



**MAHBOBA'S  
PROMISE**  
An Australian Aid Organisation

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

## Volume 1

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## Reaching Out

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*Cover photograph: Children  
attending our Early Childhood  
Centre at Hope House Kabul*

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*Winter snow at Hope House Kabul - trying out newly donated winter clothing and hats.*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON • DAME QUENTIN BRYCE



The Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO

### MESSAGE FROM PATRON

It is an honour to be Patron of Mahboba's Promise.

To see the sustainable development the organisation creates for many women and children in Afghanistan inspires me. Mahboba's Promise is a friend to widows who need help to bring up their families, giving opportunities to acquire skills and generate income. It provides shelter, education and support to many homeless children forced to live on the street in grave poverty.

Mahboba's Promise continues to develop new projects, such as the Badakhshan Orphanage and medical centre in an extremely poor region of Afghanistan.

It is encouraging to see the growing crowd of children who progress through the Mahboba's Promise education programs and onto university. Perhaps even more significant is the cycle of reciprocity that is appearing. Many who grew up with Mahboba's Promise are now returning when they complete their studies to work with the organisation.

In the current context of uncertain political tensions, it is important to ensure that grass-roots work such as that done by Mahboba's Promise can push on to create an environment of global unity.

My congratulations to the organisation on another year of achievement, brought about by the dedication and hard work of staff and volunteers. My warmest congratulations go to those involved with Mahboba's Promise through donations of time, money, and other contributions to sustain the remarkable work done year after year.

We should support it in whatever way we can.

9.11.17.

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**Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO**  
25th Governor-General  
of the Commonwealth of Australia



## FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR & PRESIDENT



*Mahboba with kids from Hope House Kabul. • photo Pahlwelsha Yusuf*

## FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR & PRESIDENT

### “REACHING OUT”

I am proud that Mahboba's Promise continues to adhere to its value of securing basic human rights for the women and children of Afghanistan. We have worked hard over the past two decades to enhance the lives of our beneficiaries through education, housing and healthcare. Above all, our work aims to empower women and children to help shape their future. In my eyes, reaching out means we provide our - women and children - with the tools required to make positive change and rebuild Afghanistan. At its core, Mahboba's Promise is dedicated to the women and children of Afghanistan who we believe pave the way toward a future of economic, and social, growth and prosperity. Reaching out is the first and most crucial step in rebuilding Afghanistan.

This year, Mahboba's Promise has spent time working on projects in Badakhshan Province. This rural region of Afghanistan is one of the poorest areas in Asia. According to the United Nations, Badakhshan Province has one of the highest rates of childbirth-related mortality in the world.

My cousin, Zeinab, passed away two years back while giving birth to twins. Her death was due to a lack of hygiene, an issue that would not be seen in countries like Australia. Since then, I have become more aware of the dangers associated with the lack of healthcare and training, especially in rural areas. I was shocked to learn that it's not unusual for pregnant women to plan for their own funeral. While my work over the past two decades has primarily focused on widows and orphans, in my eyes maternal mortality is a critical issue that needs to be resolved.

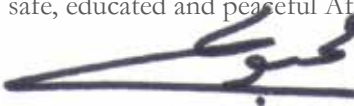
With land donated by the local community, and an adequate grant secured, we are in the process of building a Badakhshan training centre for future midwives. This facility will provide all the necessary equipment, and in-depth training needed to support to midwives. Our hope is that this project will reduce the number of maternal deaths in Badakhshan Province, and build a healthier and more educated community.

While overseeing the construction of our maternity clinic, my brother, Siddiq, discovered a struggling orphanage in Badakhshan Province. What he found were 25 orphans living in desolate conditions after the previous organisation ceased funding almost six months earlier. The young children were living like animals – malnourished, dirty and dressed in rags. Initially, with countless other projects in the works, I was not planning to start another Hope House. However, after seeing the state of the young children, I refused to turn a blind eye.

Mahboba's Promise recently began an appeal to raise funds for the children at Badakhshan. This allowed us to provide necessities for the children - clean clothes, blankets, beds, furniture and nutritious diets. I was overwhelmed by the amount of support we received from our gracious donors. This will not only allow us to provide the children with the essentials but means we are now able to plan for the future of the children.

I believe that in order to make a positive and sustainable change, one must first reach out. Afghanistan is a country that has spent the past three decades in war, with conditions deteriorating due to weak governance, increased violence and loss of international support. I believe that the change-makers of the world need to reach out to those who have spent their entire lives in a war-zone and join the fight against poverty. I believe everyone has the capacity to be a change-maker and enhance the lives of so many.

In my heart I always pray for each individual who supports Mahboba's Promise. I know that one day the world will be a safe and peaceful place, where our children can be educated and free to prosper. I thank you all for enabling us to achieve all we have set out to achieve this year. I hope that you will be with us as we continue our journey to a safe, educated and peaceful Afghanistan.



**Mahboba Rawi**

President and Founding Director  
Mahboba's Promise Incorporated







## REPORT FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This year has seen major steps taken by Mahboba's Promise to reach out to new areas, projects, beneficiaries, and supporters. This push has driven us towards fulfilling our promise to protect and empower the vulnerable women and children of Afghanistan.

The decision to allocate our resources to new projects is not one taken lightly. When Mahboba returns from Afghanistan, she brings with her stories of the hardships faced by the people, like the children or expectant mothers of Badakhshan Province. The management committee of Mahboba's Promise remains committed to reaching out to as many needy Afghans as we can possibly sustain.

It is pleasing to see the commitment from our office in Australia, as well as Mahboba's Promise in Afghanistan, and our donors and supporters. We can take heart that all involved are committed to reaching out to protect and empower the women and children of Afghanistan.

The plight of the Badakhshan children exemplifies the need for support in Afghanistan's far flung provinces. In Kabul, the story of Baby Arezu identifies the need to continue to reach out to the communities of our current projects. The management committee is united and our faith steered in the direction of Mahboba's Promise. We are committed to driving efforts to support as many Afghan communities as our resources will sustainably allow.

I take this opportunity on behalf of the management committee to thank each and every person involved with Mahboba's Promise.

From committee members, to staff members, to volunteers and donors. To those who have taken the time to get to know our organisation, nothing Mahboba's Promise does is possible without your continued support.

Mahboba's Promise will continue to reach out. We will continue to solidify our connections within the communities we are currently involved with, and remain vigilant to the plight of other vulnerable women and children who we are able to assist.



**Khurshida Ajam**

Vice President  
Mahboba's Promise Incorporated



Mahboba's Promise Incorporated raises funds in Australia for the management and implementation of sustainable development projects for women and children in Afghanistan. It is a non-government, non-profit, organisation and a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), and a signatory to its Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

Afghanistan remains one of the most challenging places for both women and children. The economy and society are still fragile after 33 years of war.

Mahboba's Promise is determined and committed to creating a better life for the disadvantaged and vulnerable in Afghanistan, especially women and children. We focus on the plight of widows and orphaned children overwhelmed by poverty. We work with them through a series of programs and initiatives to help them regain control over their lives.

We work closely with individuals and local communities on a long-term basis and have established good dialogue with local leaders. This way we are familiar with the stresses and pressures on these communities.

