



UNITED INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS Inc.

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UIA SENIORS FORUM 2010 - MEDIA RELEASE

United Indian Association celebrated NSW Seniors Week with a Seniors Forum on 20th March which was held at Parravilla Function Centre. In keeping with the theme "Live Life" for Seniors Week 2010, the program centered on sharing valuable information on how to make living easier and joyful.

The key objective of UIA's Seniors Forum is to bring together the various Seniors Groups operating in Sydney and to provide them with a common platform to raise and address the Strategic issues facing the Indian Seniors in Australia.

After welcoming speech by Mr Raj Natarajan, Chair of UIA's Seniors Committee, Mrs Sumati Advani, Senior Forum Director addressed the gathering highlighting advantages older people have over the younger generation.

Mrs Aruna Chandrala, President of United Indian Associations in her address pointed out the contributions made by Seniors to their families, society and to their Nation. She mentioned that "Age is ... wisdom" and not to stereotype seniors as slow, forgetful, and less competent than younger counterparts.

Mr Amit Dasgupta, Consul General encouraged the NSW government to extend travel concessions to the elderly who were on temporary bridging visas.

Hon Paul Lynch, Minister for Ageing, Disability and Aboriginal Affairs highlighted the ageing of Australian population and the challenges ahead for the government to establish programs which met their needs. He congratulated UIA for holding this forum and encouraged all to follow this year's theme and to live life well. He encouraged the community to work together so that the Government could liaise with one group. He recognized UIA's efforts in uniting the community and working with the NSW Government to address the needs of the Australian Indian community.

Several well known professionals presented information on the various topics, including Oral health, Mental Health, Aged care, legal and support services for Seniors.

The highlight of the Forum was the great entertainment program put together by Hornsby Seniors Group and AHIA Seniors. UIA team also arranged the Bingo game, prizes. Maharaja Haveli sponsored the Bangra dance.

Councilor Dilip Chopra noted that the forum is in fact a Celebration of Seniors. Mr Madan Mohan Prasad gave the vote of thanks. The Forum was skillfully moderated by Mrs Anita Prabhu and assisted by Mrs Bhagya Shankar. Overall it was an awesome day enjoyed by one and all.

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