



**Together**  
for humanity

**Together for Humanity Foundation**

**Annual Report**

**July 2015 - June 2016**

## A message from the Chair

2015-16 was a very successful year for the Together For Humanity Foundation. During the year we focused on three priorities: developing intercultural understanding of students in terms of their embracing people who are different to themselves, fostering a sense of belonging and connectedness in students from marginalized minorities and the ongoing issue of organisational sustainability.

I am pleased to report success with these three priorities.

This year we have engaged 7,784 students and others face to face and up to a quarter of a million more people online through our teachers and students resources.

Our school programs continued to change the way students think about 'the other' and help them to recognise commonality and explore complexity. Many of the students we engaged might have never had meaningful contact with a Muslim, a Jew or an Aboriginal person before. In our programs they met presenters of different faiths, and in some cases also with students their own age from different cultural or faith backgrounds, the students' misconceptions were dispelled as they found out just how much they have in common with those who are 'different'. Our work with students from minority backgrounds has also provided significant benefits as discussed in this report.

In terms of the organisational position, the Foundation commences its 15<sup>th</sup> year, 2016-17, in a relatively strong financial position and able to sustain the important educational work in schools. The Together For Humanity Foundation attracted two substantial grants from the Australian Government's Department of Social Services and we have conducted successful fundraising activities.

Our schools programs continue to innovate and we expand our reach through increased social media channels. Our new *Good Practice* program which will roll-out next year will take further steps to embed the objectives of our programs into core school activities - in the classroom and hopefully within their school communities.

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed by others. In March 2016 the organisation was awarded the 'Stepan Kerkyasharian AO Harmony Award – Commendation' at the Premier's Multicultural Community Awards. The commendation reads

*The Together For Humanity Foundation aims to teach people to replace prejudice with mutual respect and cooperation. Established in 2002, this multi faith organisation runs workshops to bring together children and adults from diverse backgrounds, with Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Aboriginal and atheist educators. It also brings together clergy from many faiths at times of crisis, such as after the 2014 Martin Place siege. Its programs have reached about 100,000 students, teachers and community members across the country, working to break down barriers of fear and prejudice.*

Our capacity has been enhanced significantly through the highly professional efforts of our renewed staff team and our capable and generous presenters and volunteers. Donna Jacobs Sife continues to play the key Educational leadership role that she has for many years. Grace Smith and Rayghaan

Kasmani joined us through the year and are making a significant impact, as did our former employees, Barbara Schaffer and Emma Bromley. Likewise, I thank Jeff Tuch for his care of our accounts. I also acknowledge the generosity of Jacquie Seemann for her advice and contribution to the Gift Fund Committee and Janet Cole-Adams for her ongoing assistance.

I acknowledge and thank our committed and capable Board, the President Madenia Abdurahman, Treasurer, Zubeda Raihman, and Jana Wendt, Peter Stephinson, Ruth Magid and Tim Stern. I look forward to an expansion of membership of the Board to enhance the already generous and effective governance they provide.

Together For Humanity exists because of the vision, giftedness and tireless energy of Rabbi Zalman Kastel. I applaud Zalman's leadership, commitment and diligence and congratulate him on the Foundation's significant achievements in 2015-2016.

This is my last year as Chair of the Board of Directors. During the 2016-2017 financial year I will hand over to a new Chair who will work with my talented and committed fellow Directors to continue to serve the organisation as it continues to help our Australian society to understand and accept diversity.

John McGrath

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John McGrath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chair of the Board of Directors

## A message from the National Director

Complicated, slow and together. This is the phrase that needs to inform the way we keep our societies together, and it is this phrase that has guided our work this year.

Embracing complexity is necessary for fostering intercultural understanding and interfaith bridge building. It's easy to get along with people when you agree on everything but it is necessary to build bridges between people with significant differences. Disagreeing without enmity and talking about religious diversity in a way that is both spiritually authentic and applicable to secular settings, are two of the key challenges involved in this work.

One important lesson our students learned this year is that no religious or cultural group is homogenous. Just as they see themselves as unique individuals within their own groups, through our sessions, they come to see others in the same light, thus rejecting stereotypes and understanding the complexity of others. This lesson can be particularly powerful in addressing the risk of alienation on the part of students from marginalised groups. For example, the point was made by a boy during a session with a group of mostly Muslim High School students that if they were to see all Australians as being hostile to them as Muslims, then they would be just like those people who see all Muslims as terrorists.

Research initiated by Together For Humanity and completed by Deakin University this year, has shown that an integrated, ongoing approach is necessary for making a real impact on students. Our sessions were found to be one powerful element of such an approach. However, while the challenge of division looms large, a lot of the efforts to address achieve togetherness are, ironically, quite fragmented. This must change, and we are committed to working more closely together with teachers and organisations so that we get better results. Progress may be slower, but the effects will be more profound and long lasting.

