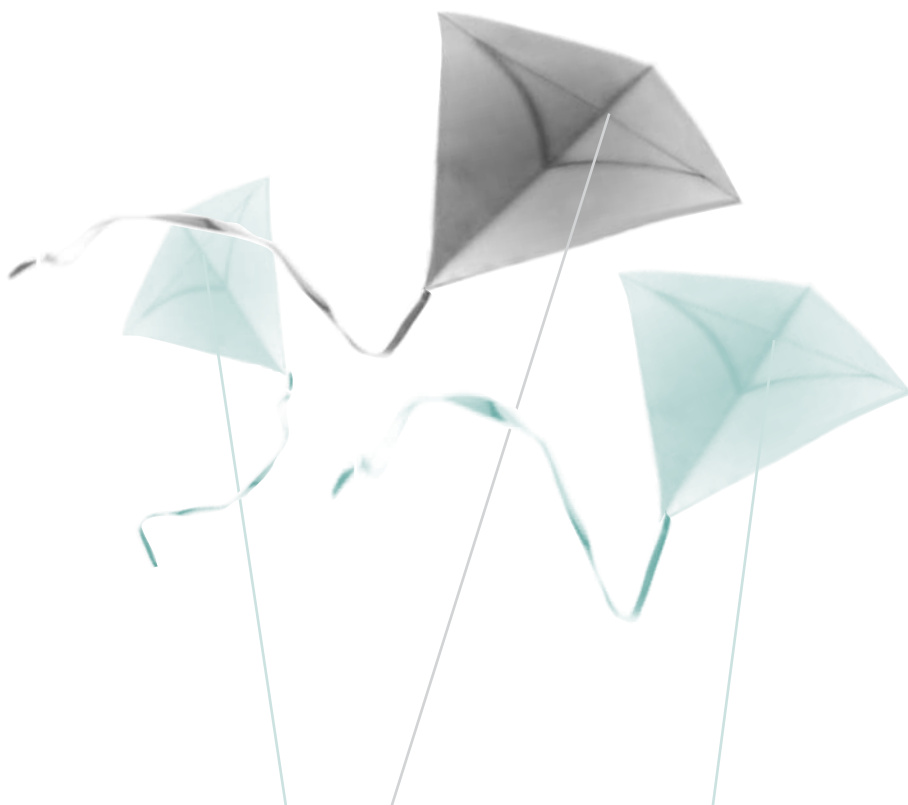


COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT 2007

*Youth diversity and harmony
- shaping our future*

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
For a multicultural 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 Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW

Community Relations Commission
For a multicultural NSW
Level 8, 175 Castlereagh St
Sydney 2000
www.crc.nsw.gov.au

Acknowledgements

Policy direction and oversight of the development of community relations in New South Wales were provided in 2007 by the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW, chaired by Stepan Kerkyasharian AM.

The list of commissioners appears on page 4.

Direction and guidance on the implementation of EAPS during 2007 was provided by the Government Relations Service, under the management of Rosa Droscher and Peter Reynolds

The following officers are acknowledged in the preparation of this Report: Patricia Giannotto, Richard Acheson, Janice Emery, Sheetal Challam, Sarah Nicholls and Ross Leighton.

Design and layout were undertaken by Daniela Voican.

Photographs were provided by NSW Government agencies and local councils.

Warren Duncan contributed photographs on behalf of the Commission.

Cover page - photograph from Beach Bonanza Carnivale 2007, taken by Warren Duncan.



*The Hon. M Iemma, MP,
Premier, Minister for State
Development and Minister
for Citizenship*



*The Hon B Perry MP,
Minister for Juvenile
Justice,
Minister for Western
Sydney and
Minister Assisting the
Premier on Citizenship*



The Hon M. Iemma, MP
Premier, Minister for State Development and
Minister for Citizenship
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000

1 March 2008

My Dear Premier

I have pleasure in submitting the *Community Relations Report 2007* for presentation to Parliament.

The Report provides an overview of the status of community relations in New South Wales and progress made in implementing this State's *Principles of Multiculturalism*.

The Report is prepared under section 14 of the *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000*.

