

# Curriculum Vitae

## MIKHARA RAMSING

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### EDUCATION

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- 2019**      **Graduate, Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD)**  
Successful completion and graduation from Director Course
- 2018**      **Design Thinking Professional Development Program**  
Harvard Extension School, United States  
Successful completion of implementing design thinking tools to drive innovation
- 2015**      **Bachelor of Economics Honours (IIB)**  
University of Queensland, Australia  
1 year program (full-time). Dissertation length 25,000 words. Title: An evolutionary perspective on social entrepreneurship: A case study on micro-financing in rural Bangladesh.
- 2009 – 2014**      **Bachelor of Laws (Hons IIA) / Bachelor of Economics**  
University of Queensland, Australia  
Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA): 5.86 out of 7
- 2014**      **Bachelor of Laws (exchange)**  
Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic  
Grade Point Average: 7 out of 7

### GRANTS AND AWARDS

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- Young Australian of the Year QLD Finalist 2019, *National Australia Day Council*, nominated for my work in the diversity and inclusion space across Australia, 2018.
- AFR Top 100 Women of Influence 2019, *Australian Financial Review*, 2019.
- Westpac Social Change Fellow, 1 of 10 Australians which Westpac has chosen to invest \$50,000 in in order for myself to grow as a community leader, 2018.
- Australia-ASEAN Emerging Leader, 1 of 5 Australians chosen to meet the Prime Minister and 10 other social entrepreneurs from the Indo-Pacific region to talk about regional trade and prosperity as part of the ASEAN Special Summit, March 2018.
- Community Champion July, *Carlton Football Club*, recognised by the AFL community for my work in the multi-cultural community sector across Australia, 2018.
- Young Achiever of the Year Award, *Honour Awards*, Aids Council of New South Wales (ACON), presented by SBS Australia in Sydney 27 August 2017.
- Young Social Pioneer, *Foundation for Young Australians*, one of 60 selected for a national incubator program recognising my pioneering work for ethnic LGBT+ Australians, September– December 2017. Full sponsorship to six-month intensive program in Sydney and Melbourne (approx. value \$40,000).
- Competent Communicator and Competent Leadership, Toastmasters 2016

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2019**      **Non-Executive Director and member of the Quality and Performance Committee, Relationships Australia Queensland (RAQ)**

**2019 – Current Member, QLD LGBTI Roundtable**

**2017 - Current Executive Chairman, Miks Chai**

Miks Chai ([www.mikschai.com](http://www.mikschai.com)) is a tea social enterprise that supports mental health through donating 50% of our profits to suicide prevention organisations. We sell ethical, organic delicious chai tea that encourages connection over a cuppa. Miks Chai undertook a national tour of Australia, working with 72 communities across Queensland, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania, running workshops for high schools on connection. We now sell online to customers all over the world.

**2017 – Current Founder, Ethnic LGBT+**

I started Australia’s first free website ([www.ethniclgbt.com](http://www.ethniclgbt.com)) providing support, education and mentoring for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and sexual and gender diverse (LGBT+) individuals living in Australia. My role as Founder of this not-for-profit, which reaches 100s of individuals monthly, involves constant research, support and engagement with CALD LGBT+ individuals living in urban, rural and regional Australia in regard to the challenges and enablers they’ve experienced.

**2018 Westpac Social Change Fellow**

As one of ten Australians awarded \$50,000 by the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation to invest in my growth as a community leader, I used my Fellowship to attend Harvard University to learn about design thinking as a tool to solving social issues sustainably. I also presented, engaged and interned at LGBTIQA organisations across the US, India, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam to bring back these resources for culturally and linguistically diverse LGBTIQ communities living in Australia.

**2018 Conference organiser, Human Dignity Festival, Hong Kong**

On the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, as an Australian representative, I co-organised with a team of five, a four-day conference in Hong Kong for global leaders, advocates, educators and citizens to meet and discuss capacity building around human rights in the Indo-Pacific region.

**2018 - 2019 GLO Lead National, Global Sisters, Australia**

I developed and facilitated a two-day workshop focused on empowering young women from CALD backgrounds with entrepreneurial skills. I worked with 300 young women across Australia with 98% post the program stating they now felt confident to start their own business. Mission Australia has adopted this program.

**2018 Director, The Channel, Australia**

**2016 – 2017 Economist, Deloitte Access Economics, Sydney**

## REFEREES

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My colleague on Relationships Australia Queensland’s Board

**Ian Sampson**

Chair, Relationships Australia Queensland  
0419 001 179 | [ian.r.sampson@gmail.com](mailto:ian.r.sampson@gmail.com)

My Westpac Social Change Fellowship Advisor

**Alissa Nightingale**

Advisor, social sector, Westpac  
0419 866 919 |

[Alissa.nightingale@westpac.com.au](mailto:Alissa.nightingale@westpac.com.au)

## PUBLICATIONS

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**The Ethnic LGBT+ and Miks Chai journey**, *ProBono Australia*, media interview disseminated to a national start-up community.