To increase collaboration in the coming year, we will actively engage teachers in the challenge of considering more holistic approaches to diversity. To date we have 1,300 registrations on our Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) endorsed online courses for teachers. Next year our new (DSS funded) *Good Practice* project will encourage more teachers across Australia to improve the way their schools foster intercultural understanding and connectedness for students who might feel alienated. This project will also be a catalyst for increasing collaboration between schools and communities.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of donors and the hard work and dedicated commitment of our many volunteers. Thank you all for your ongoing and generous support for our important work in schools and for helping us to ensure that the Australians of tomorrow all enjoy a sense of belonging, (almost) free from prejudice, division and hate.

Sincerely,

Zalman Kastel

## Together For Humanity – At a Glance

Together For Humanity is a multi-faith, not for profit organisation that is helping schools to develop their students' intercultural understanding. Together For Humanity also supports organisations and communities to respond effectively to differences of culture and belief.

Since 2006 (building on activity conducted informally since 2002 under the auspices of Chabad House of the North Shore and FAIR, the Forum on Australia's Islamic Relations), the Foundation has been running its intercultural understanding programs all over Australia to overcome the challenges that come with living with diversity. More than 100,000 school students, teachers and community members have participated in our various programs with our multi-faith team of Jewish, Muslim, Christian and occasionally Indigenous presenters. These programs teach students to respond positively to difference and to dispel negative stereotypes they may have about those from different backgrounds to their own. Together For Humanity is also very active in helping students from minority groups, including Muslim, Pacific Islander, Indigenous Australian teenagers, to develop a sense of belonging to and connectedness with Australian society and to deal effectively with discrimination and stereotyping.



*Students at Asquith with Together For Humanity presenters Rayghaan, Raphael and Zalman*

Many of the core skills used by our presenters are also made available to teachers through our online professional learning courses in order to support the teaching of intercultural understanding in classrooms across Australia. These courses can be used to supplement and extend the work we have done with students and teachers in schools, or as stand-alone materials for teachers and schools looking to enhance their ability to teach intercultural understanding. As well as providing three professional development courses, our website *Difference Differently* also contains a wide range of resources for use by teachers, students and the general community.

## Our supporters

- The Australian Government through the Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Multicultural NSW, a department of the NSW Government
- Our Patron Janet Holmes à Court
- The Roth Foundation
- The John and Karen Kightley Foundation
- The Dalwood-Wylie Foundation
- The Magid Foundation
- Donors large and small including many from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim Communities
- Our dedicated volunteers who assist with school presentations and administration.

We also acknowledge significant past support from:

- the founding governors of “Goodness and Kindness” (forerunner of Together For Humanity): Costa and Despina Vrisakis, and Peter and Chryssia Vlandis
- Andrew and Nicola Forrest and the Minderoo Foundation
- The Naphtali Foundation
- The Becher Foundation.

## Contact details

Together For Humanity Foundation Ltd

Email: [admin@togetherforhumanity.org.au](mailto:admin@togetherforhumanity.org.au)

Web: Foundation - [togetherforhumanity.org.au](http://togetherforhumanity.org.au)

Educational Resources & Teacher Professional development - [differencedifferently.org.au](http://differencedifferently.org.au)

Office: 3B Smalls Road, Ryde NSW 2112

Tel: (02) 9886 7414

# Together For Humanity Governance

## Board of Management

### **Madenia Abdurahman - Director, President**

Appointed to the Board on 17 November 2009

Retired School Principal. Experience with Not For Profit Sector. Chair of Muslim Aid Australia.

### **Ruth Magid - Director**

Appointed to the Board on 2 February 2010

Has experience with arts, charities and other philanthropic activities, and is a respected member of the Sydney Jewish community.

### **John McGrath - Chairman, Secretary, Director**

Appointed to the Board on 13 May 2009

John has extensive system leadership and governance experience in Catholic education, including in the establishment of the HSC Studies of Religion syllabus. Prior to his current role with the National Catholic Education Commission he was an Assistant Director in the Broken Bay Catholic school system.

### **Zubeda Raihman - Director, Treasurer**

Appointed to the Board on 7 April 2014

Qualified accountant with experience in a senior position at Macquarie University revenue service and in the not for profit sector, particularly with Interfaith and Muslim organizations.

### **William Peter Stephinson - Director**

Appointed to the Board on 14 February 2006

Managing Director Aqua Construction Services Pty Ltd. Over 35 years experience in business and marketing. Director 1981- 2005 Sunscreen Pty Ltd and Stop Shot International. Participated in Government grants to promote Australian technology. Instructor for the Australian Armed Force for mature age recruits establishing new trade skills. Alumni member of the Australian Technology Showcase and mentor to new and emerging companies and technologies.

