

## Multicultural Policies and Services Program

# EAPS Milestones 1977 - 2008

### **1977**

NSW Ethnic Affairs Commission formed to review and write a report on access issues pertaining to people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

### **1978**

*Participation Report* released, following the NSW government's review into the needs of people from non-English speaking backgrounds in New South Wales.

### **1979**

The Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW formally established under the *Ethnic Affairs Commission Act 1979*.

### **1983**

The Premier established the Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement (EAPS) Program. All NSW public sector agencies are required to develop an EAPS, comprising a retrospective and a forward component, and submit it to the then Ethnic Affairs Commission.

### **1986**

Local Government Ethnic Affairs Policies Statements developed and piloted in five local government areas.

### **1990**

The Ethnic Affairs Commission produced the *Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement (EAPS) Program Strategic Plan* which contains a set of EAPS goals and performance measures for the whole NSW government sector.

### **1993-1996**

Under the *Charter of Principles for a Culturally Diverse Society*, all NSW public sector agencies were required to prepare Statements of Intent, and the four *Principles of Cultural Diversity* became State policy.

## **1996**

Following the NSW Government's review of ethnic affairs, the *Ethnic Affairs Action Plan 2000*, was released. The plan defines the government's three key result areas as: social justice, community harmony, and economic and cultural opportunities.

## **1997**

As part of the 1996 review of ethnic affairs, the *Ethnic Affairs Commission Amendment Act* was proclaimed in 1997. The amendments enshrined the four principles of cultural diversity in state law, strengthened EAPS obligations on NSW public sector agencies, and enhanced the powers and responsibilities of the then Ethnic Affairs Commission.

The NSW Government re-introduced the Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement (EAPS) Program.

The Premier released Memorandum No 97-7, which stated that all NSW agencies were required to prepare an EAPS. They were also required to include a statement on their EAPS progress in their annual report, by authority of the (1997) Regulations under the Annual Reports Acts.

The first Ethnic Affairs Report 1997 on the status of ethnic affairs and EAPS outcomes in New South Wales was prepared by the Ethnic Affairs Commission for tabling in Parliament as required under section 17, of the *Ethnic Affairs Commission Amendment Act 1996*.

## **1998**

The EAPS Standards Framework was implemented. For the first time, the NSW Government could benchmark EAPS progress across the public sector in five core activity areas: planning and evaluation, program and service delivery, staffing, communication, and funded services. This framework also provided the government with an objective measurement of agency EAPS performance over time.

From 1998, key agencies were required to submit annual EAPS retrospective reports to the Commission against the Standards Framework criteria.

## **2001**

The *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000* was enacted. The Community Relations Commission For a multicultural New South Wales was created, with greater responsibility for the EAPS Program. The amended Act requires the Commission "...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".

## **2002**

The Premier released the Green Paper, [\*Cultural Harmony: The Next Decade 2002 – 2012\*](#), which evaluated the Ethnic Affairs Action Plan 2000. Based on this evaluation, 46 recommendations were proposed, some of which relate to the future direction of the EAPS Program.

## **2004**

The Premier released the White Paper, [\*Cultural Harmony: The Next Decade 2002-2012\*](#), which defines EAPS and aligns the principles of multiculturalism with New South Wales' key objectives of: leadership, community harmony, access and equity, and economic and cultural opportunities.

## **2008**

To assist local councils to implement the principles of multiculturalism, required by the *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000*, a kit and planning framework was released for use by local councils.