

*India Club hosted Social Media & Safety Session*  
*Presented by The New South Wales Police Force, The Hills LAC*

On the hot Sunday afternoon many members, keen parents & grandparents came to get a better understanding of the fast growing online communication tools - internet and the social media, in order to keep themselves, their children & their families **Safe** from the rising misuse of these tools. Superintendent Rob Critchlow the Commander of the Hills LAC, gave an overview and a powerful message on the serious damaging impact of the abuse of the latest technology and to stay safe. Senior Constable Rob Paterson Youth Liaison Officer of the Hills LAC provided thought provoking expert information + the essential steps to take & Apps to use to prevent children from falling into perpetrators trap. The audience stayed attentive & took photos of the presentation slides. It was a very significant information sharing session.

The Hon. David Elliott MP the Minister for Corrections, Emergency Services & Veteran Affairs & The Hon. David Clarke MLC Parliamentary Secretary for Justice & Mrs. Marisa Clarke took time from their busy schedules to attend.

The Hon. David Clarke emphasized the significance of this topic that the misuse of Social Media is hurting the society. He also mentioned that he is keen to get the feedback from this "Session" as the parliament is concerned & discussing how to curtail this evil of the society.

The feedback was " we are glad we came", "we are grandparents and look after our grand children – we realized how important this session & the information was, not only for us but for parents as well", "parents of today are busy living their life and many say their child is always busy studying – may not even know what is going on behind closed doors"

We greatly appreciate the on going support of HDVNP (Domestic Violence Prevention Network) in putting IC Forums on their agenda, attending IC events & promoting them to their member community organizations. This association makes IC & HDVNP stronger & more effective and helps both in reaching wider communities – Indian Australian & multicultural with their messages.

India Club's Chairman & the President have been thinking - what next step to take to keep the momentum going of various worthwhile community sessions like this one that IC hosts and keep spreading the valuable awareness to much wider community to keep the community safe. They brainstormed with IC members Carmen Lelehari & Divya Dhingra and also Simone O'Brien-Guest Speaker at the White Ribbon Breakfast at the Hills RSL; and put together an action plan **"Next Step"**.

The Minister Hon. David Elliott launched the IC Initiative **"Next Step"**, highlighted the harming impact of Social Media abuse & Family Violence on communities, and emphasized the importance of its prevention. Mr. Elliott also commended India Club for the initiatives the Club takes for better future & a better community.

Dr. Michelle Byrne Mayor the Hills Shire Council as Patron, Superintendent Rob Critchlow as Mentor/Coach & Mrs. Marisa Clarke as Advisor Education & Training have enthusiastically agreed to come on board the **"Next Step"**.

IC is delighted by the presence of the committed IC Members & Friends, Robyn Waite Convener HDVNP, Donna Frazer-The Hills Women of the Year & Secretary of Zonta Club, Carmen Lelehari Executive Member of The Soroptimist of the Hills, Reena Jethi Treasurer of the Liberal Women Council, Karen Haga Lawyer, David Meldrum from "Safe Kid Apps" and Ashok Kumar From Indian Sub-Continent Times & greatly values their ongoing support. The fun-full & enjoyable stretching session by Robyn, nice photos of the event by Donna, good reading of the message from Simone great help by Puneet, great support from Suman, Divya & Aksheya.

Willing to make a positive difference to the Society? Come on board the **"Next Step"** with us.

Shubha Kumar