## ABOUT US

Our programs aim to protect the human rights of those from vulnerable and marginalised groups by:

- Providing supplementary education for orphaned and disadvantaged children so that they can go to school with confidence and succeed in the classroom. Schooling in Afghanistan is rudimentary and if children are further disadvantaged, they will often drop out early; our intervention changes the outcome of their lives, helping to break poverty cycles.
- Providing mentoring for children to encourage them to study and learn social and leadership skills.
- Lifting widows out of poverty by helping them find somewhere to live, access to medical care, assistance with problems, and education for their children.
- Encouraging widows to become self-sufficient through vocational training courses.
- Using the permaculture model farm we have developed in Kabul for training and to help feed our beneficiaries.

Our funds are raised almost exclusively from the Australian public.



## WHAT WE DO

### VISION

Our Vision is to provide a sustainable future within a secure environment for the disadvantaged and vulnerable people of Afghanistan, in particular for women, children and orphans.

### MISSION

Mahboba's Promise aims to provide effective sustainable overseas development aid to disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and communities in Afghanistan through the provision of education, sanitation, primary health care, training and agriculture programs.

### VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

To achieve our Mission, we will honour the values of compassion for people in need and effectively impact on their circumstances while embracing standards of practice that ensure integrity, honesty, transparency and due diligence.

### GOALS OF OUR WORK

In developing our aid programs, we will strive to:

- build the morale of people affected by conflict so that they have motivation to reconstruct their country;
- restore faith in the future through the example of quality workers delivering aid services;
- consider and consult experts in relation to cultural practices and beliefs to identify and meet the best interests of the people we assist;
- establish self-sufficiency in individuals and sustainable outcomes in community projects in the programs that we provide;
- enhance the quality of life of our beneficiaries through education and training;

- consult and involve all stakeholders including beneficiaries, and value their participation at all stages in our programs;
- respect and protect internationally recognised human rights including civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights;
- respect and protect the human rights of people from vulnerable and marginalised groups;
- include and address the rights of people with disabilities and their representatives;
- ensure the safety and best interests of all children through project design, monitoring and implementation of child protection policies;
- be equitable and non-discriminatory in the distribution of our aid;
- follow best practices and give due consideration to issues of sustainable ecological and resource management in our aid programs;
- encourage the use of renewable energy and appropriate technology;
- and promote good governance and civil society.

In our Governance, we will endeavour to be professional, accountable and compliant by:

- offering the public and organisations in Australia and elsewhere, a trusted and acceptable mechanism by which they may contribute funds to worthy projects to assist disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and communities in Afghanistan;
- ensuring that the organisation is at all times financially responsible;
- developing, implementing and reviewing the Policies and Procedures of the organisation.

## 2016 - 2017 HIGHLIGHTS



*Hope House Kabul*



## 2016 - 2017 HIGHLIGHT SUMMARY

### THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan still remains one of the most challenging places in the world for women and children. The delivery of effective aid is hampered by the world's longest-running major armed conflict which over the last thirty years has devastated health, education, economic systems, and the lives of its population.

Mahboba has visited Afghanistan almost every year for the last decade. Disturbingly, she has reported that the security situation has been worsening over the last two years. This places even greater pressure on the ability for safe and effective delivery of our development programmes.

The mood of the people in Kabul is quite low and the prevalence of regular bombings has been taking its toll. There are more people than ever seeking help from Mahboba's Promise Hope House that simply cannot be assisted with our current resources.

This is the space that Mahboba's Promise operates in, aiming to make a small difference to improve the quality of life of widows and orphans. We continue to provide hope and much needed love to Afghanistan.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

#### Badakashan medical centre

Construction of our medical centre building began in April following a Direct Aid Programme grant, from the Australian Embassy in Kabul.

#### Parwan Community Garden

Completion of the greenhouse has made significant improvements to the year round productivity of the garden.

#### Permaculture Garden Kabul

An additional 365 trees were planted this year. Solar panels installed last financial year have made a significant cost saving on diesel generation. We had substantial produce from the garden this year and have 30 widows undergoing training in the garden.

### Widows outreach programme

We have provided a more flexible and useful way for widows to obtain basic products in our outreach programme.

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING

#### Baba Ali Tailoring Vocational Training Panjshir

56 girls are undergoing tailoring training in our Panjshir Valley vocational training programme.

### Confectionery factory and shop update

The confectionery factory and shop-fronts continue to provide employment for 14 workers and training for 15 youth from Off-Away house, including three from Hope House Takar.

### CHILD DEVELOPMENT

#### MAMA Early Childhood Centres Kabul and Panjshir Valley

Our early childhood centres continue to be a success, with the opening of our second centre in Panjshir Valley.

#### Hope Houses, in Kabul, Panjshir Valley, Takar and Badakashan

Our Hope Houses continue to provide a safe learning environment for many young children. They are the centres for many of our community outreach educational programmes. They are also where we house our libraries and early childhood centres. While our fourth Hope House in Badakashan is currently a rental property, we are looking at a more permanent option.

#### Abdara Girls School

We have 140 girls enrolled at school this year. We completed a renovation of the school assembly hall with a grant from the Australian Embassy Direct Aid Program. We also built a library at the school this year.

## 2016 - 2017 COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES



### BETTER HEALTH BADAKSHAN – MEDICAL CENTRE

Afghanistan's health infrastructure has been a major casualty of decades of conflict and territorial aggression. Many Afghans are not able to access basic health facilities, and due to local customs, many women are not able to seek care from male doctors. Specifically, Afghanistan has the second highest child mortality rate in the world with 101 of every 1,000 children dying before age five. Moreover, 1,600 in every 100,000 women will die in childbirth every year.

These statistics are even worse in rural areas like Badakhshan province where 6,500 women of every 100,000 will die in childbirth (the highest rates ever reported). In one particular rural district of Badakhshan, 323 of every 1,000 children will pass away before turning five.

Identifying the glaring issues in maternal health, Mahboba's Promise initiated the Better Health for Badakhshan program. This program seeks to bring a permanent centre for our maternity healthcare training to Badakhshan Province. Our maternity healthcare training teaches participants best practices for pre-natal, during pregnancy, and post-natal health care, how to control diseases, and general education about health, hygiene, and delivering first aid.

This will improve the overall health level of Badakhshan Province, while also increasing community value of women's education by proving its practical application in saving lives. By creating a permanent centre, the people of Badakhshan Province will have access to midwives and effective pre and post-natal care. Additionally, the centre will be able to run educational programs on health and hygiene for generations to come.

Mahboba's Promise has begun construction of this centre in Badakhshan's Yaftal district. With support from the Australian Embassy in Kabul, we will train 30 female high school graduates to give better health services to villages in the Yaftal district.

Recently our employees in Afghanistan signed an agreement with elders in the village where the centre will be built, seeking local advice in setting up the clinic as well as ensuring local workers are employed in the buildings construction. Through this agreement, the project has afforded many youths the opportunity to work and support their family – like Abdul Baqi, the previously unemployed carpenter who was overjoyed to find work building the centre.

Construction began in April, and while still under progress, construction is 90% complete. After painting, the next phase of offering healthcare and maternity training can begin.



## 2016 - 2017 COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES



### PARWAN COMMUNITY GARDEN

Parwan Garden was originally established to benefit ten women from the local community who were provided initial training in agricultural practices. As the project progressed, these women shared their skills with other women throughout the community to promote self-sufficiency. The garden currently has 200 fruit trees, and grows radishes and other vegetables, which are distributed throughout the local community.

