

ETHNOS



Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW

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The 4th Women and Labour Conference

The Conference, which took place on 13-15 July 1984 in Brisbane, was formally advertised as having the theme "Racism and the Struggles of Black and Migrant Women Against Racism". It soon became apparent, however, that although there were a number of papers and workshops dealing with issues of concern to Aboriginal and Migrant women, the central theme of racism had been marginalised in such a way that participants were not at any time forced to confront the issues of racism and its implications for the women's movements.

A group of women who came together to voice their dissatisfaction claimed that:

- (a) There was no introductory session at which the themes of feminism and racism were pulled together, so that conference participants could see the connections at sessions which didn't deal with the subject specifically;
- (b) sessions on certain crucial issues such as sexual harassment and trade unions totally ignored the dimension of migrant labour;
- (c) sessions on racism and connected issues tended to be anecdotal and non-analytical and made no attempt to come to terms with the complexities of the issue of racism;
- (d) sessions were structured in such a way that participants didn't need to attend a single session dealing with racism. In fact these tended to be poorly attended.

The group of women who identified these shortcomings called a meeting of those interested in Aborigine and migrant women's issues. This meeting attracted a few hundred women who agreed with the criticisms of the conference. It was decided to ask the organisers for a special plenary session at a time when all could attend.

A session entitled "Forum on Racism and Feminism" was called. In addition to resolutions calling for legislation against



incitement to racial hatred and the need to give continued priority to family reunion-based migration, the following recommendations were endorsed by the Forum:

- (a) The setting up of a national network of women interested in migrant women's issues. (This network will be co-ordinated by Frederica Steen of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in Canberra).
 - (b) The organisation of a national conference for migrant women. It was suggested that this could be structured as a lead-up or pre-conference for the two-yearly Women and Labour Conference, as a means of ensuring that the migrant women's group remains a part of the
- (Continued on page 8)

Music Momentum Conference

Music Momentum is the title of a three-day conference which will take place in Melbourne on the 27-29th October, 1984. The aim of the Conference is to explore and recommend on the potential contributions of the school, the home and the wider community to musical life in the future.

The Chairman of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, Dott Paolo Totaro has been invited to deliver a public lecture on *Cultural Diversity in Music — Perspectives for Australian Society*. This paper, together with the other three public lectures to be presented at the Conference will be published soon after the event.

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The Church and the Immigration Debate

By the Reverend Martin Chittleborough, Chairman of the Refugee Council of Australia and President of I.C.R.A. (S.A.).

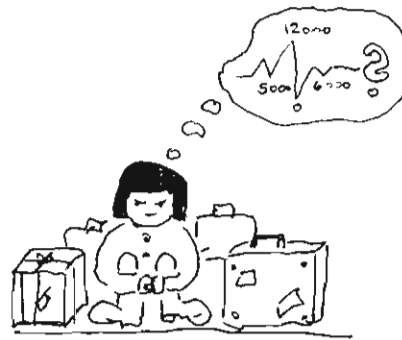
Perhaps now that the debate on Asian migration, with its political point scoring and emotional overtones, has somewhat abated, it is time to examine the implication of Australia's immigration programme announced by the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs on the 30th May.

Mr West announced an expected total intake in 1984/85 of 72,000 migrants, plus 2,000 contingency refugees. Settlers from New Zealand (which in 1982/83 were 7,700) are not included in this programme.

These fall into three main components:

- (1) Family Reunion: This is the largest component comprising 42,000 people and is based on the fact that many people in Australia wish to have their family with them for support and affection. This component is for the benefit of individuals and family groups.
- (2) Skilled Labour and Business Migration of 16,000: This will enable Australia to import people with skills, technology, capital or business experience which will be of value to Australia as a nation.
- (3) Refugee and Special Humanitarian Programme of 14,000 plus 2,000 in contingency to respond to a new or worsening refugee situation, which may arise. This component, as it is for the benefit of those without country, permanent home, job or future, is most clearly a moral one, and the one which was so obviously likely to suffer in what might have become the game of "blame the victim". Fortunately, both the government and the opposition have said that they will maintain a bipartisan policy on the question of refugees, for these are a group which has very little political weight. However, there has been no comment on the fact that the number of refugees has decreased from 22,000 in 1981/82 to 17,000 in 1982/83 to a target of only 14,000 in 1984/85. The new policy claims to be without discrimination and plans to take refugees from all situations regardless of the political ideology of the country they are fleeing from.

