

## Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc.

### **World Hindu Council**

# Hindu Leaders Unite in Perth, Call for Greater Unity and Impact to Build a Dynamic and Vibrant Australia

The 8th Australian National Hindu Conference, organised by Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc. and hosted by its Western Australia Chapter, was successfully held at the Duxton Hotel, Perth on Saturday, 3 May 2025.

With the theme "Dynamic Communities: Vibrant Australia," the conference attracted over 230 delegates from across the country, representing more than 40 Hindu temples, organisations, cultural associations, and youth groups.

Delegates reflected Australia's rich multicultural landscape, with roots spanning over 20 countries, including Bharat (India), Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Kenya, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Fiji, and more.

#### **Distinguished Guests and Government Participation**

The conference was graced by several prominent dignitaries:

- His Excellency Gopal Baglay, High Commissioner of India to Australia
- **Hon. Dr Tony Buti**, Attorney General and Minister for Commerce, Treasury, International Education and Multicultural Interests
- Hon. Dr Parwinder Kaur MLC
- Hon. Dr Jagdish Krishnan MLA
- Mr Yaz Mubarakai MLA
- **Deputy Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds**, City of Perth
- Mayor Patrick Hall, City of Canning
- Mayor Logan K Howlett, City of Cockburn
- Mayor Terresa Lynes, City of Gosnells
- Ms Kate Rowlands, Executive Director, Office of Multicultural Interests WA
- Inspector Don Emanuel-Smith APM, WA Police Community Engagement Division
- **Ms Catherine Shepherd**, Executive Director, Statewide Services, Department of Education WA

These leaders actively participated and chaired discussions on key topics such as:

- Working with Government Agencies
- Collaboration among Hindu Organisations, Temples and Associations
- Bringing Together Hindus from Diverse Cultural Backgrounds
- Developing Future Hindu Leadership

#### **Key Address & Data Insights**

In a compelling address, Smt. Praveena Mittal, President of VHP WA, shared key census statistics underscoring the Hindu community's contribution to Australia:

Website: www.vhp.org.au, ABN: 78862155168, REG: Y2898719, ACNC: CFN10709

"According to the 2021 census, over 64% of Hindus hold university degrees—compared to the national average of 26%. Around 32% are qualified professionals, versus 24% nationally. The average Hindu household income is \$2,461 per week, well above the Australian average of \$1,746. Yet, Hindu representation in Parliament, the judiciary, public service, police, academia, and media remains disproportionately low."

#### **Major Announcements and Outcomes**

- **✓ Launch of HOTA** (Hindu Organisations, Temples and Associations) a collaborative platform to unify the WA Hindu community and engage strategically with government and society.
- ✓ Promotion of World Hindu Economic Forum 2025 to be held in Adelaide on 2–3 August 2025.
- ✓ **Joint resolution** to showcase the **achievements and contributions of Hindus in Australia** through national media and public platforms.
- ✓ **Disha** is **an initiative** that was launched by HYA (WA) to support Hindu international students coming to study in WA.

#### **National Collaboration and Inspiration**

Leaders from South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria shared success stories of the **HOTA model**, which has united and empowered Hindu communities across the country. Inspired by these achievements, **WA officially launched its own HOTA chapter**, marking a major milestone.

The atmosphere throughout the event was one of **shared purpose**, **collaboration**, **and optimism**.

"This was more than a conference—it was a catalyst for community transformation," said **Subramanian Ramamoorthi**, National President of VHP Australia. "We are building not only temples of brick and stone but communities of trust, collaboration, and vision."

#### About Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc.

Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc. is a 35-year-old national non-profit dedicated to promoting **Hindu Dharma**, nurturing cultural identity, and strengthening community through service, education, and collaboration. Its work spans across youth development, interfaith dialogue, advocacy, and spiritual engagement.



For further information, interviews, or photographs, please contact Rajendra Pandey, *National Spokesperson, Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc.* Email: <a href="mailto:VHPMedia@vhp.org.au">VHPMedia@vhp.org.au</a>