



SITARA'S STORY

ANNUAL REPORT

2021/2022

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Acknowledgment

We (SiTara's Story) acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of ACT.

We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present.

Vision

SiTara's Story is a non-profit charitable organisation registered in Australia that believes strong women build strong communities and nations. SiTara's Story seeks to build the self-esteem and self-worth of women within the community and beyond by changing their outlook on life, broadening their horizons, and helping them to empower themselves.

We work to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Executive Committee

Dr Kowsar Khan

President

Kowsar is a health professional. She has worked with women and children in Bangladesh and have experienced their plight firsthand. It is her desire to alleviate some of their disadvantages in her own small way. SiTara's Story is a journey towards that.



Dr Shamaruh Mirza

Co-founder and Secretary

Dr Shamaruh Mirza finished her Ph.D. from the John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU in Biomedical Science followed by post-doctoral research in Biophysics. In addition to performing in a critical profession as a senior scientist working for the Department of Health and Aged Care during this time of concern for public health, Dr. Shamaruh has demonstrated her commitment to the well-being of the community and its members from a multicultural background by supporting them to participate in Canberra's social, cultural, economic and civic life.



Samira Rahman

Co-founder and Treasurer

Samira is an accountant by profession. Samira cares for others and she thinks "SiTara's Story" is the path to care for adolescent girls who will turn to women soon and to encourage them to look after themselves.



Nigar Reza

Member

Nigar Reza is an Architect-Planner by profession with a passion to bring social good. She has been working for the Australian Government over last 15 years. She was born and brought up in Bangladesh.

SiTara's Story is her inspiration and gives her opportunity to empower disadvantaged adolescent girls to make a difference in their lives.



Evana Rahman

Member

Evana feels that many passions are instilled within a person from the time they are born and that some passions develop over time through circumstances. Her passion is always to work with the children and eventually it turned into helping disadvantaged children. Another passion is to work with children with special needs.



Hasnat Jahan

Member

Hasnat has been exposed to people including children in vulnerable situations through refugees, asylum seekers, and those in detention centres throughout her career. She understands the importance of mental and physical well-being, especially for vulnerable women in third-world countries, and hopes to make a significant difference in the lives of others through SiTara's Story.



Nazia Khan

Member

Nazia is a Canberra based banker by profession, but born and brought up in Bangladesh – a third world country where women are deprived in many ways. When Nazia left Bangladesh she thought she was safe but femininity inside her always wanted to do something to facilitate Bangladeshi women.



Rezwana Farha

Member

A former development practitioner, Rejwana is in public service based in Canberra. In her 15-year career, Rejwana worked in promoting governance and democratic practices, social cohesion and public sector reforms across several countries including Bangladesh. Trained as an economist, Rejwana currently works the Australian Capital Territory Government .



Rozana Hassan

Brisbane chapter coordinator

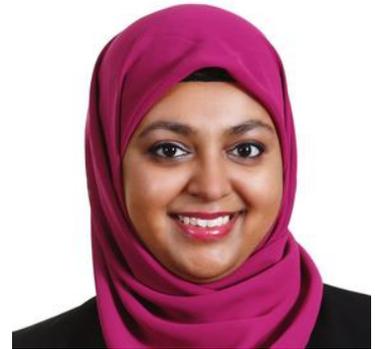
Rozana is the second daughter of renowned musicologist Azad Rahaman and singer Selina Azad. She is a singer-songwriter and a gifted musician with crazy musical ideas. Rozana lives in Queensland and is working at the University of Southern Queensland.



Advisors

Shafeen Mustaq

Shafeen is a management consultant by profession and a writer by passion, the two coalesce and feed her need to make the world a better place starting with the girls of today who will be the leaders of tomorrow. Shafeen's passion for women and children's empowerment stems from Professor Yunus inspirational work with Grameen and from the strong, intelligent and influential women throughout history such as Khadija wife of Prophet Muhammed and Zainab – his granddaughter.



