



**Community Relations Commission**  
*For a multicultural NSW*

**Community Relations  
Symposium  
23 October 2003**

**Great Hall I, Tower Building 1, University  
of Technology Sydney, Broadway campus**

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# Community Relations Symposium 2003 Program

Start	Close	Location	Item	Speaker
8:15	8:45	Foyer outside Great Hall	Registration and compilation of topics from delegates for afternoon discussion groups.	
8:45	9:00	Great Hall	Welcome to land	Linda Burney MP
9:00	9:10	Great Hall	Welcome to the Symposium	Stepan Kerkyasharian AM Chair CRC
9:10	9:15	Great Hall	Opening	The Hon. J Hatzistergos MLC Minister for Justice, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship
9:15	9:25	Great Hall	How the day will run & aims of the day	Carla Cranny, Facilitator
9:25	9:45	Great Hall	What are the challenges for a multi-faith Australia?	Rev Bill Crews AM
9:45	10:05	Great Hall	Who will replace the pioneers of ethnic community organizations? What is in the best interests of Australia – permanent or long-term temporary residence? How significant is the language question in the next census?	Dr James Jupp
10:05	10:30	Foyer	Morning tea. Delegates are invited to write topic headings for Discussion Groups – on paper placed on the wall near the Registration area.	
10:30	11:50	Great Hall	Panel discussion: each panelist to speak about the challenges facing their community and the vision they have for their community.  Panel members include: - Mr Khaled Alameddine JP, President, Lebanese Moslem Association - Ms Shubha Kumar, President, United Indian Associations Inc	Panel discussion chaired by Stepan Kerkyasharian AM Chair CRC  - Mr Jack Passaris, Chair, Ethnic Communities Council of NSW - Ms Bee Koh, General Manager, Chinese Australian Services Society - Mr Pino Migliorino, President Co.As.It.
11:50	12:00	Great Hall	Update on afternoon workshops including topics and room details for Discussion Groups	Carla Cranny
12:00	1:00	Foyer	Lunch. From 12 to 12:30pm delegates are invited to write down their name under one topic heading – on paper placed on the wall near the Registration area. The ten topics for Discussion Groups will be decided based upon numbers of delegates wishing to attend.	
12:50	1:00	Foyer	The topic and room details for Discussion Groups will be posted on the wall by the end of the lunch period.	Carla Cranny
1:00	1:45	Workshop Rooms	Showcase community projects in workshop groups	10 workshop groupings
1:45	3:00	Workshop Rooms	Discussion Groups on topics decided upon by delegates.	10 workshop groupings
3:00	3:20	Foyer	Afternoon tea.	
3:20	4:40	Great Hall	Report back from Discussion Groups debated.	Carla Cranny
4:40	4:55	Great Hall	Summing up	Carla Cranny
4:55	5:00	Great Hall	Close	Stepan Kerkyasharian AM

