



NSW Government

2005 Community Relations Symposium

*Promoting
Cultural
Harmony*

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL,
30 Phillip Street Parramatta
21 June 2005



Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW

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Start	Close	Location	Item	Speaker
8:30	8:55	Foyer	Coffee and tea on arrival Registration	
8:55	9:00	Ballroom	Welcome to the Symposium	Stepan Kerkyasharian AM, Chairperson, CRC
9:00	9:10	Ballroom	Opening	The Hon. John Hatzistergos, MLC, Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship
9:10	9:25	Ballroom	How the day will run, aims of the day and workshop information	Facilitator: Margaret Kama, Commissioner, CRC
9:25	11:00	Workshop rooms	Concurrent Workshops - Youth Leadership & Mentoring - Cultural Harmony - Ageing Populations – Aged Care Services and Community Issues - Small and Emerging Communities - Partnerships and networks	Workshop Part 1 9:25 Introduction & overview. 9:35 Community Initiatives. 9:40 Showcase 1 10:20 Showcase 2
11:00	11:30	Foyer	Morning tea	
11:30	13:00	Workshop rooms	Concurrent Workshops (continuation of workshop strands)	Workshop Part 2 11:30 recap of previous session 11:40 Showcase 3 12:15 Overview of Government initiatives 12:25 Problem Solving Exercise
13:00	13:10	Ballroom	Performance	Suburban Sista Soundz
13:10	14:45	Ballroom	Luncheon & Keynote Speech <i>Identity Issues for the Younger Generations and Forming Cultural Partnerships</i>	Keynote Speech Chrisanthi Giotis, Journalist
14:45	15:30	Ballroom	Emerging Themes of the Day	Facilitator: Margaret Kama, Commissioner, CRC
15:30	16:00	Foyer	Afternoon tea	
16:00	16:10	Ballroom	Speech and introduction to debate	Stepan Kerkyasharian AM
16:10	17:10	Ballroom	Great Debate: <i>That provisions for culture, language and religion divide rather than unite our community.</i> Affirmative: Baulkham Hills High School 1) Cassandra O'Connor 2) Melissa Brooks 3) Richard Lee 4) Anna Denlacz	Adjudicators Lloyd Cameron, State Debating Coordinator, The Arts Unit Sarah Barrett, The Arts Unit Ezel Jupiter, Commissioner, CRC Negative: Newtown High School of the Performing Arts 1) Julia Colcott 2) Rebecca Randall 3) Luke Dansby-Scott 4) James Still.
17:10	17:15	Ballroom	Closing Remarks	Stepan Kerkyasharian AM

Room	Workshops	Facilitators and Presenters
Chapman Room	Ageing Populations – Aged Care Services and Community Issues see page 5	Facilitator: Marta Aquino, Commissioner, CRC Vietnamese Community Housing Cooperative Anh Tran, Multicultural Health Worker/ Vietnamese, Cabramatta Community Health Centre, Rob Buchanan, The Association to Resource Co-operative Housing Polish Community Home Care and Carer’s Program Irmina Sulkowska, Manager, Polish Welfare Organisation Regional Perspective on Ageing Populations Dr A. Basseer Jeeawody Phd, Charles Sturt University Government Overview Alberto Castillo, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care
Marsden Room	Small and Emerging Communities see page 6	Facilitator: Ezel Jupiter, Commissioner, CRC Mentoring and Capacity Building for Small and Emerging Communities Cheryl Webster, Anglicare Noelene Rudolf, African Communities Council Settlement needs of refugees and humanitarian entrants in regional areas Violetta Walsh OAM, Director, Migrant Resource Centre Newcastle and Hunter Inc Re-engagement with learning: Re-entry education for refugees Areyt Dassaklis, Deputy Principal, Lexi Andrews, HT Intensive English Centre, Geraldine Lonnon, Counsellor, Cameron Outterside, Special Projects Officer and students Government Overview Richard Acheson, Director, Community Relations Service, CRC Problem Solving Interpreting Services for New and Emerging Communities
John Macarthur Room	Cultural Harmony see page 8	Facilitator: Michael Christodoulou, Commissioner, CRC Affinity Intercultural Foundation Mehmet Saral, Director, Affinity Intercultural Foundation Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE) Lena Nahlous, Director, ICE Goodness and Kindness Campaign Zalman Kastel, Goodness and Kindness Campaign Kuranda Seyit, Forum on Australia's Islamic Relations Inc. (FAIR) Government Overview – Ethnicity, Cultural Harmony and Sport Department of Sport and Recreation Problem Solving Creating a Public Campaign to Promote Cultural Harmony