Zainab Farouk

Zainab is a qualified lawyer and accountant, her passion lies in combining her technical skill set with business strategy where she has made a diverse career of working in strategy, digital transformation and innovation in both the public and private sectors. Zainab is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion in professional workplaces and co-founded Phoenix Sisters.



Dr Nira Rahman

As an academic in Arts Teaching Innovation at the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Arts, Dr Nira Rahman is working towards a more inclusive, applicable, transformative and internationalised Arts and Humanities Education. Her passion for her work in education, music and community inspires her to find ways to start and continue the robust discussion around the various diverse and intersectional identities present within our community.



Volunteers

Wafa Ben Slimen

Fahmida Suma

Ritaja Das

Secretary's note

The 2021-22 year delivered a succession of adversities, the magnitude of which many of us have never experienced. Following the step-up in work to support communities affected by Covid-19 pandemic, we worked to create a safe space for women from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background where they can find their voices. 2021-22 was a year in which STS affirmed its capacity to work incredibly closely and successfully with ACT Government and across the communities.

2022 year started with our Annual fundraiser gala 2022, held in the National Museum of Australia to support our programs in Bangladesh. It was a sold out event and highly appreciated. The COVID-19 pandemic demanded rapid action from STS to support the Mental Health of ACT CALD communities. STS organised a successful writing competition to record the Covid stories of ACT residents. This drew immediate attention of the communities and ACT heritage library. STS awarded the winners and the stories were published which are excellent resources to establish policy, data, and crisis management within CALD communities in a pandemic context. STS's work helped to progress the ACT Government's focus on minimising and mitigating the impact of the coronavirus on Australian families, businesses and regions. The Mental Health Minister acknowledged this in the ACT legislative assembly and Dr Marisa Patterson MLA read a poem from our publication in the ACT legislative assembly.

Our priorities throughout the year encompassed mental health, and empowering vulnerable girls/children and men/women from CALD communities in ACT and creating mental health awareness in rural Bangladesh. STS collaborated with the Mental Illness Education ACT, Canberra Multicultural Women Forum, Perinatal Wellbeing Foundation, IWiN, Go Equal, ACT Heritage Library and Innovation for well Being Foundation (Bangladesh).

SiTara's Story has been recognised by ACT Government for its contribution to communities through the 2021 ACT Mental Health Month award. I was also highly commended in the category of the ACT Multicultural Individual Champion Award 2022 for raising community awareness of mental health while training women from diverse cultural backgrounds in mental health and disability issues. In November, I was awarded 2023 ACT Local Hero Award for the work SiTara's Story has been doing all these years.

The year ahead

The experience of 2021-22 emphasised how directly our work impacts the lives of CALD communities in ACT.

We are committed to take STS to a different level using the 2023 ACT Local Hero platform. The prime focus in 2022-23 will be continuing our talk shops focusing on helping women from CALD background to find their voices through breaking mental health stigma and empowering them through training basic skills. Women in trade and business will be our focus. We want to organise an year end expo to showcase the different skills our women have. We will also work to minimise the intergeneration challenges within Multicultural communities.

We will organize our annual gala 2023 to raise fund for our programs in Bangladesh.

We will go for more collaborations, a volunteer drive, constitutional changes and also expand our team for greater productivity.

PROJECTS

Canberra CALD Women- Talkshop

The talk shop series specifically aligns with the commitment of the ACT Women's plan 2016-26 to value and respect women and girls, commit to gender equality and promote and protects the rights, wellbeing, and potential of all women and girls.

They targeted the following population groupings.

- Women who have experienced violence
- Women from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds
- Single parent women

As per the attendance, there were some individuals who identify as female, transgender or intersex. The talk shops were inclusive of sex and gender diversity.

