



The President's Note



Photo: Rebecca Mphande, AAI President, for The Voice Referendum 2023, Panelist, Dandenong, Vic, Sun 8th Oct 2023

Greetings as we close 2023 and begin 2024

End of year greetings to you all, we dedicate this newsletter to all achievements that AfriAus iLEAC: Inspire Lead Educate Advocate for Change (AfriAus iLEAC, AAI) has made in 2023 together with its partners and sponsors.

A key point to note: The belief that women and young people should be trusted with leader-

ship responsibilities, should not remain as a dream but be turned into actionable reality. This has been shown through what AAI has done through its various external engagements, projects and programs throughout the year: Speaking at the Multicultural communities 'YES' for the Voice, COVID -19 response and recovery programs, [pop-up relief food markets](#) and the [CWIRE training workshops and accompanied mentoring circles](#). The climax was reached through the 'Changing Narratives Connected CALD Women and the 5th GirlForce Exhibition', the CWIRE graduation and the Multicultural dinners, and the 3-days 'Changing Narratives Creative Arts Fair' with RKM Global Fashion.

It is undeniable that women are trusted and responsible for their families' lives and many other unremunerated responsibilities. Women can comfortably do businesses in a competitive healthy way

after attaining relevant technical *knowhow*. The CWIRE graduation makes us recognize that it is possible to create real independence and empowerment for women and youth who are dedicated, passionate and hardworking.

Australia visualizes 'wealth creation' as one of the central themes for women and youth empowerment. This cannot be achieved by just having documents and discussions in hotels. It can only be achieved through ensuring that we have practical and coherent actions with responsibilities for everyone, especially the marginalized women and the youth—*holistic approaches*.

This is exactly what CWIRE Program has done, to lead to the changing of narratives by providing knowledge, skills and resources, working with qualified trainers, trained women being accompanied by a caring case management team, mentors and provided with start-up packages.

Presidents' note ...

COVID-19 has necessitated different mindsets. AAI with our Partners and Bicultural Workers have engaged in Podcast production through [Our Voice Community Wellbeing podcast channel](#) sharing of translated health alert messages into several languages, across Victoria and those in

isolation.

It is no secret that the times we are living in, due to the pandemic, have affected every aspect of our lives requiring more strategies and plans that will facilitate the prevention and fight against Covid-19 through information sharing and sharing of best prac-

tices.

Before I wind up, let me urge you to **catch up with AAI activities through this newsletter**.

Your comments via:

info@afriausileac.org are welcome, this will help us enhance our operations, as now we are a registered Charity as of April 2023.



Our Programs

Advancing:

1. Health
2. Education
3. Public/social welfare

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AfriAus iLEAC Inc ABN 13 280 930 051 President's note

We conclude by thanking all our sponsors, supporters and collaborators, who have assisted us in the following projects, initiatives, programs, partnerships:

1. *CWIRE*: Victorian Government Department of Families (DFFH) via the Office for Women for women (women economic security empowerment)
2. *Changing Narratives*: Victorian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), through the Multicultural Affairs Office (prevention of Family Violence)
3. *COVID-19 Grant Programs*: Victorian Government Department of Health

- (COVID-19 Response and Recovery)
4. *GirlForce Vic* Initiative under the *Changing Narrative*, GirlForce Steering Committee
5. *Case Management Team* under CWIRE Project and *Changing Narratives*
6. *LUVPACKS Partnership*: 30 NFP organisations and small businesses, to-date.
7. *Multicultural Community Engagement Network* (COVID-19 capacity building sessions)

Without you, we would not have managed all the achievements that AAi has at-

tained, so far.

Finally, much credit goes to all [AAi Board Members](#), Advisory Board and other Partners, for working tirelessly towards achieving goals set by AfriAus iLEAC. This has been a joint success story for 2023.

Rebecca Mphande,
AfriAus iLEAC President
president@afriausileac.org

COVID-19: COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

The program has addressed specific impacts of the pandemic. AAi has been offering support and resources to people affected and infected by the pandemic. This has been through essential services aimed at helping individuals and communities navigate challenges presented by COVID-19.

The areas include:

Health services through sharing of RAT Kits, dissemination of COVID-19 messages in different languages and official

health info in English.

Food relief program: through planned pop-up, open markets with targeted groups community assistance. The Nurse Onsite initiative has helped to reinforce COVIDSafe behaviors. The program has created opportunities and high impact in providing information and resources related to COVID-19, mental health support and financial literacy to empower CALD women. See more on [AAi Flickr](#)



Changing Narratives

The '*Changing Narrative: from silencing to raising CALD youth leaders together*' has been key to generating meaningful CALD youth and women participation for the prevention of Family Violence, working jointly with Adults Mentors. However, men have not been left out in this program.