### **Timothy Ian Stern - Director**

Appointed to the Board on 27 October 2014

Experience in the real estate and retails sectors. Volunteer within the Jewish Community. Qualified as a Boy Scout leader.

### **Jana Bohumila Wendt - Director**

Appointed to the Board on 17 November 2009

Has worked as a journalist for many years, covering stories of international interest, including issues of peace and conflict as these intersect with culture, and religion. Jana is also an author.

## **National Director**

### **Rabbi Zalman Kastel (National Director)**

Ordained minister of the Jewish Faith with over 20 years experience as an educator in primary, secondary and informal settings. Began his journey as a bridge builder in 2001 and has continued a personal quest in pursuit of greater understanding and interculturality ever since. Zalman initiated the work of Together For Humanity in 2002.

## **Meetings**

The Board met four times during the 2015-16 Financial Year:

- 7 October 2015
- 10 February 2016
- 13 April 2016
- 1 June 2016



## Our performance

### Year in Review

During the past year, issues of racism and social cohesion were central to a heightened national consideration of Australian identity and national security. International conflicts impacted Australian public discourse and locally, several key moments became touch points for reflection and debate. The moments ranged from the terrorist murder of Curtis Cheng at Parramatta, to a powerful address by Stan Grant about racism and the Australian Dream at the IQ2, through to polarising dialogue surrounding multiculturalism and national identity raised in the lead-up to the Federal election in 2016. In the turbulent and often divisive context of the past year, the work of Together For Humanity became more important than ever.

Two government grants were critical for the development of our educational programs throughout the year: a Multicultural NSW 2015 Unity Grant and funding from the Australian Government, Department of Social Services for the *Engaging with Diversity* project. We were also awarded the commendation for the Stepan Kerkyasharian AO Harmony award issued by Multicultural NSW in recognition of the work we do in the community to foster positive interfaith and intercultural relations.

### Diversity School Presentations and Workshops

*The aim of this activity is to create opportunities for students to interact with people from backgrounds that are different from their own. These presentations may involve interaction with guest presenters and in some cases also with their peers from other schools.*

During 2015-2016, 7,784 people participated in Together For Humanity programs.



*Students at Asquith with Together For Humanity presenters Rayghaan, Raphael and Zalman*

### ***Condensed Awareness Raising Programs***

These highly interactive ‘one off’ programs often follow a tried and true formula, but are sometimes customised to suit individual school situations including group size, age, amount of time available and the type of venue. Our program involves a diverse panel of people with different beliefs and cultures including Jewish, Muslim and Christian and sometimes also Aboriginal facilitators.

This year these school programs continued to change the way students think about ‘the other’. We updated our programs to align with the Australian curriculum themes including migration. Migration stories told by presenters from countries such as Sudan, Burundi and Afghanistan, evoked empathy and allowed students to engage with the concept of migration on a personal level. Feedback from teachers called for more concrete objects to be included in our programs for primary students and this feedback was integrated into our revamped programs. For example, we have created a very tangible representation of Australian migration patterns using a long rope as a visual timeline to demonstrate the idea that all non-indigenous Australians have arrived in relatively quick succession when compared to the previous 50,000 years of Indigenous habitation. Our presenters also bring their own possessions which carry cultural or religious significance to them to show to students to increase interest and engagement.

### ***Inter-school Programs***

Our interschool programs bring together schools from various different socio-economic, religious and/or cultural backgrounds to participate in activities that focus on the development of intercultural understanding with the primary aim of addressing students’ existing ideas of the ‘other’. These relationship building days are part of the school calendar and the same teachers and students meet each other at least three times during the school year, allowing the formation of strong bonds between students.



*Students from Bass High School and Masada High School participate in an interschool program.*

During the 2015-16 financial year our interschool programs included:

- Bass High School (state school with a range of students from minority backgrounds), Masada High School (Jewish school) and the Australian International Academy (Islamic school)
- Mount Sinai (Jewish school) and Arkana College (Islamic school)
- Australian Islamic College Sydney (Islamic school), Masada College Primary (Jewish school) and Ravenswood (Uniting Church school)
- Emmanuel School (Jewish school), Auburn Girls High School and Granville Boys High School (both state schools with high proportion of students of Muslim and Arabic backgrounds).

Bass Hill, Masada (Jewish) and AIA (Muslim) schools ended their interschool program with haikus, to express what they was thing they learnt on the second visit of a three full day program. These are a few examples. They speak for themselves.