Yours sincerely

Stepan Kerkyasharian AM
Chairperson
Community Relations Commission
For a multicultural NSW

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION For a multicultural NSW

as at 31 December 2007

Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian AM
Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer

Mr Michael Marx AM
Deputy Chairperson

Ms Wajiha Ahmed

Ms Katrina Banh

Mr Michael Christodoulou DO

Ms Ezel Jupiter

Mr Nedjelko Maruncic OAM

Ms Angelique Vongsaya

Mr Gambhir Watts

Contents

Foreword	6
Section 1: Developments and Directions	8
Section 2: Highlighting Agency Initiatives in 2007	18
Section 3: Highlights From Local Government	42
Section 4: Awards Recognising the Linguistic and Cultural Assets of NSW	56
Section 5: Implementing the Principles of Multiculturalism	74
Section 6: Annual Report EAPS Compliance	116
Appendices	
122	
Appendix 1: Principles of Multiculturalism	122
Appendix 2: EAPS Standards Framework	123
Appendix 3: Key Agencies in 2005	127
Index	128

.....

Foreword

In late 2007, in accordance with section 27 of the *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000*, the former ICAC Commissioner, Ms Irene Moss AO carried out a review of the legislation underpinning the Principles of Multiculturalism and the role of the Community Relations Commission.

In her report on the review, Ms Moss noted that, apart from highlighting some of the key multicultural initiatives of NSW Government agencies under their EAPS plans, the annual *Community Relations Report* also “provides a useful summary of some of the Commission’s own strategies and projects”, and referred to a range of programs and projects which have been described in the reports over several of the past years.

This current report also contains information which, I trust, will again prove to be a “useful summary” of NSW Government progress and the Commission’s activities in promoting community harmony, as well as best practice in service provision, within our very diverse, multicultural community.

A study of this report will show that a significant number of the initiatives described in it have been directed towards young people, and during 2007, it has been my privilege and pleasure to attend a wide range of meetings and events involving young Australians from many backgrounds. I have been enormously heartened by what I have seen.

Young Australians in general are generous, open and willing to accept others for what they are – far more so, it seems, than many of their elders. Coupled with this they are generally articulate, aware of what is happening about them, (especially about the bigger issues), and are naturally enthusiastic and energetic.

Their openness to ideas, while refreshing, also contains an element of risk – particularly the risk of being influenced by other people’s agendas. This risk is especially high if they live in a community which is closed off or isolated from the mainstream by geographical, social and class, cultural, language or religious barriers.

An important strategy in meeting this risk is to give young people every opportunity to meet, to interact and communicate, to get to know each other, and to exchange ideas.

Many of the youth initiatives outlined in this report have employed this vital strategy, and the Community Relations Commission has been particularly active in assisting in bringing young people together, not only by helping with discrete and specific programs such as the Beach Bonanza, the Summer Youth Festival and youth input into the *Talkback* theatre presentation, but also through its Youth Leader’s Day, which was first introduced in 2006 to complement the annual Community Relations Symposium.

The Commission has, of course, also been closely engaged with young people and their viewpoints

for several years now through the establishment, in 2003, of positions for two Youth Commissioners to bring youthful perspectives to the deliberations of the CRC board.

In addition to programs especially developed to assist young people work towards greater inclusiveness in our community, many NSW agencies and local councils have also been active through the past year in the areas of health, childcare and parenting. Programs and projects in these areas have been implemented to assist parents, children and young people, particularly newer settlers and refugees.

Changing immigration policies and sources of immigrants, the move to more effective regional settlement, and the particular needs of refugee settlers and humanitarian program immigrants, have generally made 2007 a challenging year for NSW agencies.

However, the future development of cultural diversity programs and strategies should be assisted by a number of recent developments.

Firstly, the introduction of the NSW State Plan in November 2007, is intended to bring about a greater whole-of-government focus on the diverse and complex needs and expectations of NSW society, and increasing consistency in addressing them.

Secondly, the Community Relations Commission, with the assistance of a research team from the University of New South Wales, has commenced a review of the Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement (EAPS) program, the main vehicle for implementing the Principles of Multiculturalism within the NSW public sector. It is intended that this review, which will include a redraft of the EAPS Standards Framework, will provide improved bench-marking, performance indicators and expected outcomes to assist agencies in planning and evaluating their policies and programs.

And thirdly, the recent change in the Federal government is expected to result in far-reaching changes in Commonwealth service provision, and particularly some improvement in the areas of immigration and settlement policies.

I commend this report to you as a valuable summary of the many initiatives undertaken by NSW Government agencies and local councils to promote community harmony, celebrate the rich diversity and heritage of our community, and provide equitable and accessible services to all.



Stepan Kerkyasharian AM
Chairperson

Community Relations Commission
For a multicultural NSW