## Community Showcase Sessions 1:00pm to 1:45pm

No.	Room	Topic	Presenter
1	Building 1 Level 26 Room 17	Community initiative: Drug and Alcohol issues in the Samoan Community	Mrs Moira Moeaia Tuisila, Secretary, Samoan Advisory Council Line Sydney
2	Building 1 Level 26 Room 14	University, hospital and community partnership: The importance of understanding culture in the hospital care of children	Dr Sharon Chalmers, Research Fellow, Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney
3		Community initiative: Culturally and linguistically appropriate services to vulnerable people: victims of violence; women; aged persons	This workshop was withdrawn from the program. The organisers apologise for any inconvenience caused.
4	Building 1 Level 5 Great Hall	Community initiative: Islam and the media: empowering our community previously called "Human rights and racism in the media"	Mr Kuranda Seyit, Director - Events Organiser - Youth liaison, Forum on Australia's Islamic Relations (FAIR)
5	Building 1 Level 25 Room 46	Community initiative: Organisational Management	TBA, Chinese Australian Service Society (CASS)
6	Building 2 Level 6 Room 37	Community partnership: The role of the Canterbury Bankstown Advisory Group	Ms Hind Kourouche, Coordinator, Lebanese Community Council
7	Building 2 Level 5 Room 35	Community and Government partnership: The Ethnic Communities Environmental Education Project	Ms Linda Tohver, Project Officer Education, & Ms Sue Cunningham Senior Education Officer, Department of Environment and Conservation Jenny Tang Luis, Community Educator, Ethnic Communities' Council
8	Building 2 Level 6 Room 41	Community partnership: Successful models of multicultural and religious cooperation and learning	Rabbi Allisson H Conyer, Associate Rabbi, North Shore Temple Emanuel
9	Building 2 Level 7 Room 4A	Community initiative: India Australia event	Ms Shubha Kumar, President, United Indian Associations and Dr Aksheya Kumar, Coordinator UIA India Australia Fair, United Indian Associations
10	Building 2 Level 4 Room 22	Community partnership: Workshop on community initiatives supporting refugees on Temporary Protection Visas	Melissa Phillips, Acting Director, The Refugee Council of Australia Co-presenter TBA, House of Welcome.
11	Building 1 Level 11 Room 17	Community and Government partnership: Fair Go Australia project	Mr Alan Gold, CEO, Fair Go Australia

## Community Leaders of NSW are invited...

- to talk about issues affecting their community
- to share information and ideas
- to showcase successful initiatives and good practice

at a symposium being hosted by the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW.

There are many issues confronting our multicultural society, such as;

What are the challenges for a multi-faith Australia?

How significant is the language question in the next census?

What changes need to be made to settlement services to meet new challenges?

What is in the best interests of Australia – permanent or long term temporary residence?

How can we better take advantage of our diversity in the cultural and economic development of NSW?

What is the impact of drug and alcohol addiction on our communities?

Who will replace the pioneers of ethnic community organisations?

What is the impact of Temporary Protection Visa holders on service providers in NSW?

What are the challenges for our society of an ageing migrant population?

# Symposium Facilitator

Ms Carla Cranny

Ms Cranny is a human service planning consultant who has worked in a range of senior policy, planning and executive positions in NSW Health, Area Health Services and the non government sector.

Carla was the first Women's Health Adviser in NSW and worked with health services and community organisations to design culturally appropriate programs to improve access to essential services such as the ethnic obstetric liaison officer program in maternity services. She also worked on a range of whole of government initiatives in child protection and domestic violence.

# Speaker Biographies

Ms Linda Burney MP

Linda Burney is a member of the Wiradjuri nation in Whitton, a small Riverina farming community. After teaching at Lethbridge Park Public School she became involved in the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG). She was elected President in 1987 in which time the AECG became incorporated and embedded the principle of negotiation with Aboriginal communities through the AECG on all Aboriginal education. She was appointed to the NSW Board of Studies, NSW Board of Vocational Education and Training, a member of the ATSIC national Social Justice Task Force, a member of the Board of SBS 1994-98 and a member of the national Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. In 1995 and 1998 she represented Aboriginal education at meetings of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva.

Ms Burney was Director General of the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Chair of the NSW State Reconciliation Committee. In 2002 Ms Burney was recognised by Charles Sturt University for her leadership in education and Aboriginal affairs by being awarded an honorary Doctorate of Education. In March 2003 Ms Burney became the first Aboriginal person elected to the N.S.W Parliament as Member for Canterbury.

Reverend Bill Crews

Reverend Bill Crews, Chairman Exodus Foundation, created the Exodus Foundation in the mid 1980s to assist homeless and abandoned youth and other people in need. As well as being awarded The Rotary Foundation International Award "Paul Harris Fellow", Rev. Crews was voted Father of the Year and Humanitarian of the Year in 1992, was included in the National Trust's 100 "National Living Treasures" in 1998, was awarded an Order of Australia (AM) in 1999 and received an Alumni Award from the University of New South Wales in 2001. Rev. Crews is a Patron of Australians For Just Refugee Programs (Inc) and Chairman of Fair Go Australia an anti-racism project sponsored by the NSW Government. Rev Crews can be heard on Sydney Radio 2GB 873 on Sunday nights from 8pm to midnight.