James Ruse Room	Youth Leadership & Mentoring see page 9	<p>Facilitator: Margaret Kama, Commissioner, CRC</p> <p>PACIFIC STAP (Special Tutorial Assistance Program) for Pacific Islander Students Esta Paschalidis-Chilas, Canterbury-Bankstown Migrant Resource Centre</p> <p>MY MATES, Motivated Young Multicultural Australians for Togetherness Education and Support, Cross Subcultures Youth Peer Mentor Project Burt Sigsworth, Coordinator Peer Mentor Program Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service Inc.</p> <p>Sierra Leone Youth Group Munitu Kanneh, Sierra Leone Youth Group</p> <p>Government Overview – School Leadership Initiatives Nell Lynes, Department of Education and Training</p> <p>Problem Solving Building a NSW Youth Leadership Network</p>
Boardroom	Partnerships and networks see page 11	<p>Facilitator: Gary Moore, Director, NCOSS</p> <p>Pacific Island Youth Network (PYNC) Jioji Ravulo, Pacific Youth Network Committee (PYNC)</p> <p>Community Builders Roslyn McDonald, Project Officer, Community Builders</p> <p>Local Government Multicultural Forum Anthia Hart, Community Worker, Facilities and Programs, Ashfield Council</p> <p>Overview of government direction on partnerships Gary Moore, Director, NCOSS</p> <p>Problem Solving - Formation of a multicultural women’s network Bekha Custovic, President Australian Bosnian Women’s Cultural Assn.</p>

Keynote Speech: Chrisanthi Giotis, Journalist

Chrisanthi Giotis is a journalist who believes strongly in the principles of a multicultural Australia. For the last two years she has been heard on SBS radio most Thursday nights with the Greek youth program talking about issues relevant to the Greek-Australian community and to the wider Australian community. The program tries to build intergenerational ties and understanding that will strengthen the Greek-Australian community and challenge people’s beliefs on controversial topics. This program received an award from the Greek government as the only youth radio program of the Diaspora which mainly used the Greek language – making it accessible for older listeners.

Last year Chrisanthi completed an honours project detailing the lives of young people from a Muslim-Lebanese background in Sydney’s South-West and the cross-cultural negotiation taking place between young female Sudanese refugees, other girls of a migrant background and Anglo-Saxon boys in a youth centre in Blacktown. For this work she was awarded first class honours from UTS, making her the first journalism student to be awarded that level of honours, and the Dame Mary Gilmore prize from the Lyceum Club in Sydney. From 16 years of age Chrisanthi has worked as a youth advocate in the Marrickville Youth Council and with YAPA (the Youth Action and Policy Association of NSW). Although most of her time is now spent working in the mainstream media she hopes to eventually influence the medium so it is more representative of our multicultural nation, and fairer in its reportage of young people.

Workshop - Ageing Populations – Aged Care Services and Community Issues

Facilitator: Marta Aquino, Commissioner, CRC

The Establishment of Vietnamese Elderly Accommodation Project (Van Lang Housing Co-operative Ltd)

Anh Tran, Health Education Officer, Fairfield Health Service

Rob Buchanan, Education and Resource Officer, Association to Resource Co-operative Housing

Van Lang Housing Co-operative was established in 1993 with an aim to provide high quality accommodation that is affordable, secure, culturally specific and effectively managed for, and by, older Vietnamese tenants.