The talk shops created a safe space for all attendees where they could discuss any issue they may require. The talk shops were conducted under Chatham house rule. These series were based on equality, diversity, safety and non-discrimination. This talk shop series has episodes on many topics i.e., mental health, domestic violence, legal aid, leadership, job search, resume writing and networking skills which are in line with the priority areas identified in the ACT Women's Plan 2016-26 (Health and Wellbeing, Housing and Homelessness, Safety, Economic Security, Leadership).

The talk shops recognise a centre/one stop service/database of all services available in Canberra for women. Hence it redeveloped its website to incorporate the database and created a video with more impact. Even though, SiTara's Story focuses on mental health, it recognised that women's health and wellbeing is impacted by access to education, employment, income and secure housing. Therefore, the reach for government and community effort to address women's health issues extends beyond the health system. Hence, SiTara's Story organised this talk shops with a great reach among CALD Women not only to discuss all the services available, but it also created a permanent database and video and provided several skill development and awareness (DV, Legal aid etc.) trainings.

SiTara's Story believes, to fully understand women's health issues, it is necessary to also simultaneously consider other factors such as disability, age, class, sexual orientation and cultural identity and how these factors intersect. Hence, SiTara's Story organises these talk shops to discuss them.

The project creates knowledge about the lives and challenges of women living in Canberra. A review will be taken of what is already known, including the identification of baseline data. Priority areas for further research and improved data collection will be identified.

SiTara's Story worked closely with other organizations namely Canberra Multicultural Women's Forum to better understand and address the needs of Canberra women.

This series actively identify and strengthen measures currently being done by government and our community and business partners to effectively advance gender equality and the wellbeing of ACT women. While these measures will be taken to achieve positive gains against priority areas for all ACT women, it is vital that this talk shop series is continued so that more women and girls can be included.



Participants' feedback

"Will Sitara's Story be holding more Talkshops in the future?

It was absolutely amazing to be in this new environment that was so new to me and I have finally found my calling in life. I want to help people but unfortunately my own community likes to just keep to themselves."

"I don't even know who my Community Leader is? Technically I am classified as Australian rather than CALD but I do not feel Australian.

Thank you for all your help and support Dr Shama. Thank you for throwing me a lifeline when I needed it the most."

"Thank you to Sitara's Story and yourself for setting me free.

I have struggled so much with my mental health issues since my early 20's and I am 34 now.

I have seen multiple therapists and been on and off antidepressants/mood stabilisers all throughout my journey.

What I believed to be me suffering from severe mental health issues could just be me largely struggling a lot with CALD related issues and having that lack of awareness. "

"In Australia, if you are born with multicultural parents but were born here then you are considered Australian. You don't get offered any CALD support services and I know most CALD children from migrants adjust better than others but I didn't."

"You guys can better relate and explain it better to me in a way that I understand.

I have so much anger, rage and resentment but also love towards my parents. My mental health issues stem from my childhood, my parents and my sense of identity (lack of).

I wish I had known about CALD and Sitara's Story much sooner. It would of eased my pain and suffering and made things much clearer sooner."

Anonymous attendees

"As a presenter and participant in SiTara's Story Talkshops, I found them to be informative, valuable and enjoyable. The Talkshops were well organised, and I came out of them learning a lot around addressing mental health and domestic violence issues; as well as searching for jobs and networking. I especially loved the intersection between the topics and how this applies for CALD communities and people. In addition, I made new friendships and broadened my networks. I want to thank SiTara's Story for a really valuable initiative that positively impacted many people in ACT."

Zainab Fraouk

Canberra Multicultural Women's Forum, member

Phoenix sisters, Co-founder

Writing in the time of Covid

SiTara's Story organised a creative writing competition from 2021-to 22 for the ACT residents to share their COVID stories. The writing competition- 'What is your story?'- targeted the fears, experiences, and observations of ACT residents, especially Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

COVID changed us forever. Every person went through a unique experience and saw the pandemic from their own perspective. The writings tell us about "what it is like living with COVID, in our part of the world or the other part of the world that we left years back- what makes us nostalgic; what challenges we have overcome; what makes us a different person."

