



Nepali Association of Western Australia (NAWA) Inc.

NAWA ACTIVITIES REPORT



Reporting Period: 1 July 2025 to 31 Jan 2026

Nepali Association of Western Australia (NAWA) Inc.

Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
KEY HIGHLIGHTS	5
ACTIVITIES	6
1. Community Languages Professional Support Program (CLPSP) Information Session...	6
2. Haritalika Teej Celebration 2025	7
3. Nepali Language and Arts School Family Picnic 2025.....	8
4. Attendance at Australian Asian Association of WA AGM	8
5. Participation in Department of Home Affairs Open Night.....	9
6. Participation in the City of Gosnells Fusion Festival 2025	10
7. Meeting with Department of Home Affairs.....	11
8. Meeting with Office of Multicultural Interests (19 November 2025).....	12
9. Community Information Session for Families with School Age Children.....	13
10. City of Cockburn Sponsorship Grant for Holi and MoMo Festival 2026	13
11. NAWA Participation in City of Victoria Park Library Drop-in Session	14
12. Small Business Development Workshop.....	15
13. Maghe Sankranti BBQ Program.....	16
14. Saraswati Puja 2026 and NAWA's Kids Sports	17
CONCLUSION.....	18
REPORT PREPARATION AND APPROVAL	18

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Nepali Association of Western Australia (NAWA) would like to extend its sincere appreciation to all volunteers, committee members, community partners, and supporters who contributed to the success of the activities organised during the reporting period.

We would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of NAWA committee members and volunteers who devoted their time and effort to organising cultural programs, community events, educational sessions, and outreach initiatives.

NAWA also expresses its gratitude to government agencies, multicultural organisations, sponsors, and community groups who have supported our initiatives and collaborated with us to promote cultural diversity, community wellbeing, and social connection.

Finally, we thank all community members who participated in these activities and continue to support NAWA's mission of fostering unity, preserving Nepali culture, and contributing positively to the multicultural society of Western Australia.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The period from **1 July 2025 to 31 January 2026** was highly productive and impactful for the Nepali Association of Western Australia (NAWA). During this time, NAWA organised and participated in numerous cultural, educational, and community engagement activities aimed at strengthening the Nepali community while promoting Nepali culture within Western Australia's multicultural society.

Major highlights included the successful organisation of large-scale cultural events, such as the Haritalika Teej 2025 celebration attended by more than 2,000 participants, and strong community engagement through events like the Nepali Language and Arts School Family Picnic and participation in the City of Gosnells Fusion Festival. These events showcased Nepal's rich cultural heritage through traditional music, dance, and community participation.

NAWA also demonstrated its commitment to community education and development by hosting information sessions for families, collaborating with government agencies, and organising a Small Business Development Workshop to support entrepreneurship within the Nepali community.

In addition, NAWA actively strengthened relationships with government departments, multicultural organisations, and community partners, including the Department of Home Affairs, Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI), and other multicultural associations. These engagements ensured that the needs and concerns of the Nepali community, especially international students and new migrants, were communicated effectively to relevant authorities.

Overall, the activities during this period significantly contributed to community unity, cultural promotion, capacity building, and stronger partnerships with government and multicultural organisations across Western Australia.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Successfully organised major cultural celebrations including Haritalika Teej 2025, Maghe Sankranti Festival BBQ, and Saraswati Puja 2026, attracting strong community participation and promoting Nepali cultural heritage in Western Australia.
- Conducted community engagement programs such as the Nepali Language and Arts School Family Picnic, Community Information Session for Families with School Age Children, and Children’s Sports Initiative, supporting family wellbeing, education awareness, and youth development.
- Participated in multicultural festivals and community outreach activities including the City of Gosnells Fusion Festival, City of Victoria Park Library drop-in session, and the Australian Asian Association of WA AGM, strengthening multicultural collaboration.
- Engaged with government and service organisations through meetings and events with the Department of Home Affairs (Australia) and the Office of Multicultural Interests (Western Australia) to promote community support services.
- Received a sponsorship grant from the City of Cockburn to organise the Holi and MoMo Festival 2026, recognising NAWA’s contribution to multicultural engagement.
- Organised capacity-building and community development initiatives including the Small Business Development Workshop, providing information on entrepreneurship, financial planning, and migration-related matters.
- Strengthened social cohesion and community networking by promoting Nepali traditions, music, dance, sports, and recreational activities across various events in 2025–2026.

ACTIVITIES

1. Community Languages Professional Support Program (CLPSP) Information Session:



On Monday, 4 August, representatives from the Nepali Language and Arts School (NLAAS), including Principal Mr. Prakash Thapaliya and Teacher Mr. Jeevan Poudel, together with NAWA President Mr. Navin Bhandari, participated in the Community Languages Professional Support Program (CLPSP) information and interaction session. The session was organized by the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) in collaboration with Community Languages Western Australia (CLWA) and provided important updates on proposed changes to

the Community Language Program. A key outcome of the session was the separation of funding eligibility requirements from quality teaching and learning criteria, which were previously combined under the Pathways to Improvement (PIP) program.