This presentation will cover the development of the Van Lang Housing Co-operative, the initial needs analyses that led to its establishment, the role of key players, performance indicators, project outcomes and evaluations, and outline the services that are provided to Co-op members.

Anh Tran left Vietnam in 1979 where she had practiced a career in social work for 10 years. In Australia Anh established a number of associations and services for women, the elderly and disabled members of the Vietnamese community. She has been employed by Fairfield Health Service since 1981 as a Health Education Officer working with Vietnamese populations to improve access to health services in the local government area.

Rob Buchanan is Education and Resource Officer for the Association to Resource Co-operative Housing. He is a Director of the NSW Co-operative Federation and sits on a number of Department of Housing Committees.

The Polish Community Home Care and Carer's Program

Irmina Sulkowska, Manager, Polish Welfare and Information Bureau in NSW Inc

The Polish Welfare and Information Bureau in NSW Inc focuses primarily on providing care in the community through Community Care Packages (CCP) and runs a carers' support program to assist families and individuals looking after elderly parent/s in the home.

This presentation will address how the organisation has selected and trained bilingual care workers to assist individuals and their families in ways that are mindful of personal and shared migrant histories, war trauma, refugee experiences and other issues. It will explore the strong demand for bilingual workers particularly since many elderly people, especially those with dementia, frequently revert to their first language and lose most, if not all of their English language comprehension and skills.

Irmina Sulkowska holds a Master of Laws degree with a background in administration and administrative law. She has comprehensive hands-on experience as a community care worker; case manager, community services co-ordinator and community services manager.

Irmina has worked at the PW&IB since 1997 within a variety of positions. She began managing the Bureau in March 2000, and has extensive training in various aspects of aged care management and service delivery.

Regional Perspective on Ageing Populations

Dr A. Basseer Jeeawody, Charles Sturt University

The challenge in delivering appropriate services to all elderly community members of ethnic backgrounds is to understand the needs and perspectives of these persons and their significant others. This presentation will explore facilities, opportunities and social support services for the elderly within regional Australia, including Home and Community Care (HACC) services, the availability of culturally appropriate food, social activities, and residential services. It will also explore issues of geographic

isolation, language barriers and the availability of bilingual staff in rural and regional areas.

Dr A. Basseer Jeeawody has vast national and international experiences in the fields of Aged and Extended Care, Mental Health, and Continuing Professional Education. He has published widely in these discipline areas including a co-authored book *Successful Ageing: Perspectives on health and social construction*, and is currently developing another book, *Therapeutic self and professional practice*. He has served on the Community Relations Commission Regional Advisory Board and is chairperson of the Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga.

Government Overview

Alberto Castillo, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care

Problem Solving Exercise

Developing Cultural Competence within Home and Community Care (HACC) Services

Stephanie Patterson

The CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) Training for Home and Community Care Services project aims to develop culturally competent community care services with systems that understand and respect cultural diversity, and will improve health outcomes and quality of care for all service consumers. In this problem solving exercise, Stephanie Patterson will ask workshop participants to think about aspects that need to be considered when developing 'culturally appropriate services' within the community, how these issues might be addressed and what evaluation methods might best measure the effectiveness of such initiatives.

Workshop - Small and Emerging Communities

Facilitator: Ezel Jupiter, Commissioner, CRC

Mentoring and Capacity Building for Small and Emerging Communities

Cheryl Webster, Anglicare and Noeline Rudolf, African Communities Council

This workshop will examine strategies for mentoring or assisting small and emerging communities to establish and build adequate, self-managed support mechanisms within an Australian context. Drawing on practical examples and experiences, the workshop will address how, by focusing on the existing strengths and abilities of individuals and groups, successful community organisations may be established in a variety of contexts.

Cheryl Webster is a Community Settlement Services Worker with the Anglicare Migrant Services Team. She has worked as a community development worker in Sydney with small and emerging communities for twenty years and has qualifications in Social Work and Community Management. She is involved in building the capacity of mainstream organisations to assist new arrivals from a variety of backgrounds, providing information, training and assistance to them.