The largest component, 8,200, is made up of refugees from Indo-China. Why should this be so? The debate has



mentioned humanitarian reasons and to make amends for Australia's part in the Vietnam war.

We can however, trace a further reason back to April, 1976, to the arrival of the first boat with 27 refugees in Darwin. Their arrival showed that Australian coastal surveillance and radar systems are hopelessly inadequate, and the Australian reaction of panic was out of proportion to the mere 2,000 who subsequently arrived. In an attempt to control the situation, the Australian government reacted by promising the governments of Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand financial aid as well as a promise to take refugees, at first mainly from Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore and later for a time a higher proportion from Thailand.

In an attempt to stop the flow at the source the Australian Government condemned the Vietnamese government for being in Kampuchea, and accused them of encouraging people to leave by boat. In cutting off its meagre aid programme of \$3 million, it lost any influence it may have had on the Vietnamese government. As a result of this heavy-handed reaction, apart from a few families united through Church channels, it was not until November, 1982, that the first 170 arrived directed from Vietnam under the family reunion migration scheme, thus avoiding the hazards of shipwreck and pirates. It is worth noting that whilst the 1984/85 quota under the Orderly Departure Scheme is for 5,000, the family reunions from Vietnam, unlike those from other parts of the world, will be limited for the time being, to parents, children and spouses.

The refugee Council of Australia, of which I am chairman, has 33 affiliates, some religious and others secular, and the refugee situation will provide different challenges to each one. As a Christian, I see it challenges the Church in the following ways.

The Challenge of Change:

Refugees in the Bible are associated with points of profound change. Moses and the Hebrew slaves were political refugees, with Moses wanted for murder. Jesus was a political refugee, taken by Mary and Joseph to Egypt where tradition has it that they settled near the place where Moses came ashore in a basket. Jesus, through his journey back from Egypt, strengthened his association with Moses as lawgiver in his later ministry. The Holy Family may well have been rich refugees enabled by the gold given by the wise men to buy their way or live more comfortably.

It was often refugees who took the gospel with them as they fled; certainly those who fled to Antioch after the persecution of mission and giving. They were so different to those followers of Jesus left in Jerusalem, that they had to coin a new name — Christians — to describe them. We need then to be sensitive to what God is trying to say to us through refugees.



The Challenge of Race:

From the beginning of the Bible the people of God were called to migrate. Both the Old and new Testament characterize the people of God as an *ekklesia*, a group called out of this world to travel into a new land. Inevitably, these wanderers do not find a home in this world, but finally in the world to come. This is reinforced by the Kingdom of God which is not a specific geographical area, but the rulership of Christ extending over all creation. The people of God are not part of a specific nationality but are chosen by grace in Christ from all nations. Salvation is proclaimed to all peoples and so national elements cannot dominate the Church because the

members are one in Christ. We reject then discrimination based on the false promise of race.

The Claims of the Refugee

The new Testament unflinchingly declares the principles of openness and kindness to strangers, and to the poor, and outcasts of society. In the Good Samaritan story, Jesus opened a new and definite attitude to outsiders. In other places he identified himself with the strangers and helpless.

What does this imply for the Church? It means that for the Church as the body of Christ to reflect Jesus it must feel with and for the stranger, the migrant who is Jesus incognito. In helping the migrant

the Church itself may be helped to rediscover its role as a congregation of fellow migrants sharing the elements of this world as a means of reaching a better land. It means telling people that God himself became a stranger in Christ. It means that we often serve God without explicitly knowing that it is he whom we serve.

The immigration debate is an important one for Christians to be involved in, for its outcome will determine the kind of nation we shall live in. Whilst humanitarian or economic considerations may be deciding factors in some components of our policy, compassion and morality ought to be predominant in decisions regarding refugees.

Immigrants and Community Services

Non-English speaking (NES) immigrants are the least aware in the community of welfare services. This is the conclusion which can be drawn from a recent Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) study entitled **Public Awareness and Knowledge of Selected Welfare Services in N.S.W. released in May 1984.**

The A.B.S. tested the awareness of a group of respondents with regard to the following services: home care, rent relief, emergency cash relief, women's refuges and child protection. Awareness or unawareness of services was classified according to gender, country of birth, period of residence in Australia, marital status and labour force status.