**Digital Story Telling Project**, *Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)*, resource distributed to high schools across Australia. Videos to assist educating groups (teachers, principals, wider school community) about LGBT+ youth experiences in the Queensland community.

**Challenges, Enablers and Recommendations**, publication for Out for Australia, resource distributed to enable more inclusive support services for mentoring and professional development of CALD LGBT+ individuals working in Australia.

**Talking Circle Stories**, stories from the culturally and linguistically diverse LGBT+ youth living in Queensland, distributed to TRUE – Queensland’s relationships and reproductive peak body.

**10 Questions We Want to Ask CALD LGBT+ Individuals**, survey developed in partnership with PFLAG and distributed through Shelley Argent OAM, National Spokesperson for PFLAG, network.

**My Story**, the ‘coming out’ letter I wrote to my parents and my ten year journey of hardship in coming out to my family published on my organisation’s website, Ethnic LGBT+, reaching 1,068 people across the world within the first 5 months of being published.

## CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/PRESENTATIONS

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- ‘My journey as a queer South African Indian Australian women social entrepreneur,’ Opening keynote for Hero Roundtable, Yarram VIC, 2 March 2019.
- ‘The experiences of CALD, LGBTIQ+ women in Australia,’ Panel presentation for One Women Project, Brisbane, 14 February 2019.
- ‘The inherent dangers of not recognising intersectionality in policy development,’ Keynote address to Attorney-General’s Department, Canberra, 22 January 2019.
- ‘How to start a social enterprise,’ Keynote address at Luminosity Youth Summit to 360 young people from regional Australia, Port Macquarie, 25 July 2018.
- ‘A minority within a minority, how to make communities accessible,’ Keynote address at *Aurora Ball 2018* to 850 attendees at Sydney’s International Convention Centre, 30 June 2018.
- ‘How to talk to your parents and follow your passion,’ Keynote address at *yLead Altitude Day* to 800 young people, Brisbane, 30 May 2018.
- ‘My story,’ Keynote address at *Westpac IDAHOBIT Breakfast* to Westpac CEO and Executive, Sydney, 17 May 2018.
- ‘How to deal with challenges and adversity,’ Bite speaker at *Women of the World Festival*, Brisbane, 8 April 2018.
- ‘The founder journey,’ Panel address for *Women in Social Enterprise Event*, Brisbane, 6 April 2018.
- ‘Ethnic LGBT+ and the impact of the marriage equality postal vote on CALD communities,’ Interview for *The Feed SBS*, October 12 2017.
- ‘Inclusion of ethnic LGBT+ individuals in service provision and mentoring by professional associations,’ Keynote Address for *Out For Australia National Conference*, Sydney, 13 August 2017.
- ‘Talking circle: The intersections of gender diversity, sexuality diversity, culture and sexual health,’ Keynote Address for *Evidence for Equity, Multicultural Women’s Health Conference*, Brisbane, 1 August 2017.

- 'Diversity and Inclusion - Boosting Women as Mentors', Keynote Address for the Queensland Government, *Office for Small Business*, Brisbane, 21 April 2017.
- 'The changing world of work and the entrepreneurial mindset needed to thrive', Keynote Address for *St Mary's College*, Adelaide, 27 September 2017.
- 'The mindset for the future', Keynote Address for *Blue Hills College, Byron Bay High School and Kyogle High School*, Northern Rivers NSW, July 2017.
- 'Social enterprise and the changing world of work', Keynote Address for *Muirden Senior College*, Adelaide, September 19 2017.
- 'Social Enterprise and Government', *Deloitte Young Professional Breakfast*, Keynote Address, Sydney, 18 April 2016.
- *IMPACT Social Enterprise Conference*, MC for 120 of Australia's best and brightest youth, Brisbane, 6-8 August 2014.
- *Lions Youth Guest Speaker*, 2013.

## COMMUNITY ROLES AND ASSOCIATIONS

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- Participant, Impact Academy Social Enterprise Incubator Brisbane, 2019.
- Director, Relationships Australia Queensland, ([www.raq.org.au](http://www.raq.org.au)), 2019.
- The Westpac Foundation W100 member, 2018.
- Young Social Pioneer, The Foundation for Young Australians, 2017.
- Board Director, The Channel, a philanthropic giving circle for LGBT+ causes in Australia ([www.the-channel.org](http://www.the-channel.org)), 2017.
- Organiser, Brumby Week, a week long educational event in Kings Canyon, NT, 2017 - 2019.
- Vice-President, Sydney Deloitte Toastmasters, 2016.
- Youth Leadership Coordinator, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania 2015 and 2008.
- UQ Law Society Vice President, 2012.
- Youth Leadership Volunteer, Everest Base Camp 2011.
- UQ Mentor in first year buddy program, 2010.
- UQ Volunteer, 2009
- Patron of Kajiado Orphanage, Kenya, 2008