Noeline Rudolf has a background in Social Anthropology and almost ten years experience working in the community sector. She is employed as a Settlement Worker for the African Communities Council (ACC) in Sydney. In this position she provides casework and community development services for migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants from the African continent who are settling in Sydney.

Settlement needs of refugees and humanitarian entrants in regional areas

Violetta Walsh OAM, Director, Migrant Resource Centre Newcastle and Hunter Inc

Resource and infrastructure limitations create significant challenges for refugees and humanitarian entrants who settle in rural and regional areas, and for the service providers assisting them.

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the Hunter Region as a settlement destination, the challenges experienced to date, and describe how the local community and agencies are coordinating responses to the issues presented by refugee arrivals, in the areas of housing, employment, education, health, law and order and community relations. The presentation will also explore difficulties faced in implementing a planned and coordinated approach to refugee settlement in non-metropolitan areas, without appropriate and timely information or infrastructural enhancement.

Violetta Walsh has worked as Director of the Migrant Resource Centre of Newcastle and the Hunter Region for over two decades. She has served on numerous local and State Boards and committees pertaining to community health, education and welfare. In 1996 she was awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia and in 2001 the Centenary Medal. In 2004 she was named Newcastle Citizen of the Year.

Re-engagement with learning: Re-entry education for refugees

Areyt Dassaklis, Deputy Principal, Lexi Andrews, HT Intensive English Centre,
Geraldine Lonnon, Counsellor, Cameron Outterside, Special Projects Officer and students

This presentation will focus on how Bankstown Senior College is meeting the needs of African students re-engaging in education. This session will provide an overview of the College, the courses available to students and the academic and welfare support that is provided by the College. The Intensive English Centre will outline specific programs and strategies that they are currently implementing to maximise students' learning. The presentation will discuss *The Young Africans in Schools* program, and the school's African Communities project. Three current students will recount their journeys so far and the challenges they have faced re-engaging in education.

Geraldine Lonnon BA (Hons Psych) Dip Ed. Grad. Dip. School Counselling started working as a teacher at Chester Hill Intensive English Centre in 1978. After training as a school counsellor and working as a generalist counsellor in various South West Sydney schools, she returned to IEC counselling in 1994. Geraldine has worked at Chester Hill, Fairfield and Bankstown Senior College IECs as a school counsellor.

Lexi Andrews M. Ed started teaching in 1972 and first worked in Intensive English Centres in 1982. From 1989- 91 she was Head Teacher of Ashcroft Intensive English Centre. In September 1991 as part of a regional initiative, Lexi was responsible for the establishment of the Bankstown Intensive English Centre where she continues to work as Head Teacher.

Areyt Dassaklis BA Dip Ed has been Deputy Principal at Bankstown Senior College since 2002. Prior to her appointment at the College she was the Head Teacher of English at Punchbowl Boys' High School. Areyt has taught in a number of schools, ranging from comprehensive single sex to co educational high schools in South West Sydney.

Students who will present are Mardea Shaffa, IEC student, Jok Jok, IEC student and Salih Hassan, HSC student.

Cameron Outterside Special Projects and Community Officer (SPCO)

Government Overview

Richard Acheson, Director, Community Relations Service, CRC

Problem Solving Exercise

Interpreting services for new and emerging communities

In Australia, and particularly in NSW, there is a severe shortage of interpreter services in African Arabic and other languages spoken in African countries. This shortage hinders access to government services, including education and training.

This problem solving exercise aims to address ways in which members of new and emerging communities may be identified, supported, recruited and trained as interpreters in their community languages.

Workshop - Cultural Harmony

Facilitator: Michael Christodoulou, Commissioner, CRC

Affinity Intercultural Foundation

Mehmet Saral, Secretary and Director, Affinity Intercultural Foundation

Affinity Intercultural Foundation was established by a group of young Australian Muslims in 2001, to meet the needs of the Muslim community regarding interaction with the wider Australian society, and the needs of the general public to increase its awareness of the Muslim community, its religion and culture. The Foundation is unique in its focus on relationship building between cultures and faiths.

