



NEWSLETTER

July 2006

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



As Chairman of the Commission I have the opportunity to attend many community events and meet with members of South Australia's culturally diverse communities. A feature of most communities is the importance they attach to their multicultural community arts activities.

Through their arts activities, communities give expression to and keep alive the spirit of their values, cultures and traditions.

Community arts activities provide an opportunity for community members to come together to share their skills and stories. The arts, that take many different forms, often reflect the essence of what people of particular cultures feel, think and want to express. Through their community arts ethnic communities celebrate and share their heritage and identity. This is why community arts are such an important part of our multicultural society.

Hieu Van Le, Chairman

CENSUS 2006 - EVERYONE COUNTS

Australia's fifteenth national Census of Population and Housing will be held on Tuesday 8 August, 2006. The Census happens in Australia every five years and it is important that everyone in the country is counted.

The Census helps us to plan for the future and provide appropriate services for ethnic communities. The Migrant Resource Centre and the Australian Refugee Association in Adelaide are supporting Census 2006 by operating 'drop in' information centres the week before and the week after the Census.

Please read the enclosed flyer for more information on this important event.

SAMEAC ADVOCATES FOR CYPRIOT AGED

Changes in regulations for the provision of parking vouchers in the city mean that members of the Cypriot Aged & Pensioners Association of SA are unable to park within a reasonable distance of their clubrooms in Carrington Street, Adelaide.

Following a meeting with club President, Mr Loucas Theodoulou, the Chairman of SAMEAC raised the matter with the Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide.

As a result, a report on the issue of extended stay parking vouchers is being prepared for consideration by the Council.

MULTICULTURAL GRANTS SCHEME

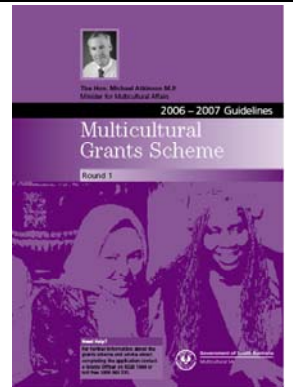
The Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P., recently launched the first round of the 2006-2007 Multicultural Grants Scheme.

The deadline for the current round of grant applications is 8 September, 2006.

Grants are made towards projects in four categories: Festivals, Projects and Events, Community Development and Using the Media to Promote Multiculturalism. In the past year, the Government has provided \$300,000 for 155 projects.

Multicultural SA also provides information on other sources of funding for projects supporting culturally and linguistically diverse background groups.

Guidelines and application forms are available from the Multicultural S.A. website www.multicultural.sa.gov.au by telephoning 82261944; freecall 1800 063 535, or via email multiculturalsa@saugov.sa.gov.au.



MIGRATION MUSEUM MONUMENT

A special bronze monument at the Migration Museum has been unveiled as a tribute to all migrants to South Australia. The Migrant Monument is a focal point at the Museum, capturing the imagination and emotions of the many visitors, particularly those who will be reminded of their migration story as settlers to our State.

The Migrant Monument is a gift of the Adelaide City Council to the Migration Museum in recognition of the many contributions made by all migrant settlers to our State.

2006 AUSTRALIAN SAFER COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Carmel Zollo M.L.C. recently announced the opening for South Australian entries to the 2006 Australian Safer Communities Awards. Entries are welcomed from organisations that have taken up new safety initiatives since January 2005. Applications close on 4 August, 2006. For further details visit the website www.ema.gov.au or ring Mr Ross Pagram on 82049376.

FAMILY COURT SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Women's Information Service (WIS) now provides a program to support women who are fearful of going to the Family Court, including women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The WIS Family Court Support volunteers are trained to: assist in ensuring women's safety while attending court; provide free and confidential emotional support; explain the court process, layout and role of court staff; provide information to address needs such as housing, financial assistance and counselling; and advocate women's needs to solicitors or court personnel.

Volunteers cannot provide women with legal advice. To request free and confidential Family Court support contact the Women's Information Service on 8303 0590, toll free rural line 1800 188 158 or info@wis.sa.gov.au.

VOLUNTEERS CARING FOR THE AGED

Many migrant communities have a high proportion of older members. It is important to acknowledge the efforts of volunteers who help older community members. Mr Bruno Krumins AM, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia and Chairman of Latvian Aged Care (LAIMA), recently presented certificates to volunteers who provide essential aged care assistance in the community.



From left: Bruno Krumins with aged care workers D. Kronitis, I. Perkons, A. Liepins and M. Pukitis.

NEW ARRIVALS

Over the past 12 months more than 9,000 migrants have settled in South Australia. About 70% have been skilled migrants, with the largest numbers coming from the United Kingdom, India and China.

About 1300 refugees have settled in the State with the largest numbers being from Afghanistan and Sudan. Increasing numbers of refugees from Central Asia and Myanmar/Burma are expected in the future.

MAKING COMMUNITIES MIGRANT FRIENDLY

Television advertising campaigns have been launched in the Limestone Coast and Riverland regions to promote the contribution of migrants to the local community and to encourage the development of migrant friendly attitudes.

The promotions feature migrants who have settled in the Limestone Coast or Riverland and have become active participants and contributors to the life of the local community.

The campaigns were developed by the Limestone Coast Regional Development Board and Riverland Development Corporation with support from Multicultural SA and Immigration SA.