Vegetable consumption is very low in the Parwan Province due to high market prices for fresh produce. To combat this, plans were proposed to build a greenhouse in the garden as a means of increasing the production of high quality vegetables over an extended growing season. Our partnership with the Comprehensive Agriculture and Rural Development - Facility (CARD-F) allowed construction on the greenhouse to begin relatively quickly.

Following the completion in June last year of the external greenhouse structure, the internal garden beds and irrigation lines were completed and the garden planted. The local community strongly supported the project, which meant implementing the greenhouse was relatively easy. Local community members are now involved in helping to maintain the garden site, guarding the area, harvesting the crops and distributing the produce to local families.

With completion of the greenhouse, we have observed a positive improvement in local nutrition. At Mahboba's Promise, we believe that self-sufficiency and sustainability is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. Small measures such as building this functioning greenhouse and providing agricultural training take us one step closer to re-constructing Afghanistan.





## 2016 - 2017 COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES



*Permaculture farm caretaker Mr Gulabbuddin with fresh peaches.*

### PERMACULTURE GARDEN KABUL

Since 2009, Mahboba's Promise has been developing a two hectare permaculture garden, on land just outside Kabul.

This social enterprise has been improving steadily since Mr. Gulabbudin took over management of the garden in 2015. The permaculture farm continues to produce fresh vegetables for the children attending lessons at Hope House, the early education centre, our vocational trainees, and the confectionery factory. Excess produce goes to the local markets for sale. This year the garden produced 2,338kg of vegetables and 3,850kg of peaches that were sold at market.

There were 365 new trees planted, bringing the total to 1,736 trees. Currently we have four animals: one cow with calf, and two heifers.

Due to the installation of solar power last year, no fuel was required for the diesel generator, saving approximately \$3,600 for the year in irrigation fuel costs.

The solar panels allowed previously barren areas to be irrigated. There are plans to add more generation capacity.

As part of our outreach development programme, there are 30 outreach widows training in permaculture and gaining experience onsite.



*Outreach widow helping collect produce from the garden*



## 2016 - 2017 COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES



Using coupons at the store. Photo Kern Hendricks



Bagging up tomatoes for market at the Kabul Permaculture farm.

### IMPROVEMENTS TO WIDOWS OUTREACH PROGRAMME

This year, Afghanistan CEO, Sidiq Rawi, worked with widows in the outreach programme to refine the approach to give the widows more flexibility and independence. Some widows were saying they use more rice than oil and others needed more beans than flour.

Rather than queuing at Hope House for their fixed monthly distribution, women are now given a coupon to use at the Mahboba's Promise owned store in Kabul. This allows them to purchase the items they want and need. The response has been very positive and Sidiq will review how the changes are working over the coming year.



## 2016 - 2017 VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

### BABA ALI TAILORING VOCATIONAL TRAINING PANJSHIR

The Baba Ali Girl's School Tailoring Vocational training course was designed by Mahboba's Promise in April 2016, following an application from community elders of the Abshar District in Panjshir Province.

The project is aimed at training 56 senior school girls over six months with basic knowledge of tailoring and garment design, allowing them to utilise these skills to gain employment and meet the tailoring needs of Abshar.

### CONFECTIONERY FACTORY AND SHOP FRONTS

Established in September 2014 in partnership with Dunya Confectionery factory, this social enterprise, currently employs 14 workers and provides training for 15 youth from Off-Away House.

The factory also supports two shop fronts that sell not just the confectionery products, but a range of everyday necessities. If there is demand we will also supply up to four other supermarkets.



*Girls at out Panjshir tailoring training course*

## 2016 - 2017 VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES



*One of our Hope House graduates working at the confectionery factory • Photo: Kern Hendricks*



## 2016 - 2017 • CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRES

#### MAMA Early Childhood Centre Kabul

The Make a Mark Australia (MAMA) funded early childhood centre now has up to 70 children attending during the year. There are 47 full-time children (15 Girls and 32 boys), with three teachers, a principal and one driver. This project is fully sustainable as the monthly expenses are covered by small fees charged for the children's attendance.

#### MAMA Early Childhood Centre Panjshir

Beginning operations on the 26th of July 2016, the MAMA Early Education Centre Panjshir aims to spread the amazing results of the sister project in Kabul. As in Kabul, the project aims for sustainability by charging minimal fees for children to attend. These fees apply only to more

well off families. Those who cannot afford the fees are provided half price access so that their children may receive the same education as others.

In its first year of operation, MAMA Early Childhood Centre Panjshir had 16 full time students – five girls and 11 boys. There are currently two teachers employed from the local area. Noting the lack of available transport for children outside of the Early Childhood Centres immediate area, Mahboba's Promise acquired a van, and has begun to travel further to provide access to early education across Panjshir.



*Hope House Kabul, MAMA early childhood students leaving for the day.*



## 2016 - 2017 • CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

### HOPE HOUSES

#### Introduction

Our Hope Houses continued to support vulnerable children in Kabul, Panjshir, Takhar and now Badakhshan this year. The Hope House concept aims to provide disadvantaged Afghan children with the opportunity to reach their full potential through education and training during the day and permanent, secure housing during the night.

The conflicts in Afghanistan have undermined the ability for many Afghan children to live a normal and healthy life, due to extreme poverty, instability and homelessness. Our Hope Houses were established to offer vulnerable children a brighter future by providing them with a safe and secure home environment, ending the need for children to beg and work to find money for food. Instead,

children can access the educational resources needed to develop mentally and physically into strong, confident youth who can contribute to rebuilding Afghan society.

#### Badakhshan Hope House

Badakhshan Hope House will be the fourth and newest of Mahboba's Promise's Hope Houses. While visiting Badakhshan to follow up on the Better Health Badakhshan project, we became aware of an orphanage whose organisation could no longer support it. In June of this year, Mahboba's Promise took responsibility for this struggling facility in Badakhshan Province.



*Children at Hope House Kabul*

## 2016 - 2017 • CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES



### BADAKHSHAN HOPE HOUSE

Badakhshan Province is one of the most vulnerable areas of Afghanistan. With poor infrastructure and harsh winters, its populace experiences higher levels of poverty, and lower literacy rates than the national-average - while 66.9% of the province's population consumes less food than necessary each day.

Mahboba's Promise became aware of a struggling orphanage in the capital city of Badakhshan Province, Fayzabad. It housed 25 children, from a few months old to ten years of age, and provided care for one blind girl. After operating for only six months, the funding ceased. The orphanage was left dependent on individual donations, which was inadequate to provide for the children under their care and fairly pay the workers.

For almost six months the orphanage operated with no sources of funding. It relied on the workers to volunteer. Charitable food support was provided by the local community. The

children were left in appalling conditions; sleeping on floors with no blankets, wearing old clothes with no possibility of school uniforms or shoes being provided, and becoming malnourished due to the irregularity of their food supply. Some children were too weak to eat when they finally did receive a meal.

Drawn to action by the plight of these children, Mahboba's Promise has come to an agreement with the original organisation to transition the facility to the operate under the care of Mahboba's Promise. To ease suffering of the children during the holy month of Ramadan, we initially purchased food and meet their immediate survival needs.

In taking over operations of the facility, Mahboba's Promise intends to cover the costs of renting the house, along with operating expenses. This will cover the salaries of all workers including the principal, night teacher, supplementary teacher, cook, two cleaners, and two security guards. We



## 2016 - 2017 • CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES



will also provide all necessary appliances and supplies to bring it up to an acceptable standard. This will include kitchen supplies, pillows, mattresses, carpet, stationery, school uniforms, clothes and shoes for all the children.

