a range of activities such as bouncing castles, soccer tournament, Christmas hampers competition and with sizzling BBQ at the end. The event was followed by the graduation ceremony of the Mentor me reconnect program.
- **Total number of meetings in 2020:** 11 meetings.

Research Department

- Much of the work of the Research Committee was significantly impacted by the Pandemic
- The Director of Research (Dr Dominic Dabganja) made Submission to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee of The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia on Issues Facing Diaspora Communities in Australia on the subtheme of “barriers to the full participation of diaspora

communities in Australia's democratic and social institutions, and mechanisms for addressing these barriers” with specific reference to English language requirements for Australian visas in July 2020

- The Director of Research (Dr Dominic Dabganja), Associate Professor Farida Fozdar, Dr Sarah Prout Quicke, Dr David Mickler and Dr Muhammad Dan Suleiman made a Submission to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee of the Parliament of Australia on Issues Facing Diaspora Communities in Australia with specific focus on a number of issues, including support offered to diaspora community associations and similar organisations in July 2020
- The Director of Research (Dr Dominic Dabganja), A/Prof Farida Fozdar, Dr David Mickler, Dr Sarah Prout Quicke and five other researchers based in other Australian universities submitted an application to Australian Research Council for funding on the topic of “The Political and Economic Agency of Africans in Australia” in February 2021
- The Director of Research (Dr Dominic Dagbanja), Associate Prof Farida, Fozdar, Dr David Mickler, Dr Mary Setrana, Dr George Odipo, Helen Maddocks and Dr Sarah Prout Quicke, have continued their research on Transnational Political Economy of African Migration to Australia.

African Student in Western Australia (ASIWA) Department

- **Quarterly Meetings:** The committee members of ASIWA held quarterly meetings to discuss the development of the Working Group and to organize the Forums at each university during Africa week. Some emergency meetings were called in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 15 meetings were held in 2020.
- **Commissioning of New Office Bearers:** Some of the committee members graduated and were no longer in a position to hold their positions as committee members representing their universities, thereafter, a commissioning of newly appointed members was held on 31/10/2020 at the Rendezvous Hotel.
- **ASIWA Working Group:** The ASIWA Working group worked with the Afrec team to discuss the current problems that were identified after the Working Group launch and a survey monkey questionnaire was designed and distributed to student groups on social platforms for African students to provide feedback on what issues and successes they have had as students in Western Australia. The feedback received from this questionnaire will be used to build the Working Group Report the Final Working Group Forum in 2021.
- **COVID-19 Relief Project:** The ASIWA Committee members held multiple meetings to discuss the various issues that arose amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and consultations were made with the OACWA Executives, African Student Leaders and Student Guilds at each of the universities and colleges

and other stakeholders to find ways to assist students affected by the pandemic. Areas identified includes:

1. **Food Distribution:** This project was sponsored by Lottery West and thereafter a partnership was formed with Oz Harvest, Food Bank, Grace Ministries International, City of Stirling/ Vinnies, Pantry Food Distribution and No Limits to distribute food packs to students at the Youth Hub in Yokine. This ongoing project started in April and ASIWA representatives aswell as OACWA Volunteers have successfully provided food packs to over 150 students and community members, twice each week.
2. **Financial Assistance:** Students and community members have been supported in paying rent, utility bills, school fees and other essentials.
3. **ASIWA101Workshops for Immigration and Legal Services:** ASIWA partnered with AIMS Immigration and Savannah Legal to provide free consultations for students needing immigration and legal advice respectively.
4. **Laptops for Students:** ASIWA partnered with Laptop for Students who delivered 4 refurbished computers and 4 laptops to the OACWA Youth Hub that assisted students with online study.
5. **Borrow-a-Book Project:** ASIWA is working with African Student Unions and Student Guilds to purchase textbooks and stationery for students going through financial hardship.
6. **Coordinating African students on a regular and consistent basis:** After consultations with the OACWA executive team, an approval was made to have the ASIWA student coordinator at the OACWA Youth Hub 3 times a week to assist in coordinating the COVID-19 Relief Project.

