

Building Community from the Ground Up Lessons on Empowerment



SACOSS and Southgate Institute for Health, Society & Equity are proud to present the event Building Community from the Ground Up featuring Mirai Chaterjee from the Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA).

Workers in South Australia's community services sector are strongly encouraged to attend this event to gain insights on the community development work of SEWA, and to hear some fantastic local examples of community empowerment.



SACOSS

South Australian Council
of Social Service



About SEWA – the Self-Employed Women’s Association of India

Mirai Chatterjee is a social worker and Director of the Social Security Team at SEWA - the Self-Employed Women’s Association of India. SEWA is a national union of 1.9 million women workers of the informal economy in 14 states of India. It is India’s largest informal workers’ union and was founded in 1972 by Ela Bhatt, a lawyer and labour organiser.

SEWA’s goals are to organise women workers for full employment and self-reliance, and to mainstream the marginalised, poor women in the ‘informal sector’ and lift them out of their poverty. SEWA also works to ensure voice and visibility for informal workers and acts to change laws and policies towards a more just, equitable and democratic India.

Local Project Showcases include:

iDreamingTV (formerly Yaitya Makkitura Inc.)

iDreamingTV is a South Australian Aboriginal Film and New Media advocacy organisation that empowers the SA Aboriginal community to develop a vibrant and artistic presence which reflects the Aboriginal cultural diversity of the state. iDreamingTV is building the capacity of the community in new and growing art forms which will provide the foundation from which individuals or groups of artists can emerge. This is made possible through the cultural approach which iDreamingTV takes with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across South Australia. Presented by Arts Skills facilitator David Wilson.

Zahra Foundation Australia

Zahra Foundation Australia was initiated by Central Domestic Violence Service and the children of Zahra Abrahamzadeh to specifically address the financial abuse and disadvantaged experienced by women as a result of domestic and family violence. Zahra Foundation instils hope and optimism in the lives of women and their children, and provides a range of financial and educational opportunities that promote women’s economic empowerment. Programs offered through the Foundation support women’s immediate crisis needs through small grant opportunities and tailored financial literacy programs that promote financial independence and link women to further education, training and employment.

When: 9am Friday 23 October

Where: The Science Exchange,
55 Exchange Place, Adelaide

Cost: SACOSS Members – free, limited to two per organisation (further places can be purchased if desired)

General Admittance - \$75+GST

RSVPs are essential and only available online at sacossbuildingcommunity.eventbrite.com.au



Mirai Chatterjee joined SEWA in 1984 and was its General Secretary after its Founder, Ela Bhatt. She is responsible for SEWA’s health care, child care and insurance programmes, and also

serves on the Boards of several organisations, including the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), Save the Children and the Health Action Partnership International (HAPI). Mirai was advisor to the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector and is in the Advisory Group on Community Action of the National Health Mission. She was also a Commissioner in the World Health Organisation’s Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. Mirai was a member of the National Advisory Council (NAC), appointed by the Prime Minister of India, and was recently conferred the Global Achievement award by the School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University from where she is a graduate.