



AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL AID FOUNDATION LTD. (AMAF)

'A body committed to providing medical aid'

Muththamil Maalai 2024



24 YEARS OF MEDICAL SERVICE
(2001-2024)



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

A Member of Australian Council For International Development (ACFID)



Australian Medical Aid Foundation

AMAF Message

Vanakkam Members and Supporters,

We are pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report for the Australian Medical Aid Foundation (AMAF).

This year has been another challenging yet successful year in raising funds and delivering urgent and critical medical aid to the North and East of Sri Lanka. AMAF has continued to be agile, adaptive and effective in its ability to respond, once again demonstrating its important role in serving the region. AMAF has been able to do this by leveraging our strong network of local healthcare providers and collaborating closely with our partner organisations.

A total of \$292,755 was raised this year, including \$139,887 raised through the annual AMAF Good Friday Radiothon Appeal. Our impact is only possible because of the generosity of our donors, and we thank you for your continued support.

Several projects have been successfully completed this financial year, including:

- Donation of portable ultrasound scanner (echocardiography, pelvic, abdominal and gynaecological) for the Outreach Clinic – Mullaitivu District Hospital.
- Donation of anaesthetic machine, ICU and operating equipment to the Kilinochchi District Hospital.
- Donation of neonatal transport ventilator to Mullaitivu District Hospital.
- Establishing a medical education and audio-visual education unit at the Faculty of Medicine (University of Jaffna) / Teaching Hospital Jaffna.
- Donation of orthopaedic tourniquet to Kalmunai Hospital.
- Donation of emergency resuscitation crash cart to Teaching Hospital Jaffna.
- Donation of flexi-arm laparoscopic system to Teaching Hospital Batticaloa.
- Funding of 2 units of lead doors to Mullaitivu District Hospital.
- Funding salary for targeted essential workers (i.e. an audiologist and 10 health support workers) at Teaching Hospital Jaffna.

This is in addition to our ongoing projects including the provision of financial bursaries to disadvantaged and displaced medical students from families below the poverty line attending the University of Jaffna and Eastern University (Batticaloa), and school dental projects in the Puthukudiyiruppu and Kilinochchi districts.



Australian Medical Aid Foundation

We are also pleased to note that the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) renewed AMAF as a signatory to their Code of Conduct for yet another year. AMAF has a strong record of compliance with ACFID and Australian corporate compliance requirements. AMAF has established several policies in keeping with ACFID's guidelines and continues to develop policies as our organisation grows and evolves.

Our members, both new and long-standing, are the backbone of all our activities. Our Board and committees meet regularly to enable key decisions in a timely manner. We held several Board meetings and NSW, Victorian and ACT Committee meetings this financial year, in addition to several working group meetings. Meetings were held via Zoom and in person. We thank our members for their energy and commitment.

To all those who have contributed towards the impact AMAF has made this year; our donors, members, volunteers, partners on the ground and partner organisations, we extend our gratitude. Each contribution has gone towards improving the lives of those who need it most and we hope to continue growing our reach in 2024.

In the words of the great Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar,

காலத்தி னாற்செய்த நன்றி சிறிதெனினும்
ஞாலத்தின் மாணப் பெரிது - குறள் 102

A helping hand in time of need, no matter how small,
is much larger than the world - Kural 102

Thank you for continuing to extend your helping hand.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sujitha Thavapalachandran
Chairperson
AMAF Australia

Ms Lakshmi Logathassan, LLB
Secretary
AMAF Australia

Dr Vairamuttu Manomohan
NSW President
AMAF NSW



PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2023-2024

The financial year 2023/2024 has been another successful year for AMAF with implementation of several projects. The basic theme has been to capacity build medical, dental and public health infrastructures in North East Sri Lanka. We also detail below, projects that are ongoing and new projects.

1. COMPLETED PROJECTS ENDING IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024

A. DONATION OF ANAESTHETIC MACHINE, ICU AND OPERATING THEATRE EQUIPMENT TO THE KILINOCHCHI DISTRICT HOSPITAL – **JOINT PROJECT WITH ROTARY (Combined Project Cost A\$107,500)**

The Kilinochchi District Hospital currently has a small ICU unit (facilitating three beds with ventilators for both medical and surgical disciplines) and four operating theatres that are adapted for six surgical subspecialties. As a joint project with Rotary, AMAF purchased and donated an anaesthetic machine, essential ICU and operating theatre equipment (infusion pumps, syringe pumps, intermittent pneumatic DVT device, fluid warmer and blood gas analyzer) to the Kilinochchi District Hospital.

