



OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS of THE COMMISSION

The Community Relations Commission of New South Wales was established as a statutory body on 13 of March, 2001 under the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 No 77. The objectives of the Commission are in Part 3 section 12 and the functions of the Commission are in Part 3 section 13.

The objectives of the Commission are:

- ◆ participation of the people of New South Wales in community life and the public decision making process so that they can exercise their rights and fulfil their obligations,
- ◆ access to government and community services that is equitable and that has regard to the linguistic, religious, racial and ethnic diversity of the people of New South Wales,
- ◆ the promotion of a cohesive and harmonious multicultural society with mutual respect for and understanding of cultural diversity,
- ◆ the enrichment of all sections of society through the benefits of cultural diversity,
- ◆ the promotion of the principles of multiculturalism and the advantages of a multicultural society,
- ◆ the promotion of social justice, community development and community initiatives for ethnic communities in New South Wales.

The functions of the Commission are:

- ◆ to undertake systematic and wide ranging consultation with people and groups with respect to its objectives,
- ◆ to advise and make recommendations to the Minister to promote any of its objectives,
- ◆ to investigate and report to the Minister on any matter relating to its objectives that the Commission considers appropriate or that the Minister refers to the Commission for investigation and report,
- ◆ to arrange and participate in forums to promote its objectives,
- ◆ to facilitate co-operative arrangements involving governmental, business, educational and community groups or bodies to promote its objectives,
- ◆ to enter into agreements with public authorities in connection with their functions to promote the objectives of the Commission (including, but not limited to, the objective relating to access to government services),

- ◆ to assist, and assess the effectiveness of, public authorities in observing the principles of multiculturalism in the conduct of their affairs, particularly in connection with the delivery of government services,
- ◆ to assist in resolving issues associated with cultural diversity,
- ◆ to provide interpreter or other services approved by the Minister,
- ◆ to advise the Minister on the most effective use of funds appropriated by Parliament for programs related to its objectives (including funds for the provision of resources to community groups that promote the objectives of the Commission),
- ◆ to support community initiatives that promote the objectives of the Commission,
- ◆ to encourage eligible people to become Australian citizens,
- ◆ to advise and make recommendations to the Anti-Discrimination Board on matters relating to discrimination and racial vilification,
- ◆ such other functions as are conferred or imposed on it by or under this or any other Act.