

Shahadat Chowdhury won the pre-selection to the number one spot of ALP team for Caroline Chisholm Ward of Parramatta Council. He will be contesting the next local government election on 8 September 2012. Shahadat challenged the seating ALP councillor of 11 years, who had been the lord mayor and deputy lord mayor in the past. This is an anomaly against the brutal political reality of migrants often missing out nominations to a winnable seat from major parties. The most exciting part is Shahadat Chowdhury is one of us! Shahadat went through Dhanmondi Govt Boys High School, Notre Dame College in Dhaka and passed the tough days of BUET by 1987. Interestingly, he was never involved with any political parties during his days in Dhaka. After three and a half years at Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, he migrated to Australia in 1991. He obtained his Ph D from University of New South Wales in 2009, attracting the then Premier Nathan Rees to his graduation party.

Shahadat said, “The real challenge now, is to run a winning campaign”. Unlike Bangladesh, a candidate here has to run everything on their own, mainly relying on help from family and friends. It includes mundane matters like filling hundreds of envelopes to walking from house to house to deliver them. Electoral funding regulation restricts the candidate to spend out of donations of ordinary citizens like you. Shahadat wants all ‘desi bhai bonder’ to come forward in helping his election, irrespective of which council area one lives. He can be reached at [s\\_h\\_chowdhury@yahoo.com.au](mailto:s_h_chowdhury@yahoo.com.au). A strong united push will send a message to both political parties increasing the chance of more Bangladeshis getting preselected in future.