On 1st July 2023, AAi with LUVPACKS partners engaged 47 adults and 53 children in [active youth bystander workshop activities](#), aimed at meeting several pri-

mary prevention objectives. 17% of these in attendance were male. About 72% of those physically present (others attended by Zoom while others were children) pledged to speak up against violence, and signed the *Family violence and VAWG prevention Pledge*. Males' health was also promoted during the Multicultural Dinner, on 25th November 2023, when we connected with the *Cardinia seniors Club*:

'MO' Healthier men, Healthier World



Wishing everyone a
Happy New Year



‘GirlForce’Vic, others say, “Girl Power”

PHOTO: Wakisa Chikadza, 11 yrs, GirlForce participant, 2019-2023



GirlForce is a girls’ empowerment, [family and gender-based violence primary prevention initiative](#)

CALD young Victorians (initially for African heritage), are nurtured to raise their voices against gender-based violence and to courageously shape their way towards equitable and peaceful future for girls and women,

The young girls are mentored by adults to lead in showcasing respectful interactions in their communities, creating safer spaces for the most vulnerable.

The program engages the girl child, families, school teachers and principals and other students.

The [5th GirlForce exhibition](#) was held on 4th November 2023, at Outlook Community Centre, Pakenham



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34 CWIRE GRADUATES, 2022-2023 PROGRA.

A total of 34 Women graduated from the AAI Culturally And Linguistically Diverse Women in Relational Entrepreneurship (CWIRE) Project with certificates and other special awards. The project mainly focused on technical *knowhow* of business management in all angles of communication and entrepreneurship. “We have equipped you to effectively work either as sole entrepreneurs or in

‘Together we can go far’. This slogan is rooted in the African communitarian ethos.

partnerships. Therefore, go ye into the industry and show how entrepreneuring you are! People with responsibility and desire to be financially secure and independent in our communities” – Rabbecca Mphande, AAI President,

[CWIRE Graduation 2023](#)

Presided over by: MP Emma Vulin, State Member of Pakenham, Minister for Women representative; Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik, Cardinia



2023 CWIRE Graduation Ceremony

CWIRE Program in Pictures: Local Products at Display

Local Talents displayed at CWIRE Graduation:



RKM Global Fashions by Rhoda Moyo



Sweet honey Chemistry: Healthy Food & medicinal



Kawelo Farms banana harvest

AfriAus iLEAC Inc
ABN 13 280 930 051

6B Henry Street
Pakenham
Vic 3810

Phone:
+61 415 964 113
Email: info@afriausileac.org

info@afriausileac.org

AfriAus iLEAC

Production Team:

Editor: Victor B Mphande

Assistants :

Isaiah Mphande and Chikondi Chirwa Mphande

Contributions:

AAi Team

Layout and Design: *Victor Mphande and Isaiah Mphande*

Photos courtesy of AAi Partner: *Complete Music and Media Services (CMMS)*

Media Communications Manager: *Luthando Moyo (AAi)*

President AAi: *Rabecca Mphande*

Contact us on: *info@afriausileac.org*

ABOUT US

VISION

Transformed and co-empowered lives through inspirational leadership, education, awareness-raising and advocacy for self-sufficiency and sustainable development.

MISSION

AfriAus iLEAC nurtures the whole person and community's resilience, change and achievements through culturally responsive professional training, education, research (evidence-based planning and action), consultancy, referral, and outreach in diverse communities through Clearing House modus operandi.

CORE VALUES

Participation

Equity

Adaptive

Collaboration

Ethical

Nurturing

Inclusiveness

Holistic approaches



Dr. Charles General Secretary AAi

Case Management and Family Violence Prevention

The Case Management Team is headed by Sharon Chikadza and assisted by three Case support Managers namely Ms Busayo, Priscilla and Shagufta. These work hand in hand with the Project Manager Rhoda Moyo. A great job is being done by the Team from initial assessment, case management planning to understanding the specific needs of individuals and reviewing plans and referrals. Services are coordinated in collaboration with various community stakeholders, including conducting beneficiary advocacy.

Several achievements have been noted ranging from having a new Client Management Software, employment referrals, to CWIRE training activities achieving a high graduation rate for the program, resulting in flourishing businesses for the clients. This is positively empowering CALD women. The case Management team has successfully facilitated successful employment connections with different agencies in job placements for the women, e.g [KSS](#)

Digital device integration has streamlined beneficiaries' assessments, showcasing the proactive approach to incorporating technology for enhanced service delivery and beneficiary support.



Case Management Team meeting

Family Violence Prevention:

Say, "No!" to family and gender-based violence."