B. DONATION OF NEONATAL TRANSPORT VENTILATOR TO MULLAITIVU DISTRICT HOSPITAL (Cost A\$58,000)

The Mullaitivu District Hospital lacks a neonatal ICU and hence there is a need to transfer critical neonates to Jaffna (120km away) or Vavuniya (75km away). The Neonatal Transport Ventilator to the Special Care Baby Unit DGH was essential for newborn babies who need referral to higher institutions (Jaffna or Vavuniya) with ventilator support. Proper transport



of newborn babies on neonatal ventilator will ensure optimal brain oxygenation of babies and hence support long-term intellectual development. Software update for the neonatal transport ventilator is about to be provided to value-add to this project.



C. DONATION OF PORTABLE ULTRASOUND SCANNER (ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY, PELVIC, ABDOMINAL AND GYNAECOLOGICAL) FOR THE OUTREACH CLINIC, MULLAITIVU DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL

JOINT PROJECT WITH ROTARY (Combined Project Cost A\$56,000)

Currently, specialists from the Mullaitivu District Hospital (DGH) conduct outreach clinics at peripheral clinics including Mallavi Base Hospital (75km from DGH), Moonkilaru Divisional Hospital (40km from DGH) and Mankulam Base Hospital (45km from DGH) as patients often find it difficult to travel to the Mullaitivu DGH. The Mullaitivu DGH had requested for the provision of a portable ultrasound scanner with echocardiography to be used at outreach clinics to enable early diagnoses and treatment of various conditions.

D. ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL EDUCATION AND AUDIO-VISUAL EDUCATION UNIT AT FACULTY OF MEDICINE (UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA) / THE TEACHING HOSPITAL JAFFNA (Cost A\$57,000)

The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jaffna / Jaffna Teaching Hospital has requested for financial assistance to establish a medical education and audio-visual education unit which will enable production of high-quality videos to improve the quality of medical education, research and public education. The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jaffna established the Medical Education and Audio-Visual Unit in 2009 to support its undergraduate medical curriculum. The unit produces audio-visual (AV) materials to enhance regular teaching and learning activities, helping students to understand difficult areas of the lesson. Over the years, the unit has produced many videos on various subjects to facilitate medical



undergraduates' learning activities. However, the current facilities are limited, with only basic and outdated equipment such as a video camera and editing PC. AMAF purchased and donated quality cameras, microphones, editing software and other essential equipment to produce high quality AV materials to improve the quality of medical education, research and public education.



E. DONATION OF ORTHOPAEDIC TOURNIQUET TO KALMUNAI HOSPITAL (Cost A\$13,750)



The Orthopaedic unit at Kalmunai Hospital had requested for the provision of an orthopaedic tourniquet for adult and paediatric orthopaedic surgery. Previously, orthopaedic surgeries were performed using a temporary tourniquet borrowed from the Teaching Hospital Batticaloa and hence the services had been limited. AMAF purchased and donated an orthopaedic tourniquet to Kalmunai Hospital which is currently being used. This device will enhance the quality of orthopaedic service at Kalmunai Hospital.

F. DONATION OF EMERGENCY RESUSCITATION CRASH CART TO THE TEACHING HOSPITAL JAFFNA (Cost A\$1,400)



AMAF donated an emergency resuscitation crash cart which is currently being used in the operating theatre for emergency resuscitation.

G. DONATION OF FLEXI-ARM LAPAROSCOPIC SYSTEM TO THE TEACHING HOSPITAL BATTICALOA (Cost A\$7,500)



The surgeons at the Teaching Hospital Batticaloa perform a variety of laparoscopic procedures. AMAF donated a Flexi-arm laparoscopic system to enable retraction of the liver and other solid organs during advanced laparoscopic procedures such as Nissen fundoplication and Heller's Cardiomyotomy.



H. TWO AUTOMATIC LEAD-LINED OPERATING THEATRE DOORS INSTALLED (Cost A\$13,000)



The fully functioning operating theatre at Mullaitivu District Hospital required lead doors for safety purpose to eliminate effects of radiation. AMAF funded two radiation barrier theatre doors which have now been installed.

I. MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DONATED BY CANBERRA HOSPITAL (ACT) VALUED AT 50 MILLION SRI LANKAN RUPEES

Shipped and delivered to the Teaching Hospital Jaffna. This Includes 2 ultrasound machines, resuscitation beds for newborn babies, critical care ventilators, CPAP machines, infusion pumps, syringe pumps, etc.”





2. SUPPORTING EDUCATION

A. ONGOING FINANCIAL BURSARIES TO DISADVANTAGED DISPLACED MEDICAL STUDENTS – UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA AND EASTERN UNIVERSITY (BATTICALOA)

AMAF has supported medical students from disadvantaged and war-affected backgrounds in Vanni since 2009. Students who received monthly bursaries from AMAF during their entire medical studies have now qualified and serve in hospitals mainly in the North East of Sri Lanka. The Medical Student Union was responsible for this initiative supported by AMAF.

AMAF is currently supporting disadvantaged medical students who receive Rs. 10,000 per month per student during the undergraduate degree. This project is run by the Welfare Department of the University of Jaffna.

3. COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROJECTS

A. SCHOOL DENTAL PROJECTS IN PUTHUKUDIYIRUPPU (MULLAITIVU) AND KILINCHCHI DISTRICTS (Cost A\$5,600)

This is one of AMAF's key ongoing public health initiatives. The Dental program now encompasses the Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi educational districts. AMAF employs a dentist, a dental therapist and a dental assistant who serve at the clinic and the mobile dental unit. AMAF continues to donate toothbrushes and toothpastes to school students whilst educating them on the importance of good oral hygiene.

B. SALARY TO AUDIOLOGIST (Cost A\$1,650)

Jaffna Teaching Audiologist who does essential work for ENT Surgeon AMAF funded further six months salary.

C. SALARY TO HEALTH SUPPORT WORKERS (Cost A\$13,000)

120 staff (health support workers) who have been employed by Jaffna Teaching Hospital but not paid by the Ministry of Health. Their work is essential for transport of patients within the hospital. AMAF is currently funding the salary of 10 out of 120 staff.



PROJECTS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS

A. DONATION OF OPHTHALMOLOGY EQUIPMENT (OPERATING EYE MICROSCOPE) FOR VAVUNIYA EYE CLINIC – JOINT PARTNERSHIP WITH ROTARY (AMAF contribution A\$75,000)



The Department of Ophthalmology at Vavuniya District Hospital currently provides an excellent ophthalmologic service to more than 500,000 people from Vavuniya, Anuradhapura, Mannar and Mullaitivu districts. Most of the patients attending this eye clinic are requiring surgical intervention. Cataract surgery is the most common intervention being performed. To perform ophthalmologic surgery successfully, a good quality operating microscope and ophthalmic laser is necessary. The current ophthalmic microscope being used does not provide stereoscopic visualization which is crucial in-depth perception during surgery. It also lacks retro illumination facilities which are essential in dealing with challenging cataract surgeries.

AMAF will be donating a state-of-the-art operating eye microscope in a joint partnership with Rotary. The ophthalmic laser will be donated by IMHO. This project will guarantee more positive outcomes, mainly for patients undergoing complex eye surgeries.

It is with gratitude that we mention the generation donation by a family who donated an entire birthday monetary collection towards this project.

B. CAPACITY BUILD THE MENTAL HEALTH UNIT AT BATTICALOA TEACHING HOSPITAL (Cost A\$20,000)

This project aims to enhance the capacity of the Mental Health Unit at the Teaching Hospital, Batticaloa. This project is currently in progress as space was found, eliminating the need for construction of a new building. This project now has 2 components: (a) Funding of equipment (video conferencing facility, electronic items and furniture, sound proofing) to promote tele-consultation, in-person and remote educational sessions (patients and staff), and regular family meetings; (b) Provision of beds including mattresses for the newly established Psychiatric Unit to facilitate designated inpatient services for youths and elders.

FUTURE PROJECTS 2024-2025

A. DONATION OF NEONATAL VENTILATOR FOR INTENSIVE CARE UNIT AT TEACHING HOSPITAL JAFFNA (Estimated cost A\$62,500)



B. DONATION OF PORTABLE ULTRASOUND FOR OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY TO JAFFNA TEACHING HOSPITAL (Estimated cost A\$80,000)



The Teaching Hospital Jaffna has requested for the provision of a portable ultrasound scanner for obstetrics and gynaecology to be used at outreach clinics.

