

விருந்து  
**TAMIL FEASTS** CERES

## Special announcement

As our community may be aware, we have not been able to hold a feast since March, in response to government directions and social distancing restrictions. We are currently still operating our takeaway and delivery service.

Additionally, the CERES Merri Cafe is impacted by social restrictions and has been closed since March. This has led to the decision by CERES to merge the Tamil and Merri teams into a new model, in order to provide the opportunity for continued employment. We're excited to announce that the Merri Cafe will re-open on 19th August 2020.

**This does mean that Tamil Feasts will stop service at the end of July.** Even though this is a sad announcement, it is also a timely and optimistic one for our team:

- **Nigethan** has moved on since May month to allow space for new projects (he wants to start a food truck business) and focus on his other work.
- **Nirma** is going to focus on his cleaning business - [Superking Cleaning](#)
- **Niro** will be joining the new Merri team while working on his Kottu Roti food stall. He has recently bought a house and moved to Flowerdale, with his wife and child.
- **Richman** will be joining the new Merri team too but importantly is having a much-needed operation and will need extended recovery time. He is also in-line for an American visa and hopes to move there within six months.

Tamil Feasts has been like a family for the men and provided much-needed support: A very special experience for all involved. It has fulfilled its purpose above and beyond what we set out to achieve. From a one-off shared meal to the creation of a special community that has lasted for nearly 6 years, fed more than 25,000 people and opened up countless conversations about what it really means to seek asylum in a foreign country. It is a testament to the men, our volunteers, the food and you (our customers) who came and showed your support for refugees in Australia.

It is a sad thing to say goodbye to a much-loved enterprise, but the future is bright and we are creating a new enterprise which will allow us to help even more refugees and marginalised communities, and continue the great work of connecting people through food. It's so much more than just a meal.

**Please send your well wishes for Niro, Nirma, Nigethan and Richman to [tamilfeasts@ceres.org.au](mailto:tamilfeasts@ceres.org.au)**