*We all stand as one,  
religion cannot define  
who we are, as us.*

*With laughter and joy  
with understanding and love  
we learn to accept.*

*Never forget those  
who are exiled from their peers  
for race, thoughts, gender.*

*Learning about life  
diversity is the key  
keys open big doors.*

### ***Belonging and Identity Workshops***

These programs aim to develop a sense of belonging and connectedness in students from marginalised backgrounds including Muslim, Pacific Islander and Indigenous Australian students. These programs helped students to deeply explore their identities and to understand how a strong religious and cultural identity can also be compatible with an identification with Australia and a positive attitude towards and active participation in Australian society. By delving deeply into discussion of what it means to be Australian and examining common values, students were able to discover that there is no need to 'choose' between their religion and culture, of which they have every right to be proud, and their identity as an Australian.

These programs also give students a chance to discuss their experiences of discrimination and to consider effective and positive responses that empower the students and foster a deep respect for Australian democracy. Through this work, students have also been able to develop a deeper and more nuanced understanding of other cultures, as well as develop rapport and friendships with people of different faiths.

During the 2015-16 financial year we worked with Granville Boys High School, Belmore Boys High School and Regents Park Primary School. We also delivered an adaptation of the program focused on girls called “Girls Standing Strong” at St Johns Park High School.



*Students from St John's Park High School participate in our Girls Standing Strong Program*

### **2016 Youth Summit at Parliament House**

Over 112 students and teachers from Muslim, Christian, Jewish, state and private, city and country schools attended Together For Humanity's annual Inclusive Communities Youth Summit at NSW Parliament house on the 22 March 2016, to present proposals for initiatives aimed at making our society more inclusive for minority groups.

At the event, school delegates presented their proposals to the delegates from other schools and the entire group considered the merits and drawbacks of each proposal. They then voted in order to elect the strongest proposals from each age group, with students suggesting improvements and amendments to the chosen proposals.

The three proposals chosen were:

- Mudgee High School who tackled the issue of Disability in the Workforce
- Australian International Academy (An Islamic private school) which used emotive music and film to convey the multiple religious, cultural, sexual identities people hold and calling for education for countering prejudice based on identity.
- St Mark's Coptic Orthodox College who advocated for providing better support for students for whom English is not a first language.

The schools with the elected proposals went on to present them at Parliament House to Members of Parliament including the Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Craig Laundry, the New South Wales Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon. John Ajaka and the NSW shadow ministers for Education and Multiculturalism Jihad Dib and Sophie Costis; and to religious leaders from the Christian, Muslim and Jewish faiths as well as members of the media. The leaders and young people

then engaged in an open dialogue about inclusion. The event was reported on ABC radio as well as a range of print and online media outlets.

The day was very successful and a 2017 Youth Summit is currently being planned to build on the success from 2016.



*Students from Mt Sinai speak with The Hon. Craig Laundy, and Jihad Dip MP*

## **Changing Australian Education by Offering Resources and Facilitating Teacher Training**

*The aim of this activity is to increase the capacity of teachers across Australia to develop students' intercultural understanding. Interactive e-learning programs include videos, student activities and teacher's professional learning which are all linked to the National Curriculum.*

### ***Teacher professional learning***

Our work with teachers included face to face sessions with teachers which were very enriching, these included teachers currently teaching and pre-service teachers. These sessions were held in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.

*Difference Differently* is our online intercultural understanding resource for both teachers (3 Modules) and students (14 Modules). It continues to receive increasing traffic, with 305,567 unique page views for the full year compared to 271,826 in the previous year. Shortly after the period covered by this report, the resource reached 1,000,000 total page-views since its completion in 2013.

The site was accessed by 34,984 unique users with approximately 70% new users. If we assume that ¼ of users are teachers with a class of approximately 25 students, those exposed to the lessons can be estimated at 253,634 individuals for the full year. 44% of our visitors came from Sydney and Melbourne. 30% came from Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane (around 10% each). Greater take up from outside the major cities has been a challenge we hope to address next year. The relatively lower diversity in some regional areas would suggest that the need for this is greater.

As well as steadily increasing the traffic to our website, we also conducted an overhaul of our online resource, updating all information to reflect the most recent changes to the Australian Curriculum, with particular regard to the primary curriculum, in relation to History, Geography and Civics and Citizenship. The teachers' resource was also refreshed with updated resourcing links and references.

Two new educational films with accompanying lesson plans and curriculum links were also created so that they could be easily and effectively used by teachers in the classroom. One of these films documents our Inclusive Communities Youth Summit, with an emphasis on democratic decision making. The other film is the result of a collaborative project with Gill Hicks and a range of participants of various faiths and focuses on "being the bridge" and reaching out to connect with those who are different. We are in the process of having these new materials listed on the SCOOTLE teaching resource directory in order to increase teacher uptake.