This presentation will introduce a particularly innovative and successful *Affinity* program, "Home Encounters", which has taken interfaith dialogue away from a conference setting and brought it to ground level. Organised in conjunction with St. Charles Catholic Church, *Home Encounters* takes small groups of Muslims and Christians into private homes to informally discuss aspects of faith. The program has resulted not only in a greater understanding of other faiths and cultures, but encouraged self-reflection as well.

Mehmet Saral has extensive experience instigating and implementing large and small scale cultural harmony initiatives. He will utilise this presentation to introduce the Home Encounters program, its successes, the challenges and future directions, and reflect on how cultural harmony initiatives may be successfully undertaken on vastly different scales.

Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE)

Lena Nahlous, Director, ICE

For more than a decade, Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE) has worked extensively with young people, particularly from refugee, migrant and non-English speaking backgrounds in western Sydney, using arts and technology to increase access to self-expression, employment and training opportunities.

This presentation will provide an overview of ICE projects that have had significant outcomes for socially excluded young people, impacting their relationships with communities and altering community relations and perceptions of young people. Some of ICE's projects include the Storybox Internet publishing project for newly arrived African and Afghan young people, the Arabic youth video and leadership program 'Agents of Change', and urban community-based music programs such as Suburban Sista Soundz and Hip Hop 101. These community arts and technology projects are all about building capacities for self-expression and critical engagement in issues, as well as developing cutting edge popular aesthetics.

Lena Nahlous is the Director of Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE). She has managed, developed and collaborated on diverse community arts projects for the past decade. Lena is also a published writer and has produced work for the radio, anthologies and performance.

The Goodness and Kindness Society- the story, concept and process of a successful community harmony project

Zalman Kastel, Goodness and Kindness Campaign, and Kuranda Seyit, Forum on Australia's Islamic Relations Inc. (FAIR)

The Goodness and Kindness Society, winner of the Grand Prize NSW CRC 2005 National Multi-Cultural Marketing Awards, is a highly popular educational program that draws on universal values and the deep hope that people of different faiths can get along. Created in 2002 as a grassroots response to rampant individualism and inter-religious tension, it has captured the imagination of educators and children. At its essence, the society is about inviting children to become partners in changing the world by acting on our common human values and role modelling cooperation and acceptance of the "other".

This presentation looks at the strategies used to foster change, the process used to manage the program and bring it to 15,000 children across Australia, the obstacles the program faced and overcame, and the presenters share a little of their own journey and how the project changed them.

Zalman Kastel Grad. Dip Ed. Project Director and co-founder of the Goodness and Kindness School project, is an ordained Rabbi, educator, community worker, and curriculum writer with a keen interest in the development of educational games. He is employed as Youth Rabbi, Chabad House of the North Shore, and principal of Eichel- Chabad Hebrew School. He has taught in community schools, scripture classes and informal community groups in Australia and the Ukraine.

Kuranda Seyfi Seyit MA. BA/Dip Ed. is co-founder and Facilitator of the Goodness and Kindness Schools Project, and the founder and Director of FAIR. He recently completed a Masters in Peace & Conflict Studies and was selected for The Bulletin Magazine Special Edition SMART 100 in recognition of his many and varied accomplishments. Kuranda is a film-maker and community activist. In 2001 he wrote and directed, a documentary about Islam in Australia, "Always A Visitor" for SBS television. He is currently the editor of Australia Fair Newspaper and was formerly a drama and English teacher in Islamic and State Schools, as well as the Media Liaison Officer for AFIC (Australian Federation of Islamic Councils). He is also a qualified Facilitator for the Alternatives to Violence Project Australia (AVP Australia).

Government Overview – Ethnicity, Cultural Harmony and Sport

Ms Fatima Kourouche, Project Coordinator, Community Solutions and Crime Prevention Strategy, Canterbury Bankstown, Department of Sport and Recreation

Problem Solving Exercise

Creating a public campaign to promote cultural harmony

The ability to challenge and alter popular perceptions of particular ethnic groups within our community is often a difficult task. However, breaking down negative or incorrect beliefs and stereotypes is a vital task in promoting and achieving long-term cultural harmony.