C. DONATION OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGICAL ACCESSORIES TO THE TELLIPALAI GENERAL HOSPITAL (Estimated cost A\$25,000)



Donation of orthopaedic surgical accessories to Tellipalai General Hospital will enable orthopaedic surgeries to continue.

D. DONATION OF UROLOGICAL EQUIPMENT FOR JAFFNA TEACHING HOSPITAL (Estimated cost A\$10,000)



As requested by the Urological Department at the Teaching Hospital Jaffna for the purchase of bulldog clamps with applicator during laparoscopic urological surgery.

E. DONATION OF ENDOSCOPY AND COLONOSCOPY UNIT FOR JAFFNA TEACHING HOSPITAL (Estimated cost A\$250,000)

AMAF'S LOCAL PROJECTS

In Sydney, AMAF is known for its very successful and popular fundraisers each year.

MUTHTHAMIL MALAI:

At the end of each calendar year AMAF conducts an event of music and drama well known for its popularity and success. Due to COVID lockdown, we conducted a Virtual Muththamil Malai event in 2021. We were humbled by the overwhelming online attendance and donations from our community.

RADIOTHON:

On Good Friday each year, the committee and supporters of AMAF gather at local Tamil Radio Stations. Thayagam Radio in Sydney and 3CR Radio in Melbourne to make an appeal for funds reaching out to the Tamil population in Sydney and Melbourne. The program highlights projects conducted by AMAF and arranges telephone interviews with our partner organisations and beneficiaries in the North and East of Sri Lanka. Our generous donors are encouraged by the success of our projects and continue to support us financially.

Community Education:

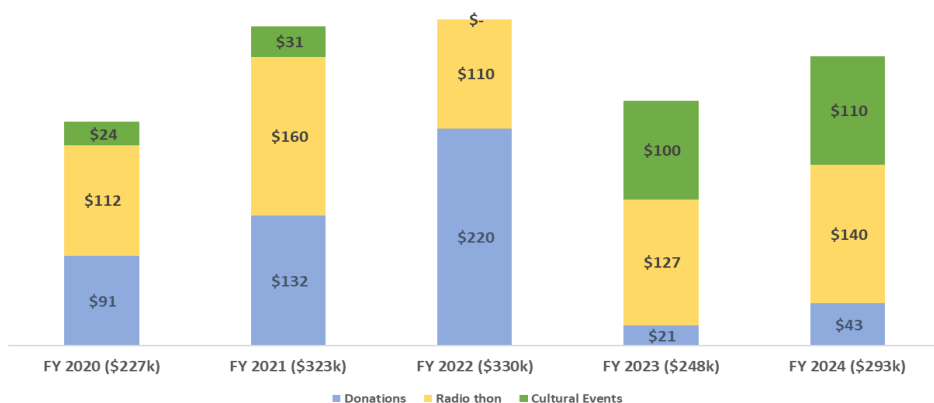
AMAF members were actively involved in COVID-19 prevention via video clips and radio programs in association with Department of NSW Health. AMAF members also conduct regular radio programs and give speeches at special events to promote health education to our community.



Australian Medical Aid Foundation

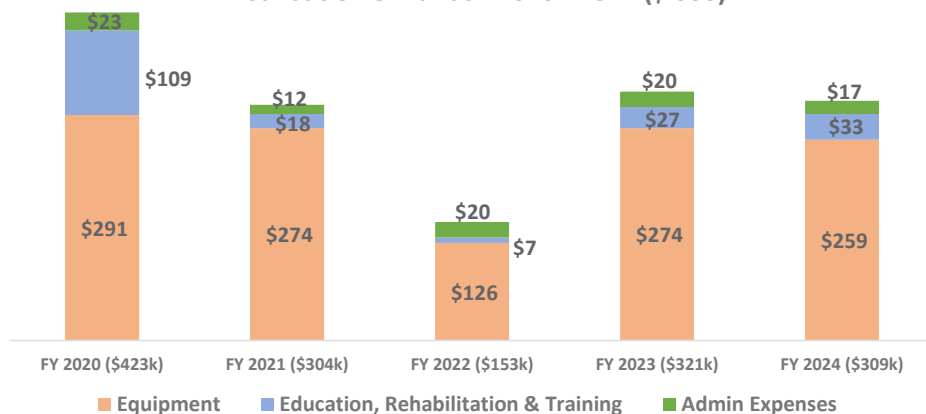
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FY 2024

Funds Received 2020-2024 (\$'000)



Fundraising: Total collections increased by 18% from the previous year (FY 2024: \$293,000, FY 2023: \$248,000)

Distribution of Funds - 2020 - 2024 (\$'000)



Disbursement of funds: Total expenses decreased by 4% from the previous year (FY 2024: \$309,000, FY 2023: \$321,000).

