



Aunty Joy Murphy AO

Aunty Joy Murphy AO is The Senior Elder of the Wurundjeri People, the traditional custodians of Melbourne and surrounding areas. Born in Healesville, Aunty Joy's family never left Wurundjeri land. She is the great-great niece to William Barak, the last traditional Ngurungaeta of the Wurundjeri-willam clan. Over the years Aunty Joy has welcomed many visitors to her father's country, including Mohammed Ali, Michael Jackson, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip.

From 1994-99, Aunty Joy was a committee member of the National Indigenous Reference Group of the Australian Local Government Association. From 1996-99 she was a Board Member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee for Aboriginal Affairs.

Aunty Joy also co-chaired the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody 2003-2005. In 2006 she was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia for her contributions to the community in the fields of social justice, equal opportunity, education, art and reconciliation.

Aunty Joy has worked in the Department of Premier and Cabinet as Executive Officer of the Victorian Aboriginal Interim Committee, in the Ministry of Planning and Environment, Aboriginal Affairs and Projects Branch, the Victorian Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Unit and the Museum of Victoria. She has also worked at the local level as the Aboriginal Community Development Officer in the Shire of Yarra Ranges and as a Tribal mentor of the Victorian Equal Opportunity Board/Anti-Discrimination Tribunal.

She held positions in executive policy and community development in all levels of government. In 2002 she was awarded the Victorian Aboriginal Women's Award for being actively involved with Aboriginal Issues for thirty years.

Aunty Joy holds an honorary PHD from RMIT University. Some of her other roles include:

- Chair of the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development at the Victorian College of the Arts University of Melbourne,
- Board member of Fraynetwork Multimedia (Sisters of Mercy)
- Co-Patron for Keeping Koori Kids in Catholic Education
- Patron for Parliament of World Religions
- Honorary Professor of Swinburne University
- University Elder of La Trobe University
- Former trustee of the National Gallery of Victoria

- Former member of the Equal Opportunity Commission Victoria
- Former member of the Victoria Police Ethical Standards Consultative Committee

Aunty Joy also has a keen interest in the Arts and over the years she has produced and directed local, national, and international performing arts projects. She is also a storyteller and author (Books: *Welcome to Country*, *Wilam - A Birrarung Story*) who is passionate about using story to bring people together, and as a conduit for understanding Aboriginal culture.

After visiting young people in custody for decades, Aunty Joy initiated the establishment of the Parkville College Elders Advisory Council (EAC) in 2020. The aim of the council is to promote the welfare of our students and support them in their connection with community and identity by providing strategic advice and guidance to the school.

Aunty Joy has worked with many people in Victoria to raise awareness and understanding of reconciliation with First Nations people. Her work for the Aboriginal community for over 50 years has been outstanding and an inspiration.



Aunty Fay Carter OAM

Aunty Fay Carter has devoted her life to improving the lives of Aboriginal people in Victoria and maintaining connections to Country. A Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Wurrung Senior Elder, Aunty Fay grew up on the Flats, a settlement on the outskirts of Mooroopna, after her family joined the landmark walk-off from Cummeragunja Mission in 1939.

In 1972 Aunty Fay moved to Melbourne with her husband, Leslie Carter, and their children, Wendy and Rodney. She became increasingly involved in Aboriginal affairs, working as a field officer at the Aborigines Advancement League and then as an Aboriginal liaison officer at the Victorian Department of Social Security.

One of Aunty Fay's proudest and most recognised achievements is her involvement in the establishment and running of the Aboriginal Community Elders Services (ACES) in East Brunswick. ACES is the first Aboriginal-managed community corporation in Australia that provides culturally relevant aged care services. ACES is now regarded as a national model for aged care services to Aboriginal elders.

Aunty Fay was also a founding member of Australia's first Aboriginal women's refuge, chair of the board of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), president of NAIDOC's Victorian branch, an ATSIC councillor and a member of many other advisory committees and boards.

Although she formally retired at the age of 72, Aunty Fay continues to support her community. She participated in 18 months of negotiations



with the Victorian Government to achieve a landmark native title settlement in 2013, which formally recognised the Dja Dja Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of lands in central Victoria.

Aunty Fay was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2001. She was inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2004 and the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll in 2013.



Dr. Berhan Ahmed

Dr Berhan M. Ahmed (Shiday) became a refugee at the age of 14 and came to Australia as a refugee at the age of 23 with nothing. He was Victorian Australian of the Year in 2009 and is currently the CEO of Africause (formerly African Australian Multicultural Employment and Youth Services). He was previously the co-chairperson of the Australia Africa University Network, founder and Chairperson of the African Think Tank and is the current Adjunct Professor at the University of Melbourne.

