

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

LABOR COUNCIL CONDEMNS RACISM

The activities of racist groups came under criticism in a resolution passed by the Labor Council last month.

The resolution, delivered on 29th October, followed an earlier address to the Council on behalf of the Ethnic Affairs Commission by its Chairman.

Points raised in the resolution were:

- that solidarity amongst workers does not stop because of the colour of peoples' skin or accents;
- that fringe manifestations of racism must be isolated by the workforce as a whole;
- that the Labor Council acknowledges the contributions made by overseas born workers;
- a call on all affiliated unions to affirm their support for the A.C.T.U. Policy on Immigration and the Immigrant Workforce;
- support for the policy initiatives on Ethnic Affairs outlined by the Premier, Mr. Neville Wran.

In the earlier address to the Labor Council, Dr. Totaro said the Commission had received a petition from 88 members of a large Sydney union. They had complained about racist election material being circulated by certain groups.

"These are not simple utterances of lunatic fringes. They are followed by intimidation. They seek sympathisers in schools, in the workplace, through the media. The effect is fear, fear in millions of Australians - who because of their place of birth or colour of skin - are being threatened.

"You cannot have a large section of your membership living in fear simply because they were born somewhere else," he told the union meeting.

He added that immigrants tended to have a higher rate of union membership than Australian-born workers. In five unions surveyed earlier by the Commission, it was revealed that 40 to 65 per cent of the rank and file were born overseas. In another union with unskilled workers it was 97 per cent.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF IMMIGRANT WOMEN

The fear of losing jobs and a limited knowledge of their rights makes immigrant women more vulnerable to sexual harassment at the workplace.

This was revealed in a Survey jointly conducted last month by the Ethnic Communities' Council, Radio 2EA and the Ethnic Affairs Commission.

The week-long Survey, conducted in 10 languages, disclosed that immigrant women were often too frightened to complain about sexual harassment for fear of losing their jobs.

Social taboos also meant that many women would not telephone the counsellors themselves. Their husbands had to telephone on their behalf.

Fifty women responded to the Survey. Most were blue-collar workers in unskilled jobs in hospitals, factories, or as cleaners in large offices.

The age group was between 20 to 40 years.

The complaints ranged from requests for sexual intercourse in exchange for job favours, to touching, pinching, teasing, "flashing", or vulgar references to the woman's physical appearance.

Male co-workers, foremen, and often managers were singled out for criticism.

The Survey revealed that women who complained about harassment were often not taken seriously. In other instances, they were either laughed at, or forced out of the job.

Because many immigrant women often work in isolated jobs, they were more vulnerable to sexual harassment. Similarly, limited knowledge of their rights also meant that they were less likely to form lobby or pressure groups.

Many of the women reported intense psychological stress as a result of the harassment. In other cases, some had kept silent on the problem for years. One family was forced to move interstate after the husband challenged the man involved.

Counsellors who participated in the Survey informed women of their rights and recorded their cases in complete confidence.

Detailed findings from the Survey will be used to formulate recommendations in order to minimize sexual harassment in the workplace. These are preliminary findings from the Survey. A full report is being prepared.

....MEANWHILE

A booklet issued by the N.S.W. Women's Advisory Council on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace has been translated into nine languages by the Ethnic Affairs Commission.

The booklet outlines women's rights and what they can do when confronted with the problem. Languages are: Serbian, Italian, Spanish, Arabic, Macedonian, Turkish, Vietnamese, Portuguese and Greek.

THROUGH AUSTRALIAN EYES COMPETITION WINNERS

Six winners were announced for the "Through Australian Eyes" Essay Competition last month. Four were from N.S.W. and two from Victoria.

The Premier, Mr. Neville Wran, presented prizes to the winners. All were secondary school students of immigrant background. Other speakers were Mr. Ron Fowell, Executive Director, Special Broadcasting Service and Mr. Len Dennison, of Singapore Airlines.

The Essay Competition received over 300 entries. Participants were asked to write original descriptions of what they imagined their parents' country to be like today. It was open to children either born in Australia, or those who had come at an early age and never re-visited their country of origin.

The winners will be flown next year to their countries of origin. A series of documentary films will also be made based on their reactions during these visits.

Through Australian Eyes was jointly organised by Channel 0/28, the Ethnic Affairs Commission, the N.S.W. and Victorian Departments of Education and the Victorian Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

Singapore Airlines will provide travel for the winners, as well as for a film crew from Channel 0/28. Countries to be visited are: Italy, Greece, Hungary, India, Yugoslavia and China.

TOLERANCE ESSENTIAL FOR A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The development of a truly multicultural spirit is inextricably linked to the acknowledgement of the value to Australia of other cultures and languages, according to the Premier, Neville Wran.

Mr. Wran was speaking at the Centenary Luncheon of the Australian Lebanese Committee recently. The function was held to celebrate a hundred years of Lebanese settlement in Australia.

Mr. Wran said that the idea of a multicultural society depends on one of the most important and noblest qualities of the human spirit - tolerance.

"It is the scourge of intolerance, whether it be of race, colour or creed, which is at the root of the worst tragedies which have befallen the human race."

He said in a multicultural society such as we have and are trying to build in Australia, tolerance is of the very essence.

"There is no place for the communal, religious or racial intolerance which has disfigured and destroyed so many nations and communities around the world."

He pointed out that in a nation where 25 per cent of its citizens had been born overseas, or were children of overseas-born parents, claims for seniority or priority by any ethnic group could not have any real meaning.

Speaking on the Lebanese community, he said they "were proudly retaining their community and cultural identity" but were just as proud to be good Australians and making a rich contribution to Australian life and culture.

"A century in Australia makes the Lebanese community amongst the oldest established of the communities originating beyond the British Isles."

RESEARCH INTO TENOSYNOVITIS

Tenosynovitis is a painful ailment caused mainly by repetitive work done with the hands and wrists over many years. Immigrant women who work in factory jobs are familiar with it, and suffer debilitating problems when afflicted. The Ethnic Affairs Commission has investigated this problem, but believes there is an urgent need to undertake more research.

Staff at the School of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at the University of N.S.W. are now attempting to investigate jobs which carry the highest risks. They want to hear from people in the clothing, manufacturing, packaging and food industries.

Associate Professor, M.G. Stevenson, argues that not sufficient information has been available so far.

"We are trying to establish the extent of the problem. Since immigrant groups represent a high proportion in these jobs, we are interested to collate their cases."

For information contact:

*Professor Stevenson,
University of N.S.W.,
Ph: 662 2212*

*or write to: P.O. Box 1,
Kensington 2033*

MACHINISTS SOUGHT BY CLOTHING FACTORY

A Clothing Factory in Surry Hills is urgently seeking juniors who can be trained as skilled machinists. The factory, West-Tram Clothing Company, has a capacity for 60 machinists, but has been running on a skeleton staff of 28 girls for the past 12 months.

While advertising has been constant, the response was disappointing according to the owner, Mr. Bob Daws.

"I am losing money because I can't find enough staff," he said. Mr. Daws is looking for about 10 juniors who will be trained on-the-job.

The Ethnic Affairs Commission approached him about the feasibility of advertising within the ethnic community. He was enthusiastic.

"There are many immigrant women who would prefer to work in a factory on proper wages. It's better than working at home on below-award wages."

It takes about half a day to learn how to use the machines. The job is particularly appropriate for 16 to 18 year olds.

For information please contact: Mr. Bob Daws, West-Tram Clothing Company - 212 2659.

ADVERTISERS AND THE ETHNIC MARKET

One in five Australians are of first or second generation non-Anglo Saxon immigrant background. But their marketing potential has not been realised by advertisers, according to a report by a Sydney advertising agency, John Clemenger Intercom, who produced the report say that one in four people in Sydney and almost one in three in Melbourne have non-Anglo Saxon origins. During 1981, an estimated 104,500 immigrants and refugees were expected to arrive in Australia as well.

Other points raised in the report include the fact that:

- Italians living in Australia have the highest rate of home ownership in the world.
- The Italian, Greek and Yugoslav populations make up 12 per cent of the population in Sydney and Melbourne.

- Immigrant groups (according to Commonwealth figures) spend 59 per cent more on housing compared to Australian households.
- Immigrant households account for 70 per cent of the total metropolitan market for oil, 57 per cent of the market for pork, 54 per cent of the market for flour, and 51 per cent of the market for cheese.
- Average readership for the major English-language newspapers shows that they are ineffective in reaching the Greek, Italian or Yugoslav communities.

ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION INTERPRETERS TO VISIT GUANGZHOU

The Ethnic Affairs Commission's Chinese Language Unit is gearing up for the N.S.W. Trade Fair (organised by the Overseas Trade Authority) to be held in Guangzhou next year. The Fair will be held at the famous site used for the bi-annual Canton Trade Fairs.

