



សមាគមខ្មែរសេដ្ឋកិច្ច រដ្ឋអូស្ត្រាលីខាងត្បូង

Cambodian Association of South Australia Inc.

63 Commercial Road, Salisbury SA 5108
Email: info@cambodianassociationsa.org.au

Phone: 08 8259 3600
0416 762 524



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HISTORY

The association was founded as a secular apolitical association in 1991 by the first refugees to escape to Australia from the killing fields of Cambodia. It was originally set up to help Cambodian refugees resettle in South Australia. During its first 30 years it ran a number of successful programs including:

- Sponsoring over 400 refugees from Cambodia including orphans, trades people and professionals
- Preserving Cambodian culture by sponsoring dancers, musicians and authors to immigrate to Australia. This was particularly important as much of the Cambodian culture had been destroyed by the Khmer Rouge.
- Establishing an ethnic school at the Adelaide High School between 1983 and 2011. The ethnic school was staffed with Khmer teachers who had been sponsored from Cambodia.
- Establishing a traditional dance troop.
- Employing a social worker between 1981 and 2007. The social worker assisted Khmer people to fill in Government forms and with legal issues. The social worker also acted as an advocate for Khmer people with various Government agencies.
- Establishing and maintaining a Woman’s Group and Sewing Club to help Khmer women, who are often socially isolated, integrate with Australian society by teaching them English, Australian culture and to drive.
- Employing Youth Workers from 1981 to 2007 to conduct youth related programs.
- Running a homework club to help Khmer children, who often had language difficulties, with their secondary education.
- Establishing a youth group with disco’s and camps.
- Running a successful age care program in conjunction with Aged Care Homes designed to prevent social isolation for the elderly and provide respite care.
- Broadcasting a weekly Khmer Radio program from 1983 to present.