

Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present today.

Bhutanese Australian Association of SA

The association is a non-for profit, apolitical and inclusive organisation, representing the Bhutanese community South Australia. The association was established in 2009 with the purpose of supporting community members to build valuable connections with the broader Australian community, providing community with an array of services and extend help to settle them well in their new country.

The Bhutanese Community in Australia

The Bhutanese community settled in Australia are originally from the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan. Some 107,000 Nepali speaking southern Bhutanese (also called Lhotsampas) were evicted in early 1990s through a series of ethnic cleansing policy implemented by Royal Government of Bhutan (RGOB) in response to their demands for democratic changes. The refugees spent more than two decades in the UNHCR-maintained refugee camps in eastern Nepal.

Failing to see any hopes for rightful repatriation to their home country, Bhutanese in exile accepted the offer for resettlement. The Australian Government agreed to take 5000 refugees, initially, but has increased later. Under this program, the first group of people arrived in Australia in 12 May 2008. It has been a decade since the arrival of this group in Adelaide for settlement. In a decade, Bhutanese community have established well in every state. Most are now Australian citizens, have bought houses, progressed well in professions and established businesses.

Vision Twenty22

The Bhutanese community leaders around Australia come together to share the experiences and stories on this august community gathering. Representatives from the community organization sit together to chart out strategies and plans for next 5-10 years which will pave way for further advance and progress of the Bhutanese community and their friends. Community leaders will discuss about their challenges, success stories and inspirations, which in turn will help other members prepare plans and programs in their community.

The event will celebrate the success of the Bhutanese community has achieved in a decade of resettlement – reflect on past challenges, take stock of the present status and get prepared for future opportunities. It will be the collective effort to weigh our weaknesses, strengths, challenges and opportunities. It will be the august time to say thank you to Australia and position ourselves to contribute more to the progress of this country

Vision for Bhutanese Community by 2022 or Vision Twenty22 is the signature theme of this year's conference. As the name suggests, Australian Bhutanese Conference focuses on development of strategy and mission for the next five years and beyond, on five major thematic areas. This vision envisages the formation of national representative body as a resolution of this conference to execute strategies set out henceforth. The strategies

will be vividly outlined by the main topics that are going to be presented by representative delegates from each state-based organisations.

Vision Twenty22 is not just about setting out strategies and programmes but monitoring and evaluation of the progress made in each strategic area. This will be evaluated biannually by the proposed national organisation and its executive team within it's terms of reference.

Specific aims

- To shed lights on the issues Bhutanese community is facing, set out visions and goals and design programs and practical strategies required to realise those visions and goals
- To single out priority areas in which community members need immediate attention and programs
- To inspire and build plans and programs for future progress of the Bhutanese community and its friends.

To discuss about the challenges, success stories and inspirational achievements made which in turn will help members to exchange their innovative ideas in their local community.

- Finalise the formation of a national representative body, elect their leadership who will advocate on behalf of Bhutanese community with government agency, service providers, NGOs and INGOs