

Dr. Saba Nabi OAM

Saba came to Australia to complete her Ph.D in Biomedical Sciences at Charles Sturt University with her young family in late 2011 and since then Wagga Wagga has become her permanent home. Living in a regional town has helped her in raising her family beautifully.

To avoid social isolation and homesickness, she volunteered heavily in her local community and her efforts were recognized, regionally and nationally. She was the first international student to be elected on the University Council, winner of the 2014 NSW International Student of the Year Awards in the Higher Education category, Finalist at 2014 CROW Awards in the category “Young Professional Award” Business Chamber, NEMBC National Ethnic Broadcasters eChamp, Finalist in 2020 and 2022 India and Australia Business and Community Achievement Awards, Finalist in 2020 and 2021 NSW & ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards, 100 Australian Financial Review’s 2018 Women of Influence Awardee in the local and regional category. In 2019 she was the Riverina Volunteer of the Year Award winner and in 2020 inducted in NSW Hidden Treasurer’s Honours Roll. In 2021, she was the recipient of one of NSW Rural Women Scholarship winner and was the International Alumni of the Year Finalist at 2021 Pie Awards representing Australian International Education sector. In 2022 she was selected as regional representative on NSW Volunteer Taskforce. 2023 was a special year for her as she was honoured with Medal of Order of Australia on King’s birthday for her exceptional service to community health, education and multicultural affairs and was inducted in COVID-19 Honour roll as well. She was also selected as an Australian delegate at Australia India Youth Dialogue visiting India to take part in the Dialogue.

Based in Wagga, some of her volunteer roles including member of Regional Advisory Council (RAC) with Multicultural NSW, AFL Multicultural Community Ambassador, Riverina Councillor at NSW PandC Federation, health consumer advocates on various State and Federal Health Boards, Member of the Wagga Wagga Electorate Women’s Advisory Group, member of Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga, Publicity Officer at Wagga CWA branch and only regional Board member at Multicultural NSW and Chair of Regional Community Network.

As a health professional and a community driven person, she easily connects with people from various background and become the voice of the unheard in the governance and decision-making process.

Her journey from an international student to a healthcare professional in Australia wasn’t easy but she was consistent in her approach. She always believes in hard work and determination and understand that failures are the pillars of success. She never changed herself for the sake of others or tried stepping in the shoes of others. She craves her own path. Her mantra in life is “No one can make you feel inferior without your consent. Keep trying and success will be yours.” She found volunteering is a way to engage locally and understanding different culture and traditions.