

## **SEVA – AN UPDATE.**

### **2007 – Year in retrospect.**

#### **APRIL 2007**

# During the year, the first major event was the successful launch of its web – site – [www.sevainternational.org](http://www.sevainternational.org) – at the Parra Viila Function Lounge in Parramatta on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

The event was very well attended with representatives of Members of Parliament – federal and state- service providers and agencies of relevant government departments as well as Presidents of the Indian , Pakistan, Bangla Desh, Nepal and Sri Lankan communities. Congratulatory messages, and good wishes were also received from federal Ministers and other invitees.

An Information Brochure for the benefit of new migrants was also released to mark the event.

#### **MAY / JUNE 2007**

# The launch event was followed by internal review and planning meetings of the organization's core group during May and June 2007 to take stock and plan future directions.

#### **AUGUST 2007.**

# Under the banner of SEVACARE, a seminar was held at Cherrybrook on 12<sup>th</sup>. August 2007 focusing on community living for seniors of South Asian origin, The seminar presented by Paseo Developers on power point covered the concepts of financing, designing and setting up and operating a community living centre for seniors. Having regard to the interest evidenced by the participants, the project will be pursued in the coming year. ( for details contact Vish – 9487 4227 )

#### **SEPTEMBER 2007**

# SEVACARE arranged another workshop for seniors at Epping on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007. The workshop covered the topics of ' Social security entitlements for seniors' – on forthcoming changes to asset and pension rules and superannuation; Healthy living habits for seniors ( incontinence issues) ; and Mind your Mind – on Dementia. This workshop was also very

well received by all the participants with a lively question and answer session in conclusion.

## **OCTOBER 2007.**

**# A parenting Forum at Chatswood on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2007 titled – “Steeping into your Teenager’s World” organized by SEVA in partnership with the Willoughby Council, Centrelink, Phoenix House, Migrant Link and the NSW Police focused on enriching families to understand the complex world of teenagers growing up in bi cultural homes. Topics covered included – intergenerational issues; what it means to be a teenager in a multicultural society; raising a teenager or a pre adolescent in a household of three generations.**

**The key note address was delivered by DR. Sharon Chalmers from the Centre for Cultural Research of UWS Sydney.**

**Ms. Amrit Versha Lecturer on Community Development, TAFE and Dr. Suman Tyagi from the Transcultural Mental Health Services, Sr Constable Fran Aliprandi , School Liaison Officer North Shore, Ms Meredith Harrison Youth services coordinator were also the other presenters as well as members of the panel. Bindu Narula acted as the coordinator and facilitator for the event which was welcomed and regarded as highly relevant by all the participant with a request for more such sessions on identified topics.**

**A summary of the Keynote address by Sharon Chalmers and a brief report on this event by Bindu Narula, along with photos is attached ( Pdf 1 and 2)**

## **December 2007.**

**# Amongst some of the major decisions taken by the newly elected Committee of Management at its first meeting in November 2007, was to focus on the development of Support of Structures and the creation of capacity building activities for the South Asian community with the help of various service providers and training institutions as a part of SEVA’s future directions.**

**Accordingly contacts have been established with TAFE, NSCF and WSCF and the Access Group Training to undertake suitable training programs for training of volunteers and professionals in the area of community services. Efforts to develop CACPS packages tailored for the seniors in the community to be accessed through SEVA are also on the anvil.**

**A free Certificate IV course in a range of community services to be run at the TAFE at Granville during 2008 has also been initiated by SEVA and similar courses are also being considered in the North Shore.**

**Similar training programs under the Commonwealth Voucher schemes and other government assisted programs in the area of community services will also be pursued with relevant training institutions.**

**All these are efforts by SEVA towards capacity building within the community for the benefit of the wider community as well**

**SEVA encourages the community to look seriously at community services field as a professional and a career path.**

**For details contact – Kazim at 9487 2398 or Kalyan at 9449 5582)**

**Plans for 2008.**

**Amongst SEVA's plans for 2008 and beyond apart from the above, are feasibility studies in the Parramatta area for developing suitable care projects for the aged and the ageing who choose to live in their own homes, and empowerment of women living at home towards skills development and Income earning activities.**

**Other exciting activities and enterprises are also being considered and the community is invited to be part of the SEVA community to make them a success.**