## ***Research - Doing Diversity: Intercultural understanding in primary and secondary schools***

The *Doing Diversity: Intercultural understanding in primary and secondary schools*<sup>1</sup> report was published in 2015 and was the culmination of a three year research project, initiated by Together For Humanity and led by a team of Deakin University academics and colleagues from UWS, Melbourne and RMIT. Other partners were the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) in Victoria and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA).

The research involved intensive work in twelve diverse profile schools in Melbourne, Victoria, that examined the facilitators and impediments to teaching the intercultural capabilities described in the Victorian and Australian curricula for students and schools. Some of the key findings of the research surrounding the teaching of Intercultural Understanding (ICU) included:

- A multi-level, whole school approach to intercultural education is much more effective than when education is targeted simply on a single subject and school year.
- In addition to a whole school approach, it is also important to effectively engage the wider school community. Developing student ICU and promoting ICU across the school community necessitates a holistic approach that involves school staff, family and other community members.
- Research-based decision making improved teacher engagement and uptake in schools. For example, the feedback and advice from the Deakin University research team encouraged some schools to make our online modules mandatory for all teacher inductions.
- Professional Learning courses for teachers (such as through our online courses) is critical for building the expertise needed to improve students' intercultural capabilities.
- Teaching the new curriculum, which has a focus on intercultural learning, requires innovative approaches. One of the key ways that schools achieved this was through the use of Together For Humanity in-school programs.
- Teachers with direct, personal intercultural experiences are more proactively engaged in building intercultural capabilities in their students.
- Schools where Principals applied effective leadership practices improved the effectiveness of Intercultural Understanding initiatives from schools.
- ICU involves recognising that all students are culturally diverse and all students, including Anglo-Saxon students need to be supported to explore their cultural background. Additionally, recognising and respecting diversity also includes gender, sexuality and socioeconomic status.
- ICU should actively build positive and cooperative interpersonal and intercultural interactions, rather than passive learning.

These findings confirm that development of intercultural understanding requires as much investment of time and energy as similar educational processes - there are no short cuts. This being the case, teacher professional learning, and Principals' commitment is critical. If possible, teachers' personal intercultural experience or "being on the journey" is also very helpful. These conclusions and many publications from the academic team will inform our work as well as that of others seeking to foster intercultural understanding.

---

<sup>1</sup> The academic team leading this research were: Prof Christine Halse (DU), Prof. Fethi Mansouri (DU), A/Prof. Colin Arrowsmith (RMIT), A/Prof. Julianne Moss (DU), A/Prof. Yin Paradies (DU), Dr. Ruth Arber (DU), Dr. Claire Charles (DU), Dr. Anne Cloonan (DU), Dr. Nida Denson (UWS), Dr. Sarah Ohi, Dr. Jo O'Mara (DU), Dr. Naomi Priest (Melbourne).

## Community Awareness Raising and Engagement

*Together For Humanity holds meetings with key stakeholders including community and parent groups to engage them with our work and message.*

### **Events**

There were a number of key community events during the year where Rabbi Zalman Kastel, our National Director, joined with other community leaders to promote Together For Humanity's work and intercultural understanding and interfaith dialogue more generally. These events included:

- Saturday 4 July 2015 - Interfaith Community event at Imam Hassan Islamic Centre in Annangrove
- 16 and 17 July 2015 - Delegate at *'What would Prophet Muhammad do? - Exploring the meaning and application of human dignity in Islam'* community event at the Imam Hassan Islamic Centre in Annangrove.
- Tuesday 21 July 2015 - Panellist at 'Religion of peace' interfaith panel at the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque, Youth which explored the theme *Why we need God (or faith in God) in the 21st Century?*
- Friday 18 September, National Students Leadership Forum, Parliament House, Canberra, Sheikh Shaykh Soner Coruhlu and Rabbi Zalman Kastel
- Friday, 30 October 2015 , panellist at Granville TAFE interfaith panel about domestic violence.
- Sunday 1 November 2015 interview on ABC radio with John Cleary about the grassroots work of Together For Humanity.
- Sunday 8 November 2015 - Presented at a forum at Auburn Gallipoli Mosque alongside Father Patrick McInerney and Shaykh Soner Coruhlu. The topic of the forum was *'Good and Evil: A Dilemma for Theists and Atheists in the Modern Age'* and the other speakers consisted of several atheists.



