

17 May 2023

Mayoral Message

Dear Residents



A dream come true!

Being elected Mayor of the City of Canterbury Bankstown is something I have aspired to since coming to this beautiful country from Lebanon, some 24 years ago.

The realisation that no matter who you are, or from whatever background you come from, it is possible to achieve and reach your goal in life.

My story is not uncommon to many other migrants who have settled in this country. I arrived in 1999 as a 12-year-old, not speaking a word of English. I attended several local schools before marrying and settling with my wife, Maysa, and four children at Greenacre.

My interest in politics, and the Labor party, was borne out of a desire to help those who have no voice, those struggling to make ends meet and to tackle social injustices and prejudices.

Being Mayor brings with it many new responsibilities and there is no doubt our City faces many challenges ahead. One thing you can be assured of, is I will continue to listen and do what I can within my remit.

It is my intention to get out and about and chat with as many of you as possible – from town centres, to local neighbourhoods and suburban streets across the entire City. I want to hear your stories.

I am a firm believer that if you do the small things right, you are on the right path.

We have without doubt one of the largest multi-cultural and diverse cities in the country and I will strive to work closely with religious and cultural organisations and do what I can to promote harmony and inclusivity.

I will continue to support local charitable organisations and still roll up my sleeves to do my fair share of volunteering. I hope my story of the boy who migrated here and couldn't speak a word of English, becoming Mayor, will inspire the younger generation.

I look forward to continuing the great work of our Council and meeting you all.



Cllr Bilal El-Hayek
MAYOR

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