Writings were received in three different creative formats: poetry, creative writing, and cultural expository.

We wholeheartedly thank all the writers for submitting their beautiful work. We thank the judges Dr. Marian Currie, A/Professor, University of Canberra, and Meredith Cale, Director, Perinatal Wellbeing Centre, for their precious time and effort. We acknowledge the support of Libraries ACT as a partner in the production of this booklet and we thank ACT Government for the community connections grant.

The award ceremony in the Theo Notaras Center was attended by the writers, Dr Marissa Patterson MLA, Mohammed Ali Canberra Citizen of the year 2021, Dr Yvonne Luxford, Dr Marian Curie and many more community leaders and members.

Outcomes

1. This project not only brought the migrant communities together through a story writing competition to describe their times during Covid-19 pandemic, but it also united all ACT residents under the same umbrella and their stories reflected their struggle through the pandemic regardless of their cultural background.

2. The narratives of their experiences could shine some light on our collective psyche during these precarious times in a covid safe way.
3. This encouraged people from different communities to open up and inspired them to be more creative. This helped their mental well being.
4. The stories were evaluated by an expert panel and they were published in partnership with ACT heritage library.
5. The Awards ceremony gave the best story writers chances to tell their stories to the audience.
6. the publication of the stories is regarded as a true record of pandemic history in ACT.

ACT residents were able to capture their experiences, feelings and journey via their writings for this project. The project not only indirectly helped us to record the impacts of Covid-19; it also contributed to future policies to address potential pandemic and its impact on society. It helped us to create a safe space where people could write about the impact of Covid-19 ,talk about their struggles during the pandemic and also feel better. This contributed to their mental wellbeing.

The project was carried out very successfully. However, if more fund was allocated, we could have made videos/podcasts of the covid stories.



BANGLADESH CHAPTER

Promoting Mental Wellbeing of the Children of Commercial Sex Workers

Reporting Period: September to November 2022

Report prepared for: SiTara's Story Inc.

Report prepared by: Innovation for Wellbeing Foundation

Introduction:

This quarterly activity based progress report is made for SiTara's Story Inc. as part of the project named Promoting mental wellbeing of the children of Commercial Sex Workers implemented by the Innovation for Wellbeing Foundation (IWF) in partnership with Banchita Somaj Shangho a local NGO dedicated for the development of commercial sex workers and their children in Jashore, Bangladesh. SiTara's Story is providing financial support to IWF for implementing this project. The project has been launched in Jashore Sadar Upazila to support children of commercial sex workers from(confidential).

Activity-1: Develop/identify tools/questioner for children of sex workers and mothers for baseline survey

Achievement:

An in-depth desk review has been conducted to identify relevant validated tools in Bangla appropriate for assessing wellbeing of the children of the commercial sex workers (CSWs). We have identified the 'Short Mood and Feelings Questionnaire (SMFQ)' in Bangla for assessing distress internalized by the young children of the sex workers. This tool has been piloted with 5 children between 9 to 17 years and found suitable for use in our target population for collecting data for the baseline survey. This tool will be used to collect information from 20 (more than one third of the target population) children of sex workers.

A separate tool has been identified in Bangla to assess Stress, Anxiety and Depression (DASS-21) among the mothers whose current profession is commercial sex work. This tool will be used to collect data from 20 mothers (more than one third of the target population) whose current profession is commercial sex work.

Activity-2: Collect data for Base line survey

Achievement:

The data collection tool for field testing has been conducted with 5 children and 5 mothers (5% of the target population). The data collection tool has been finalized after the field testing.

However, the data collection for the survey has not been completed as planned due to unavailability of the children and their mothers. This brothel runs in a different way. Many Sex Workers and their children live in rented house and those women visit the brothel for their client meeting only. Therefore, they remain fully busy to find and meet their client while they are in the brothel. Children also live with their mother in the rented house and they accompany their mother in the brothel or go to school if they could afford the cost of education. There are 55 children who are attending mainstream schools. We have collected the name of the schools where these children are attending.