*National Director Zalman Kastel speaks at an interfaith event*



- Monday, 30 November, keynote address at 15th Annual Professional Association and Tertiary Educators Day.
- Thursday 3 March 2016, speak to Sydney Rotary Peace Committee.
- Wednesday, April 6, 2016, North Shore Synagogue, program with Sheikh Ahmed Abdo, Taha Allam and Rabbi Zalman Kastel.
- Thursday 21 April 2016, Panellist, Abrahamic Interfaith program, Normanhurst Uniting Church.
- Thursday 5 May, Lecture at Charles Sturt University.
- Thursday, 19 May 2016, Panellist, Religion, Business and LGBTI Equality: Learnings from the Faith and Business Communities.
- Sunday 26 June, two sessions at the Limmud Jewish Ideas Festival, Melbourne, '*Jews Muslims and Hate*' and '*Is Interfaith, a waste of time?*'.
- The Imams and Rabbis lunch occurred twice during the year. The purpose of these lunches is to foster interfaith communication amongst twelve religious leaders from the Jewish and Muslim faiths. The lunches have included the Mufti of Australia, the President of Imams Council of Australia, the President of the Rabbinical Council and other Jewish and Muslim religious leaders.
- Establishing strong links and engaging with various religious communities to promote opportunities for discussion with one another is essential. Engaging with religious leaders is an important activity for Together For Humanity, and we do this both by organising and hosting meetings between community leaders as well as collaborating with the Australian National Imams Council, and participating in and contributing to meeting organised by the NSW Government. For example, Anglican Bishop Forsyth, Sheikh Ahmed Abdo and Rabbi Zalman Kastel met on 1 September 2015.
- In March 2016, Together For Humanity Foundation was awarded a Stepan Kerkyasharian AO Harmony Award - Commendation in the 2016 Premiers' Multicultural Community Awards.

### ***Collaboration***

Within the challenging social and political context in which we are operating, strong collaborative strategies are essential for sustained impact. During the year we joined with the following organisations:

- **JCMA (Jewish Christian Muslim Association).** Together For Humanity and JCMA prepared a joint proposal for funding which has been successful. The two organisations have communicated repeatedly over the year. Assistance was provided to the JCMA with targeting schools in Victoria which with Together For Humanity had previous contact. This collaboration resulted in 10 more schools hosting programs promoting a message of acceptance of difference. We also co-presented sessions for the Limmud Jewish festival of ideas and the Asia Education Masterclass.
- **Asia Education Foundation:** We collaborated on three teacher's professional learning programs in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. The programs were called "Intercultural Understanding Masterclass". Three of our team members; Rabbi Zalman Kastel, Rayghaan Kasmani and Ronit Baras contributed as panellists, workshop facilitators and assisted with organisation and promotion.

- **The Ecumenical Council NSW:** helped to deliver our first Inclusive Communities Youth Summit, by providing Christian presenters, recruiting schools and providing general administration and organisational assistance.
- **The Muslim Women's Association:** contributed to a project funded by the Department of Social Services that included our Inclusive Communities Youth Summit, improving our educational programs and the *Building the Bridge* film.
- **National Day of Unity:** The National Day of Unity was the result of a collaboration between Welcome to Australia and the Lebanese Muslim Association. It was held in October 2015 encouraged people to visit Mosques to foster understanding. Together For Humanity created an educational resource for parents that could be used for preparing to visit any place of worship.
- **BYDS (Bankstown Youth Development Service):** We collaborated to submit a successful joint proposal for youth activities which will be delivered over the next three years involving the arts and storytelling.
- **National Imams Council and Rabbinical Council of NSW:** We organised and held two Rabbi's and Imam's lunches to foster interfaith communication amongst twelve religious leaders from the Jewish and Muslim faiths. A follow up lunch was held in 2016 and further discussions and gatherings are envisioned.
- **Religion of Peace:** We collaborated with this community group to put on a number of events in Western Sydney, including an interfaith panel at the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque, which explored the theme *Why we need God (or faith in God) in the 21st Century?* and other topics.
- We collaborated informally with individuals, for example during the peace walk undertaken by a young Jewish man from Bondi to Lakemba Mosque.



