



Community Relations Commission
For a multicultural NSW

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS
SYMPOSIUM
7 JULY 2004**

**GOVERNOR'S BALLROOM, CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL,
30 PHILLIP STREET PARRAMATTA**

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Program for the Community Relations Symposium 7 July 2004

Start	Close	Location	Item	Speaker
8:30	9:10	Foyer outside Governor's Ballroom	Coffee and tea on arrival Registration for workshop presentations.	
9:10	9:20	Governor's Ballroom	Welcome	
9:20	9:25	Governor's Ballroom	Welcome to the Symposium	Stepan Kerkyasharian AM, Chairperson, CRC
9:25	9:30	Governor's Ballroom	Opening	The Hon. Frank Ernest Sartor MP Minister for Energy and Utilities
9:30	9:40	Governor's Ballroom	How the day will run, aims of the day and workshop information	Facilitator Myriam Bahari, CRC
9:40	10:00	Foyer	Morning tea	Delegates to register for workshops.
10:00	11:10	Governor's Ballroom	Great Debate: <i>That Multiculturalism is Unifying the Nation</i>	Adjudicators: George Megalogenis Lloyd Cameron and Sarah Barrett
			Affirmative: Colo High School Jessica Poole, First Speaker Colleen Fricker, Second Speaker Dominic Bohan, Third Speaker Emma Grundy, Team Adviser	Negative: Sydney Girls High School Juliet Adelstein, First Speaker Marisa Wright-Smith, Second Speaker Bronwyn Cowell, Third Speaker Amy Doyle, Team Adviser
11:10	11:20	Governor's Ballroom	Update	Myriam Bahari
11:20	12:00	Foyer	Pre-lunch tea and coffee networking	
12:00	12:10	Governor's Ballroom	Performance	Sikh Kirtan Prachar Mission of Australia
12:10	1:30	Governor's Ballroom	Luncheon and Keynote speech <i>Multiculturalism and the next generation</i>	Keynote Speech George Megalogenis, Author of <i>Faultlines</i> Journalist for <i>The Australian</i>
1:30	2:45	Workshop Rooms	Showcase community projects in workshop groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 mins facilitator's presentation • 10 mins case study #1 • 10 mins case study #2 • 30 mins Q & A • 10 mins draft statement 	Six workshop groupings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring and Leadership • Managing Organisations • Community and Government Partnerships • Out of Africa: Opportunities for Refugees • Young People Taking Action • Communicating Religious Difference
2:45	3:00	Foyer	Afternoon tea	
3:00	4:20	Workshop Rooms	Showcase community projects in workshop groups	Six workshop groupings repeat of above sessions
4:20	4:50	Governor's Ballroom	Emerging themes of the day	Myriam Bahari

Community Showcase Sessions

1:30pm to 2:45pm and repeated 3:00 to 4:20pm

No.	Room	Topic	Facilitator and Presenters
1	Chapman Room	Mentoring and Leadership	Facilitator: Nada Nasser, Assistant Director, Communities Division, Department of Community Services Presenter: Geoff Aigner, Benevolent Society Presenter: John Paul, Big Brothers Big Sisters Association, YWCA Sydney
2	Marsden Room	Managing Organisations	Facilitator: Rosa Droescher, Government Relations Coordinator, CRC Presenter: Pino Migliorino, Managing Director, Cultural Perspectives Presenter: Susi Schio, Executive Director Co.As.It
3	John Macarthur Room	Community and Government Partnerships	Facilitator: Paul Conlon, Manager Central Sector, NSW Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation. Presenter: Dr Margot Rawsthorne, Western Sydney Community Forum Presenter: David Harris, Coordinator, Pacific Education Resource X-change
4	James Ruse Room	Out of Africa: Opportunities for Refugees	Facilitator: Marilyn Barron, Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) Presenter: Juliana Nkrumah, Transcultural Mental Health Centre
5	Boardroom	Young People Taking Action	Facilitators: Margaret Kama, Commissioner CRC and Benny Peng, Commissioner CRC Presenter: Glen Stelzer, Principal, Punchbowl Primary School Presenter: Tania Ward, Pacific Youth Council
6	Governor's Ballroom	Communicating Religious Difference	Facilitator: Ezel Jupiter, Commissioner CRC Presenter: Lou Bacchiella, Project Consultant, and Joanna Stobinski, Team Leader, Community Development Worker, Canterbury City Council Presenter: Maha Abdo, Manager, United Muslim Women's Association Presenter: Maddy Slabacu and Shab

Symposium Facilitator

Ms Myriam Bahari, CRC

Myriam works at the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW as the Project Coordinator for the Canterbury Bankstown Community Harmony Round Table Project. Myriam has 16 years experience in working with disadvantaged young people and their families in a number of settings particularly in the Western Sydney Region including youth accommodation units, neighbourhood centres, local government and policy/youth advocacy. Her formal qualifications besides her varied work experiences are a BA (Welfare Studies), Graduate Diploma in Adult Education and she is currently in the middle of completing the Masters in Adult Education. Myriam enjoys working with the community in a proactive way that not only encourages empowerment but also builds on the community's strengths and positive energy.