The program was also renamed the Community Languages Professional Support Program (CLPSP) to reflect its focus on supporting professional development and strengthening the community language education sector. The updated program aims to move away from evaluation-based approaches and instead provide targeted support, professional learning opportunities, and training for community language educators.

2. Haritalika Teej Celebration 2025:

NAWA successfully organised the Haritalika Teej 2025 celebration on Saturday, 23 August 2025, at the Canning Agricultural Pavilion, Cannington. The event attracted more than 1,000 attendees, making it a significant Nepali cultural gathering hosted by NAWA.



The program was led by Ms. Aimi Thapa, NAWA Women's Coordinator, who coordinated the event with strong support from the NAWA team and volunteers. The celebration was free entry and open to all, encouraging broad participation from the community.

The event featured performances by local and guest artists, cultural music, and traditional dance performances, creating a vibrant and joyful environment for attendees. The celebration provided a valuable opportunity for the Nepali community to come together, celebrate cultural traditions, and strengthen social connections.

3. Nepali Language and Arts School Family Picnic 2025:

The 5th Nepali Language and Arts School Family Picnic was held on Saturday, 25 October 2025, at Kadidjiny Park, Melville. The event brought together families, children, teachers, and community members for a day filled with fun activities, food, games, and laughter.

The picnic provided an excellent opportunity for families to connect with one another while celebrating the importance of Nepali language and culture within the community. Children participated in various games and activities, creating a joyful and engaging atmosphere.

NAWA extended its heartfelt appreciation to all children, families, teachers, volunteers, and organisers who contributed to making the event a memorable success.

4. Attendance at Australian Asian Association of WA AGM:



The association attended the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Asian Association of WA Inc. on 30 October 2025. During the event, valuable ideas were exchanged with the President, Melville, and other committee members. The association expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality and looks forward to strengthening partnerships and community relationships among multicultural organisations across Western Australia.

5. Participation in Department of Home Affairs Open Night:

The NAWA President, Mr. Navin Bhandari, and Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator, Dr. Sangita Bista, participated in the Department of Home Affairs Open Night hosted by Ally Paolino, Regional Director WA, and Ranj Maharaj on 4



November 2025. The event aimed to promote integration of the Nepali community with other multicultural communities in Western Australia and increase awareness of the services and resources available to support the Nepali diaspora.

6. Participation in the City of Gosnells Fusion Festival 2025:

On 7 and 8 November 2025, NAWA proudly participated in the City of Gosnells Fusion Festival, one of Western Australia's largest multicultural festivals.

The participation was coordinated by Ms. Aimi Thapa, NAWA Women's Coordinator, with the support of NAWA team members and volunteers. The NAWA stall showcased Nepal's rich culture and traditions through traditional clothing, cultural artefacts, music, and dance.



Members of the NAWA team performed Kaura songs, played traditional instruments such as the Madal and Khajadi, and presented various Nepali folk dances. These activities attracted many visitors and

generated significant interest in Nepali culture.

A major highlight was the Dhime Baja performance, which received strong appreciation from festival audiences. NAWA also expressed gratitude to Nepa:Guthi Western Australia for their contribution to presenting traditional Nepali music and dance.

7. Meeting with Department of Home Affairs:



Nepali Association of Western Australia (NAWA) held a meeting with the Department of Home Affairs (Australia) on 17 November 2025. NAWA's President

and other representatives met with Tamkin Essa, Community Liaison Officer, to discuss support services available for the Nepali community in Australia. Key topics discussed included domestic and family violence resources, WA support services, financial assistance, visa application and processing, settlement and navigation of life in Australia, support for newly arrived students, and access to mental health support services.

8. Meeting with Office of Multicultural Interests (19 November 2025)

On 19 November 2025, the association team met with the Office of Multicultural Interests (Western Australia) under the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport in Perth. The meeting was attended by NAWA President, General Secretary, and representatives, along with Jose Zimama, Community Engagement



Officer. Discussions focused on the cultural diversity of the Nepali community in Western Australia, opportunities for government support in promoting Nepali cultural activities, the growth of the Nepali community, and strengthening collaboration to deliver programs aligned with the association's objectives.

9. Community Information Session for Families with School Age Children:

On Saturday, 13 December 2025, NAWA and the Nepali Language and Arts School jointly organised a Community Information Session for Families with School Age Children at the Mirrabooka Recreation Centre.

The session aimed to support Nepali families by providing useful information about the education system, available resources, and ways to support children's academic development and wellbeing.

The program encouraged discussion between parents, educators, and community leaders, helping families better understand opportunities available for children in Western Australia.