Dr Ahmed is well known to many African people residing in Australia, through his commitment to numerous community issues via mainstream media. In 2004 he was the first African Australian Senate Candidate for Federal Election for Victoria. Dr. Ahmed was on the board for AMES (2007 – 2016) and was also a board member for Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre (2015-18).

Dr Ahmed is motivated by five core principles - social justice, sustainability development, Aboriginal reconciliation, building stronger and dynamic communities and applying democracy in action. His current leadership role is exploring new ways of engaging Africans in participation, decision making and to eliminate the culture of cover up and continued hostility and lack of co-operation among community members. Berhan is also passionate about encouraging African Australian communities to engage with and inspire other mainstream communities to create harmony and good image of the African Australian youth, to provide guidance, role model and support.



Edith Campbell

Currently working as an Intensive Support Worker at the Jesuit Social Services.

She joined the council in 2022.

More info coming soon.





The Honourable Jennifer Coate AO

Justice Coate is a former Judge of the Family Court of Australia. She served as a commissioner on the five-year Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Prior to this, she held several appointments, including:

- Judge of the County Court of Victoria
- State Coroner of Victoria
- The inaugural President of the Children’s Court of Victoria
- Senior Magistrate of the Children’s Court of Victoria
- Magistrate and Deputy Chief Magistrate of the Magistrate’s Court of Victoria.

Justice Coate has also worked as a part-time Law Reform Commissioner, a solicitor in private practice, a solicitor for the Legal Aid Commission of Victoria and in policy and research for the Victorian Government.

In 2019 she was awarded an Order of Australia and became an Officer of the Order of Australia.

In 2020, Justice Coate was re-appointed as a part time Law Reform Commissioner and the Chair of the Victims of Crime Consultative Committee.

In July 2020, Justice Coate was appointed to conduct an Inquiry into Victoria’s Hotel Quarantine program.



Rabbi Gabi Kaltmann

Rabbi Gabi Kaltmann leads the Ark Centre, an Orthodox Community Centre with a Synagogue in the middle. Rabbi Gabi has redefined the 21st Century Synagogue with his services focusing on song and spirituality.

Rabbi Gabi holds a Master of Social Work and is a member of the Victorian Government’s Anti-Racism Taskforce and a member of the Department of Home Affairs Faith Communities Reference Group.

Rabbi Gabi believes in the unity of minority communities and the strength in creating one voice.

“To be able to represent the Jewish Community in Parkville College is an incredible opportunity. There are parallel issues in everyone’s community, regardless of culture, faith, or ethnic identification,”

“We can all learn from each other, and I want to understand, collect feedback and work towards creating a fairer future for all.”

Through years of community work, Rabbi has seen first-hand how young people in custody are shunned by their communities and wants to work towards a narrative of acceptance and fairness for youth.





Maria Kumar

Maria Kumar is a Youth/Community Liaison Officer with the Victoria Maori Wardens Inc., which was founded in 2012. The Victoria Maori Wardens is a not-for-profit organisation made up of volunteers across Victoria and Maria is one of its five founding members.

The wardens serve their community by offering support to families and community in times of need and hardship. They also conduct street patrols, engage with other organisations and agencies, such as youth services, as well as working in partnership with Victoria Police.



Ajak Kwai

Ajak Kwai is an icon of Australian Sudanese Music, and a passionate supporter and advocate for her local community.

Ajak's journey started in the small town of Bar on the Upper Nile, where growing up, she would sing at all the village events, and was a member of a local missionary choir. The Sudanese civil war forced her to move to the capital, Khartoum and shortly after, she left for Egypt where she joined a gospel choir, and started an all-female band called Bor Band.

In 1999, Ajak arrived in Hobart, Tasmania where she joined the small South Sudanese community living there. In 2001, Ajak formed the band "Wahida" (Arabic for "Unity") and in 2004, she began performing at various festivals and events around Australia, before relocating to Melbourne in 2008. Ajak has recorded five albums with her most recent album 'Let me grow my wings' released in 2022.

Ajak's broad artistic achievements include a successful collaboration with ARIA award-winner Sarah Blasko, becoming ambassador of the Melbourne International Arts Festival, recording with a group of industry stalwarts including Missy Higgins, and performing live at major festivals around Australia and internationally, including Mofo, WOMADelaide, Panama Festival and the Tamar Valley, Port Fairy and Woodford Folk Festival.

