

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Chinese Community Social Services Centre Inc. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebratory Dinner**

The Chinese Community Social Services Centre Inc. hosted a celebratory dinner at the Manningham Function Centre on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to mark its 25<sup>th</sup> Year in serving the Chinese-speaking communities of Victoria. The dinner attracted a strong crowd of over 300 invited guests including leaders from more than 50 organisations, Federal and State MPs, Mayors, Councillors, CCSSCI past and present board members, On Luck Chinese Nursing Home residents and CCSSCI clients as well as Chinese media.

Among the distinguished guests were Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Federal Member for Menzies; Mr Julian Hill MP, Federal Member for Bruce; Hon Robert Clark MP, State Member for Box Hill; Mr Ryan Smith MP, State Member for Warrandyte; Mr Zhao Jian; Consul-General of People's Republic of China in Melbourne and Mr Graham Watt MP, State Member for Burwood.

Chinese Community Social Services Centre Inc. (CCSSCI) was formed in 1992 by a group of compassionate individuals. Their objective is to support people who are in need with the provision of social welfare services. With a grant of \$30,000 from the then Victorian Department of Community Services, the Centre started with one part-time worker in a shared office in Box Hill.

Later on, CCSSCI President, Mr Fred Chuah J.P. and Chief Executive Officer Ms Kim Au noticing the unmet needs of the Chinese-Australian community ceaselessly expanded the services from migrants' settlement services, community aged care to home care services. In a presentation video, Ms Kim Au said "like all other Australians, Chinese Australians are entitled to welfare services. This is our rights".

Twenty five years later, CCSSCI has grown and is now the largest Chinese aged care and social services provider in the State of Victoria. It employs more than 270 staff, receives generous contributions of time and effort from more than 200 volunteers, and operates from 6 different offices. The Centre's annual revenues exceed \$16 million dollars and every dollar earned is invested into creating new services so it can be accessed by different groups of people.

The Centre also deliver services including community services, the Commonwealth Home Support Program, home care packages, residential aged care services and innovative for the Chinese speaking community. In 2006, CCSSCI launched the first Chinese –specific Nursing Home in Victoria, the On Luck Chinese Nursing Home, situated in Donvale.

In a presentation video showed at the dinner, CCSSCI President, Fred Chuah J.P, said "It is a very small beginning at the start and with a mini funding of some \$30,000 for a visitation program for the seniors in the Melbourne Eastern Metropolitan Region. It is not an easy journey from there onwards, there were people who doubt that it is possible but we managed to follow through our dreams and tried hard, worked very hard to convince the public that it is possible. "I am a believer, we can dream it, we can do it".

The Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Federal Member for Menzies commended the hard work of the Centre's management "the Centre has provided exceptional aged care and social welfare support for the Victorian Chinese community through services, education and advocacy. The work that the Centre does in settlement and aged care services has been invaluable to our local community. I congratulate CCSSCI Board of Management, the volunteers and staff, past and present, on 25 years

of hard work, generosity and kindness. Personally, and as the Member for Menzies, it was a great pleasure to support the establishment of the On Luck Chinese Nursing Home and to see its development and expansion over recent times”.

In his speech, Mr Julian Hill congratulated CCSSCI for its’ 25<sup>th</sup> milestone and for representing the Chinese in Victoria. He said the growth and achievement happened for two reason which are “genuine needs and skills”. He also congratulated the Board of Management on the establishment of The On Luck Chinese Nursing Home as culturally appropriate care especially for the ageing population is becoming more important.

Those organisations and individuals who have supported CCSSCI over the years were presented with an award to recognise their contribution. The award winners are Mr Hardy Sum representing the Chinese Senior Citizens Club of Manningham Inc., Mr Frank Chau representing the Waverley Chinese Senior Citizens Club; Mr Wing Kwong Yeung representing the Boroondara Chinese Senior Citizens Club, Mr Peter Louie representing the See Yup Society, Mr John Wong representing the Kong Chew Society, Mr. Chris Lam Kwok Hing and family; Mrs Linda Chin, PSM, Past Board Member; Dr Thomas Leung, Former Vice President; the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Federal Member for Menzies, the Hon Anna Burke, Former speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon Robert Clark, State Member for Box Hill, Eastern Health Integrated Renal Services Professor Lawrence McMahon and Box Hill Satellite Dialysis Unit Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor Matthew Roberts.

Fred Chuah J.P, was presented with a couplet by the Hon Kevin Andrews for his extraordinary achievements and contributions as well as leading the Centre to achieve the best community outcomes. In his speech, Mr Fred Chuah J.P., President of the Chinese Community Social Services Centre Inc. thanked all those who were present and also to all the supporters who were not able to be at the ceremony. He expressed sincere thanks to those who have shown support for the aged in the community.

In between speeches and a scrumptious dinner, the guests were also entertained by multi-cultural performances which include Bollywood dancing, Japanese drumming, Chinese Opera Changing Face and Chao Feng 12 piece music orchestra. This remarkable and successful anniversary celebratory dinner ended with guests receiving gift bags and the Centre’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative publication.

The Centre is looking forward to the next 25 years with bigger and better services to the Chinese community in providing aged care and welfare services. To find out more about our programs and services, please visit our website on [www.ccssci.org.au](http://www.ccssci.org.au) or call us on 03 9898 1965.



*Cake cutting ceremony – twenty five amazing years of success*

*Pictured from left to right: Mr Ryan Smith MP, Mr Zhao Jian, Mr Julian Hill MP; Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Mr Fred Chuah, CCSSCI President; Ms Kim Au, CCSSCI CEO, Mr Kwok Lam Leung J.P., CCSSCI Board Member and Mr David Yong J.P. CCSSCI Board Member.*



*Chinese Couplet - 'Dedication to the state as a whole, delight to serve as a only goal'*  
*A Chinese Couplet was presented by Hon Kevin Andrews MP, on behalf of CCSSCI Board of Management to CCSSCI President, Mr Fred Chuah J.P to commend his continuous commitment and passion to serve the Chinese community.*



*Guests of honours and CCSSCI Board of Management getting ready for the roasted pig cutting ceremony*



*From left to right: Mr Graham Watt MP, Mr Ryan Smith MP and CCSSCI CEO Ms Kim Au cutting the roasted pig*



*CCSSCI Team and Board of Management*