

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Many community leaders have expressed grave concerns to me over the Commonwealth Government's recent decision to remove the word multicultural (quote unquote) from the name Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. That department is now named the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

The words we use reflect our actions, intentions and values.

I am grateful that here in South Australia we have strong bipartisan support for the policy of multiculturalism.

Multiculturalism is recognised by many as Australia's greatest social achievement since the Second World War.

Through multiculturalism we achieve unity and avoid the isolation, division and hostility experienced by other countries that have not had the benefits of multiculturalism.

It is a tribute to the nature and achievements of South Australia's diverse communities that their rich cultures are today a feature of the collage of South Australia's history and character.

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I have invited the Commonwealth Minister for Immigration and Citizenship to be a keynote speaker at a Multicultural Forum being planned for later this year.

I have also invited the Opposition spokesperson on Multicultural Affairs to address the Forum.

The timing of the Forum will be dependent on the availability of the two politicians.

Further information will be provided when the time of the Forum has been set.

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Kung hei fat choi – is a common Chinese New Year greeting. Many community organisations have recently celebrated Chinese and Vietnamese New Year – the Year of the Pig – and I am glad I was able to attend many of the celebrations. It is also pleasing to note that many of the festivals have received funds through the Multicultural Grants Scheme.



New Year Celebrations at the Vietnamese Tet Festival

On behalf of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, I wish everyone an abundance of wealth, health and happiness in this Year of the Pig.

Happy New Year, or as we say in Vietnamese: *Chuc Mung Nam Moi*

Hieu Van Le, Chairman

MULTICULTURAL S.A. RECEIVES ENTRIES FOR UNITY IN DIVERSITY QUEST

Multicultural S.A. has worked with the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) to organise the Unity in Diversity Quest.

The quest commemorated the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Harmony Day on 21 March 2007. Students in schools and preschools were encouraged to explore the theme, Unity in Diversity and reflect on multicultural issues by expressing their views through a range of media.

All entries were displayed in the DECS State Office Gallery, 31 Flinders Street from 13 to 23 March.

Awards were presented on Wednesday 21 March 12:30-1:30pm at the Education Centre, 31 Flinders Street, Adelaide.



MULTICULTURAL S.A. COORDINATES COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN AUSTRALIA DAY PARADE

About two thousand members of culturally and linguistically diverse communities participated in this year's Australia Day Parade. It was a great opportunity for community members to demonstrate both their commitment to Australia and their pride in their traditional heritage.



Members of the South Australian Khmer Krom community participating in the 2007 Australia Day Parade with the Chairman of SAMEAC, Mr Hieu Van Le, Commission Member, Mr Norman Schueler and the Lord Mayor, Michael Harbison.



Multicultural S.A. staff (from left) Nicole Nicolaou, Sabina Delalić, Trevor Dodson and Nancy Labbozzetta in the 2007 Australia Day Parade

MULTICULTURAL S.A. LEAD AGENCY FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S STRATEGIC PLAN TARGET

Multicultural S.A. is the lead agency for a new target in South Australia's Strategic Plan announced by the Premier, the Hon. Mike Rann M.P., on Australia Day.

The new target is to increase the percentage of South Australians who accept cultural diversity as a positive influence in the community.

Acceptance of cultural diversity as a positive influence in the community will be measured by responses in a household survey of a sample of the South Australian public.

MULTICULTURAL S.A. RESPONDS TO INCREASE IN SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN TAXIS

Recent media reports alleged that migrant taxi drivers are responsible for sexual assaults in their cabs. Sexual assaults are, of course, a completely unacceptable crime in our community. The perpetrators of this crime unfortunately come from all sections of society.

Multicultural S.A. organised a series of meetings with interested parties including SAMEAC, the Multicultural Communities Council, the South Australian Police, the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (D.T.E.I.), the Taxi Council of South Australia (T.C.S.A.) and the Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service.

The Taxi Council has a number of strategies to reduce the number of sexual assaults including:

- Introduction of Personal Identification Numbers for all taxi drivers in late 2006;
- Improvement in vehicle and driver identification strategies;
- Introduction of compulsory training for intending taxi operator accreditation;
- Extension of marshalled taxi ranks during the early morning hours in the City of Adelaide;
- Closer working relationships with various ethnic groups to ensure improved information flow on taxi related issues; and
- Extension of a range of education strategies reinforcing regulations for new entry drivers.

Background facts

Each year about 2,000 sexual assaults are reported to police in South Australia. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, only 19%, that is, one in five, of all sexual assaults are reported to authorities.

Of all sexual assaults in Australia 65% occur in private dwellings; 3% occur on transport; 40% are committed by a member of the victim's family; and 22% are committed by a stranger.

(Source: *Australian Crime: Facts and Figures 2005*, Australian Institute of Criminology)

The majority of sex offenders in Australia are born in Australia; of Anglo-Celtic background; male; from all socioeconomic backgrounds; single; and young.

