

# APPENDICES

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# APPENDIX 1

## *Ethnic Affairs Report*

The following is an account of the ethnic affairs achievements and forward plans of the Ethnic Affairs Commission under four of the Key Result Areas of its Corporate Plan.

### ***KEY RESULT AREA 1: Agency Partnerships and Agreements***

- , The Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statements (EAPS) Council last met on 14 April 2000 to discuss changes to the reporting schedule for the Ethnic Affairs Report. There are 22 Key Agencies which report to the EAC on an annual basis. This is resource intensive for the EAC and does not 'reward' good agency performance. A paper proposing moving a number of these agencies to two-yearly reporting was discussed. It was agreed that the reporting schedule be adopted with the following changes: that the Attorney General's Department be dropped from the Key Agency list, and the Department of Juvenile Justice continue to be required to report annually.
- , The Ethnic Affairs Commission continues to monitor the implementation of two Agreements with the NSW Police Service. The first Agreement was signed by the Ethnic Affairs Commission, the NSW Police Service and the Attorney General's Department in 1998. It allows the NSW Police to book interpreters on behalf of local courts without incurring a charge, thereby reducing the risk of court delays whilst an interpreter is arranged. This Agreement applies to people with limited language skills who appear in court for domestic violence matters, and to defendants in criminal matters. Modification of the NSW Police's Computerised Operations Policing System (COPS) to facilitate the Agreement is almost complete. The NSW Police Service will review the effectiveness of the Agreement as part of their Language Services Review which is due for completion at the end of 2001. The second Agreement between the Ethnic Affairs Commission and the NSW Police Service involves ethnic affairs scholarships for graduates at the Police Academy. Signed in 1997-98, this involves funding by the Ethnic Affairs Commission of two scholarships per year for research in issues related to policing in a multicultural society.

### ***KEY RESULT AREA 2: Community Liaison and Support***

- , The Commission has been monitoring the progress of the Review of Teacher Education in NSW, and at the request of the reviewer, Dr Gregor Ramsey, has followed up its original submission with comments on a progress report and some concrete suggestions on strategies to ensure that NSW teachers are well prepared to teach in a culturally diverse educational environment.

- , The Commission undertook to invite representation from NSW Health on the Canterbury-Bankstown Community Relations Group. NSW Health is particularly interested in diversionary programs for young men of Arabic and Vietnamese backgrounds as they are over-represented in juvenile detention centres for drug-related offences.

### ***KEY RESULT AREA 3: Research, Advocacy and Community Education***

- , The Ethnic Affairs Commission conducts examinations for government sector organisations under the Community Language Allowance Scheme (CLAS). Three rounds of examinations under the Community Language Allowance Scheme have taken place since the beginning of 1999. These were in June and November 1999 and in May/June 2000. Examinations were conducted at Commission premises at Ashfield, Wollongong and Newcastle. 314 candidates from 79 agencies nominated for the CLAS examination. Based on the nominations and confirmation by candidates, examinations were conducted in 99 languages. The nature of the examinations and the examiners' workshop reflected the outcomes of an extensive review of the nature of the examination process that had been conducted in the previous year.

### ***KEY RESULT AREA 4: Language Services***

- , The Commission has continued to maintain extended public hours of its Language Services in Ashfield from 7.30am - 6.00pm.

#### **For 2000 – 2001**

- , In addition to the ongoing provision of interpreting and translating services, the Commission is investigating the use of video conferencing technology to improve accessibility and delivery of services, via a cross-jurisdictional justice agency video conferencing service.
- , The EAC online project is intended to allow all parties to share data and electronically transact with the Commission. This will apply initially to the provision of an online booking services for languages and subscriptions to ethnic media monitoring. It is also intended to bring together communities through NSW via a common entry point to promote and encourage interaction between communities and the government.
- , Language Services have developed, in conjunction with the Attorney General's Department (AG) and the University of Western Sydney (UWS), legal training for Language Services Panelists.

The legal training is designed to last for 3 years and train 150 panelists per annum.