A passionate activist for refugees and a radio broadcaster with weekly shows on two prominent Melbourne community stations, Ajak hopes that by taking time out to concentrate on her own art, she will inspire people with her music and lyrics to create a more positive environment for themselves.

"My experiences in Australia inform my songs and my music. Music is a universal language – maybe one day we will forget our differences and hold the hands of one another."



Alongside her music career, Ajak has worked closely with many different communities, such as Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander, Oromo, Sudanese, Liberian, Vietnamese, and East Timorese to just name a few.

She has worked as a Health Promoter at North Richmond Community Health Centre, a Project Co-ordinator for Early Childhood Education and Family Empowerment at Northwest Migrant Resource Centre in St Albans. For nine years Ajak also worked in community development, consulting with communities, collaborating with service providers to advocate for the development and improvement of programs, and promoting better relations between parents.

She is currently studying Masters of Art and Cultural Practice at Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne University.



Rev Fa'amata'u Leota

Works at the Crossroads Uniting Church in Hoppers Crossing.

He has been one of the founding members of the EAC, being part of it since its inception in early 2020.

More info coming soon.



Peter Makuei

Peter is a South Sudanese Community Elder, family Dispute Resolution Practitioner/Mediator, cultural adviser, youth and family support worker. He has been working for Vicsegs new futures in Family Support and Youth Engagement programs, as well as with the Department of Justice and Community Safety mentoring youth and providing cultural support for young people in Parkville. He is currently working for the Youth Justice Community Support Services (YJCSS) at the Jesuit Social Services, which follows his previous role as Intensive Cultural Support Worker. Peter has been a valued member of the Parkville College Elders Advisory Council since its inception in early 2020.





Mohamed Mohideen

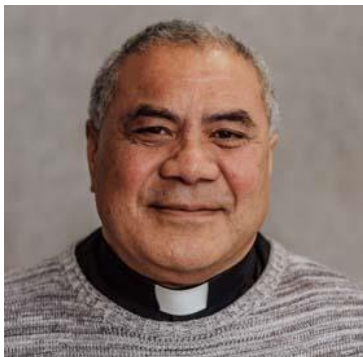
Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV) President Mohamed Mohideen is a lecturer at Monash University and a strong advocate of prisoners facing Islamophobia and racism.

Working with young people for over 22 years, the Sri Lankan father of supports over 200,000 Muslims in Victoria as part of the ICV. He is also a key member of the Muslim Connect program which support Muslim people find employment, training, accommodation and support. He is also the deputy chairman of the multi faith body, Faith Communities Council of Victoria.

As an elder who holds a passion for medicine, he recognises the unique pressures of young people and believes in building trust with and between communities.

Describing himself as outgoing and open minded, he believes there is no stupid question if it comes from a place of genuine curiosity or need.

"For me, the respect of all faiths is extremely important. There are many ways to reach one path, the main goal is to not lose hope and confidence for a brighter future".



Siosifa Tongia

My name is Fr Siosifa Tongia also known as "Fr Joe" to many of our young people and staff at Parkville and Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct.

I am a youth justice chaplain; A Vicar of St Alban the Martyr Anglican parish of St Albans, Victoria and a 24/7 Pastoral carer to hospitals in the western suburbs of Melbourne and serve the community mainly those who are in palliative care, ICU or in the emergency ward.

I have been part of the youth ministry for just over 8 years now and it's a huge challenge to work with more than 250 young people in custody but it's a challenge I have accepted. To show these young people that there is a light of hope at the end of the dark tunnel they are facing, you must first, sit with them in the darkness; it is only then will you be able to help guide them, towards that light of hope.

My role at the youth justice precinct is not only limited to chaplaincy work. I am also involved in the cultural team and conduct outreach with some of the staff and I show my support to our young people by attending their court cases when they request my support or when the young person expresses that they have no one, if I can, I am willing to give up my time to be there for them during that time.

What I find rewarding about my role, is seeing the changes in our young people; from no hope to knowing hope; from no trust to trust or from an unbeliever to a believer not only in God but in themselves. No two days are



the same; seeing the small improvements in our young people in the youth justice system is very rewarding for example when the shy young person raises their hand to lead the prayer or when a young person that's been disruptive all day, sits down beside me to listen to the word of God; these small things may not mean much to someone but it means a lot to me because it makes me feel like I am making a positive impact in their lives. One accomplishment to date would have to be helping a young person who was facing deportation, have that judgement overruled, so now they get to be with their family this Christmas.

You'll have your good days and days you wished you should of just stay in bed, but if I could help someone believe that they can be better and do better for themselves through the word of God or just by supporting them when they need support, then I know I have done something right.