2020 African Community Members

| S/N | Community Group | Office Bearers (President/chair/ Secretary/Treasurer) | Contact Email/mobile |
|-----|--|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Kenyan Community of Western Australia (KCWA) | Geoffrey Ngetich | 0469735998 |
| 2 | Malawian Community | Marco Chiziko | 0403742658 |
| 3 | Liberian Community | Bouah Kardio | 0431058568 |
| 4 | Nigerian Community | Dr Pedus Eweama | 0411958584 |
| 5 | South Sudan Community Association of WA Inc | John Akuot Aciek | 0401315206 |
| 6 | Burundian Community of WA | Deodone Brukowa | 0412049364 |
| 7 | Cote d'Evoire Association | Filbert N'guessan | 0449916387 |
| 8 | Tanzanian Community | Lemmy Izengo | 0401402155 |
| 9 | Ghanaian Community | Albert Amankwaa | 0449966163 |
| 10 | Cameroonian Community of WA | Violet Arrey | 0404116580 |
| 12 | Rwandan Community of WA (A & B) | Theophile Claude | 0412551185 0412043176 |
| 13 | Ambazonia Community of WA | Egbe Egbe | 0450691913 |
| 14 | Sierra Leonean Community of WA | Margaret Bindi | 0469882859 |
| 15 | Ugandan Community of WA | Tim Serruga | 0402704466 |
| 16 | Zambian Community of WA | Chewe Nkole | 0450281450 |
| 17 | Sychelles Club of WA | Jimmy Naiken | 0407981162 |
| 18 | Ethiopian Community of WA | Fasil Asefaw | 0438942128 |
| 19 | The Zimbabwe Association in WA | Courage Madinya | 0423824147 |
| 20 | Perth Caribbean Association | Guy Garconnette | 0422669373 |

African Community Sub-groups

The OACWA also intends to reach out to the wider African community sub-groups and/or sub-committees. This is aimed at fostering greater collaboration and strengthen the unity amongst the African Community in WA. To this end, we are encouraging all the African Community Leaders to complete the 'contact register' form with the details of the sub-community group leaders so that we may be able to make contact and organise a meeting with them.

These sub-groups will not carry any voting rights within OACWA. They will however, be welcome to share their opinions as well as make use of the services we provide through their main African community organisation here in WA.

Appendix

OACWA Annual Events



1. **Jambo Africa Festival:** Jambo Africa was launched in 2018 and is the largest annual African festival in Western Australia, showcasing an amazing array of vibrant music, dancing, diverse arts, cultural performances and authentic African food that transports visitors to Africa. Last year, Jambo Africa Festival was held on Saturday, February 29, 2020, Stirling Civic Gardens, Cedric Street, Stirling WA 6021. Proudly organised by OACWA, the Festival welcomed over 8,000 attendees from across WA in 2018, over 10,000 in 2019 and over 15,000 in 2020. The 2020 event featured over 50 musical performances by International and Local African Bands and Artists, Cultural Dances, Afrikan Warrior Acrobats, Fashion Shows, African Cuisine, Vendors, Arts & Craft Exhibits. This event, which is family friendly (including children), also provides a venue for businesses to display and sell various products and services which includes and not limited to African Attire and Jewellery, African Food and Business information. The current years (2021) event is expected to take place in April over a two-day period @ Stirling civic Gardens, City of Stirling.

2. **International Women Day Gala Dinner (IWD):** International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated around the world on the 8th of March. Since 1990, UN Women Australia has hosted the pre-eminent IWD events around the country representing the United Nations Gender Equality agency. There is no better time to celebrate and recognise the role of African Australian women within the community including those aspiring to be in leadership and development than during the International Women week. To mark this important day, the Women Department organises OACWA International Women Day (IWD) Gala dinner. OACWA Women's Department calls all the women from African communities in WA, together with their friends to join and showcase that together, African Australian women can influence and empower one another as well as advance in their leadership dreams. OACWA Women IWD 2020 theme "Together We influence and empower" recognises the talents and the skills within the African Community in WA and how these skills can be used to bring balance as we celebrate those who came before us, those who stand beside us now, and those who will come after especially here in Australia. 2021 IWD is planned for the 6th March 2021 with an expected audience of over 350 women. The attendants this event, enjoy entertainment as well as witness the graduation of the African-Women Leadership, Empowerment and Development (A-LEAD) Program.

3. **Africa Day:** On 25 May 1963, Africa made history with the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) which brought the Continent together. Since then, the 25 May has been celebrated widely across the world particularly in Africa to signify Africa's identity and unity. The African Union (AU) is now in full swing driving Agenda 2063 to realize the African people's aspirations. Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 particularly talks of "an Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African People, especially its women, youth and caring for children". Over the last ten years, it has become evident that a demographic dividend lens offers a strategic basis for focusing and prioritizing investments in people in general and the youth in particular, in order to achieve sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, and to build "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, which is driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena".