10. City of Cockburn Sponsorship Grant for Holi and MoMo Festival 2026:



On 15 December 2025, NAWA was honoured to receive a Sponsorship Grant from the City of Cockburn to organise the NAWA Holi and MoMo Festival 2026.

The grant recognises NAWA's commitment to promoting Nepali culture and multicultural engagement in Western Australia. The recognition was received by NAWA President Mr Navin Bhandari and Public Relations Coordinator Mr Sunny Neupane on behalf of the community.

This support will help NAWA organise a vibrant cultural festival celebrating Nepali traditions while encouraging participation from diverse communities.

11. NAWA Participation in City of Victoria Park Library Drop-in Session:

The Nepali Association of Western Australia (NAWA) was pleased to participate in the community drop-in session held at the City of Victoria Park Library on Friday, 9 January. This event provided a valuable opportunity for NAWA representatives to meet community members and share the rich culture, traditions, and heritage of Nepal.

The session supported NAWA's ongoing efforts to strengthen relationships with multicultural communities across Western Australia by promoting cultural understanding, friendship, and community engagement. The NAWA team warmly interacted with visitors, exchanged stories, and welcomed everyone with greetings such as "Hello" and "Namaste".

This participation helped showcase Nepal's cultural identity while strengthening community connections and encouraging interest in Nepali culture and community activities.



Address: Perth, Western Australia | Email: info@nawa.org.au | Website: www.nawa.org.au

12. Small Business Development Workshop:

The Nepali Association of Western Australia Inc. (NAWA) successfully hosted the Small Business Development Workshop on 19 January 2026 at the Hill View Intercultural Centre in Bentley, Western Australia.

The workshop brought together community members, entrepreneurs, and professionals for an informative and engaging evening focused on small business development, awareness, and opportunities in



Australia. The event aimed to support community members by providing knowledge and guidance on business growth, financial awareness, and available resources.

NAWA was honoured to have several distinguished speakers who generously shared their time, knowledge, and expertise with the community. The keynote speakers included:

- Ms Machel Tennent – National Anti-Scam Centre, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)
- Mr Andrew Maurice – Outreach Program Coordinator, Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC)
- Mr Shaun Burrell – Department of Home Affairs, Immigration Engagement
- Mr Aaron Duncombe, CFP® – Independent Financial Planner, GLOBE

The workshop also featured an introduction to FINYE Australia presented by Mr Bhuwan Khadka, WA Coordinator, highlighting additional support and opportunities available for community members.

The program included cultural dance performances, interactive discussions, networking opportunities, and a community dinner, creating a welcoming and collaborative environment for participants.

NAWA sincerely thanks all speakers, performers, participants, and volunteers whose contributions helped make this workshop a successful and meaningful community event.

13. Maghe Sankranti BBQ Program:

The Nepali Association of Western Australia (NAWA) Inc., in collaboration with Non-Resident Nepali Association Western Australia (NRNA WA), hosted a Maghe Sankranti Festival Wishing and Community BBQ on 11 January 2026 at Burswood Park. Maghe Sankranti is an important Nepali festival marking the beginning of the auspicious month of Magh.

The event provided an opportunity for the Nepali community to celebrate the festival by sharing traditional foods along with a community BBQ. Community members also participated in recreational activities including volleyball, soccer, music, and dance, promoting cultural celebration, social interaction, and community unity in Western Australia.

14. Saraswati Puja 2026 and NAWA's Kids Sports:



In January 2026, NAWA celebrated Saraswati Puja, a festival dedicated to knowledge, education, and learning.

As part of the celebration, NAWA also launched the Children's Sports Initiative, beginning with a Chess Competition. The competition received enthusiastic participation from children and families, demonstrating strong interest in educational and recreational activities.

This initiative aims to encourage children's learning, confidence, teamwork, and healthy competition within the community.

CONCLUSION

The activities undertaken between **July 2025 and January 2026** reflect NAWA's strong commitment to supporting the Nepali community in Western Australia. Through cultural celebrations, educational initiatives, community events, and collaboration with government agencies, NAWA has continued to strengthen community unity and promote Nepali culture within the broader multicultural society.

These initiatives have created valuable opportunities for community members to connect, learn, celebrate cultural heritage, and access important information and support services. The success of these activities would not have been possible without the dedication of NAWA volunteers, committee members, community partners, and participants.

NAWA looks forward to continuing these efforts in the coming months and further expanding programs that support the wellbeing, cultural identity, and growth of the Nepali community in Western Australia.

REPORT PREPARATION AND APPROVAL

This report was prepared by Mr. Suraj (Sunny) Neupane, Public Relations and Communication Coordinator of the Nepali Association of Western Australia Inc. (NAWA), and was reviewed and approved by Mr. Navin Bhandari, President of NAWA.

NAWA acknowledges the contributions of all committee members and community stakeholders involved in compiling the information presented in this report.