*National Director Zalman Kastel participates in Peace Walk*

## **Social media**

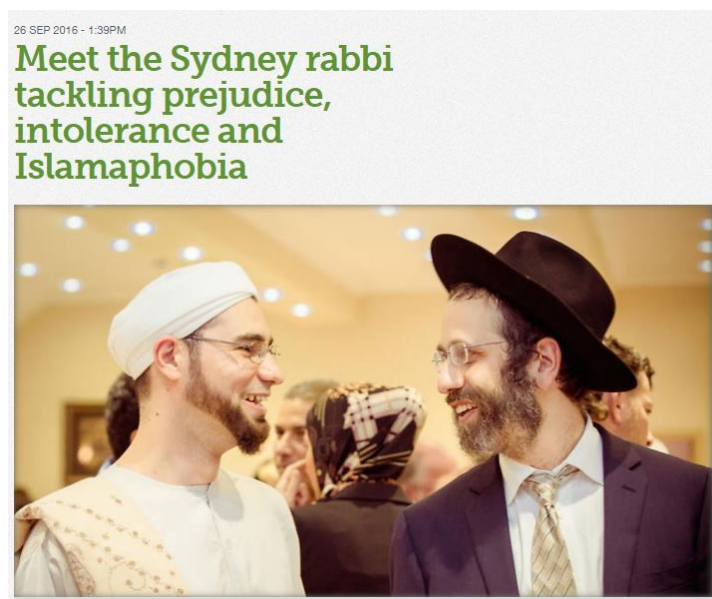
Together For Humanity has expanded its reach through the strategic use of social media channels throughout the year. Our increased Facebook reach has translated directly into increased visits to our Difference Differently website. In 2015-2016, Facebook referred 744 new users and 938 new sessions, up from 310 new users and 375 new sessions in 2014-15. Page analytics has been newly enabled for the Together For Humanity website so that we can better promote our programs. Our Facebook Page Likes were 2,253, up from 1842 in the previous year. Our total Monthly Reach (Organic/Unpaid) increased by 270% from June 2015 (11,006) to June 2016 (30,135). Note: these results exclude advertisements or paid promotional posts.

The Together For Humanity Blog started in December 2015 and enables the Foundation to engage more deeply with interfaith issues and current affairs, with contributions from Christian, Muslim and Jewish people. To date it has almost 1,000 total views and we intend to continue to regularly post items and to grow it is a good source for evoking more in depth conversations.

Print and online news sites contributions were also important channels during the year with eight publications, four radio interviews and participation in one television show.

### **Print Media**

- SBS Life, 16th June 2016 - "Meet the Sydney rabbi tackling prejudice, intolerance and Islamophobia".
- Education HQ, 4th May 2016 - "Embracing Diversity and Difference".
- The Australian Jewish News, 5th April 2016 - "A day of interfaith learning".
- J-Wire, 27th March 2016 - "Making Society More Inclusive".
- The Australian Jewish News, November 2015 - "Students building bridges".
- The North Shore Times, November 2015 - "Working to Build Understanding".
- The Australasian Muslim Times, November 2015 - "Cultural Workshop Breaks Down Barriers".
- The Australian Jewish News, October 2015 - "A Walk For Peace".



*Excerpt from article published on SBS Life*

## **Radio**

- ABC Radio, December 2015 - Part of a panel on ABC radio discussing "What is the role of religion in society", hosted by Hamish Macdonald. Other panellists were Kristina Keneally, Zalman Kastel and Tasneem Chopra.
- ABC Radio National, March 2016 - "Inclusivity Youth Summit on Religion and Ethics Report".
- ABC Radio National, Dec 2015 - Friday Panel: "What is the role of religion in society?".
- ABC Local Radio, November 2015 - "Interview with Together For Humanity".
- Omny, 23rd June 2016 - "Gentile and the Jew with Dr Mike Freeland, Rabbi Zalman Kastel and Jennifer Huppert".

## **Television**

- ABC TV the Moral Compass, 22 March 2015, <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s4178674.htm>

## **Organisational Capacity**

Together For Humanity attracted two substantial grants from the Australian Government's Department of Social Services and we have run some successful fundraising activities which will strengthen our ability to deliver programs and further our reach.

Together For Humanity has continued to develop our fundraising activity. On the 27 July 2015, we held our first major donors fundraising luncheon at Pier One with Jihad Dib MP as our guest speaker. It was a highly successful event and engaged with many current and new donors who are supporting our work.

Our staff grew to include several part-time roles including an Education Officer, working with our Schools Program Director, and a Communications Officer providing the organisation with a greater capacity to extend our impact.

Our team of presenters also grew over the past year, encompassing individuals from very diverse walks of life which allowed us to address intersectional diversity with students, discussing differences which were not just limited to religion, but also include country of origin, means of arrival in Australia, language background and other factors. We have held two presenter training sessions over the last year: one on 28 October in Parramatta, and another on 7 April at our office in Ryde, both of which had approximately 25 attendees. These training events allowed new presenters to learn our intercultural communication techniques in order to equip them with the necessary skills to present in schools. They also provided an occasion in and of themselves whereby many people from different backgrounds were able to connect with one another and hear each others' stories. We received a lot of positive feedback about how much our presenters learned - not just through the course itself - through seeing intercultural and interfaith dialogue modelled and the opportunity to practice it with others.