Objectives: The objectives of Africa day have evolved over time and OACWA has the following objectives, which are aligned to the needs and the original purpose of the event:

1. Celebrate Africa Day in various ways including (and not limited to) share African cultures and celebrate through food, dance, and drumming.
2. Create, maintain and increase awareness to the public at large on The African Union Agenda 2063;
3. Create and enhance African Unity through activities.
4. Provide an environment for young African Australians to understand Africa, its people and appreciate the diversity within Africa as a continent.
5. Community involvement: One of the most celebrated attributes of the OACWA is being entirely community oriented. The OACWA intends to continue its success by bringing a week-long celebration covering several activities that include The African Club of ECU holding a celebration on Thursday, at ECU Joondalup and the other University African clubs will take the other days of the week during the African Under week. This meet and greet session is an Africa “show case”. This a clear indication that community activities extend to the universities. This will be followed by another free event, the public forum hosted by AfREC. The grand finale of the week is a multifaceted African Style Dinner which attracts over 500 participants.

4. The Western Australian African Community (WAAC) Awards: The Western Australian African Community Awards (WAAC Awards) recognise the positive contribution and impact of African Australians in WA. The awards acknowledge young people, innovators, business leaders, community leaders and champions for their contributions to the African Australian community locally, state-wide and nationally. The Awards also reward outstanding community groups and organisations that support the state’s multicultural agendas.

During the Australia Africa Week, the Organisation of African Communities WA Inc brings together a diverse range of individuals and stakeholders

including African Australian community leaders, business leaders, young people, Australian elected government officials. In the past visiting African government officials have attended this function to show case, united front working together on issues that affect African Australians in WA. Due to COVID-19, the number of officials from outside Western Australia was significantly affected.

In 2020, the ceremony took place at the Pan Pacific Hotel and attracted close to 300 community members, service providers, government officials and various institutions including education and business.

The theme for the **WAAC Awards** is “**Building a Vibrant, Resilient, and Strong African Community**”. In addition to receiving awards for their achievements, attendees and finalists are provided with an opportunity to network and share information on the great contributions of African Australians that are not recognised by the mainstream. This Award is an annual event since 2018 and supported by various organisations as shown below.

5. **Youth Sporting Carnival:** Sport and recreation are not about winning, it's about helping build stronger, healthier, happier, and safer communities. The Youth sporting carnival aims to bring all the WA youth together in our Community to participate in sport and recreation in order to develop strong social bonds and build the participation base so that more people join, re-join, or retain their sporting activities. In addition to team sports introduced from Europe, the youth department is planning to introduce activities that are indigenous to our region.

For example, wrestling was traditionally a sport enjoyed in many parts of Africa. Similarly, running and jumping events were common in many parts of Africa prior to time of European colonial rule. The aim of this introduction will be to connect the youth to their heritage.

The sport carnival will serve as a bridge to promote young people's contribution to decision-making and a series of workshops will be organised to achieve the youth department goals.

OACWA Major Programs/ Projects



- i. **Justice Reinvestment: “Mentor Me Reconnect”:** Mentor Me Re-Connect is one of the Organisation of African communities in WA (OACWA's) youth mentoring programmes. The program provides life-changing transformation opportunities through the mentoring programs for young African Australians in WA. The program is in partnerships with the WA Department of Justice, Police, Department of Child Protection, local schools around Perth Metro and the Juvenile Court/Justice System. The ultimate goal of Mentor Me Re-Connects is to boost self-esteem and development amongst the youth and to see them develop a matrix of crime prevention that will have a significant reduction in crime. The program aims to Identify asset-based community empowerment skills and opportunities in their respective communities and beyond to foster a commitment to young people that will create self-identity and become role models in their respective communities.
- ii. **African-Women Leadership, Empowerment and Development (A- LEAD) Program:** The African Women Leadership, Empowerment and Development (A-LEAD) is a joint program between The University of Western Australia (UWA) and Organisation of African Communities in Western Australia (OACWA). The aim of the program continues to focus on supporting and empowering the African-Australian women to develop essential leadership and networking skills that will help them advance in both their personal and professional lives. The Program seeks to create a lasting partnership between UWA and the community in order to build leadership capacity in ways that will have a wider impact to not only WA, but across the nation.