Keynote Speaker

Mr George Megalogenis

Journalist and author George Megalogenis spent 11 years in the Canberra press gallery between 1988 and 1999 before moving to Melbourne as a senior writer with The Australian. He won this year's Melbourne Press Club Quill award for best columnist. The judges' citation said, in part: 'His analysis of social and economic trends are anchored in the "real world" and whether writing about the housing boom or the war in Iraq, his columns are well researched and leave the reader interested and at times entertained'. George's book *Faultlines, race, work and the politics of changing Australia* was published by Scribe in December 2003.

Workshop: Mentoring and Leadership

Facilitator: Ms Nada Nasser, Department of Community Services

Nada Nasser is currently the Assistant Director, Communities Division in the Department of Community Services. Nada's work started in the early 1980's in the Canterbury Bankstown area, where she worked in migrant health, TAFE and the community sector in youth and migrant services. She has held a number of senior project and policy positions within the NSW

Public Sector including in the Office of Youth Affairs, Office of the Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment and Planning NSW and the NSW Premier's Department. At the Premier's Department, Nada managed the Youth Partnership with Arabic Speaking Communities, an initiative that aims to improve the well-being of young people of Arabic speaking backgrounds.

Presenter: Mr Geoff Aigner , Benevolent Society

Geoff is currently the Social Impact Manager for the Benevolent Society, a position which focuses on broadening the programs and range of communities in which leadership interventions take place. In 2004 he established, designed, and is currently managing, the Young Leaders of Change Program which is a joint initiative between the Gifted Education Resource and Research Information Centre (GERRIC) and the Centre for Social Leadership. He also holds a role with Lee Hecht Harrison as the General Manager for Strategic Leadership. Geoff continues his academic involvement in leadership change as an adjunct faculty at the Australian Graduate School of Management.

Young Leaders of Change Program

At the workshop Geoff will discuss the Young Leaders of Change program, which is a leadership program concerned with taking action on social justice issues, sharing selection and development processes, outcomes to date, and general learnings.

Presenter: Mr John Paul , YWCA

John graduated from Brunell University, London, with an Honours Degree in Social Work. He specialised in Forensic Social Work and also holds a Diploma of Social Work and post graduate qualifications in Children and Families Work. He has a keen interest in working with young people and is currently Team Leader of the YWCA's Big Sister Big Brother Mentoring Program.

YWCA's Big Sister Big Brother Mentoring Program

The YWCA's Big Sister Big Brother Mentoring Program is available for young people 7 - 17 years of age. The role of the Program is to match suitable mentors/volunteers with young people. The emphasis is on developing a structured friendship over a 12 month period. Mentors are screened and provided with appropriate training before being matched with young people. The Program allows for on-going monitoring and support for both mentor and mentoree.

Workshop: Managing Organisations

Facilitator: Ms Rosa Droescher, CRC

Rosa Droescher is Government Relations Coordinator at the Community Relations Commission For a Multicultural NSW (CRC). Rosa joined the Commission in 1986 and is currently the coordinator of the team responsible for the Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement (EAPS) program. Prior to working with the Commission, Rosa worked for more than 10 years with a range of community organizations including the Spanish and Latin American Association for Social Assistance (SLASA), the Ethnic Communities' Council and the Immigrant Women's Speak-Out as its first Coordinator. In the 1980's Rosa also held the voluntary positions of Secretary and President of SLASA.

Presenter: Mr Pino Migliorino, Cultural Perspectives

Pino Migliorino has extensive experience in the area of multiculturalism and has worked for a range of government agencies. In 1994 he established the firm Cultural Perspectives and has been its Managing Director since then. For over 22 years he has been a voluntary member of Co.As.It (Casa D'Italia). In the last ten years, he has been the organisation's Vice-President and subsequently President until May of this year.

Presenter: Ms Susi Schio, Co.As.It

Susi Schio joined Co.As.It (Casa D'Italia) as a social worker some 16 years ago. In 1993 she became the agency's Executive Officer, and alongside Pino Migliorino, has been at the centre of the organisation's development and growth throughout these years.