## Appendix : 2015-2016 Workshop Dates, Location and Attendance Figures

		Participants (Unique)
04/07/2015	Imam Hassan Islamic Centre	80
20/07/2015	Mudgee High School	400
21/07/2015	St Matthew's Mudgee School	75
21/07/2015	Auburn Gallipoli Mosque	60
27/07/2015	Regents Park Primary School	80
05/08/2015	Sydney University Pre-Service Teachers	120
10/08/2015	Regents Park Primary School	
10/08/2015	Granville Boys High School	40
12/08/2015	Bass High (Bass Hill) and Masada College High School	50
13/08/2015	Kesser Torah College	30
19/08/2015	Jannali High School	100
24/08/2015	Regents Park Primary School	
24/08/2015	Granville Boys High School	
25/08/2015	Masada High School	
26/08/2015	St Marys, Manly	200
02/09/2015	Mt Sinai and Arkana	60
02/09/2015	Santa Sabina Catholic School	55
03/09/2015	Epping West Primary School	100
07/09/2015	Regents Park Primary School	
07/09/2015	Granville Boys High School	
11/09/2015	Multicultural Illawarra	150
18/09/2015	National Students Leadership Forum	120
20/09/2015	Auburn Gallipoli Mosque	60
12/10/2015	Regents Park Primary School	
12/10/2015	Granville Boys High School	
26/10/2015	Regents Park Primary School	
26/10/2015	Granville Boys High School	
28/10/2015	TFH Diversity Education Workshop	45
30/10/2015	Talk at Granville TAFE	90
04/11/2015	Jannali High School	100
04/11/2015	Yeshiva College- Melbourne	45
08/11/2015	Religion of Peace (Muslim Youth Org), Lidcombe	200

09/11/2015	Bass Hill High and Masada College High School	
09/11/2015	Regents Park Primary School	
16/11/2015	Charles Sturt University	20
23/11/2015	Regents Park Primary School	
23/11/2015	Granville Boys High School	
30/11/2015	15th Annual Professional Association & Tertiary Educators Day	30
03/12/2015	Bnai Akiva Youth Leaders	85
07/12/2015	Regents Park Primary School	
07/12/2015	Granville Boys High School	
14/01/2016	Frank Baxter Detention Centre	75
15/01/2016	Macabbi Junior Carnival Community Day	30
01/02/2016	Belmore Boys High School	60
04/02/2016	Heathcote High School	180
08/02/2016	Belmore Boys High School	60
14/02/2016	Fashion Without Difference	30
15/02/2016	Belmore Boys High School	
17/02/2016	Marie Bashir Public School	120
22/02/2016	Belmore Boys High School	
28/02/2016	Boutique Fitness Multicultural Day	10
29/02/2016	Belmore Boys High School	
02/03/2016	Beaumont Road Public School	230
07/03/2016	Belmore Boys High School	
08/03/2016	Cammeray Public School	552
09/03/2016	Bald Face Public School	170
14/03/2016	Belmore Boys High School	
17/03/2016	St Johns the Apostle	220
18/03/2016	Francis Greenway High School	400
21/03/2016	AICS/ Masada/ Ravenswood	100
21/03/2016	Belmore Boys High School	
22/03/2016	Youth Summit	96
23/03/2016	Heany Park Primary School (Victoria)	140
05/04/2016	Mt Sinai and Arkana	50
06/04/2016	North Shore Synagogue	69
21/04/2016	Asia Education Foundation Masterclass	20
21/04/2016	Uniting Church Normanhurst	47

27/04/2016	St Johns Park High School	40	
02/05/2016	Belmore Boys High School		
04/05/2016	St Johns Park High School	40	
05/05/2016	Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham	170	
05/05/2016	Lecture at Charles Sturt University	10	
09/05/2016	Belmore Boys High School		
10/05/2016	Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham	160	
11/05/2016	Woolaware Public School	300	
12/05/2016	Concord Public School	130	
12/05/2016	Mount Carmel Catholic College	300	
16/05/2016	Belmore Boys High School		
18/05/2016	Lansvale Primary School	360	
19/05/2015	Mount Annan Christian college	50	
20/05/2016	Masada College HS, Bass High, AIA	60	
23/05/2016	Belmore Boys High School		
25/05/2016	Emmanuel School, Auburn Girls HS and Granville Boys HS	60	
25/05/2016	St Johns Park High School		
01/06/2016	St Johns Park High School		
02/06/2016	Bonnet Bay Public School	78	
02/06/2016	Beaconsfield Upper Primary School, Victoria	167	
03/06/2016	Magdalene Catholic High School	625	
06/06/2016	Belmore Boys High School		
08/06/2016	St Johns Park High School		
08/06/2016	Homebush Boys High School	30	
09/06/2016	Waterfall Public School	25	
15/06/2016	St Johns Park High School		
20/06/2016	Belmore Boys High School		
22/06/2016	Bede Polding College	10	
26/06/2016	Limmud Oz Jewish Ideas Festival		115
<b>Total</b>		<b>7784</b>	