The program addresses the stereotypes about African-Australian communities, and the lack of diversity in senior leadership positions across a range of sectors, including academia, government, industry and community sectors. This means that this program is well-positioned to address existing leadership gaps in Australian society as well as those experienced by women (across different age groups) of African ancestry in Western Australia. Some of the identified leadership gaps include:

- a) Inadequate representation of African-Australian women in leadership across a range of sectors;
- b) Slow career progression of African-Australian women in their respective professions; and
- c) Insufficient access to networking opportunities.

As a leading research and education institution, UWA has the capacity to work with existing African-Australian leaders to address the abovementioned gaps through a community-led approach. The A-LEAD Program provides the perfect opportunity to do so as it will utilise an ABCD (Assets based community development) approach to program development, which focuses on the strengths rather than the perceived problems and needs of the African-Australian community. The program is comprised of a series of workshops developed and delivered by leading UWA academics in consultation with participants and African-Australian community leaders. It also includes one-on-one mentoring between participants, and networking opportunities with academic, community, government, and industry representatives through a public event that will be organised by A-LEAD program participants. The OAC-UWA A-LEAD Program will be multidisciplinary and cover various topics. In brief, the aim of the program is to support and empower African-Australian women to develop essential leadership and networking skills that will help them advance in both their personal and professional lives.

The A-LEAD Program is in full swing with the first 22 women leaders trainees graduating in March 2019, impacting the leadership and career advancement. The success stories are overwhelming and the results are very encouraging. The current trainees will be graduating during the current years IWD, 6th March 2021. There has been challenges of funding and the programs sustainability depends what unfolds in the next one year. The women have had a very encouraging feedback and their growth is tremendous.

This isn't your customary management course but one which truly empowers the women in a practical way.

- iii. **Stop the Violence (STV) Program:** This is a six-month training and mentorship program which is targeted at young Africans with the aim of providing mentorship in capacity building, self-esteem and leadership. This program is focused on identifying what violence is and creating awareness on how to stop it both within and outside of African communities, especially amongst the youth. Started in 2017, the graduates from the program have continued to make incredible impact in the community.

A six-to-nine months training and mentorship program delivered under the auspices of the African Australian Mentoring Programme. It is a concept focused on young Africans with the aim of providing mentorship in capacity building, self-esteem and leadership. This program is focused on identifying what violence is and creating awareness on how to stop it both within and outside of African communities, especially amongst the youths. We work together with Edith Cowan University, WA Police, Department of Local Government Affairs, and Office of Multicultural Interests to deliver this program. STV partners with non-African organizations and bodies through the OACWA youth department to engage community-based solutions to stopping violence in Perth. The program was first launched in August 2016. The first phase was done from 18th February 2017 and ended 2nd of September 2017. The second phase commenced in October 2018 and concluded the formal part in April 2019. The past and current mentoring graduates continue to have very positive impact within the community including being part of organising event like Africa Day, which was held in May 2019, involvement in youth programs and being part of “Mentor me Re-connect” Program. Due to the restrictions that COVID-19 imposed, the STV Program 2020 was not held, however, the Youth Department remains vigilant that the program will continue in 2021. This program is funded by Office of Multicultural Interests, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and OACWA is hopefully for continued funding once the situation changes.

- iv. **Schools Outreach Program: “Make It Happen”:** This program provides support for the high school students as they navigate their academic, career, social and life transitioning. Based on peer-to-peer mentorship, the graduates from STV become mentors, an approach which is proving very successful and impactful.

- v. **Support for COVID-19 to Students and Community Members:** OACWA through ASIWA in consultation with the African University student leaders’ has identified major challenges facing the international African students exacerbated by COVID-19, namely: i) Food, ii) Accommodation, iii) Finances, iv) Online Study Support and Resources, v) Mental Health Issues, and vi) Coordinating African students on a regular and consistent basis. OACWA has supported the student in various ways including distribution of food, twice every week from April 2020 to date. Over 150 students and members of the community are benefiting every week. We have also purchased refurbished laptops that students can borrow and computers that students have access to at the OACWA Youth Hub in Yokine to assist them with university studies. Financial support has helped these student address short term challenges. As students get back to the education institutions in February 2021, they will also be able to benefit from the Borrow-a-Book Project that looks to assist students that are going through financial difficulties and are not able to purchase textbooks. This is aimed at getting them back on their feet once again. Thanks to OACWA’s partnership with Lottery West, this important initiative will continue to assist all students across colleges and all 5 universities in WA through the

ASIWA Committee and the African Student Unions. In 2021, ASIWA Working Group looks to host forums during Africa Week at each of the universities to discuss specific themes that affect African students. Thereafter, there will be a Working Group Report containing recommendations for respective stakeholders and a follow up with said stakeholders requesting a formal response/actions on the Report and recommendations.