These Children are not interested to reveal their identity as children of commercial sex workers publicly. In this situation it is difficult to bring them in one place for the Focused Group Discussion (FGDs) as originally planned to collect data for the baseline survey. In this context IWF is collecting data individually as and when they are available and ready to give time.

The revised plan has been made to complete the data collection which is mentioned in the plan for the next quarter.

Activity-3: Training to students on Wellbeing Awareness:

Achievements:

Sex Workers' children are studying in public schools with all other children. To raise mental health awareness among the children of the sex workers IWF organized a session with students on mental health awareness. The session was co-facilitated by Ms. Monira Rahman, the Executive Director of Innovation for Wellbeing Foundation and Fatema Parvin Putul, Program head of the Innovation for Wellbeing Foundation.

Participants were students of class 9 from(confidential). Most children were able to relate with the symptoms of mental ill health as many of them are experiencing different level of stress, anxiety and depression. They mentioned that they often feel distressed, anxious, low mood, withdrawal, numb, irritated. They were able to identify risk factors for deteriorating their health and wellbeing such as bullying, sexual abuse and violence, poor parenting etc. They were taught how to cope with stress, anxiety and depression through changing thought and behavior and learning self-care skills.

Activity-4: Awareness meeting/workshop with teachers, parents

Achievements:

During the reporting period a planning workshop took place with- an NGO working for the development of the sex workers and their children. Founder of who were ex commercial sex worker presided over the planning workshop. Six members of (who are also commercial sex workers) attended the meeting. Jashore District NGO Co-ordinator Mr. Shahjahan Nannu was present as the Chief Guest for the planning workshop. IWF Executive Director Monira Rahman was present in the workshop as Resource Person. The workshop was facilitated by IWF's program Director Fatema Pervin.

Following discussion and decision were made at the workshop:

- will provide a space to create a dropping center for the children who are accompanied by their mother during meeting their customer. NGO Coordinator will mobilize local resources to equip the space.
- will provide two care givers for the dropping center.
- IWF will provide training and capacity building of the caregivers on mental health and wellbeing of the children and their parents
- This drop in center will be used for conducting meeting with parents on various issues such as stress management, anger management, positive parenting etc.

Activity-5: Home Visit

Achievement:

Volunteer Parul Akter is working as the representative of IWF for regular communication with..... She is responsible for communication, record keeping and organizing workshops, meetings etc. with parents, teachers and students. On a regular basis she visits selected schools where children of sex workers are studying and meet with teachers to sensitize them about the wellbeing of these children. She also visits home of the sex workers as and when needed, discuss issues that are affecting their wellbeing and their children's.

Activity-6: Field Visit

Achievement:

From IWF a team visited the working area Jashore Sadar Upazila from 8-10 November 2022. The team member was: Executive Director Monira Rahman, Program Director Fatema Pervin and program Coordinator Jharna Khanam. The visited the brothel, the proposed child dropping centre, one school where children of CSWs are studying. They also met the NGO,; who are working for development of the deprived women and children (dedicated for the CSWs).

Conclusion:

The project is sensitive in nature and need to keep the identity of the children and their mother confidential in all communication materials published under this project. The project is also sensitive in nature as it is addressing abuse and violence perpetuated directly and indirectly to the children of the CSWs. The whole project location is captured by the local influential and human rights violation is frequent. The CSWs and their children are also ostracized by the community at larger and therefore it is difficult to mobilize local resources to support the implementation of the project. The project could only provide awareness and capacity building support to the CSWs and their children whereas the basic needs are not met. In this case it is difficult to motivate project participants to take active participation in data collection, training and capacity building activities offered under this project.