Building on the ideas and examples presented during the workshop, this problem solving task will ask participants to choose a particular ethnic group in NSW, to consider currently held community perceptions towards the group, what elements of these may be challenged, and the tools that may be used to effectively build a public campaign to promote cultural harmony around the issue.

Workshop - Youth Leadership and Mentoring

Margaret Kama, Commissioner, CRC

PACIFIC STAP (Special Tutorial Assistance Program) for Pacific Islander Students

Esta Paschalidis-Chilas, Centre Coordinator, Canterbury Bankstown Migrant Resource Centre

Launched in May 2004, PACIFIC STAP (Special Tutorial Assistance Program) for Pacific Islander students and their families emphasises a philosophy that the academic and overall development of Pacific Islander (PI) children can be enhanced through mentoring and the building of role models among persons within their own communities.

In the STAP Program, students are tutored and mentored in a homework centre environment by PI mentors. The program focuses on nurturing effective study habits with significant weight placed on assisting students one-to-one. A PI parent support group has also been established to help parents become the best support for their children's education.

This presentation will examine how PACIFIC STAP has proven to be a highly effective early intervention program for the PI community. Its robust nature allows it to be tailored to suit any community, regardless of ethnicity.

Esta Paschalidis-Chilas has a Bachelor in Social Work and has 15 years of experience in settlement services, seven of which have with the Migrant Resource Centre. Esta is an active member of the Refugee Council Of Australia. Her key areas of interest are: advocacy, mentoring, community capacity building and human resource management.

MY MATES, Motivated Young Multicultural Australians for Togetherness Education and Support, Cross Subcultures Youth Peer Mentor Project

Burt Sigsworth, Coordinator Peer Mentor Program Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service Inc.

MY MATES aims to provide peer education and support to young people from the Canterbury-Bankstown local government area through peer mentoring projects.

Peer mentors undertake the “Mentoring in the Community” TAFE Certificate and are supported by a project officer in organising activities and projects that are responsive to the needs of their peers and the local community. Project activities include regular group discussions on issues such as consent in sexual relations, drug use, negative perceptions of young people, Aboriginal Reconciliation, intergenerational projects to bring seniors and local young people together and bridge general gaps; excursions and activities for at risk and street frequenting young people, community barbeques and camps. This presentation will discuss how peer mentoring programs have succeeded in providing positive role models and providing support to young people on a level that they can relate to.

Burt Sigsworth is the MY MATES project coordinator and has been working on the second stage of the peer mentor project. He is seeking to extend the project to cover two Local Government Areas and aims to give the peer mentor project a more action/outcome focused approach. Burt has a communications background and also teaches at TAFE.

Saarah is studying International Studies at university. She is from a South African background. Saarah and has been involved with the peer mentor program for the past three years.

Shonette is twenty-one and is studying at university. She is from an Indian background. Shonette has been involved with the peer mentor program since she was eighteen.

Khai is sixteen and is at school doing his HSC. He is from a Vietnamese background. Khai has been involved with the peer mentor program for almost one year.

Sierra Leone Youth Group

Munitu Kanneh, Member, Sierra Leone Youth Group

The Sierra Leone Youth group was formed in 2000 for young people from refugee backgrounds. The group was created to initiate activities important in the lives of young people, especially for those who have migrated to Australia.

The group’s Youth Vision program focuses on four issues important in the lives of young people; culture, education, sports/recreation, and law & order. Activities address Australian culture, maintaining the African culture, the educational system, opportunities for young people, and the legal system, participation in sports and outdoor activities, and health issues.

This presentation will introduce a number of successful activities implemented by the Sierra Leone Youth Group over the past five years, including the annual Day of the African Child concert, health camps and cultural exchange programs to regional areas.

Munitu Kanneh is a 22-year-old student studying a BA Arts with majors in Psychology and Sociology. She currently assists in coordinating and facilitating of the Sierra Leone Youth Group.