OACWA - Other Programs/ Projects on a smaller scale:

- a) Women Open Forum
- b) Projects Workshops & Mentoring
- c) Cultural Orientations & Settlement
- d) Theatre, Sports and Recreation
- e) Counselling
- f) African Students in Western Australia (ASIWA) Working Group

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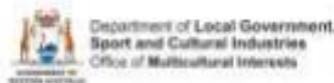
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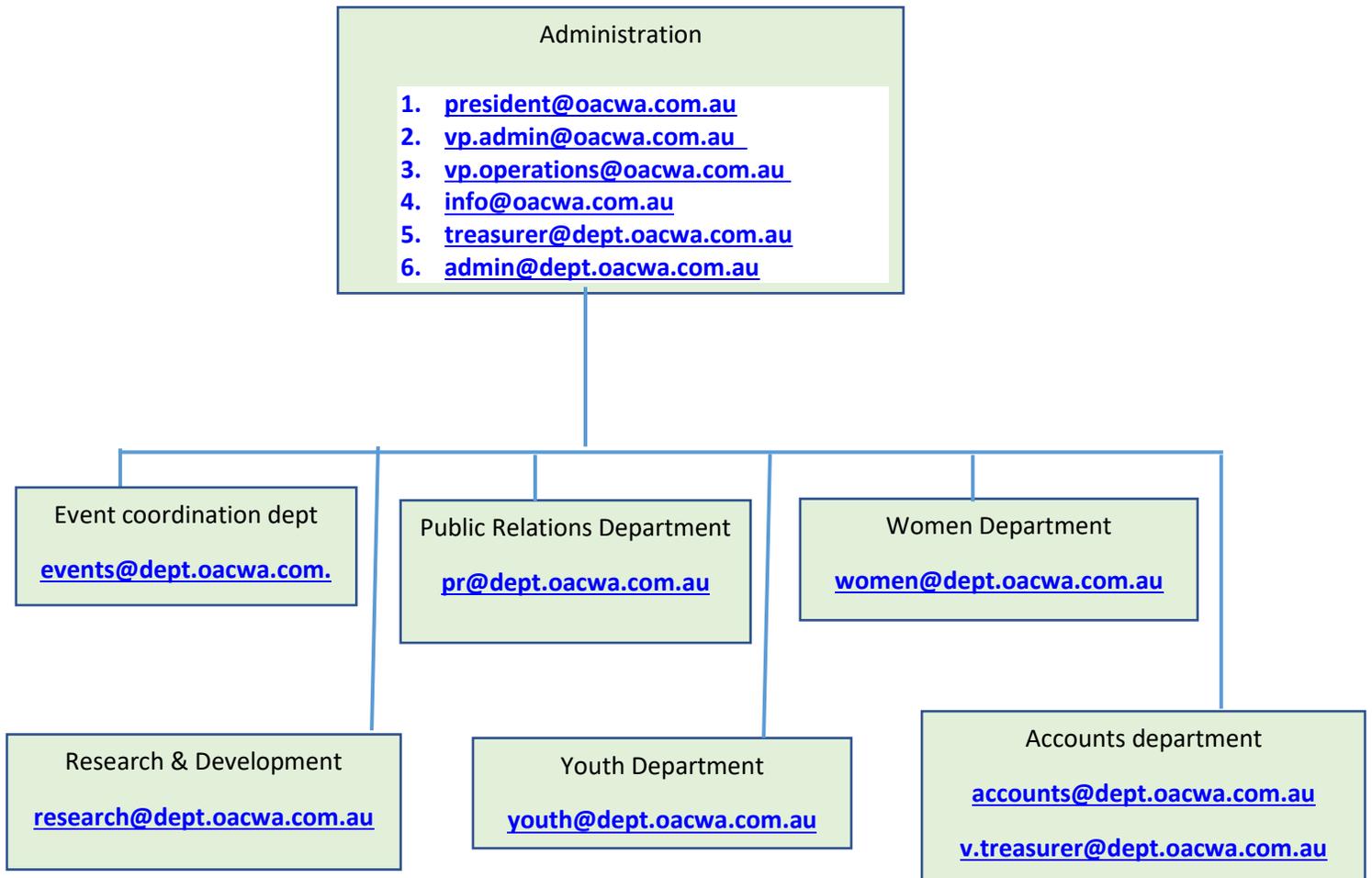
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