Our vision for the new Hope House is to provide the 25 children, eight females and 17 males, with education, accommodation, security, and well-being, as well as establishing a centre in Badakhshan Province from which to offer support to all the children of the community.

By helping these children, Mahboba's Promise will also be able to assist the development of the Fayzabad community – empowering women by providing education to eight girls, as well as the 17 boys, and through our programs set those involved with the orphanage on the path to having a positive influence on the future of the province. We are pleased to be able to provide a sustainable future within a secure environment for these disadvantaged Afghan children.

The children are currently housed in a rental property supplied by Mahboba's Promise, while we undergo the process of purchasing land for the construction of the new Badakhshan Hope House building.

After taking over the care of these children, we have seen drastic increases in their happiness and health.



## 2016 - 2017 • CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

### Kabul Hope House

Hope House Kabul is our oldest Hope house and currently caters for 54 children. There are eight day visit children, and 46 children ranging in age from 4 to 18 years old (38 boys and eight girls).

The House is run by 14 staff equally balanced between female and male staff. Highlights of this year included a visit by two Afghan/German girls in August 2016. Their Water For Hope program in Germany raised \$1600 USD towards a planned water-well onsite. The perimeter was further secured and some outdoor play equipment installed.

### Off-away House Kabul

This is our transition house catering to older boys who are moving out into society. Currently there are 15 older boys ranging from 15 to 18 years old. Some attend school, some are at university, and some work in the confectionery factory.

### Takhar Hope House

Located in the North Eastern Afghan province of Takhar, there are currently 55 child residents, comprising 26 orphans and 29 day visitors. This year we were able to find enough winter supplies to keep children in the centre during the winter months.

Takhar Hope House requires a number of staff to keep it running, providing employment opportunities for locals. Currently, Takar provides employment for five locals. Farhad, an IT graduate, joined Mahboba's Promise as head of administration for Takhar Hope House to support Afghanistan's orphans. Enayat is the principal of Takhar Hope House, and is himself a product of the Mahboba's Promise system having been supported by the organisation through the completion of his university degree. Asma, Bibi, and Gull are all women from local families who have been empowered with employment at Takhar Houpe House. These work as a teacher, cleaner, and chef respectively.

It is immensely pleasing to see the story of Enayat. Having gone through the programmes of Mahboba's Promise he is now engaged in a

reciprocal relationship with the organisation. He is giving back by way of educating and caring for the children of Takhar Hope House, while also becoming self-sustaining by generating a working wage.

### Panjshir Hope House (Dick Smith Community Centre):

The Panjshir Valley Hope House currently houses 28 orphans (four girls & 24 boys) ranging from 5 to 15 years old. There are 12 day visitors (two girls and 10 boys).

This year three older children moved to Hope House Kabul so they could participate in confectionery training. The Centre employs 13 local staff members (seven female and six male). The MAMA kindergarten started this year on the second floor of centre

## OTHER FACILITIES

### Hazrat Ali orphanage - Vale Uncle Haji

Since our last annual report, it is with great sadness, that we had to announce the loss of one of our founding members, who was a huge inspiration to all of us. After a long battle with cancer, Al-Haj Fazel Ahmad Sabet (Uncle Haji) passed away in Brisbane, in September 2016.

Al-Haj Fazel Ahmad Sabet started working with Mahboba more than 20 years ago. He established a school for Afghan refugee children in the Pakistani city of Peshawar. It was called "Sabet Lacey". Most of the kids enrolled in that school were orphans. He also started a small orphanage where he looked after a number of children.

After the collapse of the Taliban in 2001, Uncle Haji moved from Pakistan to Afghanistan and continued his charity work in Kabul. He had two houses in Kabul and he turned them into orphanages. The Hazrat Ali orphanage would be well-known amongst our followers.

Uncle Haji spent the last 40 years of his life serving the disadvantaged people of Afghanistan both -outside and within that country. In particular, he served the orphan children and widowed women for the last 20 years as a volunteer.

## 2016 - 2017 • CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Al-Haj Fazel Ahmad Sabet will be remembered for his great humanitarian and charity work. He will be missed for a long time. Mahboba's Promise will always keep his memories alive. He will definitely be with us forever. Thank you Uncle Haji. God bless you.

With Uncle Haji's passing, the children under his care have either gone to extended family or been taken into Kabul Hope House.

### **Chehel Stoon Orphanage Kabul - Technical assistance**

During the past years activity, Mahboba's Promise supported Mr. Kalilullah Abawi in construction of an orphanage in the Southwest of Kabul. A long time friend and sponsor of Mahboba's Promise, Mr. Abawi was stirred into action following a visit to the Kabul Hope House where he witnessed the amazing work being done by our organisation.

Mahboba's Promise is proud to be a guide for new social enterprises into the future.

### **ABDARA GIRLS SCHOOL**

Mahboba had the pleasure of personally visiting the Abdara Girls School this year. She was delighted to catch up with the students, principal, and staff. Despite it being vacation time, most of the students took the time to and come see Mahboba, who distributed warm clothes from Australia to help the students through the cold winter.

The school has 140 students enrolled from classes 1 to 12. The number of students is expected to increase by another 20 to 30 students in Spring 2017.

Currently, Mahboba's Promise funds the top up salaries of 19 teachers and personnel, transportation of teachers and students, school uniforms for students, school bags, stationery, operation and maintenance of the school, and covering for unexpected expenses.

In 2016, Mahbobas Promise received funding of \$10,041 USD through the Australian Embassy Direct Aid Program for the school assembly hall renovation. We contributed an additional USD \$3,064 to build a library beside the assembly hall.



## 2016 - 2017 HIGHLIGHTS • BADAKASHAN STORIES

The children of Badakhshan all have a story to tell and dreams for their future.

### Neda\*

In Afghanistan, gender dynamics are such that women are largely dependent on men to provide for their families. In cases of divorce, women are often left bereft of income and unable to provide their children with the opportunities every child deserves.

Neda's parents divorced one year ago, and his father disappeared without trace. Neda's mother, confined by cultural context, was not allowed to find work or to get educated in their rural area of Badakhshan Province.

For the better part of a year, Neda's mother was unable to provide him with the food, clothing, hygiene, and access to education that every child has a right to. Realising this, his mother made the unthinkable decision to give up her child to an organisation who could provide him with these things - the Supportive Organisation for Destitute Children (SODC) in Badakhshan a year ago.

Neda will start school next year. He is enjoying learning English, and would love to be able to work on a computer.

### Sarwan\*

Sarwan is a six-year-old boy who loves spicy food. He had a happy childhood with his parents and siblings before his father passed away. His father was a military man who had been serving his country since his teenage years. Unfortunately, a military operation cost him his life and left Sarwan and his siblings without a strong guardian. While his grandfather took responsibility of the children, he was very old and unable to provide them with the necessary support to survive. Stricken by poverty in a country plagued by war, Sarwan's grandfather enrolled him in SODC in the hope that he would be given the best shot at a successful future.

Sarwan wants to help his country to change for the better and knows that education is the key to do so. His favourite subjects are English and Maths, and hopes he can use this knowledge to become an engineer.

