



Australian Bahá'í Community

An Introduction to the Australian Bahá'í Community

In Australia since 1920

- The Australian Bahá'í community was founded in 1920 by the arrival in Sydney of Clara and Hyde Dunn, a Bahá'í couple from the United States. Since that time the community has grown to comprise more than 17,000 members, reflecting the diversity of modern Australia and living in all parts of the country. The national centre for the Bahá'í Faith in Australia is located adjacent to the Bahá'í House of Worship in Mona Vale, Sydney.

Independent world religion

- The Bahá'í Faith is an independent world religion with more than five million members around the globe. It was founded in Iran (then Persia) 160 years ago.

Founded by Bahá'u'lláh

- The Founder of the Bahá'í Faith is Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892). Bahá'u'lláh proclaimed that He was the most recent in a line of messengers from God which stretches back beyond recorded time and includes Moses, Zoroaster, Krishna, Buddha, Christ and Muhammad. While the Bahá'í Faith is an independent religion in its own right, Bahá'ís recognise and honour the divine origin of all major religions.

Central tenets

- The teachings of Bahá'u'lláh are based on the principle of the oneness of humanity. The Bahá'í Writings emphasise the value of education as the key to material and spiritual progress. At the personal level, the importance of daily prayer, independent search for truth, and high moral standards are stressed. Bahá'ís are obliged to avoid involvement in partisan politics and to be loyal to their government.

Bahá'ís work for peace

- As Bahá'ís, we seek to promote and apply principles derived from the Bahá'í teachings that are relevant to current challenges facing humanity and the development of a united, peaceful, just and sustainable civilisation. We are known for our commitment to peace, human rights, the equality of men and women and inter-faith harmony, as well as for the religious education we provide in many State schools in Australia. We work alongside other Australians in small scale community development activities in neighbourhoods and other grassroots communities across Australia.

Active internationally

- At the international level, the Bahá'í International Community represents the Bahá'í Faith at the United Nations, where it holds consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and UNICEF. It is an active participant in United Nations forums and activities.

On the web

- For more information about the Bahá'í Faith, please refer to www.bahai.org.au and www.bahai.org or call the National Bahá'í Office on (02) 9998 9222.