The A.B.S. used a very broad definition of "awareness" in their survey. The aware group included both those persons who indicated that they had heard of the service although not sure of its details, and those persons who had heard of the service and were sure of some of its details. "Awareness" figures on this basis are likely to be more inflated than useful knowledge about a service known by the respondents. In order to best utilize services, people need to know specific information about their rights; but if confused about the nature of a service, they are less likely to be able to act upon their knowledge. This confusion is compounded by language difficulties and cultural differences.

Only 42.9% of NES immigrants were aware of emergency cash assistance/ relief services. This compared to 65.4% of Australian respondents who were aware of this service. When related to labour force status, it is noteworthy that unemployed people were least aware of this service; only 60% being aware, compared to 63% for the total employed. Thus, those most likely to need this service were least aware of its existence.

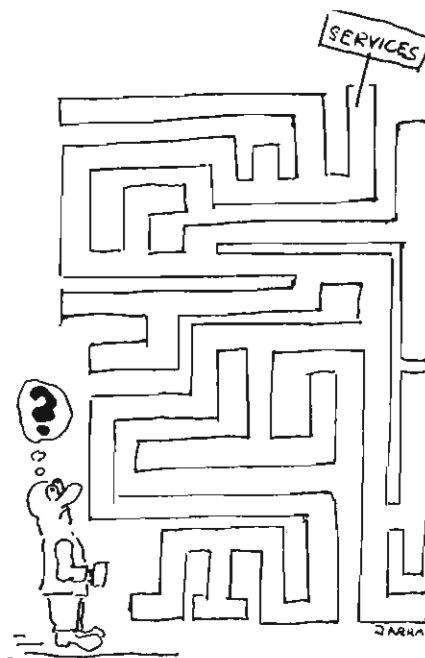
The statistics showed a consistent pattern of NES immigrants being less

aware of welfare services than Australian and other English speaking groups. In one case (women's refuges) the difference was as high as 32.5 per cent.

Recent arrivals also fared badly in terms of awareness of services. With children's protection services, only 44.9% of those who had arrived between 1979-83 were aware of available provisions, compared to 59.1% of migrants who arrived before 1969.

Overall, the ABS study indicated a great need for advertising and more specific information about services for all groups. For NES immigrants there are pressing needs for more multilingual information about services especially for new arrivals.

Below are some of the major findings of the survey.



Level of Awareness of Service by Birthplace
(% of group being aware)

Service	Overseas-Born			
	NES	English speaking	Australian	
Home Care	31.7	54.9	60.8	
Service	Overseas-Born			
	NES	English speaking	Australian	
	Rent Relief	25.7	43.2	45.4
	Emergency Cash Assistance	42.9	66.6	65.4
	Women's refuges	50.3	81.8	82.8
Protection of children	48.5	70.4	74.5	

The Bicentenary

An Australian Celebration — 1788-1988

More than 16 million Australians, of all ethnic backgrounds, will have an opportunity to take part in a year-long series of activities commemorating the 200th anniversary of European settlement in Australia.

The planning and co-ordination of these celebrations is on three levels. On a national scale, through Committees at the local Government and Community level.

While the national and state bodies will be staging major events, at the local level every Australian can be involved in activities, which should prove both creative and enjoyable.

Bicentennial Community Committees will develop programs that reflect the objectives of the Bicentenary, stimulate interest and action in all sections of the community, provide information and assistance and lock into the State and National Bicentennial network.

As there are Australians whose roots go back to 90 different countries around the world, speaking 160 different languages, it is vital that all should have the opportunity to take part. The five major objectives of the Bicentennial Authority are:

- (1) Strengthening national pride, identity and purpose;
- (2) Involving all Australians in the Bicentennial programme;
- (3) Providing lasting and useful momentos of the bicentenary for the Australian people.
- (4) Offering educational and cultural programs to help Australians towards a clearer appreciation of their origins, origins, the present and the future;
- (5) Achieving international participation in the bicentenary and a strengthening of relationships with neighbouring countries.

The NSW Government has announced its proposals for the commemorative programs which will cost \$340 million. The projects which the State Government has included in this program are:

- The Darling Harbour Redevelopment
- The Power House Museum
- The Bicentennial Park, Homebush Bay
- Extensions to the State Library and Australian Museum
- An Aboriginal Rock Engraving Centre in Matoota
- A Cultural Complex for Parramatta
- Botanic Gardens for Mount Tomah
- A Marine Life Protection Zone in Athol Bay
- The Foreshore Beautification Scheme in Newcastle
- A Performing Arts Centre for Wollongong



Research showed that Australians felt quite strongly that most of the funding should be spent on community facilities which will endure beyond the bicentennial year, in the same way that Centennial Park in Sydney serves as a lasting reminder of the 1888 Centenary.