### Ahmad\*

In Afghanistan, if someone is physically unable to work, they have no method of generating an income. Five-year-old Ahmad's mother passed away some years ago, leaving just Ahmad and his father – who at his advanced age had become quite immobile and unable to work.

With no support, Ahmad's father reached out to the SODC in the hopes that they could provide Erfan food, shelter, and access to an education. Erfan is enjoying living at the new Hope House where he loves to play soccer, he wants to become a teacher so that one day, he can give children like himself an education.

### Eshaq\*

The responsibility of raising children in Afghanistan often rests solely on the mother. As is far too common with the nation's inadequate health infrastructure, six-year-old Eshaq's mother passed away one year ago after a short, intense illness.

Eshaq's father was ill-prepared to care for his children, left alone as both the primary income earner and with the responsibility of raising Eshaq and his two brothers. With nowhere else to turn, Eshaq's father reached out to the SODC. At Badakhshan, Eshaq has been able to begin receiving an education, as well as being provided with food, shelter, clothing, and everything else for a child to live a happy life.

*\*Names have been changed*



## 2016 - 2017 HIGHLIGHTS • BABY AREZU



### BABY AREZU

Baby Arezu was struck by tragedy before she took her first breaths. Her father was unable to find work in Afghanistan and, like so many Afghans seeking to provide for their family, attempted to smuggle himself across the border into Iran for work.

Arezu's father was shot by Iranian soldiers, and bled to death. The young man's wife was approaching term as the news reached home, and its contents brought her great sadness. Already in economic turmoil while living with her father, a cobbler who was unable to make enough income to provide for his whole family, Arezu's mother would often only nourish herself with a small piece of bread each day.

It was into this difficult context that Arezu was born. When she finally arrived, she weighed less than one kilogram. The family could not keep Arezu. They knew that if they did, she would not survive the winter. There was no coal to warm their home, and not enough food for everyone.

The family decided to find someone who could care for Arezu. When a friend mentioned that Mahboba's Promise Hope House in Kabul could help them, Arezu's family went straight there to ask for aid.

Mahboba's first thought was to keep mother and child together, initially trying to persuade the family to keep the baby. Upon realising the poor health of the mother, it became apparent that she would not be able to properly care for her daughter. Unable to allow such suffering to befall a young mother and child, Mahboba promised to take the baby and raise her as if she were her own child within Kabul Hope House.

The next day, Arezu was brought back to Mahboba's Promise. A beautiful baby, with large, gleaming eyes – but faced with the challenges of inadequate care. She was yet to taste her mother's milk, had no clothes, nappies, and hadn't been washed in four days. The children at Hope House Kabul washed Arezu, fed her, and took turns to hold and play with their newest sister.

Arezu had become the youngest child of Hope House Kabul, and the youngest child ever taken in by Mahboba's Promise. Born into tragic circumstances, Arezu now has a safe, protective family and welcoming place to call home.

## 2016 - 2017 HIGHLIGHTS • AUSTRALIAN PROJECTS AND FUNDRAISING

### OPEN HEART OPEN HOME

November 2014 saw the launch of our *Open Your Heart, Open Your Home initiative*. Working with domestic issues was a new direction for Mahboba's Promise. It was prompted by the apparent social tensions between the mainstream and Muslim communities that struck Mahboba on return from one of her visits in Afghanistan.

The concept is based on the premise that cultural diversity is a rich and wonderful part of Australia and that fear has been generated due to conflict in the Middle East. The program asked people to open up their homes to invite friends and members of diverse backgrounds to build cultural understanding.

#### Admiralty House- Sydney

Tuesday 21st March marked Harmony Day, a day where Australians celebrate the strength our country gains from cultural diversity. Mahboba's Promise celebrated Harmony Day with an Open Heart Open Home (OHOH) event at Admiralty House, Sydney, hosted by Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove. Women from different backgrounds sat down together over an Australian-Afghan lunch to talk, learn and build friendships.

Mahboba Rawi OAM, briefly spoke at the lunch of the importance of events such as OHOH for the Australian community. In times where people try to sow division and conflict within Australian society, OHOH aims to build bridges between the different communities that make up Australia. We aim to do this through open hearts, open communication and inter-cultural, inter-faith learning.

#### Pakistani High Commission - Canberra

Open Heart Open Home continued to build bridges, break down barriers and increase racial tolerance, this time hosted at the Pakistani High Commission in Canberra. It's always a pleasure to see divergent cultures gathering together in one space to dispel the prejudice and conflict within Australian society. Our thanks to the Pakistani High Commission for hosting this event.

### LOVE MARRIAGE IN KABUL

#### Screening in Brisbane

*Love Marriage in Kabul* is a multi-award winning documentary that has received recognition from around the world. It was filmed on location at Hope House Kabul. The story focuses on Mahboba, as she attempts to bring together two young lovers who are forced apart by rigid societal values and familial restraints. In April 2016 *Love Marriage in Kabul* was awarded the Golden Phoenix at the 34th Fair International Film Festival in Iran. It was the first time that an Australian film had been selected.

Mahboba's Promise held a fundraising event with the screening of *Love Marriage in Kabul* in Brisbane's Palace Cinema, The Barracks on 11 October 2016. The film was presented by our Patron and former Governor-General Dame Quentin Bryce. Proceeds from the evening went to the organisation's projects in Afghanistan supporting vulnerable women and children.

#### ABC Compass programme

The Australian Broadcasting Commission screened *Love Marriage in Kabul* on their Compass program over two Saturday nights on March 11th and 18th. The DVDs of the movie will be available for purchase, with an amount from each sale going towards Mahboba's Promise. It will also be available to stream online for a fee.

### IFTAR DINNER





## 2016 - 2017 HIGHLIGHTS • AUSTRALIAN PROJECTS

On Saturday the third of June, Mahboba's Promise hosted its annual Iftar dinner at the Grand Palace in Auburn, Sydney. Around 160 donors, volunteers and supporters, gathered to commemorate the end of the days fasting. The teeming crowd included a beautifully diverse range of people, from new Mahboba's Promise supporters, a local book club, religious officials of divergent faiths, to those who have long been involved with the organisation.

Guests broke their fast together, and were treated to traditional Afghani cuisine and inspiring stories spoken by distinguished guest Yassmin Abdel-Magied. She enthralled the audience with a personal recollection of her transition from Australian teenager into one of the nation's youngest and brightest activists for positive social change. Her core message: that every single individual has the potential to be a change-maker.

Mahboba recounted her recent trips to Afghanistan, and how witnessing the situation in her home country has strengthened her resolve and reaffirmed the absolute necessity of her work.

Our thanks to all who contributed to making the night a success, including the Grand Palace reception centre management and staff. To everyone who donated items for the silent and live auctions, and our special guest Yassmin Abdel-Magied.

### AUSTRALIAN PROJECTS

#### Bibi's House (Australia)

##### Mental health and wellbeing retreat

In May, 20 people from three families attended a retreat under the Bibi's House program. These families experience such familial and cultural pressures that they are unable to take time off for themselves. This leaves them overworked and burdened at home as they combine their responsibilities without good support. These people tend to suffer from long-term mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety.

This retreat provided a space for women to speak openly and freely about their troubles. It allows them to connect with each other through their shared experiences. Young children were also coached on how to cope with stress. Mothers discussed how to understand their children in a modern context. The youth were provided an opportunity to discuss what challenges they were facing and how they could be supported appropriately.

Our thanks to the Rotary Club of Epping for supporting Bibi's House in this venture.

