

Media Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Cambodian community celebrates New Year

South Australia's Cambodian community celebrated the start of the Cambodian New Year at Golden Grove this week.

Known as *Choul Chnam Thmey* ('enter the new year') in Khmer, this three-day holiday begins on Cambodia's New Year's Day, which this year fell on April 14.

ACH Group Community Advisor Nhey Hean says the celebration in Cambodia coincides with the end of the harvesting season.

"This is a time when people can stop work, sometimes for up to two or three weeks," he says. "It's a time to be happy, to enjoy life, to come together and play traditional games, dance and enjoy music."

Many of South Australia's 10,000-strong Khmer community spend the three days of the New Year visiting Buddhist temples, giving food to the less fortunate and remembering their ancestors.

Mr Hean says in Cambodia, people get together to dance and play traditional games.

"It's often really hot at that time, so we play a game where try to splash someone with water," he says. "It's really a time to have fun – family, friends, everybody together."

ACH Group's Cambodian Program began 10 years ago and brings together members of the Cambodian Community each week to dance and share a meal.

Many of the group came to Australia in the 1980s, fleeing the 'killing fields' of the Pol Pot regime.

"Throughout its 65 year history, ACH Group has taken steps to ensure that people of diverse backgrounds are welcome, and that services are shaped in a way that supports them to live well," says ACH Group Social Inclusion Manager Katey Elding.

End Media Release

About ACH Group

ACH Group is a not-for-profit aged care organisation that has been offering services to support good lives for older people in South Australia since 1952. As well as accommodation options across Adelaide, the Fleurieu Peninsula and East Melbourne, the group offers a range of health, wellbeing, respite and support services, help at home and social activities. Our 1700 specialist staff and hundreds of volunteers share the belief that older people should be valued and respected, connected to their communities and in control of their lives.

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