All types of organisations, communities and individuals are being asked to come forward with proposals for possible inclusion in the program.

THE BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

The Committees are part of the Australia-wide Bicentennial communications network. All Committees will be kept informed on what other communities are planning, and, in turn, their activities will be publicised throughout Australia.

Each Bicentennial Community Committee receives a planning manual, promotion kits, publicity materials and a guide on how to use Bicentennial logos, symbols and mascots. They also have access to a national sales program enabling them to generate funds through the sale of a range of Bicentennial products.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Contact should be made with the NSW Council, Australian Bicentennial Authority, GPO Box AUS 1988, Sydney 2001.

SOME SUGGESTED PROJECTS FOR GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS:

The Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW together with the NSW Council of the Bicentennial Authority has invited suggestions from ethnic organisations and individuals as to how they would like to participate in the Bicentennial celebrations.

A number of groups and individuals have already replied with small and large projects. Some of the suggestions for relatively small projects may assist organisations in their planning.

- (1) The Wollongong Chapter of the Dante Alighieri Society has discussed

with CO-AS-IT (Italian Welfare Society), the Circolo Italiano and the Department of European Languages at Wollongong University, the organisation of a seminar on 'The Italian Presence in Australia'. It will seek to address the contribution of Italians in the social, economic, political and cultural life of Australia over the past 200 years. It is envisaged that, as well as local speakers, well-known overseas Italian personalities will be invited.

- (2) The Newcastle-Scandinavian Australian Association intends to mount a Scandinavian costumes display.
- (3) The Federation of Netherland Societies are now forming a Bicentennial Committee to organise their member organisations' activities.
- (4) The Italian Folkloric Ensemble Choir are planning the staging of a multicultural exhibition and show, organised along the lines of the Royal Easter Show. Suggested exhibits include arts and crafts, food, furniture, and national costumes. Design engineering and construction displays are also envisaged. A grand parade of costumes may constitute the finale.
- (5) Comhaltas Ceoltourí Éireann would like to stage a carnival of Irish traditional folk music and other cultural displays.
- (6) The Federation of Modern Language Teachers Association are considering the 1988 World Congress of Modern Language Teachers in Australia.
- (7) Austcare will ensure that the Bicentennial is fittingly recognised through their refugee committees.
- (8) The Salvation Army plans to participate through centres such as the Australian Asians Community Centre at Campsie. They are also organising a Bicentennial National Congress at the Sydney Entertainment Centre in May 1988. Prominent amongst participants will be a large delegation of speakers from Asia.
- (9) The Sydney Jewish Community has established a number of working committees. They plan to organise a major touring exhibition from Israel as well as holding a number of Jewish-Australian exhibitions.

Ethnic Migrant Advisory Units in the State Government

Several Government Departments have set up special units to deal with ethnic issues as they affect the functioning of certain sections of the N.S.W. Government administration.

The following is a summary of existing units and the contact persons in each.

DEPARTMENT/ AUTHORITY	UNIT	SIZE	POSITION/GRADE	AIMS/DUTIES/ RESPONSIBILITIES	DATE ESTABLISHED	OFFICER'S NAME	PHONE No.
Technical & Further Education, Department of McKell Building Rawson Place	Multicultural Unit	7	Head — Head of Division Level (P) 2 x Senior Education Officer 1 Education Officer (P) 1 Librarian (P) 2 x Clerical Typist (P) Clerical Asst. (P) (Temps hired as required)	To provide a focus and a monitor within TAFE, of the implementation and on going development of its multicultural policy.	May 1984	Jenny Cameron	217 6180
Workers Compensation Commission, Citra House 131 Macquarie St. Sydney	Ethnic Affairs Unit	4	Legal Officer and Co-ordinator 3 x Ethnic Advisory Officers	To advise on and assist migrant workers with rights and responsibilities, to conciliate in disputed cases, to negotiate with other bodies in the system, to make recommendations on policy and reforms to the relevant Minister.	Feb. 1982	Athena Touriki	237 4888
Youth & Community Services, Department of, AMP Bldg. 31 Macquarie St. Parramatta	—	1	Multicultural Program Officer	Development Policies, generation of advice and implementation of M/cultural policy	Feb. 1980	Clarita Norman	689 8359
Health, Department of McKell Building, Rawson Place,	—	1	Policy Analyst Migrant Health (P) 3 Regional Migrant Health Advisers (P) Metropolitan Hunter Illawarra = Grade 1 Social Worker	Policy Co-ordination; monitoring Providing advice to Department on Migrant health matters; Implementation of policies	1977	Tony Dolk	217 5663
Police Force, Policy Community Relations Bureau College Street, Sydney	Part of the Community Relations Bureau	1	Ethnic Liaison Officer (Inspector Level) (P)	Facilitate relationship between Police and Ethnic Communities	March 1982	Inspector Les Thorgood	339 0277 x 5036
Education, Dept of Bridge Street, Sydney	Multicultural Education Centre (Part of the Directorate of Special programs)	30	Chief Education Officer (Inspector Level) (P) 6 Senior Education officers (P) (3 x grade 1 3 x grade 2) 18 Education Officers (P) 6 Support Staff (P)	Developing and implementing of the Department of Education's Multicultural Education Policy, through: advisory service, material development, policy discrimination and teacher in-service training	1979 as a Centre, (prior to which it was known as the Child Migrant Education Centre established 1973).	Brian Phillips (Actg.) Normally: Paul Whelan	240 8158 240 8953