It is the first Fair of its kind to be organised by the State Government outside Australia. Ms. Margaret Tung and Ms. Agnes Mok, from the Chinese Language Unit, are familiar with China. They are currently working on the translation of seminar papers and other material to be used at the Fair.

It will be held from 25th February to 5th March, 1982. Thirty-one business companies will be represented from the State.

The Unit will help with interpreting, translations, and general liaison between the businessmen and local authorities. The Chinese Language Unit was set up last year at the Commission. Though limited in size, it has been an invaluable addition to the Commission's translating and interpreting section.

HUGE DEMAND FOR GUIDE FOR NEWLY ARRIVED IMMIGRANTS

The demand for the Ethnic Affairs Commission's recently published "Guide for Newly Arrived Immigrants" has been unexpectedly heavy. Requests for several thousand copies have come from government departments, individuals, educational institutions, and organisations working with the ethnic communities.

The Guide, published in nine languages, is also useful to anyone wishing to assist newly arrived immigrants.

Requests for copies are being met as soon as possible. However, due to the demand, new names are being added to our distribution list almost daily. Copies will be sent off as soon as resources allow.

Languages are: Vietnamese, Italian, English, Serbian/Croatian, Turkish, Spanish, Greek, Arabic and Chinese.

PART-TIME CONSULTANT FOR OVERSEAS QUALIFICATIONS UNIT

A part-time research consultant will be appointed by the Government to the Ethnic Affairs Commission next year to help investigate the problem of immigrants and Overseas Qualifications.

The research is the first stage in an inquiry which will be spread over two years. It is being conducted jointly by the Commission and the Anti-Discrimination Board.

The research aims to assess the position of overseas qualified people within professions and trades. It will make recommendations for the rationalisation of overseas qualifications in N.S.W.

It will also examine the procedures relating to employment of immigrants with recognised Overseas Qualifications in the N.S.W. Public Service, and make recommendations aimed at eliminating any discriminatory provisions in legislation, regulations, policies and practices.

INTRODUCTION OF FEES BY N.A.A.T.I.

The National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) recently introduced fees for testing, and other forms of assessment for applicants seeking accreditation or recognition.

The fees are as follows:

- Assessment at Level I: \$10
- Assessment at Level II: \$15
- Assessment at Level III: \$25

Fees will be charged for accreditation testing, granting of recognition to practice, interpreters and translators, and assessment of overseas qualifications in interpreting/translating.

Collection of the money will be done by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. Applicants for assessment will be advised of payment arrangements by the NAATI Secretariate or by the SAPTI Executive Officers. They may be contacted by telephoning the Regional Office of the Department in each capital city.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

People involved in helping refugee families or individuals to settle in Australia will be interested to know about the Community Refugee Settlement Scheme. It is being conducted by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

Under the Scheme, Australian families can take refugees under their wing and help them settle into Australian life. Community groups receive up to \$400 for a family and \$150 for one person to help them find housing and jobs for refugees.

If interested in the Scheme, contact the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs - 239 4118.

SUMMER VACATION COURSES IN ENGLISH

Six full-time English courses have been arranged by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in two centres for adult immigrants for next year. The preparatory English courses are intended for people who speak or write little or no English, and have not attended a full-time course before.

The courses will be held from 4.1.1982 to 12.2.1982. A Living allowance plus assistance with travel costs and child care (where applicable) will be paid to all students.

For details contact: Telephone Interpreter Service - 221 1111 (between 18 November and 29 November, 1981).

JOB COUNSELLING FOR YOUTH

Four new offices of the Youth Counselling Service have opened at Blacktown, Gosford, Grafton and Liverpool. These offices are being conducted by the Human Resources Division of the N.S.W. Department of Industrial Relations and Technology.

Young people who require career counselling will be assisted by the special career information section. Audio-visual equipment, tapes, and other information is available.