The implementation of the project was also hampered due to sudden move of the only Psychologist available in the project location. This needed to hire a Psychologist from Khulna District which is 55 kilometers away from the project location. In this case a team from Dhaka has to visit the project location to launch the project as well as to prepare the field.

During the reporting period, the IWF focused on sensitizing and motivating project participants to maximize the outputs. a local NGO dedicated for the social and economic development of the CSWs were sensitized to integrate mental wellbeing of the children and sex workers in their mandate for the overall development of the sex workers.

Though the project is challenging but it is also rewarding to see how the NGO of the sex workers are now showing interest and supporting the project to create a child friendly space for the children of the sex workers.

“We often see children are hiding themselves under the bed while their mother is meeting their customer for commercial sex. If we are able to create this child friendly safe space, they will not have to witness what they should not. Rather they will be playing and learning in a safe environment what they should have.” Said by the founder of the

.....



Our Children, Our Future

Children and families from culturally diverse groups have a lot of inability to communicate with each other that leads to escalation of family conflicts. They have unique needs that are not always met by our current health care system. They may have more difficulty finding health care providers or be at risk for higher rates of medical or mental health conditions. The impact of multicultural factors on children's mental health has not yet gained much attention in Australia even though the country has experienced a high surge of migration.

Studies indicate around 14 percent of children and adolescents aged 4-17 years have mental health disorder in Australia and among them girls, younger children and families from culturally diverse backgrounds are the least likely to access mental health services and only 2 per cent received help. Around 50 per cent of all adult mental disorders begin before the age of 14. There is not much awareness around this in Australia.

We believe conversation is the best tool we have today to address this issue. We want to start a conversation to identify issues and raise awareness within the community and the policymakers about the mental health issues among culturally diverse kids and adolescents and their families in Australia.

- The project consisted of Focus group discussions (FGD) followed by a mental health summit on 30th October, 2022 with an aim to create awareness around this and also to minimise the intergenerational challenges. FGDs were held with first generation migrants and young groups in three phases , facilitated by Go Equal. The summit included
 - Keynotes
 - UN model debates
 - Story of Hangama
 - Master Panel

This conference was open to all those interested in multicultural issues, mental health, inclusiveness, and wellbeing. The conference was proudly supported by Mental Health Month ACT Grants Program, Go Equal Gender Equity Consulting, and Initiatives for Women In Need (IWIn).

The UN model debate was participated by Students from ANU, CGGS and representatives from private and public organisations. The Master Panel was facilitated by Dr Yvonne Luxford and participated by Mental Health Minister Emma Davidson MLA, Zakia Patel, Zainab Farouque, Ray Mardia and Gina (MIEACT). Minister Tara Chyene MLA inaugurated the summit.

We agreed on a common approach to minimise intergeneration gaps within multicultural communities. Based on the Focus group discussion and Master Panel discussions, we will draft a paper with the aim of adopting a new strategy on mental health of our children and also parents, including a plan of action on intergeneration relationships. Go Equal is assisting us in drafting the paper.

A MENTAL HEALTH MONTH EVENT
OUR CHILDREN OUR FUTURE
SITARA'S STORY
 INTO THE LIGHT

Hosted by SiTara's Story
SUNDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2022
 THE THEO NOTARAS MULTICULTURAL CENTRE
 180 LONDON CCT, CANBERRA AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
 2601

Supported by Mental Health Month ACT grants program, GO EQUAL Gender Equity Consulting and Initiatives for Women in Need (IWIn)

GO EQUAL
 STRONGER. EQUITY. CONSULTING.