DEPARTMENT/ AUTHORITY	UNIT	SIZE	POSITION/GRADE	AIMS/DUTIES/ RESPONSIBILITIES	DATE ESTABLISHED	OFFICER'S NAME	PHONE No.
Education, Office of the Minister. Associates House Young Street, Sydney	Part of the Social Development Unit	4	Senior Adviser Multicultural Edu- cation and ethnic Affairs (P)		1978	Vasilo Nahas	240 8316
			Executive Officer Ethnic Schools grants program (P)				
			Ethnic Schools Liaison Officer Projects (P)				
			Clerical Assistant (P)				
Consumer Affairs, Department of 1 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst	(Proposed) Ethnic Consumer's Unit	(Pro- posed) 6				Frances Buckeridge Andrew Li	266 8748
Corrective Services, Department of Roden Cutler House 24 Campbell St. Sydney 2000	—	2	Co-ordinator Aboriginal Affairs (P) grade 7	Identify problems and needs of these minority groups Develop and implement poli- cies to meet those needs Provide advice and assistance to the Commission	Jan. 1980	Margot Mellick	217 8171 217 8141
			Aboriginal Liaison Officer (P) Grade 2				

The Ethnic Affairs Commission Translation Service

The Commission's Translation Service provides translations in over 60 languages. Translations vary in nature from simple personal documents to complex technical and scientific reports. The Service operates with a team of skilled editors, full-time and part-time translators and a panel of part-time translators.

The Commission's Translation Service works both for Government Departments and private clients.

Material intended for translations has often ambiguities or is in such jargon as to be untranslatable. Clients are advised of the need to send whenever possible, a copy written in plain English (or other language).

The present fees which are charged for translations are:

(1) Translation Fees

A. Normal Translation Fees

Up to 150 words (minimum)	\$21.16
151-175	\$23.11
176-199	\$24.96

Over 200 words

per 100 words	\$12.48
per 25 words or part thereof	\$ 3.15

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News Scan

B. Editing/Translation Fees

Applicable when translations are designed for printing and/or distribution to the public (usually multilingual assignments).

Up to 150 words (minimum)	\$29.05
151-175	\$32.30
176-199	\$35.46

Over 200 words per 100 words	\$17.73
per 25 words or part thereof	\$ 4.46

(2) Proof-reading Fees

Applicable if translations are to be typeset.

Up to 300 words (minimum)	\$6.56
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Over 300 words per 100 words	\$2.88
per 25 words or part thereof	\$0.80

(3) Editorial Briefing Fees

Applicable to multilingual translations and **essential** if the material is to be printed and/or special format is required. A Fee of \$15.78 per translation is paid for every language the material is to be translated into.

(4) Reading Fees

Applicable when a translator is requested to read a text or listen to an audiotape and either summarise it or translate specific parts of it. The required reading/listening period is worked out by the Translation Unit and the rate charged is \$10.00 per hour.

All fees are subject to increases in line with CPI movements.