## 2016 - 2017 HIGHLIGHTS • MAHBOBAS VISIT



*Mahboba and Hope House Kabul girls at the Permaculture farm • Photo Palwelsha Yusuf*

Flying into Afghanistan, I was looking from the plane down at the mountains and valleys that make up my homeland. From high up, I felt like the mountains and the land of this country were telling me all their secrets; the secrets of the untouched mines scattered across the lands, the secrets of the many wounds inflicted upon it and the secrets of its people living under extreme poverty.

I thought to myself, here lies a country full of untouched resources. Yet above the land's potential riches, poverty and hunger remain the

issues that people must constantly battle with. So many children are living on the streets or in tents during this harsh winter with empty stomachs. I hope one day Afghanistan will be a peaceful place for all, where no child will die of hunger or malnourishment, no child will have to beg on the street at the expense of their education and no more widows and orphans will be created from violence and war.

– Mahboba Rawi



# MAHBoba'S PROMISE AFGHANISTAN

## RELATIONSHIP WITH IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Mahboba's Promise Incorporated (MPI), based in Australia, works to provide effective development aid with local communities in Afghanistan. Its principle implementation partner is Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan (MPA).

While the two organisations are separate entities, Mahboba believes the ethos should be that of one organisation working towards a common goal. An international collaboration agreement has been signed by both MPI and MPA which states:

“...The profits, proceeds or other income derived by MPI or MPA must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of MPI or MPA (as the case may be)...”

The current roles in the exclusive partnership are summarised in the table below:

Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan (MPA) has an established permanent presence in the country, and employs approximately 50 local Afghan staff. MPA is a signatory to ACBAR (Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief). Their Code of Conduct is a set of norms, principles and values that aims to enhance the conduct and reputation of Non Government Organisations.

Mahboba's Promise Inc. (MPI) Sydney	Mahboba's Promise Afghanistan (MPA) Kabul
Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fund raising and fund distribution to MPA</li><li>• Over arching policy guidance</li><li>• General guidance and mentoring</li><li>• Monitoring of projects and finances</li><li>• Capacity building</li></ul>	Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Service delivery</li><li>• Project implementation</li><li>• Needs assessment</li><li>• Capacity building</li><li>• Accountability and reporting</li></ul>
MPI and MPA are separate entities. The partnership is based on mutual respect. This is a collaborative partnership where both organisations communicate and listen to the other and strive to build capacity wherever possible.	

## STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS



### STAFF

With a turn over of just over one million dollars a year, there is a lot to manage day to day in the office. We have a lean but very dedicated team of staff in our Sydney office. They run the office and co-ordinate our group of dedicated volunteers.

A range of areas are covered by our office staff, including but not limited to:

- Administration
- Human resources / volunteer management
- Program management
- Policy development and compliance
- Accounting
- Marketing / communications
- Fundraising
- Youth ambassadors

Nazreen Richmond together with Apurba Mukherjee are providing support in Accounting and Finance. Alex Bellamy who was providing support in Project management left her role in the middle of 2017. Lubna Uppal with some volunteers is providing support in office Management and human resources tasks. All our staff work beyond their official contracts to volunteer their time for Mahboba's Promise.

### VOLUNTEERS

Mahboba's Promise Incorporated is very fortunate to have a group of dedicated volunteers who generously donate their time. Less expenses on administration means more of your donations go to Afghanistan where it is greatly needed. We would not be able to do the amount of work we do without the support of volunteers.



## STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS



Outside of the office, we have volunteers manning fundraising stalls, assisting with running events and supporting Mahboba Rawi in her professional engagements.

Of particular note are the following volunteers who have all given extensive time to our organisation this year.

- Toula Serna
- Francis Gallassi
- Lesley Tomasulo
- Kyle Byrnes
- Mohamed Joseph Ali
- Emily Mays

### DONORS

Everything we do in Afghanistan would not be possible without the generous donors who have supported us over the year. Given the many challenges facing so many people across the world today, we are truly grateful that people continue to remember the people of Afghanistan.

Regardless of the amount donated, all of our donors are special people who have made a choice to give their trust to Mahboba's Promise.

Many of our major donors choose to remain anonymous. The following donors listed here deserve special mention for their outstanding contribution:

- Bio Distributors
- Jonathan Nanlohy ( Ryde City Council )

## GOVERNANCE

### Mahboba Rawi

#### President

After fleeing Afghanistan in 1984 and spending the next two years in a Pakistani refugee camp, Mahboba Rawi witnessed firsthand the devastating effects that decades of conflict and oppression have had upon the country, and on its people. Despite suffering great personal hardship, Mahboba decided that she would dedicate her life to helping Afghanistan's most helpless and she founded Mahboba's Promise in 1998.

She made a promise "To never abandon the widows and orphans of Afghanistan, who had no-one else to turn to." This is the promise that drives Mahboba's work today.

Awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2010 for her humanitarian work, Mahboba Rawi continues to work tirelessly to implement aid and development work within Afghanistan.

Mahboba is also involved in promoting cross-cultural dialogue within the Australian community, currently serving as a member of the Multicultural NSW Regional Advisory Council (RAC) for the North Sydney region.

As President of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated, Mahboba is instrumental in ensuring the organisation fulfils its vision and mission of helping the people of Afghanistan.

*Re-elected 15/12/15  
Meetings attended: 6/6*

### Khurshida Ajam

#### Vice President

Khurshida has over 20 years experience in commercial and consulting roles in sales, marketing and medical education, working with a number of blue chip companies. More recently she has focused on leadership development of individuals through executive business coaching.

Khurshida holds a Bachelor of Psychology and a Masters of Commerce from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) as well as an Executive Business Coaching Certificate, an Advanced Development Coaching Certificates (ICCP) and is accredited in the CPI260R Leadership Assessment Tool. She is member of American Society of Training and Development and has a passion for Women in Leadership.

*Re-elected 15/12/15  
Meetings attended: 6/6*

### Kumar Sri-Pathma

#### Treasurer

Kumar Sri-Pathma is a member of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants (CPA) and a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, United Kingdom (FCMA, CGMA). He has several years of Finance and Accounting experience working in Sri Lanka, Zambia, New Zealand and now in Australia.

*Re-elected 15/12/15  
Meetings attended: 6/6*

### Martin O'Dea

#### Secretary

Martin brings to the management committee his design, strategic planning and graphic skills. With a keen eye for detail, Martin has been assisting Mahboba's Promise since 2009 on compliance issues, the strategic plan, accreditation and office systems management. For the last five years he has formatted the annual report, including this one, and is the chairman of the compliance committee.

Martin holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and is Associate Director at CLOUSTON Associates Landscape Architects Sydney office where he is the design standards manager.

*Re-elected 15/12/15  
Meetings attended: 6/6*



## GOVERNANCE

### Manijah Hakim

#### Ordinary member

Manijah holds a Masters in Islamic Studies and has extensive experience working with torture and trauma survivors, refugees, people in crisis and the most vulnerable. Together with her knowledge of the after effects of war, displacement and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and her intimate knowledge of Afghan culture and religion, Manijah is an invaluable asset to Mahboba's Promise.

Manijah came to Australia as a refugee after fleeing Afghanistan after her father was imprisoned and tortured for speaking against the Government. She is currently undertaking a masters in social work and completed a graduate certificate in international and community development. Manijah is the coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme and works with the Schools Promise Committee.