“Isai Kathambam” Melodious Orchestra

Students of Smt. Thilagaranjani Jeyanathan and her Students of Gogula Dharshan Music Academy



Smt. Thilaga Jeyanathan always had a love for music which began at a young age. She commenced her tutelage under Thiru Selvanayakam in 1990. She continued to practice flute whilst studying concurrently and graduated from Open University of Colombo for a Bachelor of Arts in 1991. Over the years, Thilaga continued to perform all over Sri Lanka furthering her musical talents and with the blessings from her Guru, Thilaga was awarded the title of ‘Sangeetha Kala Vithakar’ from the Sri Lankan Carnatic Music Saba in 1991. As an avid music enthusiast, Thilaga also delved into Carnatic vocal music and furthered her instrumental music skills under the guidance of Selvi Krishnaveni Mayilvaganam from the Sri Lankan Carnatic Music Saba.

For the past 24 years Gogula Dharshan has become a renowned music school in Australia which many students have undergone Thilaga's training. Several students have performed frequently on stages for temple programs and other charitable events as Pannisai Vizha, Navarathiri Vizha, Vasantha Malai, Kalai Kolam and UTS in Sydney. Thilaga also held a program starting in 2004 and alternating years to showcase the talents of her students.

Thilaga believes her role as a music teacher is to continue to cultivate the love for music in others. She teaches with passion, has inspired many to continue their musical journey and not only encourages her students to excel practically but understand the theoretical nuances behind this art form. She has used the guidance and teachings from her own teacher to educate her students. Thilaga would like to thank her students for their continual dedication to music and would also like to take this opportunity to thank her loving family as without their love and support, this would not have been possible. Music is truly a powerful force which brings joy to many and Thilaga hopes to continue to inspire and bring joy to others in the future.

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION : Isai Kathambam – Melodious Orchestra

Starting off with carnatic classic songs performed in the 1st half of the performance followed by semi classical and cinema songs for your entertainment. The Orchestra performed by Flute, Violin and Veena, Accompanied by percussion instruments and keyboard.

Participants:

FLUTE

Venyaa Muralitharan
Harine Somasundaram
Dhinesh Krishnar
Kaushanah Thivagarupan
Bhuvan Sreenivasan
Gowtham Jeyanathan

VIOLIN

Divya Pavalan
Ranjeev Kirupairajah

VEENA

Vishni Ravindran
Shakthi Satkumaran
Swathika Vignarasa

ACCOMPANYING ARTIST

Harish Gopikan Ravindran
Athithan Thirunanthakumar
Sharujan Mahendraraj

Smt. Mirnalini Jayamohan



Smt. Mirnalini Jayamohan is the founder and director of Abhinayaalayaa School of Dance.

Mirnalini started learning Bharathanatyam at the age of four, under the guidance of Mrs. Thiripurasundari Yoganathan in Sri Lanka. Her keenness and commitment to the classical art saw her excel with high achievements in Bharathanatyam. Owing to the then prevailing situation, which had her guru relocate from Jaffna, Mirnalini continued her dance under the dedicated tutelage of Mrs. Shanthini Sivanesan. Mirnalini then competed the North Ceylon Oriental Music Society (NCOMS) teacher Grade examination, receiving the title of "Natiyakalaivithakar". She was a member of the "Kalaacharaperavai" an organisation that was part of the Jaffna municipal council.

She served as a dance teacher at Chavakachcheri Hindu college from 1988 to 2000 and performed in several dance programs in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. After migrating to Australia in 2002, Mirnalini established

Abhinayaalayaa School of Dance and has successfully continued her career. Under the coaching and guidance of Mirnalini, her students have participated in internationally recognised Bharathanatyam examination conducted by the Australia Carnatic Music Society with a majority of students receiving high achievements. There has also been 9 students who have completed their Arangetram under her guidance since beginning the school over 20 years ago.

