

Minister for Fair Trading
Minister for Citizenship
Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts

Virginia Judge MP



23 September 2009

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION SYMPOSIUM

Minister for Citizenship, Virginia Judge will officially open the 2009 Community Relations Commission Symposium today at Parramatta.

Ms Judge said delegates from nearly 200 ethnic and religious backgrounds would be attending the annual symposium at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

“The Community Relations Commission is leading the world in ensuring that all residents in NSW regardless of their cultural, linguistic or religious background are able to access and participate fully in the range of government services,” Ms Judge said.

“The theme of this year’s symposium is *Global Issues – Local Contexts*.

“It gives communities an opportunity to come together in a positive and open atmosphere to engage in constructive dialogue and deliver creative options and resolutions.

“Through active participation culturally and linguistically diverse communities across the state can help lead discourse and debate and help formulate better policy for everyone in the state.”

Ms Judge will also be launching the annual CRC awards for volunteering at the symposium today to honour those individuals whose tireless community service has enhanced the cultural and social wellbeing of their migrant communities.

“These awards highlight the cultural diversity of those carrying out voluntary work and foster a greater understanding of the value of their contributions,” Ms Judge said.

“New South Wales recognises the crucial role that volunteering plays in social cohesion and community building.

“If you know anyone who has been involved with volunteering I encourage you to download an application form from the Community Relations Website at www.crc.nsw.gov.au.

“The closing date for application is 5pm on the 30 October.”

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