



ethnic affairs report

1999-2000

Published
by the Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT

ISSN 1440-2831

This work is copyright. Apart from any use permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior permission from the Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW.

Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW
164 – 174 Liverpool Road
(PO Box 1266)
Ashfield NSW 2131
www.eacnsw.com.au

Acknowledgements

Policy direction and oversight of the development of ethnic affairs in NSW was provided in 2000 by the Ethnic Affairs Commission, chaired by Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian. The Commissioners are listed in appendix 4 of this report

Direction and guidance on the implementation of Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statements during 2000 was provided by the staff of the former Policy and Liaison Division of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, and latterly by the Community Relations Advisory Service under the directorship of Ms Doreen Wainer.

This report was written by Ms Rosa Droscher and Mr Peter Reynolds, and prepared with the assistance of Ms Daniela Voican, Ms Mary Lee, Mr Sassoon Grigorian and Ms Suzanne Reynolds.

Graphics based on photographs provided courtesy of Mr Warren Duncan.



*The Hon. R. J. Carr, MP
Premier
Minister for Citizenship
and Minister for the Arts*



*The Hon. Morris Iemma, MP
Minister for Public Works and
Services
Minister Assisting the Premier
on Citizenship*

The Hon. R. J. Carr, MP
Premier, Minister for Citizenship
and Minister for the Arts
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

My Dear Premier

I have pleasure in submitting the *Ethnic Affairs Report 2000* for presentation to Parliament.

Ethnic Affairs Report 2000 provides a comprehensive report on the status of ethnic affairs in New South Wales. The report is prepared under section 17 of the *Ethnic Affairs Commission Act, 1979*, as amended by the *Ethnic Affairs Commission (Amendment) Acts, 1987 and 1997*.

Yours sincerely

Stepan Kerkyasharian AM
Chair
Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW

table of contents

Foreword	5
Section 1 2000: An Overview	7
Section 2 Ethnic Affairs in the NSW Public Sector in 2000	13
Section 3 Key Agencies: A Critical Overview	14
• Ageing and Disability Department	16
• Department of Community Services	20
• Department of Corrective Services	20
• Department for Women	24
• Health Care Complaints Commission	27
• Department of Housing	29
• Department of Juvenile Justice	33
• Legal Aid Commission of NSW	37
• NSW Police Service	40
• NSW Ombudsman	45
• Roads and Traffic Authority	47
• Department of State and Regional Development	51
• Tourism New South Wales	56
• WorkCover Authority	59
• NSW Health	62
Key Agency Performance in 2000	65
Section 4 Ethnic Affairs Agreements	68
Section 5 Ethnic Affairs Report for 2000	71
5.1 Key Result Area 1: Social Justice	72
5.2 Key Result Area 2: Community Harmony	81
5.3 Key Result Area 3: Economic and Cultural Opportunities	85
Appendices	93
Appendix 1: Government Agency Compliance with Legislation	93
Appendix 2: EAPS Standards Framework	99
Appendix 3: Principles of Cultural Diversity	103
Appendix 4: Members of the Ethnic Affairs Commission	104
Index	105

foreword

New South Wales is the most culturally and linguistically diverse of all the Australian states, and the strengths of its dynamic yet harmonious community were amply demonstrated during the staging of the highly successful Olympic and Paralympic Games in Sydney during the year 2000.

The development of a just and harmonious society has been a long-term aim of the people of New South Wales, and our success so far has been the result of many years of hard work and cooperation between the community and successive NSW governments.

Government policy and initiatives to promote community harmony and social justice, and the harnessing of the economically and socially productive diversity of the State, have been underpinned to date by the Ethnic Affairs Commission Act 1979 (as amended), and the government White Paper entitled *Building on Our Cultural Diversity – Ethnic Affairs Action Plan 2000*, which was released in 1996.

The White Paper set out directions for action in the three key areas of social justice, community harmony, and the recognition of economic and cultural opportunities presented by our society's cultural diversity. It was developed through extensive consultations and public input from a broad range of government and non-government agencies, and it established two mechanisms for evaluating the success of the initiatives set out within it.

The first mechanism is a report, prepared by the Ethnic Affairs Commission to be presented to parliament, on the state of ethnic affairs in NSW each year. This, the *Ethnic Affairs Report 2000*, is the fourth such report under amendments to the Ethnic Affairs Commission Act 1979.

The report provides a snapshot of government activity in the area of ethnic affairs in the year 2000. It is informed by the annual reports of public sector agencies and statutory bodies, and by the more detailed Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement reports presented to the Commission by those agencies identified as playing a significant role in program development and service delivery to the community.

To assist the identified agencies comply with the legislative requirements and to benchmark their progress in addressing ethnic affairs issues, the Ethnic Affairs Commission consulted with them to develop, in 1999, a Standards Framework for Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statements. Agency reports are made against this framework, and also contain a statement of the forward plans of the agency for the following reporting period.

In considering and reporting on the information provided by the agencies, the Ethnic Affairs Commission has of necessity had to modify its approach. While in the first reporting years emphasis was placed on evaluating the forward plans of the identified agencies, in subsequent years the focus has been, and will continue to be, on the outcomes achieved by the agencies in the application of their Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statements.

The second and more important evaluation mechanism established by the White Paper was the requirement for a review of the implementation Ethnic Affairs Action Plan 2000, with a substantial report to the Minister, and recommendations to the government for further directions in ethnic affairs.

Progress towards this review is already well under way, and has been accompanied by the post-election initiative of the government in enacting the *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000*. This Act, which had strong parliamentary and community support, reinforces initiatives taken under the White Paper, and extends the role of the Ethnic Affairs Commission by the creation of its replacement, the Community Relations Commission for a multicultural New South Wales. The new Commission will have an assessment function rather than merely a reporting function in relation to ethnic affairs in NSW.

A significant and exciting initiative to be introduced by the new Commission will be the annual Community Relations Forum, which will consist of individuals and representatives of ethnic communities from throughout New South Wales. The inaugural Forum, to be held in March 2001, will contribute significantly to the review of the Ethnic Affairs Action Plan 2000, and to the drafting of recommendations to the government for further directions to be taken in ethnic affairs in NSW.



Stepan Kerkyasharian AM
Chair
Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW