



3rd April 2025

Federal Funding Brings Karma Kitchen's Vision to Life

The Hindu Council of Australia expresses its sincere appreciation to **Dr Andrew Charlton MP**, who has been a **steadfast advocate** for the Hindu community, for securing **\$2.4 million** in federal funding for the construction of a purpose-built **Karma Kitchen facility** in Sydney.

This new federal funding will allow Karma Kitchen to establish a dedicated commercial kitchen capable of serving up to **400 people daily** and expand its services to include **aged care meal delivery, community dinners, and crisis catering**.

Karma Kitchen will also **expand into universities** through a new initiative: the **"Dine & Discuss" program**. This program will offer **free vegetarian meals** to **university students**, particularly international students and those facing food insecurity, while creating a safe, inclusive space for **dialogue, cultural exchange, mental wellness conversations, and community building**. In an increasingly isolated post-pandemic environment, this program will nourish both **bodies and minds**, offering students the sense of belonging and care they often seek.

The need for culturally appropriate **Hindu vegetarian meals**, particularly for **senior citizens**, has long gone unmet by existing food relief programs such as Meals on Wheels. This initiative not only fills that gap for the Hindu community but extends **warmth, inclusion, and sustenance** to all Australians who value healthy, plant-based meals and shared conversation.

The **government made a promise**, and today, we proudly acknowledge that **they have delivered**. Dr Charlton's unwavering support and vision for culturally inclusive, community-driven projects have been instrumental. The Hindu Council of Australia looks forward to **working closely with the government and community partners** to bring this next phase of Karma Kitchen to life, expanding its sacred mission across age groups, campuses, and communities.

Announcing this during **Chaitra Navratri**, a sacred time of renewal, strength, and service in the Hindu calendar, imbues the moment with deeper significance. It is a reminder that feeding others with love and dignity is not merely an act of generosity; it is an act of worship.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sai Paravastu".

Sai Paravastu

National President