

CONTACT CRC:

For further information or help contact the appropriate Regional Office

The Coordinators administering the Southern and Western regions are situated in Wollongong and the Northern Region Coordinator is situated in Newcastle. However, Coordinators normally attend community meetings held in any locale within their area.

SOUTHERN & WESTERN REGION

Wollongong

State Office Block
84 Crown Street
PO Box 363
Wollongong NSW 2500
Tel: 02 4224 9922 Fax: 02 4224 9933

NORTHERN REGION

Newcastle

Government Office Block
117 Bull Street
Newcastle NSW 2300
Tel: 02 4929 4191 Fax: 02 4929 7369

STATE OFFICE

Community Relations Commission

For a multicultural NSW

Level 8, Stockland House
175-183 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
P.O. Box A2618
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235
Tel: (02) 8255 6767 Fax: (02) 8255 6868
TTY: (02) 8255 6758 (for the hearing impaired
who have a telephon typewriter)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

For a multicultural NSW

Level 8, Stockland House
175-183 Castlereagh Street
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CRC

Regional Advisory Councils



COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

For a multicultural NSW

www.crc.nsw.gov.au

What are Regional Advisory Councils?

Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) are local groups of community and government representatives established by the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW (CRC) to discuss issues affecting our culturally diverse community in regional New South Wales.

Each Council is made up of fifteen people drawn from local communities and State Government agencies including Department of Education and Training, Community Services, Police and Housing as well as local government.

Members are appointed to the Council.

The RACs meet on a regular basis, in one area of the regions. A Coordinator, employed by the CRC, provides administrative support to the Council and networks with various community groups and organizations in their region.

Why were they established?

Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) were created under *The Community Relations Commission and Principles for Multiculturalism Act 2000* to:

- | provide an important network for rural and regional New South Wales;
- | create links in rural and regional areas to assist community relations and cultural diversity;
- | to improve communication between the community and government and enable the CRC to work with local agencies and communities, and
- | provide new opportunities for issues to be examined.

What is the role of the RAC?

The role of the RACs is to identify multicultural issues of local concern, discuss them at meetings, and ensure that the CRC is aware of these issues. If necessary RACs provide advice to the CRC.

Some examples of local issues which have been identified and acted upon by the CRC are:

- | the need for video-conferencing in remote and rural locations to provide interpreting services in lieu of on-site interpreters, and
- | the need for ensuring cross border co-operation in the provision of services for residents eg Albury/Wodonga
- | the need for better coordination in meeting housing needs of Special Humanitarian Program migrants in the Hunter region.

What areas do they cover?

The councils cover all areas in New South Wales and are administered by Coordinators in two regional offices. The regions are follows:

Southern Region

- | Southern New South Wales,
- | South Western New South Wales,
- | Illawarra

Western Region

- | Central West,
- | Macarthur-Liverpool,
- | Nepean-Blacktown,

Northern Region

- | Hornsby and Central Coast,
- | Hunter,
- | New England,
- | North Coast.

How do they Operate?

The RAC members meet on a quarterly basis in their region. The meetings are convened by the CRC Commissioners and attended by various representatives from the community and government organizations.

Recommendations made at meetings by members are brought to the attention of the CRC. In addition to meetings, a chairperson will hold community consultations within a region.

By this process the comments of a community on current regional issues is captured and it is by this process that input into policy formulation occurs.