Requests for translations should be directed to the Officer-in-charge, Translation Unit, Ethnic Affairs Commission's City Office or any of the Commission's Branch Offices:

Ethnic Affairs Commission,
189 Kent Street, (10th level),
Sydney, 2000.
Tel: 237 6500

Ethnic Affairs Commission,
176 Keira Street,
Wollongong, 2500
Tel: (042) 28 4588

Ethnic Affairs Commission,
67 Church Street,
Lidcombe 2141
Tel: 643 2323

Ethnic Affairs Commission,
34 McMahon Street,
Hurstville 2220
Tel: 570 1444

Ethnic Affairs Commission,
456-458 Hunter Street,
Newcastle 2300
Tel: (049) 24 191

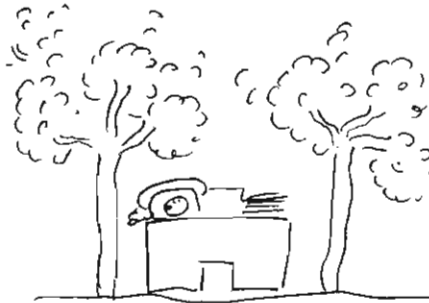
Ethnic Affairs Commission,
157-161 George Street,
Liverpool 2170
Tel: 601 3166

- The Department of Health is running a 10-month CEP funded project to identify needs of migrant youths. The program includes interviews and establishing discussion programs for young people and parents.
Contact: Mary Gadalbh on 709-2339.
- The Community Activity Centres Network has set up a Working Party to look at multicultural programs in Community Activity Centres.
For more information phone Network on 264 3488.

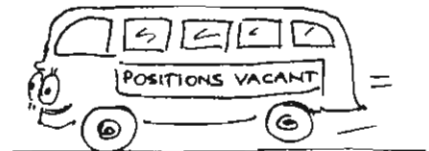
- The Greek Orthodox Community of N.S.W. and the Greek Community Council will hold a special celebration of the Greek National Day to be held at the Sydney Town Hall, on 28th October, 1984, at 3 p.m.

- Mr. Jim Samios, M.L.C., has been appointed the State Opposition Leader's assistant in the Upper House. Mr. Jim Samios is the first member of the Liberal Party of Greek origin to be elected to the N.S.W. Parliament. He entered the Legislative Council at the last elections. The other Liberal MPs of non-English speaking background include Mr Paul Zammit (Member for Burwood), Mr Frank Calabro (Upper House) and the leader of the Opposition, Mr Nick Greiner.

- A new Equal Employment Opportunity Office has been recently established at the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. The office is staffed by Mr Plutarch Gerolymatos and Ms Anita Vangelista. For more information phone 234 1567.



- The organisers of the Festival of Sydney would like to invite ethnic groups in N.S.W. to participate in the 1985 Festival of Sydney's Australia Day Parade. If interested, contact John Godfrey on 29 5991.



- The Department of Motor Transport has taken steps to encourage applications for jobs from people of non-English speaking background. The Department is distributing notices for public display at ethnic welfare centres, clubs and other relevant offices alerting people about vacant positions. For more information contact H. Wiggins, E.E.O. Co-ordinator on 662 5815.

- A multicultural Writers' Weekend is planned for the 13 and 14 October 1984. The workshop will deal with ethnic literature in Australia.
For more information phone Jacques Delaruelle on 660 0224.



From the Commission ... in Brief

- Members of the Ethnic Affairs Commission have met with the Honorable K. Stewart, the Minister for Local Government. Matters discussed at the meetings included:
 - The holding of seminars on ethnic issues for officers and staff of local government bodies,
 - circulating information on equal access to services to local government bodies,
 - the inclusion of people of non-English speaking background on advisory committees of local government.
- Stephen Castles, Professor of Political Economy at Frankfurt am main in West Germany, addressed a seminar at the E.A.C. Professor Castles has published many articles and books on modern migration in Western Europe. Professor Castles spoke about guest workers and other immigrants in Western Europe.
- With the aid of Wage Pause funding a handbook for diabetes sufferers is being printed for the Commission. The handbook was compiled by a committee of representatives of diabetes clinics and will be available in seven languages: Arabic, Croatian, English, Greek, Italian, Maltese and Vietnamese. The handbook will be ready by October 1984, in time for Diabetes Week.
- Almost 2,000 copies of the Commission's paper "The 1984 Immigration Debate — the Myths and the Facts" have been distributed. An additional 2,000 copies have been printed by TAFE and distributed to the staff, with an open letter by the Deputy Director General, Mr John White.