Manijah is the coordinator of the Sponsorship Programme and works with the Schools Promise Committee.

*Re-elected 15/12/15  
Meetings attended: 4/6*

### Nages Azizi

#### Ordinary member

Nages is currently studying a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Psychology. She has previously undertaken a training course on Child protection and Protective Behaviors.

This experience is relevant to the work of Mahboba's Promise, in particular maintaining and improving the organisation's Child Protection measures.

Nages has a previously volunteered as a personal assistant for Mahboba Rawi, helping with answering emails and other administrative tasks. She has also served on the Youth Committee, assisting in organising the Nowruz inter-schools event in March 2016.

*Appointed 15/12/15  
Meetings attended: 0/6*

### Mohammed Ashraf

#### Ordinary member

Mohammed Ashraf brings his experience as a finance and tax consultant to the Mahboba's Promise Management Committee. As a registered accountant, Mohammed has a strong understanding of financial management processes.

He is able to use this knowledge to ensure Mahboba's Promise complies with the required financial controls set out by ACFID and ACBAR.

*Appointed 15/12/15  
Meetings attended: 1/6*

Mahboba's Promise Inc. is an Association incorporated in NSW in 2001. It is registered as A Registrable Body and has authority to fundraise in all states. Mahboba's Promise governance is the responsibility of the members of its Management Committee who delegate the day-to-day administration of the Association to the Executive Officer.

There are seven members of the Management Committee, four office holders and three ordinary members. Members of the Management Committee meet four to six times a year and must be re-elected every two years. Mahboba Rawi, receives a remuneration as primary fund raiser, and Treasurer Kumar Sri-Pathma receives a small remuneration, with his remaining office and committee time being provided on a voluntary basis. All other Members of the Management Committee provide their input on a voluntary basis and receive no remuneration.

Mahboba's Promise has established controls designed to safeguard its assets and to ensure the integrity of its reporting. The organisation is committed to ensuring that all its activities are conducted legally, ethically and in accordance with high standards of integrity and adherence to the ACFID (Australian Council for International Development) Code of Conduct and the guidelines of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and all other relevant legislation.

## 2016 - 2017 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

An independent audit of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated's financial accounts for the year 2016 2017 was conducted by:

Joseph Santangelo  
(Partner)  
Nexia Court & Co  
Chartered Accountants  
Level 16,  
1 Market Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
+61 2 9251 4600

A full version of the report is contained in Volume 2.



### **AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SUBDIVISION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012 TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF MAHBOBA'S PROMISE INCORPORATED.**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2017 there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nexia'.

**Nexia Sydney Partnership**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jgh Santangelo'.

**Joseph Santangelo**

Partner

Sydney

Dated 26 October 2017

#### **Sydney Office**

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## 2016 - 2017 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



### Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

##### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Company is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards- Reduced Disclosure Requirements and *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

##### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report' section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

##### Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in Mahboba's Promise Incorporated's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2017, but does not include the financial report and the auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

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## 2016 - 2017 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Directors' responsibility for the financial report**

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the financial report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at The Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

[http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

### **Report on the Requirements of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2015 (NSW)**

We have audited the financial report as required by section 24(2) of the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW)*. Our procedures included obtaining an understanding of the internal control structure for fundraising appeal activities and examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting compliance with the accounting and associated record keeping requirements for fundraising appeal activities pursuant to the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and *Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2015*.

Because of any inherent limitations of any assurance engagement, it is possible that fraud, error or non-compliance may occur and not be detected. An audit is not designed to detect all instances of non-compliance with the requirements proscribed in the above-mentioned Act and Regulation as an audit is not performed continuously throughout the period and the audit procedures performed in respect of

## 2016 - 2017 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

compliance with these requirements are undertaken on a test basis. The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

### Opinion

In our opinion:

- a) The financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial results of fundraising appeal activities for the financial year ended 30 June 2017;
- b) The financial report has been properly drawn up, and the associated records have been properly kept for the financial year ended 30 June 2017, in accordance with the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and Regulations;
- c) Money received as a result of fundraising appeal activities conducted during the financial year ended 30 June 2017 has, in all material respects, been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and Regulations; and
- d) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.



**Nexia Sydney Partnership**



**Joseph Santangelo**  
Partner

Dated: 26 October 2017  
Sydney

## 2016 - 2017 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

#### To the members of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated

We have audited the summarized Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct Summary Financial Report of Mahboba's Promise Incorporated on pages 20 to 23 of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017 in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards.

#### Opinion

In our opinion, the information reported in the ACFID summarized financial report is consistent with the annual statutory financial report from which it is derived and upon which we expressed our audit opinion in our report to the members. For a better understanding of the scope of our audit this report should be read in conjunction with our audit report on the annual statutory financial report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nexia'.

#### Nexia Sydney Partnership

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Santangelo'.

#### Joseph Santangelo Partner

Dated: 26 October 2017  
Sydney

#### Sydney Office

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w [nexia.com.au](http://nexia.com.au)

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## 2016 - 2017 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Waiting in line - Tae kwon do training - Hope Hose Kabul • photo Kern Hendricks



Early Childhood centre playtime - Takar Hope House

## 2016 - 2017 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

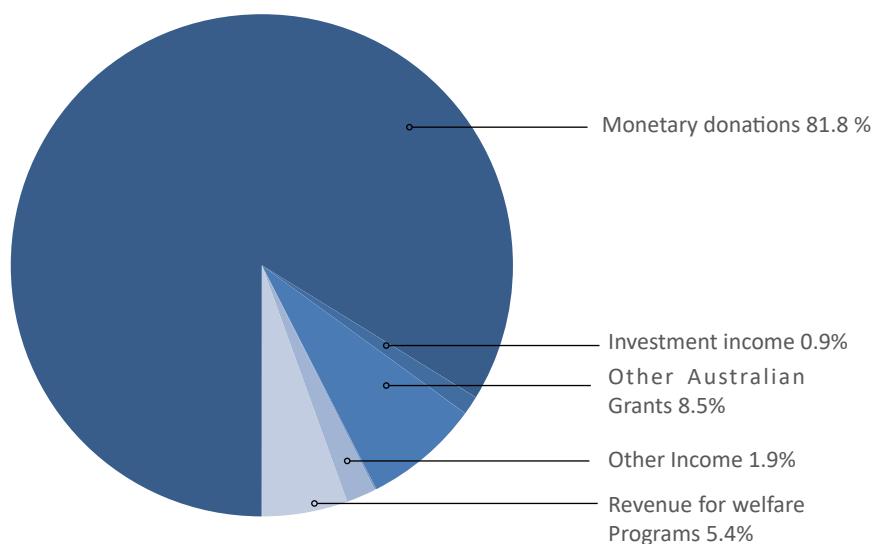
MAHBOBA'S PROMISE INCORPORATED • ABN 85 254 682 685 • ARBN 135 823 880		
ACFID FORMATTED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017 (Statement of Financial Performance)	2017	2016
<b>REVENUE</b>	\$	\$
<b>Donations &amp; Gifts</b>		
Monetary	916,826	823,362
Non Monetary	13,250	0
<b>Bequests &amp; Legacies</b>	0	0
<b>Grants</b>		
AusAID	0	0
Other Australian	81,650	84,800
Other Overseas	0	0
<b>Investment Income</b>	10,079	8,837
<b>Other Income</b>	38,474	20,881
<b>Revenue for Welfare Programs</b>	60,341	62,962
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,120,620</b>	<b>1,000,842</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>		
<b>International programs</b>		
Funds to international programs - development	574,046	563,523
Welfare	53,830	55,796
Program support costs	101,273	141,389
<b>Community education</b>	17,913	17,206
<b>Fundraising costs</b>		
Public	120,455	156,272
Government, multilateral and private	0	693
<b>Accountability and Administration</b>	54,550	50,915
<b>Domestic programs expenditure</b>	22,158	7,800
<b>Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>	<b>944,225</b>	<b>929,998</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>944,225</b>	<b>993,594</b>
<b>EXCESS/(SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>176,395</b>	<b>7,248</b>

Note 1: During the financial year, the agency had no transactions in the Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs category or in the Domestic Program category.