Co.As.It

At the workshop Pino and Susi will aim to explore approaches to the management of a community organisation using as an example Co.As.It. Management issues will be presented from the perspectives of a management member and President and the Executive Officer.

Workshop: Community and Government Partnerships

Facilitator: Mr Paul Conlon, NSW Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation

Paul Conlon is the Manager Central Sector, NSW Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation.

Presenter: Dr Margot Rawsthorne, Western Sydney Community Forum

Dr Margot Rawsthorne has worked in human services since 1988 in both government and non-government settings. She is currently working on a research project with Fiona Christian for Western Sydney Community Forum on consultative processes.

Western Sydney Community Forum

Margot's presentation will discuss the findings from a recent study on ways of improving consultation processes. It will look at peoples' past experiences of government consultation and what changes are necessary to make these more effective in the future.

Presenter: Mr David Harris, Wesley Dalmar Family and Youth Services

David Harris is the Coordinator, Pacific Education Resource X-change, Wesley Dalmar Family and Youth Services.

Workshop: Out of Africa: Opportunities for Refugees

Facilitator: Ms Marilyn Barron, DIMIA

Marilyn Barron is Contract Manager for the Humanitarian Settlement Team, NSW State Office, Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA).

Presenter: Ms Juliana Nkrumah, Transcultural Mental Health Centre

Juliana Nkrumah is a Community Education and Development Officer with the Transcultural Mental Health Centre. She has worked previously with NSW Health and as a teacher and tutor. Juliana has a long-standing involvement in

addressing issues faced by refugees arriving in Australia from Africa since immigrating herself in 1988. She is a Board member of the Australian National Committee on Refugee Women (ANCORW), the Ghana Association of NSW and helped to establish the Sierra Leone Reference Group.

Workshop: Young People Taking Action

Facilitator: Ms Margaret Kama, Commissioner CRC

Margaret Apolima Kama is a full-time student at The University of Sydney, completing a Bachelor of Medical Science. Her involvement in University life has included membership of several Union clubs and societies including the Medical Society (MedSoc), Science Society (SciSoc) and the Union. A youth advocate for her regional Catholic Parish, Margaret is an active leader of YAPP (Youth at Prayer and Play) and spends most of her recreational time building the youth spirit of the church community.

Before her appointment as Youth Commissioner, Margaret began her involvement in the CRC, through the Pacific Island Youth Network (under the NSW Pacific Island Council) and has since demonstrated a solid commitment to improving and promoting the well being of young people of Pacific Island background.

Facilitator: Mr Benny Peng, Commissioner CRC

Benny Peng is a Commissioner of the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW (CRC). He is a student of Macquarie University and mentors other students in regards to avoiding involvement with or exploitation by negative societal elements. Benny is the Secretary and Assistant Coach of the Australian Wu Shu Tai Chi Council.

Presenter: Mr Glen Stelzer, Punchbowl Public School

Glen has been principal at Punchbowl Public School since 1999. Much of Glen's teaching has been in the Canterbury Bankstown area, including Campsie, Hampden Park (Lakemba), McCallum's Hill and as Deputy Principal at Punchbowl from 1992-1995.

Each of these public schools support large multicultural and low socio-economic communities. He has a particular interest in, and affection for, these vibrant and dynamic communities and is proud of the role that the NSW public education system has taken in facilitating the celebration of cultural identity and maximizing learning achievements.

A particular emphasis at Punchbowl has been the development of programs for students and their families to reach out beyond the local area to share cultural identity and the many common aspects of Australian life. The centerpiece of these initiatives is the Punchbowl/Newport student exchange program which has entered its twelfth year. Other exchange programs include

a student exchange with Kandos Public School, located in the Central West of NSW, visits by students from South Korea, occasional visits by American educators and students and a new program linking with students from two Bali schools. These programs aim to enable all participants to realize that the world is really a small place when common values, attitudes, needs and wants are shared in friendly, open and trusting activities.

The Punchbowl/Newport student exchange program

The workshop presentation will detail some of the outcomes of the student exchange program initiated by Punchbowl and Newport Public Schools in 1993. The program aims to link two schools from culturally and socio economically diverse areas of Sydney and to provide students with real life communication opportunities so that their skills could be further enhanced. The program is based upon the belief that the core values and practices are the same no matter the person's background. It highlights the strength of multiculturalism and the cohesiveness of the two communities, both of which help to form the dynamic and vibrant city and country in which we live. The program has been recognised with the Director General's School Achievement Award and was profiled on the 7.30 Report in 2002.

