



**A message from the
Hon Philip Ruddock, MP
Minister for Immigration and
Multicultural and
Indigenous Affairs**

&

**the Hon Gary Hardgrave, MP
Minister for Citizenship and
Multicultural Affairs**



Australia is a diverse, open, cohesive and friendly society. Governments at all levels have an important leadership role in ensuring Australia continues to maximise the benefits of our cultural diversity. Some of the ways that the Commonwealth contributes to these outcomes include:

- a migration program that is clearly in the national interest and is non discriminatory in terms of matters such as race, religion, ethnicity and gender;
- appropriate and properly targeted settlement services; and
- joint initiatives such as Harmony Day, funding for Living in Harmony projects and the Citizen 2030 school program, which allow us to celebrate and reflect on our success as a multicultural society.

To maintain and enhance a diverse Australia, we need a good understanding of our cultural diversity and how it is changing. That is why we need publications such as *The People of New South Wales*.

This publication, along with its companion volumes for other States and Territories, contains comprehensive statistical profiles for every area in Australia showing the birthplaces, religions, languages and ancestries of their local residents.

These volumes also contain statistical summaries for each State and Territory. These provide a wealth of interesting and thought provoking insights on such topics as –

- the areas where different groups of migrants have chosen to settle;
- the fastest growing religions, languages and birthplaces for each State and Territory;
- the differing countries of origin for people of the same ancestry; and
- the dramatic variation in the age-mix between people from different countries.

Considered together, these publications provide a detailed and informative picture of Australian society. In particular they show the very different population-mix between each State and Territory.

We commend this publication and its companion volumes, as a very valuable resource to assist and inform policymakers, community leaders and all Australians.

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