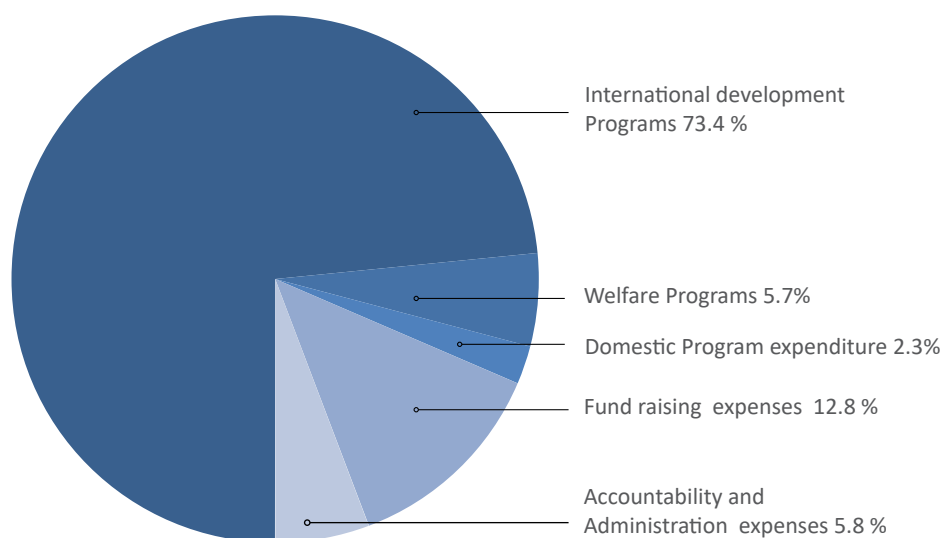
Note 2: Prior year numbers have been reclassified to make this table comparable with the current 2017 year numbers. In particular our Domestic programme expenditure and Welfare expenditure.

## 2016 - 2017 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### SOURCES OF INCOME



### RATIO OF EXPENSES



*"International development Programs" includes expenditure on our development work, along with community education, which includes staff time and outlays involved in providing community information and raising awareness as well as broader international development issues.*

*"Fund raising Expenses" are the costs associated with attracting more support through donations and sponsorships, and includes items such as advertising, mail-outs, costs of events and processing of donations.*

*"Accountability and administration" covers the administrative and other costs inherent in running an organisation, including rent, insurance premiums, legal and professional fees, office supplies and other running costs.*



## 2016 - 2017 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

MAHBOBA'S PROMISE INCORPORATED • ABN 85 254 682 685 • ARBN 135 823 880		
ACFID FORMATTED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2016(Statement of Financial Position)	2017	2016
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	965,359	751,904
Trade and other receivables	53,320	74,097
Inventories	0	0
Assets held for sale	0	0
Other financial assets	0	10,877
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,018,679</b>	<b>836,878</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
Trade and other receivables	0	0
Other financial assets	0	0
Property, plant and equipment	14,235	5,672
Investment property	0	0
Intangibles	0	0
Other non-current assets	0	0
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<b>14,235</b>	<b>5,672</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,032,914</b>	<b>842,550</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	8,836	8,372
Borrowings	0	0
Current tax liabilities	3,474	7,602
Other financial liabilities	0	0
Provisions	11,543	22,962
Unearnt Revenue	50,000	20,948
Other	0	0
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>73,853</b>	<b>59,884</b>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>		
Borrowings	0	0
Other financial liabilities	0	0
Provisions	15,856	15,856
Other	0	0
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>	<b>15,856</b>	<b>15,856</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>89,709</b>	<b>75,740</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>943,205</b>	<b>766,810</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	0	0
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>943,205</b>	<b>766,810</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>943,205</b>	<b>766,810</b>

## 2016 - 2017 • FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

MAHBOBA'S PROMISE INCORPORATED • ABN 85 254 682 685 • ARBN 135 823 880  
ACFID FORMATTED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Other	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2016	<b>766,810</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>766,810</b>
Adjustments or changes in equity due to, for example, adoptions of new accounting standards items of other comprehensive income				
Excess of revenue over expenses	176,395	0	0	176,395
Other amounts transferred (to) or from reserves				
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2017	<b>943,205</b>			<b>943,205</b>

### CASH MOVEMENTS FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES

No single appeal, grant or other form of fund raising for a designated purpose generated 10% or more of the organisation's international aid and development revenue for the financial year.

### Preparation of Financial Reports

The Summary Financial Reports contained in this Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au).

### The full Financial Reports are contained in Volume 2 of our Annual Report

Volume 2 containing the full Financial Reports can be obtained by going to our website at [www.mahbobaspromise.org](http://www.mahbobaspromise.org) or writing to Mahboba's Promise Inc., PO Box 6234, North Ryde NSW 2113, or emailing us at [office@mahbobaspromise.org](mailto:office@mahbobaspromise.org).



*Widows preserving tomatoes from the permaculture garden for use at Hope House Kabul • Photo: Khalid Malikazada*





## Sponsors thank you

We would like to thank our corporate sponsors Bio-Distributors: Biodynamic & Organic wholesalers of Tasmania [www.biodistributors.com.au](http://www.biodistributors.com.au) for sponsoring our Annual Report. Bio-Distributors have done this for many years now and we feel this small acknowledgement with each Report does not do them justice. Thank you very much.



## Pro Bono Support

ALLENS  
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Allens < Linklaters

## Mahboba's Promise Inc. Australia

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web: [www.mahbobaspromise.org](http://www.mahbobaspromise.org)  
Contact: Mahboba Rawi  
ABN 85 254 682 685  
ABRN 135 823 880



## Deductible Gift Recipient Status

Monetary donations of \$2 or more to Mahboba's Promise can be directly claimed as tax deductions with the Australian Taxation Office.

## Complaints

Mahboba's Promise has a process for handling complaints. Please direct your complaint to the Operations Manager by calling the office on (02) 9887 1665 or by emailing [office@mahbobaspromise.org](mailto:office@mahbobaspromise.org)

## ACFID code of conduct

Mahboba's Promise is a member of The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and adheres to the ACFID Code of Conduct which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. Complaints relating to a breach of the Code can be made to ACFID and information about how to make a complaint can be found at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)



## Afghan NGO Status

Our implementing partner in Afghanistan Mahboba's Promise NGO is an observer member of the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR)



## Photo Credits

Khalid Malikzada  
Palwelsha Yusaf  
Kern Hendricks



**MAHBOBA'S  
PROMISE**

An Australian Aid Organisation

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Tae kwon do training - Hope Hose Kabul • photo Kern Hendricks