Abhinayaarpanam by Abhinayaalayaa School of Dance

1. Amman Thuthi Paadal : This Bharathanatya performance is about goddess Paarvati who appears in the "Kaali" form.

Participants

Sreenidhi Nair
Shiyane Suthakaran

Paarvati Thevendran
Akarsha Vettichchelvan

Vaashini Aravinthan
Delani David Mathanraj

2. Nilamahai Nilaiyaamai : This dance is about the 336 th Thirukkural "nerunal ulanoruvan indrillai ennum perumai udaithu ivvulagu".

The one who existed yesterday is no more today. That is the glory of earthly life. This world is full of impermanent abundance that is said to have disappeared today however all the good deeds will be forever.

Participants

Mahisaa Sutharsan
Anshiga Thuwaragan
Raghavi Raguparan
Rishanthe Sribaskaran

Akshaini Pradheepan
Kashni Shangaran
Delisha Shankar

Shubeena Sivabala
Sinthuri Prashanth
Parmitha Thiruvengadam

3. Panthadum Mangayare

This folk dance is in praise of Lord Murugan. Particularly, it depicts the wonders of Lord Murugan's 6 sacred abodes, often known as his "Aaru Padai Veedu". Legend has it that these abodes are the sites of six battles, in which Murugan fought against demons and orchestrated divine occurrences. This dance will portray the stories of Lord Murugan's sacred presence on each abode.

Participants

Ashmitha Vimalathithen
Sahaana Kulasangar
Nishani Balaruban

Surabhi Selvaruban
Raakavi Palaraman

Arunikka Subaharan
Maanisha Balaruban

Miss Divassini Ramesh



Miss Divassini is the director at Nritha Performing Arts, whose passion for dance has shaped a remarkable journey spanning over two decades. Trained in Bharathanatyam for over 21 years, Divassini completed her Arangetram under the esteemed guidance of Apirami Kumaradevan in 2017.

Her versatility extends beyond classical dance, as Divassini is a proficient performer and instructor in Bollywood and Kuthu styles. As a registered Zumba instructor, she brings her dance expertise to the fitness realm, conducting engaging adult fitness classes that seamlessly blend the joy of dance with physical well-being.

Divassini has achieved numerous accolades in her repertoire. She has placed in various dance competitions, including the Indian Film Festival Dance Competition in Melbourne, Australia's Greatest Dancer in Melbourne, and the BollyAus Dance Competition in Sydney. Recently she was approached to judge Gaana Galatta Sydney in

2023, alongside Indian Choreographer, Sandy Master.

In addition to her dance achievements, Divassini leverages her background as an exercise physiologist to lead movement therapy classes for seniors, promoting health and fitness through dance within the community. With a dedication to honing her craft and fostering the dance community

Bollywood Dance by Nritha Performing Arts

Participants:

Junior group

Akira Uphadhyay
Kate Nirmal Francis
Trishaa Ajay

Anya Jolapara
Saadhya Vootkuri
Visvassha Sarveswaran

Aadhya Rohit
Sienna Suseendran

Senior group

Ashvita Sritharan

Divassini Ramesh

Sharanya Thiagarajah

Senior kuthu group

Niranjana S. Nair
Vaisharali Dhevarajah

Dheepika Antonito

Akhil Sritharan

Muththamil Maalai 2024 Program



Chief Guests: Dr Mayuran & Dr Thuvaaraga Suthersan

Tamil Mozhi Vazhthu / Australian National Anthem
Wentworthville Tamil Study Center

Aha Vanakkam

'Isai Kathambam' - Melodious Orchestra
by Students of Gogula Dharshan Music Academy

Short AMAF Video Presentation 1

AMAF Speech
Dr Sujitha Thavapalachandran (Chairperson, AMAF)

Short AMAF Video Presentation 2

AMAF Speech
Dr Vairamuttu Manomohan
(President, NSW Branch AMAF)

Bollywood Dance 1
by Nritta Performing Arts

INTERMISSION

Vote of Thanks
Mr Seenithamby Paramanandarajah

Abhinayaarpanam
by Abhinayaalayaa School of Dance

Bollywood Dance Part 2
by Nritta Performing Arts

CONCLUSION



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Muththamil Maalai '24

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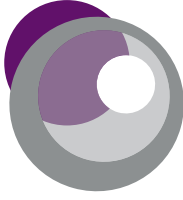
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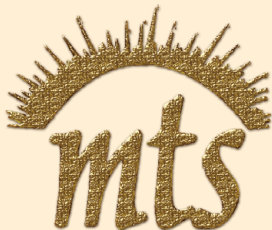
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