

ETHNOS

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Newsletter for Ethnic Liaison Officers, N.S.W.

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THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMME DIRECTORY

Within the next few weeks you will receive a copy of the English Language Programme Directory. This has been developed by the Ethnic Affairs Commission of New South Wales in order to present, in a systematic and accessible form, information about English programmes which are available to adult immigrants.

Courses are offered by a number of agencies and the Directory will enable you to select the most suitable course for each particular person's needs. As the availability of classes is subject to frequent change, the Commission will endeavour to up-date your Directory every six months. The Commission would appreciate any critical comments you have as to how effectively the Directory meets your needs.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COURSE: LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Just a brief reminder that the screening test for the Equal Opportunity Course: Language and Communication Skills, was held on 12th June, 1980. Successful applicants will be notified to commence the course in July 1980. Your encouragement to any student would be greatly appreciated.



COMMUNITY INTERPRETER AND INFORMATION SERVICE CELEBRATES ITS THIRD YEAR

The Community Interpreter and Information Service was established in May 1977. With a total professional staff of thirty-four, spread over five branch offices, the Service was designed to assist immigrant members of the community to gain access to those benefits, services and information normally available to the community in general.

In addition to assistance offered by full-time staff, the Service is also responsible for the administration of a part-time panel of interpreters, representing over fifty languages.

All of the services provided by the Community Interpreter and Information Service are free except in certain civil matters.

The Community Interpreter and Information Service, through its Translation Unit, provides also a wide range of translation work, done by an official panel of part-time translators covering fifty-three languages. The Unit has been expanded recently to improve its service to Government Departments, as well as the community.

In statistical terms, C.I.I.S. has provided interpreting assistance in 67418 cases through its five offices, (City, Hurstville, Liverpool, Wollongong and Newcastle) and 15360 pages of translations for the period 2nd May 1977 to 31st May 1980.

Recent developments include expansion into the field of Workers' Compensation to provide free interpreting for Workers' Compensation Commission Hearings, related legal conferences, conferences of the Commission's Medical Board and cases referred to the Workers' Rehabilitation Unit.

The new service, under the direction of an Interpreter-in-Charge, is provided by full-time and part-time panel interpreters of the Community Interpreter and Information Service.

Three seminars have been already conducted in Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle, to up-grade the knowledge of practicing interpreters in the Workers' Compensation area.

PROFILE

In this issue of Ethnos we depart from our usual practice of featuring an Ethnic Affairs Liaison Officer, to introduce you to current initiatives in the field of Adult Migrant Education.

We have pleasure in introducing you to Bill Stenning, Supervisor of Community Programs at the Adult Migrant Education Service. Bill Stenning spent many years teaching English as a Second Language and, after becoming involved in child migrant programmes was subsequently appointed to his present position. Bill joined AMES six years ago when there were only evening courses in English for adults

"To-day we have more than two thousand women attending community day-time classes which follow a "needs-based" format. We first of all identified the kind of English that immigrant women would need and then designed courses accordingly."

Bill, and his associate Bob Renfree, are now heavily involved in expanding the programmes for immigrant employees, which are held at the students' places of employment.

"We now have 50 classes running at companies such as B.H.P., John Lysaght, Australian Glass Manufacturers, G.M.H.-Holden, C.S.R., the N.S.W. Public Transport Commission.

These courses take into account the type of communication skills that are required so as to function effectively in the work place. The programmes are conducted as part of the employees working day or, when necessary, students attend classes on paid overtime."

Bill Stenning describes these programmes as being probably the most exciting and innovative courses being conducted by AMES at present.

"As the work in factories and offices become more technical, there is an increasing need for effective communication in English. Both management and unions are aware of this need and we are receiving a great deal of co-operation in providing classes."

"We are always on the look out for people from management, union representatives, and employees, who wish to discuss planning and starting new courses," Bill Stenning said.

Another initiative involving both the Public Service Board of New South Wales and AMES is the programme of visits by P.S.B. personnel to classes at AMES, to inform students in the classes of the job opportunities available for them in the Public Service.

"These visits from the Public Service Board began this year and the response and interest has been enormous."

AMES welcomes enquiries from all State government departments and will assist in providing courses to improve the level of staff competence in English. Ethnic Affairs Liaison Officers can contact either Bill Stenning or Bob Renfree on 27 6684.

Ethnic Welfare Courses

The Department of Technical and Further Education is running a short course for helping personnel in the field of ethnic welfare. The course will run for 12 weeks and is scheduled to start on the 14th of July. Interested applicants should contact:

Shane O'Higgins, Course Co-ordinator

Phone: 2173400

Tuesday 10.00 - 5.00 pm

Thursday 11.30 - 5.00 pm