Dr James Jupp

Dr James Jupp has been the Director of the Centre for Immigration and Multicultural Studies at the Australian National University since 1988. In addition to being the general editor of *The Australian People* (Melbourne, Cambridge University Press, 2001) his publications include *Immigration* (1998), *The Politics of Australian Immigration* (1993), *Understanding Australian Multiculturalism* (1996) and *From White Australia to Woomera* (Cambridge Press 2002). Next year his latest book *The English in Australia* is due to be published by Cambridge Press.

Ms Bee Koh

A graduate of Nanyang University of Singapore, Ms. Koh migrated to Australia in 1980. Since that time she has devoted herself to many voluntary social services including the Chinese Australian Service Society (CASS). Now the General Manager of CASS, Ms. Koh has assisted in establishing CASS as a highly regarded social services provider in Australia with over 120 staff members. She is also the President of the Australian Longyan Association, the Treasurer of the Canterbury Multicultural Aged and Disability Support Services and has been appointed by the Premier to the Premier's Council for Women.

Ms Shubha Kumar

Shubha Kumar came to Sydney in 1973. She is an Industrial Chemist and has worked in the manufacturing industry for 28 years. Two years ago Shubha left work as Quality Assurance Manager from Excide Technologies

and took the role of President of the Australian Hindi Indian Association. In March 2003 Shubha was invited to take the reins of the United Indian Associations Inc.

Mr Khaled Alameddine

Mr Alameddine migrated to Australia in 1992 from Lebanon. In 1998, Mr Alameddine joined the Lebanese Moslem Association (LMA) as an executive committee member. After fulfilling various roles including membership on the Finance Committee, Youth Committee and Media Committee. In his fourth year with the LMA, Mr. Alameddine served as Secretary. Khaled currently serves as the President of organisation where he is coordinating various projects. He has spent the last five years as one of the organisers for the LMA's trips to Hajj (Pilgrimage to MECCA).

Mr Pino Migliorino

Mr Pino Migliorino is the president of Co.As.It. Pino is Managing Director of Cultural Perspectives, a consultancy specialising in the provision of strategic marketing and research services to government and private sector organisations. Prior to entering the private sector Pino held a number of important sectoral positions including Principal Policy Officer, NSW EAC, and NSW Regional Co-ordinator, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Executive Officer, ECC of NSW

Outside his employment profile, Pino has two decades of involvement in community affairs including welfare, ethnic affairs, the arts and the Italian community, including his role as President of Co.As.It since 1999, a member of the Sydney Florence Sister City Committee, and past NSW President of the Italian Catholic Federation.

Mr Jack Passaris

Mr Jack Passaris is the Chair of the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW (ECC). He has held a range of offices in the ECC over the past 26 years. Jack Passaris was born in Alexandria, Egypt and migrated to Australia in 1955. He was a local government councilor and deputy mayor for Marrickville Council and has held various offices including Trustee and Treasurer of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia Consolidated Trust for 23 years, President of the Newtown Greek Orthodox Parish for 26 years, President of the Inter-Communities Council of NSW and foundation member of the Addison Road Community Centre.

## Community Showcase Sessions 1:00pm to 1:45pm

### Workshop 1, Community initiative: Drug and Alcohol issues in the Samoan Community

Building 1, Level 26, Room 17  
Mrs Moira Moeaia Tuisila, Secretary,  
Samoan Advisory Council Line Sydney

This workshop will examine information projects and programs in regards to Settlement issues and the impact of Alcohol and Drugs on Samoan communities.

Mrs Moira Moeaia is a community and welfare worker, based at the Macarthur Migrant Resource Centre and has worked in the Campbelltown Area for over six years.

### Workshop 2, University, hospital and community partnership: The importance of understanding culture in the hospital care of children

Building 1 Level 26, Room 14,  
Dr Sharon Chalmers, Research Fellow, Centre for Cultural Research,  
University of Western Sydney

“We all come from somewhere: cultural diversity at Sydney Children’s Hospital” is an innovative evidence-based project that has drawn on a number of communities including health consumers from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, the community of health workers at Sydney Children’s hospital and the expertise of the Multicultural Health Unit (South-east Health) and the Centre for Cultural Research (US).