IWIN

CONFERENCE AGENDA
 Sunday, 30th October 2022

SITARA'S STORY
 INTO THE LIGHT

11:00 AM Welcome to the conference	12:15 PM The Journey from Afghanistan to Canberra Canberra artist Hangama Obaidullah
11:05 AM Inauguration speech Tara Chyene MLA Minister for Multicultural Affairs	12:20 PM Lunch
11:15 AM Coffee break/networking	1:00 PM Master Panel discussion Facilitator: Yvonne Luxford, President MHCC ACT & CEO Perinatal Wellbeing Centre
11:30 AM UN Model Debate Facilitator: Alicia Louise Lillington, Co-Chair, ANU Women Alumni Network	Emma Davidson MLA, ACT Mental Health Minister Gina Zhang, Board Member and company secretary, MIEACT Zainab Farouq, Government Executive and Multicultural Women's advocate Zakia Patel, Multicultural Hub Regional Director (Canberra, NSW) Ray Mardia, Leadership coach, lawyer, and human rights activist
Anika Nawar, Consultant, Ernst & Young Ananya Bannerjee, Student, ANU Javeria Aamer, Student, Canberra Girls Grammar Shafeen Mustaq, Government Executive Sidratul Muntaha Siddique, Student, Canberra Girls Grammar Hari Iyengar, Engineer & Founder President, the South Asian Federation ACT (SAFACT) Shweta Chatterjee, Secretary IWIn & Primary school teacher	2:00 PM Closing

Registration: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/962417>
 Enquiry: sitarasstory@yahoo.com

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH ACT

Supported by Mental Health Month ACT reimbursement grants Program, Go Equal and IWIn



2022 Annual Gala

Our annual gala was held on 6th March in the National Museum of Australia. The evening was dedicated to gender equity and mental health wellbeing at the National Museum of Australia, Canberra. Proceeds benefited the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Communities in Canberra and the mental health support programs in underprivileged schools and among marginalised groups in Bangladesh.

The gala night offered a delicious three-course meal along with amazing activities and great opportunities to meet amazing human beings and hear their stories. Adrienne Francis from ABC Canberra was the Master of the Ceremony.

Tickets included

- 3 Course dinner
- Drinks
- Multicultural artwork exhibition/auction
- In conversation with Masterchef Rashedul Hasan
- Raffle prizes and Trivia
- Live entertainment throughout the evening

The evening was sold out.



SiTara's Story Annual Fundraiser Gala

National Museum of Australia, 6 March 2022

6:30 PM	Welcome to Country
6:35 PM	Multicultural Artwork Exhibition/Silent Auction
6:40 PM	Networking and Silent Auction
6:55 PM	Address by Emma Davidson, Minister for Disability, Minister for Justice Health, Minister for Mental Health
7:20 PM	Address by Dr. Shamaruh Mirza, Cofounder and Secretary, SiTara's Story Inc.
7:25 PM	Address by Dr. Yvonne Luxford, CEO, Perinatal Wellbeing Foundation
7:30 PM	Q & A with MasterChef Australia Contestant Rashedul Hasan
8:15 PM	TRIVIA
9:00 PM	Address by Laura Aoun, President, Canberra Multicultural Women Forum
9:03 PM	Networking and Silent Auction
9:20 PM	Raffles draw and Auction results
9:30 PM	Closing remarks by Dr Kowsar Khan, President, SiTara's Story Inc



Others

SiTara's Story got coverage in several media outlets.

ACT AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR WINNERS ANNOUNCED
LOCAL HEROES RECOGNISED WITH AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR
GIVE IT UP FOR THE 2023 RECIPIENTS OF THE ACT AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 ACT AUSTRALIANS OF THE YEAR!

HERCANTERRA ARTICLE

SITARA'S STORY WITH ABC RADIO

SITARA'S STORY WITH SBS BANGLA

SITARA'S STORY WITH SBS BANGLA

WRITING IN THE TIME OF COVID



Our Canberra chapter is mostly funded by ACT Government grants



THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS, SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

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SILVER SPONSOR



CORPORATE PARTNER



BRONZE SPONSORS



Our Partners

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MIEACT
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Go Equal
Her Kitchen
IWiN

Our Supporters

Rashedul Hasan
Bangladesh Australia Doctors Association
Dhrupad
Spondon
Alvina's Collection

Contact us

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