Anyone who needs a counselling session should contact their nearest office:

<u>Metropolitan</u>		<u>Country</u>		
Bankstown	70 1352	Albury	(060)	21 2596
Blacktown	671 1332, 621 5220	Armidale	(067)	72 5869
East Sydney	339 7200	Dubbo	(068)	82 0600
Hurstville	570 1963, 57 7929	Gosford	(043)	243 688
Liverpool	602 2777	Goulburn	(048)	23 0660
North Sydney	92 8840	Grafton	(066)	425 740
Parramatta	635 5422	Griffith	(069)	62 3655
Penrith (047)	21 0274	Kempsey	(065)	62 5002
		Lismore	(066)	21 1701
		Maitland	(049)	33 6425
Head Office	266 8111	Newcastle	(049)	25 631
(1 Oxford St., Sydney)		Orange	(063)	62 5122
		Tamworth	(067)	66 1988
		Wagga Wagga	(069)	23 0683
		Wollongong	(042)	28 9511

For information contact Anne Wilson, Department of Industrial Relations and Technology - 266 8111.

ETHNOS has been updated to a monthly newsletter. Comments, ideas, or information from readers are invited.

Direct editorial enquiries regarding Ethnic Affairs Commission activities to:

Shahida Hussain
231 7386 or 231 7374



ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION.

RESOURCE INFORMATION BULLETIN

No. 2 November, 1981

Why Ethnic Schools?

is the question asked by Paul Kringas and Frank Lewins, in their latest book. They explore migrants' perceptions of the role of these schools and their relation to the wider issues of migrant education. The emphasis is on the attitudes of Greek, Italian, Ukrainian and Slovenian communities. Published by Australian National University Press. Available from the University, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600. \$10.50

Latvians in Australia: alienation and assimilation

presents a detailed psychological investigation of Latvians in Australia. It explores the history of settlement, mental health, adjustment, and other aspects of the community. Published by and available from the National University Press, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600. \$9.50

Ethnicity and Class Conference

An important Conference took place on the above topic recently at the University of Wollongong. Papers presented at the Conference are available in a package from the Centre for Multicultural Studies at the University. \$15.00

The Netherlands

Consulate-General has presented the Ethnic Affairs Commission Resource Centre with a collection of useful material about the Netherlands. This includes an atlas, fact sheets, and several books about history, art, life-style and people today. Such works are available free of charge from the Consulate.

Sir Paul E. Strzelecki

was the first man to climb Mt. Kosciusko. A new bibliography has been written about this famous Polish-Australian by Marian Kaluski. Strzelecki's life was one of travel and exploration, and it was he who forged one of the first links between Poland and Australia. This book is published by the Polish-Australian Historical and Cultural Society and is available from 4 Booral Drive, West Sunshine, Vic. 3020. \$4.00

Articles of Interest

Work Hazards No. 8, Sept. '81 pp.6-7. In the Yards explains the problems faced by women cleaners in the Flemington Rail Yards.

Multicultural Marketing News issue 4, Sept. '81, p1. Australia's latest Chinese Newspaper. Migrant Housing.

Directories

Ethnic Communities in Australia:
a directory of organisations
1980-81 Canberra, Australian
Government Publishing Service, 1981

New Journals

The Asian Times: a new monthly
review of Asian Affairs, published
by Southdown Press, in Melbourne.

Multicultural Marketing News:
published by Ethnic Communications,
Pty. Ltd.

New Books

Australia

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Year Book Australia, 1981 No. 65
Canberra, A.G.P.S. 1981

Demography

N.S.W. - Department of Youth and
Community Services - Planning and
Research Unit.

Regional Statistical Package
Riverina Region
Planning and Research

Paper No. 6. Sydney, the
Department, 1981.

Language

Macquarie Library, The Macquarie
Dictionary Sydney, the Sydney
Morning Herald, 1981.

McCull, Rod, ed. T.E.S.L. Talk
Special issue: The Immigrant
Student in Secondary School Toronto
the Ministry, 1976.

Fox, James, ed. Teaching English
as a Second Language: a
Methodology, Toronto, the Ministry.

(Ministry of Culture and Recreation)

Regugees

Grant, Bruce The Boat People:
an "Age" Investigation. Ringwood
Vic. Penguin, 1979.

Religion

National Library of Australia.

Islam - a list of books issued
at the International Conference
"The Quran Through Fourteen
Centuries", held at the Australian
National University, Canberra, 8-13
May, 1980.

Training

Public Service Board of N.S.W.

Staff Selection Workshop: Training
Package, Personnel Division,
Sydney, the Board, 1981.

Tourism

Australian Tourist Commission.

Survey of International visitors
1979-80. Melbourne, the Commission
1981.

Material appearing in this
Bulletin is available for loan
through most Libraries in
Australia via the Inter-
Library Loan System. They can
be consulted at the Ethnic
Affairs Commission Library,
140 Phillip St., Sydney, 2000.
Tel: (02) 231 7381.