

# ETHNOS

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1980

**Newsletter for Ethnic Liaison Officers, N.S.W.**  
Published monthly by the Ethnic Affairs Commission

This latest issue of "ETHNOS" is in a new, expanded form. We in the Ethnic Affairs Commission, in our daily contact with both Government and outside organisations, have become aware of the need for more information about our activities.

In future "ETHNOS" will be sent not only to Ethnic Affairs Liaison Officers but also to those people interested in, or working in areas connected with, Ethnic Affairs.

We hope you like the new form, but we would like your comments. If you have any suggestions about how "ETHNOS" can further improve please let us know.

*Write to: The Editor, "Ethnos", Ethnic Affairs Commission of N.S.W., 140 Phillip Street, Sydney, or phone 231 7374*

## PREMIER'S LITERARY AWARDS

Among the Premier's 1980 Literary Awards, two were sponsored by the Ethnic Affairs Commission.

One is the \$1000 award for a work written for children, dealing with a theme involving girls, migrants or Aborigines and called The Contemporary Social Issues Children's Book Award. The winner this year was "Land of the Rainbow Snake" by Catherine Verndt, illustrated by Djoki Yunupingu.

The second award, of \$1,500 for an adult book dealing with migrant experiences, went to "Australia Through Italian Eyes" by Stephanie Thompson.

Applications for next year's awards will be advertised in March/April, 1981, and winners will be announced in September, 1981.

*Further information can be obtained from Mr. K. Kinane of the Division of Cultural Activities, 22 Pitt Street, Sydney.*

## SEMINAR ON CHILDREN'S T.V. PROGRAMMES

The Commission and the Australian Film and Television School got together during October with professionals in the children's television industry to discuss this area of television programming.

The seminar, entitled "The Cultural Jigsaw" explored practical means of reflecting the very varied cultural mix of our society in television programmes for children, without resorting to inaccurate or negative "ethnic stereotypes".

The two day seminar was held at Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education and was attended by more than sixty producers, writers, directors and programmers for children's T.V. from all over Australia, New Zealand, and even Pakistan. The seminar was chaired by Jon Stephens, Executive Producer of Children's T.V. programmes for the A.B.C.

Speakers at the seminar included Professor Sam Ball, one of the original team of Sesame Street producers, Mr. Frank Meaney, who is a recognised expert on children's television and the well known Australian cartoonist, Bruce Petty.

Papers on the seminar will be available in due course. Requests for the papers should be sent to the Women's Project Officer, Ethnic Affairs Commission, 140 Phillip Street, Sydney.

## GRANTS' PROGRAMME FOR 1980/81

Over 300 applications were received this year for grants under the Commission's yearly Welfare and Cultural Grants Programme for which applications closed on September 30, 1980. The applications are now being categorised and indexed.

The next step will be for the Commission's Liaison Section to prepare detailed reports for the Grants Advisory Committee which will then meet to consider all the applications.

\$500,000 was made available this year for grants and an additional \$198,000 was set aside for funding for ethnic schools in N.S.W.

Recipients of grants will be informed by late April, 1981.

*Further information can be obtained from Mr. R. Berghofer, Secretary, Grants Allocation Advisory Committee, Ethnic Affairs Commission, 140 Phillip Street, Sydney.*

## INDO-CHINESE TASK FORCE

Last year a Task Force of the Commission prepared a report ("Survival and Beyond") for the Premier, on Indo-Chinese Refugees in N.S.W.

The report's findings and recommendations were passed to relevant Government Administrations for comment.

The Task Force itself has been reconvened under the Chairmanship of Professor K. Rivett and includes people who have been refugees from Indo-China. It is now studying responses from Government Departments and Statutory Authorities on action taken by them to implement recommendations and proposals put forward in "Survival and Beyond" and to suggest any further action.

The Task Force will later prepare a co-ordinated policy on refugees for the consideration of the Government.

*Requests for information on this issue should be addressed to Mr. Val Kneen of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, 140 Phillip Street, Sydney.*

## COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRES

The N.S.W. Government will open the Centres by the end of the year. They are designed to assist the community in the settlement of neighbourhood, family and other localised disputes between community members outside the conventional legal channels.

The Commission has been closely involved with the planning of these Centres and with the development of appropriate mediation techniques in immigrant communities.

The Commission is now developing a programme for the provision of interpreting services to the Community Justice Centres.

*For further information contact Mr. I. Vickovich of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, 140 Phillip Street, Sydney.*

## COMMISSION'S PUBLICATIONS:

### 1. Migrant Referral Manual

The 1077 "Migrant Assistance Directory" has been revised, updated, expanded, and renamed.

Now the "Migrant Referral Manual", it provides essential referral information on child care, welfare, women's services, finance and insurance, employment, interpreting and translation services, and other day to day information.

Complimentary copies have now been distributed to most Departmental Liaison Officers, to Women's Refuges, to ethnic organisations, and to those Government personnel who deal directly with the immigrant community.

*Requests for this manual should be directed to the Government Information Service, 55 Hunter Street, Sydney, telephone 221 3622. The price is \$4.00.*

### 2. A Guide for Newly Arrived Immigrants to N.S.W.

This publication is currently being printed in eight languages and will provide newly arrived immigrants with basic information about New South Wales, its government, and the services offered to people in the areas of children, health services, the law and many others.

### 3. Annual Report

The Commission's 1979/80 Annual Report has been completed and will be tabled in Parliament in the near future.

Copies of the Report, which is a source of up-to-date information on matters relating to ethnic affairs in this State, will be available after it has been tabled in Parliament.