Dr Sharon Chalmers is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney. Her areas of research and publishing include health, cultural diversity, sexuality, gender and Japanese studies.

### Workshop 4, Community initiative: Islam and the Media - empowering our community

Building 2, Level 7, Room 4B  
Mr Kuranda Seyit, Director - Events Organiser - Youth liaison, Forum on Australia's Islamic Relations Inc (FAIR)

The Media 4 Muslims workshops began about a year ago to empower Muslim communities by equipping them with the skills and knowledge to effectively engage the media through use of press releases, letters to the editor,

talkback radio and televised interviews. The media workshops were conducted in different cities including Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra and extensively in New Zealand.

Kuranda Seyfi Seyit has worked in the Australian Navy, the NSW Police and community radio. He has written and directed several plays and film and television documentaries and worked as the assistant curator of the National Changing Images Multicultural Film Festival. He was the Media Officer for the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils and Editor of the Australian Muslim News. Today, he is the Director of the Forum on Australia's Islamic Relations (FAIR), an advocacy and public relations group. He is editor of the independent news-zine *Australia Fair* and visits schools with a Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic scholar for the *Goodness & Kindness Campaign*

Workshop 5, Community initiative: Organisational Management  
Building 1, Level 25, Room 46  
Chinese Australian Services Society

In 1981, a group of enthusiastic volunteers in the Chinese community wanted to establish a childcare centre. They formed an organisation, now known commonly as Chinese Australian Services Society CASS.

Today, CASS is serving multicultural communities with a wide range of services and activities, including children's services, ageing and disability services, counselling, settlement services, just to name a few. Currently, it operates on an annual budget of \$3.7 million. The experience of managing CASS in a changing environment will be a good reference for other community organisations.

Workshop 6, Community partnership: The role of the Canterbury Bankstown Advisory Group

Building 2, Level 6, Room 37  
Ms Hind Kourouche, Coordinator, Lebanese Community Council

The workshop will discuss the role of the Canterbury Bankstown Advisory Group. The group works with Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Arabic and African communities to develop activities in the geographic area to break down stereotypes and assist with cross-cultural awareness.

Ms Hind Kourouche migrated to Australia in 1970. In 2003 Hind was invited to visit the USA on a professional visitor tour to learn about three main areas namely ecumenical unity, women in leadership and economic governance. She is the Centre Coordinator of the Lebanese Community Council of NSW.

## Workshop 7, Community and Government partnership: The Ethnic Communities Environmental Education Project

Building 2, Level 5, Room 35

Ms Linda Tohver, Project Officer, Education, Department of Environment and Conservation

Ms Sue Cunningham Senior Education Officer, Department of Environment and Conservation

Jenny Tang Luis, Community Educator, Ethnic Communities' Council

This interactive workshop will showcase an innovative and exciting project funded by the Department of Environment and Conservation (formerly Environment Protection Authority and Resource NSW), and collaborating with key ethnic community organisations such as the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW. The workshop will examine key issues and challenges such as sustainability and engaging the NSW culturally and linguistically diverse community.

Sue Cunningham is a Senior Education Officer with the Department of Environment and Conservation. She has more than 25 years experience as a community educator, trainer and teacher.

Linda Tohver is a Project Officer, Education with the Department of Environment and Conservation and has worked with the Project since 1999. She has been actively involved in the environmental field for almost a decade, working as an educator, trainer and consultation organiser for both community and government organisations.

Jenny Tang Luis is a Bilingual Community Educator with the Ethnic Communities Council for the Chinese Community. Jenny has completed studies in Horticulture and has much experience in working with the Chinese community promoting the environment, including organisations such as CASS and ACCA. She has worked with the Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project since it began as a Waste Education Project in 1997.