(Source: *Lievore, Denise. 2004. Recidivism of Sexual Offenders*, Australian Institute of Criminology)



MULTICULTURALISM THE FOCUS OF RIVERLAND GREEK FESTIVAL

Multiculturalism was the focus of the key speakers at the Riverland Greek Festival recently. The speakers each emphasised the importance of multiculturalism for them personally and for their communities. They also highlighted the contribution of migrants to the social, cultural and economic development of South Australia and the Riverland in particular.



Speakers at the Riverland Greek Festival (clockwise from top left): Minister for the River Murray, the Hon. Karlene Maywald M.P., Opposition Spokesman on Multicultural Affairs, Mr Martin Hamilton-Smith M.P., Member for Hindmarsh, Mr Steve Georganas M.P., and the Deputy Chairman of SAMEAC, Mr Peter Ppiros.

MUSLIM FUNERAL SERVICE INFORMATION ON MULTICULTURAL S.A. WEBSITE

Muslim communities have raised concerns about the need for funeral services that meet their religious needs. Multicultural S.A. has worked with the funeral industry to identify funeral directors who have provided or are interested in providing culturally and religiously appropriate funerals for Muslims in South Australia. A list of these funeral directors is on the Multicultural S.A. website: www.multicultural.sa.gov.au

MINISTER ATKINSON ANNOUNCES NEXT ROUND OF MULTICULTURAL GRANTS SCHEME

The Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P., has called for applications for grants under the Multicultural Grants Scheme. The scheme provides \$300,000 across the year, and has been increased by more than 300% since the Rann Government came to office in 2002.



"The Government is pleased to support our ethnic and multicultural organisations in increasing the understanding of the culturally diverse society in which we live, improving equality and tolerance, and increasing participation by South Australians of all backgrounds in public life," Mr Atkinson said.

Grants are made towards projects in four categories: Festivals, Projects and Events, Community Development and Using the Media to Promote Multiculturalism. Money awarded under the scheme is designed to partially cover project costs, with applicants expected to make up the difference. Information about the Scheme is available from a grants officer on 82261944 or the Multicultural S.A. website (www.multicultural.sa.gov.au).

MULTICULTURAL S.A. WORKS WITH FESTIVAL CENTRE ON MOON LANTERN FESTIVAL

Multicultural S.A. in partnership with the Adelaide Festival Centre is organising a major Moon Lantern Festival on the Banks of the River Torrens on Tuesday, 25 September 2007. There will be hundreds of children following a Chinese Dragon, carrying traditional moon lanterns across the King William Street bridge and dragon boats paddling down the Torrens.

Additionally there will be moon cakes and other traditional Asian delicacies, musical groups, drummers, dancers, moon poems, songs and a play in Vietnamese and English.

Community organisations have been invited to participate.



INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATING CENTRE RECRUITS MORE INTERPRETERS TO ENSURE SERVICE EXCELLENCE

To ensure that the Interpreting and Translating Centre (I.T.C.) continues to provide excellent service and is able to meet all requests for interpreting and translating services, additional suitably qualified or skilled practitioners are being recruited in some languages.

These languages include those of new and emerging communities such as Kurdish, Turkish, Turkmen, Dinka, Bari, Mandingoes and even some of the older established communities such as Greek and Italian.

In addition, I.T.C. is recruiting more interpreters in aboriginal languages such as Pitjantjatjara and Yukunytjatjara and male interpreters in Polish and Spanish.

The I.T.C. recruits new interpreters and translators to its ranks on a continuing basis. Recruitment inductions take place on average every three months and up to 50 new practitioners are enlisted each year.

Recruitment generally reflects changing language needs - particularly in new and emerging languages from Central Asia and Africa. Recruitment is usually by word of mouth or by new practitioners offering themselves to I.T.C. for employment.

The basic pre-requisite is NAATI accreditation (see www.naati.com.au) in one of the 68 languages currently being accredited.

When NAATI accreditation does not yet exist, as is the case for many African languages, commensurate qualifications or documented interpreting and/or translating experience are sought.

Linguists with NAATI accreditation or advanced skills in languages not accredited by NAATI are advised to get in touch with the Acting Manager of I.T.C. Mr Paul Hellander on (08) 8226 1950, or via email itc@saugov.sa.gov.au with a view to arranging a preliminary interview.

Successful interviewees will be invited to an induction and ultimately signed up with I.T.C. for interpreting duties.

MULTICULTURAL SA ORGANISES SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY HISTORY SEMINAR

Interest in the Recording Community Histories Seminar, organised by Multicultural S.A. was overwhelming. The Seminar, held on 7 March, was opened by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P., and provided information about recording and exhibiting community histories.

The Seminar was followed by a series of workshops held on 24 March at the Migration Museum. The workshops were fully booked, but Multicultural S.A. is taking the names of those interested in workshops planned for later this year.



The Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P., addressing the Recording Community Histories Seminar