- The Liaison Section of the Ethnic Affairs Commission has set up regular consultations with officials of the Housing Commission to deal with complaints and difficulties experienced by people of ethnic background in various housing estates in the Liverpool/Campbelltown area.

- Mr Sauro Antonelli (Deputy Chairman of the Ethnic Affairs Commission of Victoria) and Mr D. Dollis (Assistant to the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in Victoria) visited the Ethnic Affairs Commission to learn about legal interpreting services.
- On two occasions recently there have been meetings between representatives of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and the Commission. The possible closure and replacement of the existing migrant hostels and the content and direction of a possible community education campaign to combat racism were discussed at the two meetings.
- The second paper in the "Immigrants and Unemployment" series has been published and distributed. (Let the Commission know if you have not received your copy).
- Eight follow-up briefing sessions to assist Co-ordinators of Ethnic Affairs Policy Statements in completing their task by the end of December 1984, took place during August. Briefing sessions were also arranged for a number of non-Government-organisations such as the Ethnic Communities' Council of New South Wales, NCOSS, Local Government and Shires Association and the Labour Council of New South Wales.

- Commissioner Mr Eddie Obeid has been awarded the OAM, in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.
- Commissioner Mrs G. Mills-Evers has been elected to the Newcastle University Council.
- The Ethnic Affairs Commission initiated a series of meetings with religious leaders of the Lebanese Community.
- The Chairman of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, Dott Paolo Totaro, opened the Workers' Compensation Centre in Marrickville on the 6 September 1984. The Centre will supply information on workers' compensation and occupational health and safety to workers, unions, community centres, other interested bodies and the general public.

The Outsiders

Simply because I'm different
and I don't sound the same
why make me feel inferior
and try to cause me shame.

How is it we're not, similar?
Why don't we sound the same?
Some say that evolution
Must carry all the blame.

Nature's rich in variety
of flower bird and beast.
One compliments the other,
from greatest to the least.

Each one has its own beauty
some perfume, flight, or speed.
The circle needs all forms of life
or else it's not complete.

All persons are born equal -
but ignorance and greed
create hate, pride and prejudice
and human misery breed.

Short, tall, fair, dark, whatever
your race sex colour'n creed,
there's room for all and what is more,
we all each other need!

By E. Scicluna

(Continued from page 1)

- mainstream women's movement. A resolution was also made that, that the Office of the Status of Women be approached for funding for this conference, which is to be held in New South Wales.
- (c) That the group of women concerned with migrant women's issues submit a critique/report of the conference which would be included in any follow-up material published by the Women and Labour Conference.

Although it was initially a strong negative reaction to the Women and Labour Conference which triggered off the establishment of the network of women concerned with migrant women's issues, final judgement of the Conference shouldn't be all negative. Some excellent presentations — e.g. on industrial health and on short-term employment — dealt with issues of great importance to migrant women.

The marginalisation of migrant women can, it appears, be overcome with effort on both sides. The organising committee's willingness to request funding for a separate conference for migrant women is one step in this direction.

New Commissioners Appointed

Three new Commissioners have been appointed to the Ethnic Affairs Commission of New South Wales.

Mr Can le Dang was born in Vietnam and has an impressive record of community work, both in refugee camps in South East Asia and also in Australia.

In Sydney Mr Dang has worked as an interpreter, bi-lingual information instructor as well as teaching English to immigrants. Since July 1982, he has been the publisher of the Vietnamese language newspaper, "The Bell of Saigon". He is also the Vice-President for the Committee on sponsorship for unattached minors in Asian camps.

Mr Ross Tzannes, a Solicitor, is the President of the Sydney Film Festival, a member of the Executive of the Ethnic Communities' Council of New South Wales and a member of several Greek based community organisations. Mr Tzannes has been a member of the Film and Television Board of the Australia Council.

He is interested in the education and welfare areas, and legal community services. Mr Tzannes is fluent in the Greek language.

Mr Ron Witton is Head of the Centre for Multicultural Studies University of Wollongong. He has held posts at several universities including Flinders University, South Australia; University of the South Pacific, Suva Fiji, and University of Wollongong, New South Wales.

In 1984 he was appointed convenor of the Working Party on Multicultural Education, Illawarra Regional Co-ordinating Committee on Education and, in June this year, he was appointed to the National Population Council.

State Colleges of Advanced Education to Prepare Ethnic Affairs Policy Statements by December 1984.