Presenter: Ms Tania Ward, Pacific Youth Council

Tania Ward is a New Zealander of Maori and Scot descent. She is currently studying Arts at Sydney and Massey Universities and Social Sciences at UWS. She is a youth member of the CRC Pacific Youth Council and works part time for a local charity called Daystar Foundation. The Daystar Foundation works proactively in making education a reality for youth at risk of leaving school early. Ms Ward says this work 'keeps me in touch with the world's realities, hardships and the difficulties of young people and their families. It also reinforces the truth that it is within everyone's power to make a difference.'

Young people taking action

Ms Ward will speak about how as a young person she actively engages with real issues within a very multicultural community environment as an agent of change.

Workshop: Communicating Religious Difference

Facilitator: Ms Ezel Jupiter, Commissioner CRC

Ezel Jupiter is a Commissioner of the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW (CRC).

Presenter: Mr Lou Bacchiella, Praxis Public Relations

Lou Bacchiella has his own consultancy, Praxis Public Relations, and is the project consultant to the Canterbury Inter-faith Harmony project. He has over 15 years experience in multicultural affairs, in policy, research and program development. For the past ten years, Lou has worked as a consultant in multicultural research and communications ranging from localised strategies to national campaigns on issues including health, quarantine and electoral information and community relations among other issues.

Presenter: Ms Joanna Stobinski, Canterbury City Council

Joanna Stobinski is Team Leader Community Development/Community Worker Multicultural Services at Canterbury City Council and resources Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee and its community relations projects. She has been instrumental in establishing a steering committee and securing community support for the Canterbury Inter-Faith Harmony Project. Joanna has over 18 years experience in multicultural affairs, in government and non-government sectors.

The Canterbury Inter-Faith Harmony Project

The workshop presentation will show how the Canterbury Inter-Faith Harmony Project is making a difference in building awareness and goodwill between people of different faiths. Through tours to places of worship, discussion groups with community groups and schools, publicity and the formation of a Religious Leaders Network the project is addressing myths and misconceptions about people and faiths. In a time of international conflict and intense scrutiny, the project is playing a rational role in promoting harmony at the local level and countering racist attitudes.

Presenter: Ms Maha Abdo, United Muslim Women's Association

Maha Abdo is the manager of the United Muslim Women's Association.

Presenter: Ms Maddy Slabacu, Horizon Theatre Company

Maddy is the Artistic Director and co-founder of the Horizon Theatre Company. Maddy received her training from Tandarica Theatre Romania. Maddy has over 25 years experience in the arts industry in Australia and overseas, as a performer, master puppeteer, and director in professional and community work. From the time she arrived in Australia twenty years ago, Maddy has advocated that art be used to enhance education outcomes and development in all areas of life.

Presenter: Ms Shab Tavakol, Horizon Theatre Company

Shab is mentored and trained in visual performing arts by Horizon, and is one of the young emerging performers of the theatre. She has performed in many of the theatres productions, performing at festivals and assisting in youth arts workshops. With a degree in Arts Communication and Cultural Studies and her experience and training as a performer she hopes to positively contribute to arts in the community.

Horizon Theatre Company's Workshop: Arts and Communicating Religious Differences

Maddy and Shab will aim to demonstrate how art can be an effective means of addressing and exploring religious differences. They will present on successful projects and productions that involved artists from different arts practice, religious and cultural backgrounds. Through some practical group interaction, Maddy and Shab will seek to demonstrate how themes and issues can be explored in interesting and compelling ways through symbolism, visual forms, music, dance, puppetry, stories and art work. "Art has a profound effect on the individual/community as it deals with not just words, ideas and thoughts alone but with emotions as well."



Community Relations Symposium 2004

Wednesday July 7, 2004

The Community Relations Symposium 2004 will draw upon issues confronting multicultural NSW, with a special focus on leadership and community harmony. It aims to build cooperation and expand networks among groups and with the Commission, building upon experience and developing new strategies and opportunities for fostering a multicultural NSW. *For more information, visit the CRC website www.crc.nsw.gov.au*

CRC Commissioners

Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian AM, Chairperson

Mr Michael Marx AM, Deputy Chairperson

Ms Marta Aquino, Commissioner

Ms Ezel Jupiter, Commissioner

Ms Margaret Kama, Commissioner

Ms Therese Le-Dang, Commissioner

Mr Nedjelko Maruncic OAM, Commissioner

Ms Paula Masselos, Commissioner

Mr Henry Pan OAM, Commissioner

Mr Benny Peng, Commissioner