Government Overview – School Leadership Initiatives

Nell Lynes, Department of Education and Training

Problem Solving Exercise

Building a NSW Youth Leadership Network

A number of innovative youth leadership programs, involving various community groups, cultures and religions have already been successfully built and implemented throughout NSW.

This problem solving exercise will consider the formation of a Youth Leadership Network for NSW, the possible functions it could serve, the ways in which the project could be established and run, and the mechanisms available to share information and best practices between organisations.

Workshop - Partnerships and networks

Facilitator: Gary Moore, Director, NCOSS

Pacific Island Youth Network (PYNC)

Jioji Ravulo, Pacific Youth Network Committee (PYNC),

The Pacific Island Youth Network (PYNC) is a strong organisation of youth with a Pacific Islands background, which aims to provide support in meeting the challenges of settling into a new country. In 2004 PYNC organised a very successful Youth Day which aimed to promote further education and employment for Pacific young people with workshops, live performances and activities including arts and music. Over 4000 Pacific people from across NSW came together to celebrate.

Jioji Ravulo completed a Bachelors degree in Social Work and works as a Caseworker in Campbelltown Post Release Support Program with high risk young offenders in South West Sydney. In this collaborative project between Mission Australia and NSW Department of Juvenile Justice, Jioji works extensively with community groups, young people and their families.

Community Builders Website

Roslyn McDonald, Project Officer, Communities Division, Department of Community Services

The *communitybuilders.nsw* website is a program of the Communities Division in the New South Wales Department of Community Services. This interactive and inclusive website aims to network and resource everyone involved in community level social, economic and environmental development and sustainability. To this end, the site's emphasis is on providing practical toolkits and guides for diverse community groups on a broad range of community strengthening activities.

Roslyn McDonald is a Project Officer with *communitybuilders.nsw*. She has extensive experience in the theory and practice of community building and social action. She previously worked as a Development Education Co-ordinator and Project Officer with non-government organisations. Ros has worked with communities in Australia, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. She sees information communication technology as an important tool for democratic community building.

Local Government Multicultural Forum

Anthia Hart, Community Worker, Facilities and Programs, Ashfield Council

Cathy Gao, Community Development Worker, Chinese Migrant Welfare Association

At the frontline of service delivery, local government plays an important role in providing settlement services to new migrants and meeting ongoing needs to established communities. The 2005 Local Government Multicultural Forum was hosted by Ashfield Council on 3 June 2005 and showcased many of the services available to communities, and the partnerships available with local government bodies. Utilising the Forum as a case study, this presentation will consider how communities can build effective partnerships with their local government and how these relationships can facilitate better connections throughout a community.

Anthia Hart is Ashfield Council's Community Programs and Facilities Worker. In this position she supports local community groups in accessing and utilising Council facilities. She was a member of the working party that organised the 2005 Multicultural Forum hosted by Ashfield Council in early June.

Cathy Gao is a Community Development Worker with the Chinese Migrant Welfare Association.

Overview of government direction on partnerships

Gary Moore, Director, NCOSS

Problem Solving

Bekha Custovic, President, Australian Bosnian Women's Cultural Association (ABWCA)

Formation of a multicultural women's network

This segment will address the idea to create a Multicultural Womens' Network, which has been raised by the Australian Bosnian Women's Cultural Association (ABWCA). Workshop participants will consider means to create an umbrella organisation that allows individual ethnic women's groups to share experiences and pass information that will help strengthen and connect diverse groups and consider possible purposes and aims for such a network.

Community Relations Symposium

The Symposium will provide an opportunity for a diverse range of community workers and leaders to meet and share ideas on best practices, activities and programs; create new opportunities for collaboration and build relationships and networks that help support work on multicultural issues in NSW.

For more information, visit the CRC website www.crc.nsw.gov.au

Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW Commissioners

Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian AM,
Chairperson

Ms Marta Aquino

Mr Michael Christodoulou

Ms Ezel Jupiter

Ms Margaret Kama

Mr Michael Marx AM,
Deputy Chairperson

Mr Nedjelko Maruncic OAM

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