## Workshop 8, Community partnership: Successful models of multicultural and religious cooperation and learning

Building 2, Level 6, Room 41

Rabbi Allison H Conyer, Associate Rabbi, North Shore Temple Emanuel

**Building Bridges – A Successful Model for Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue.** For the past two years a growing number of Muslims and Jews have been gathering together to discuss the similarities and differences in their respective religious theologies, practices, prejudices, and world outlooks. This workshop will present this successful dialogue model and identify impediments to inter-community dialogues, examine ways to overcome them,

and brainstorm some other models that might be appropriate to start in other communities.

Rabbi Conyer is currently the Associate Rabbi at North Shore Temple Emanuel. She is the first woman rabbi in New South Wales and one of three women rabbis currently working in Australia. She has been involved in the Executive Council of Christians and Jews and sat on the Community Harmony Reference Group set up by Premier Bob Carr to combat racism in our society. She has also been instrumental in establishing a Muslim-Jewish Dialogue Group and JSA (Jews for Social Action) raising awareness about the plight of refugees in Australia and building bridges with the Aboriginal community.

#### Workshop 9, Community initiative: India Australia event

Building 2, Level 7, Room 4A

Ms Shubha Kumar, President, United Indian Associations & Dr Aksheya Kumar, Coordinator UIA India Australia Fair, United Indian Associations (UIA)

United Indian Associations (UIA) organised the India Australia Fair, its annual event, at Sydney Athletic Centre, Sydney Olympic Park on 17 August 2003. The scale of the event, with 12,000 people attending, meant it required detailed planning and daring.

Shubha Kumar came to Sydney in 1973. She is an Industrial Chemist and has worked in the manufacturing industry for 28 years. Two years ago Shubha left work as Quality Assurance Manager from Excide Technologies and took the role of President of the Australian Hindi Indian Association. In March 2003 Shubha was invited to take the reins of the United Indian Associations Inc.

Dr. Aksheya Kumar came to Sydney in 1973. He has a doctorate from UNSW and is an IT professional working as Infrastructure Specialist with EDS. He is one of the founder members of the Australian Hindi Association and has been one of the key players launching various AHIA activities.

#### Workshop 10, Community partnership: Workshop on community initiatives supporting refugees on Temporary Protection Visas

Building 2, Level 4, Room 22

Refugee Council of Australia

The Refugee Council of Australia's workshop will focus on the introduction of temporary protection visas (TPV) for refugees which has been in place since October 1999. This policy, to which the Refugee Council

remains strongly opposed, has a significant impact on the holders of these visas who are forced to live in very reduced circumstances with little or no security for their future. In the absence of funding from government, Church and other community groups have stepped in to meet the huge gap. The House of Welcome in Carramar is one such service, providing a range of services to TPV holders and, significantly, an open door when they are so often turned away by the very services set up to assist refugees settle in this country.

Melissa Phillips is Acting Director of the Refugee Council of Australia which is the peak non-government organisation in Australia on refugee issues. Its primary activities are research, policy analysis and advocacy. It also plays an important role representing the views of its members to Government and the public at large. The Refugee Council of Australia has approximately 180 individual and organisational members and seeks to be a representative voice for refugees.

Workshop 11, Community and Government partnership: Fair Go  
Australia project  
Building 1, Level 11, Room 17  
Mr Alan Gold, CEO, Fair Go Australia

The workshop identifies ways in which Governments and instrumentalities can work well with private NGO's in developing and delivering socially important programs. Fair Go is a good example of an idea developed by a community group, and then built up with both aid from, and consultation with, government. The workshop is designed around the Fair Go case history, its initiation, the difficulties and roadblocks it encountered, and the enormous assistance it gained with support from the Community Relations Commission.

Mr Alan Gold is the author of eleven major fiction and non-fiction books. He is CEO of Fair Go Australia Limited, a project run in partnership with the State Governments of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland and was invited by the Premier of NSW to be an advisory member of the Community Harmony Reference Group. He is President of the Anti-Defamation Unit of New South Wales B'nai B'rith, the Vice President of the human rights program Courage to Care, and the literary co-ordinator of the New South Wales University Shalom College's Festival, Limmud Oz.

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