*Information about Commission publications should be directed to Mr. N. Sherro of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, 140 Phillip Street, Sydney.*

## HEALTH CARE INTERPRETING EXTENDED

The Health Commission's new Health Care Interpreter Service has now been officially launched in Newcastle and offers three types of services:

- Full-time Interpreters

Covering the Greek, Italian, Macedonian and Serbo-Croatian languages.

- Part-time Interpreters

Covering Polish and Vietnamese languages.

- Sessional Interpreters

Covering Ukrainian and German languages.

As planned, full-time interpreters working with the Commission's Community Interpreter and Information Service (Newcastle Office), will be called on, when required, to offer back up assistance to the Health Commission in languages not listed above.

For further information, contact the Health Care Interpreter Service on (049) 26 3533.

## NEW APPOINTMENT AT THE LABOUR COUNCIL OF N.S.W.

The Ethnic Affairs Commission welcomes the appointment of Carlos Gonzales as the new Ethnic Liaison Officer at the Labour Council, replacing Ray Maxent.

This position at the Council was created with a grant from the Premier.

The next issue of "ETHNOS" will carry more news about Carlos and the job he will be doing at the Labour Council.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION WORKING PARTY

Workers' Compensation is a matter of vital concern to the Commission because of its research which showed that workers of non-English speaking background may be disadvantaged under the present system.

The Commission is consulting with organisations including the Labour Council of N.S.W., the Department of Industrial Relations, the Health Commission, the Lidcombe Workers' Health Centre and the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre to collect up-to-date information on this issue.

At a later date, a formal Working Party will be established by the Commission and those consulted so far support this initiative.

*For further information about Workers' Compensation issues, contact Mr. I. Vickovich of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, 140 Phillip Street, Sydney.*

## LIAISON WITH PERSONNEL PLANNING DIVISION OF THE P.S.B.

Meetings have been held to discuss the implementation of various policy guidelines related to equality of opportunity for public servants of ethnic background. The Commission is contributing to the revision of the P.S.B.'s "Personnel Recruitment and Employment Manual".

In discussions, it has also been mentioned that there is a need for a career development course for people of ethnic background employed in the Public Service.

Such a course is being developed now, and it will include topics such as job interviews, employers' expectations and how to plan a career in the Public Service.

## Ethnic Liaison Officer of the Month



In the new-style "ETHNOS", we are featuring a profile of an E.A.L.O. In this issue we introduce Mrs. Irene Mamantoff, Chief Psychologist with the Department of Corrective Services.

Mrs. Mamantoff has, this year, been given the special project of examining the problems facing prisoners of non-English speaking backgrounds in N.S.W. prisons.

Irene's own background is extremely diverse: born in Egypt of White Russian parents, Irene was educated in Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Italy, New Zealand and Australia, and is fluent in 6 languages.

A report prepared by the Ethnic Affairs Commission some time ago detailed a number of areas which needed to be looked at in the prison system in relation to non-English speaking prisoners. In response to the issue raised in this report the Corrective Services Commission assigned Irene to this project for a period of twelve months.

She is working closely with the Ethnic Affairs Commission and its Liaison Officers who now visit the N.S.W. prisons on a regular basis. "These visits have been particularly valuable at Morisset Hospital ward for the criminally insane where, only recently, the needs of non-English speaking prisoners have received little attention", Irene said. "The Ethnic Affairs Commission staff are doing a great job in liaising with Corrective Services staff and introducing various ethnic community members to prisoners".

"Another important group of people now visiting these prisoners are English as a Second Language trainee teachers who are going to Long Bay jail on a voluntary basis to teach the immigrant prisoners English". This programme has been so successful that we hope to employ 2 teachers on a regular basis next year", Irene said.

Another important aspect of this project has been the formation of a committee to monitor psychiatric assessment and management of immigrant prisoners where language and cultural differences create problems. Members of the committee include both Health Commission and Ethnic Affairs Commission personnel.

Changes which have already taken place include the provision of local papers in ethnic languages; cassettes of music from various countries and books in different community languages.

## SERVICES FOR IMMIGRANT PRISONERS

The Commission for some time has been co-operating with the Department of Corrective Services to improve the lot of non-English speaking prisoners serving sentences in New South Wales.

Dr. Tony Vinson, Chairperson of the Corrective Services Commission, has been personally involved in this issue.

Particular attention is being given to safeguarding the rights and care of non-English speaking prisoners serving long sentences.

The Commission's Liaison Officers have been visiting prisons in N.S.W. During these visits they speak to prisoners and discuss with them what their specific problems are. The Liaison Officers then discuss these issues with prison staff and explain what support systems are available to assist non-English speaking prisoners.

Another recent development to come out of this contact with prison staff has been a meeting arranged by the Commission's Hurstville Liaison Officer, Ms. Thakkar, between Probation and Parole staff and Welfare staff of the Long Bay complex and ethnic welfare workers from several ethnic community organisations and the Migrant Services Section of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

The meeting was arranged to introduce ethnic workers and their organisations to the Long Bay staff, and to develop a direct link between them.

Other issues in which the Commission is involved include the question of psychiatric assessments for non-English speaking prisoners and whether such prisoners need the services of bilingual or bicultural psychiatrists. Prison rules have been translated for prisoners who do not read English.

Liaison Officers have also been involved in arranging for those non-English speaking prisoners who are isolated, to receive visits from volunteers from their own communities.

*People interested in visiting non-English speaking prisoners may ring Mrs. I. Mamantoff on 217 8171 for further information.*