The State's Universities and Colleges of Advanced Education have agreed to co-operate with the Ethnic Affairs Commission and review accessibility to their institutions by preparing Ethnic Affairs Policy Statements. The decision was made at two meetings between representatives of the tertiary education sector and the Ethnic Affairs Commission, on 16th August, 1984. The Commission met with CAEs and the Institute of Technology and on 30th August with the NSW Vice Chancellors.

Universities and Colleges of Advanced

Education provide a range of courses which give many people opportunities for more challenging and satisfying employment.

As a first step the Commission has asked all CAE's and universities to collect data relating to the entry and achievements of ethnic students in these institutions. This will allow the commission to assess whether or not one of the key qualifications of 'Mainstreaming' — "equality of access to services" is being met in the tertiary education sector. This decision by the colleges and universities to prepare Ethnic Affairs Policy Statements follows the Premier's announcement last year that Government bodies would be given until December this year to formulate policies to "mainstream" their services.

Under the mainstreaming policy all Government bodies will have to give people of non-English speaking background more direct access to all their services.

Universities and CAE's are not bound to follow Ministerial directions in this area and so their decision to co-operate on a voluntary basis is a significant and positive achievement.

Agreement has been reached on sharing of information and resources to foster greater co-operation so that any barriers to fair participation by people of ethnic origin can be removed.

Sparrow and Zac and Eli

This play by the Sidetrack Theatre has been researched and written with the help of adults and children from Sydney's western suburbs. It is aimed at primary school audiences and deals with the difficult subject of prejudice.

This sensitive issue is explored through the interactions of three child characters who join forces to resolve a crisis and find out that shared humanity is more important than different ways of living.

Ethnos was present at a special preview and was most impressed by the way the play addressed issues present in many schools, streets and neighbourhoods.

For more information and bookings contact SIDETRACK on 560 1255.



Changes in the Assurance of Support Scheme

The "Assurance Support Scheme" involves guarantors undertaking to provide financial and other support for elderly relatives or friends who wish to migrate to Australia. Most assurances purport to be valid for 10 years. Guarantors who fail to provide support must repay the Government if it has provided this support.

The Scheme has been criticised by welfare bodies, because it has caused serious hardship to many elderly immigrants and their families.

New Social Security Departmental guidelines herald major changes in the Scheme. Assurances of support will cease to be valid when the immigrants so sponsored are "absorbed" into the community, and upon their acquisition of Australian citizenship.

Under the new guidelines Assurances will no longer be taken into account in determining Special Benefit Claims.

Guarantors and those whom they have guaranteed to support should seek advice about the effect of the new guidelines.

Some people may be able to obtain Special Benefit without incurring a debt for their guarantor and others may now be able to obtain Special Benefits despite previous rejections.

The present reforms are an important step, but still fall short of what has been advocated by welfare organisations, which mainly seek the abolition of the whole Assurance of Support System.

For more information contact Julian Disney or Liz Sadleir on 699 9422.

Australia's Forgotten Immigrants

Among some 80,000 people from Germany who settled in Australia between 1838 and 1914 there are believed to have been about 200 Sorbish and Wendish families.

The Sorbs of Lusatia are the only minority in the present German Democratic Republic. This group has its own language, related to Polish and Czech.

The fate of the Sorbish immigrants to Australia is not well documented. It is known that they settled in the South-Eastern part of the country. It is believed that there are still several dozen Sorbish Speakers living in Australia.

If any of our readers know more about the Sorbish language, customs, etc. please contact Mr Hans Dieter Senff, Secretary Australia — German Democratic Republic Friendship Society, P.O. Box 208, Swansea 2281.

Constructing Public Opinion: The Polls and the Asian Immigration Debate

By Murray Goot

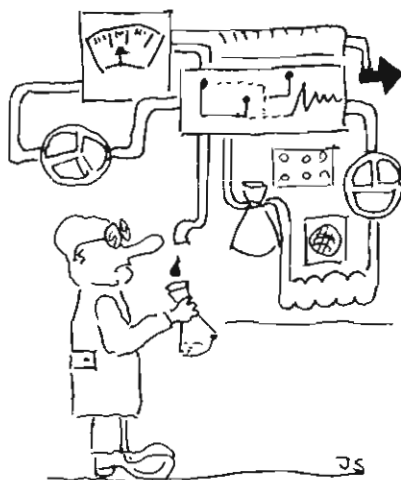
Occasional Paper No. 5, published by the Ethnic Affairs Commission.

The paper makes an in depth critique of how public opinion polls have been used to "construct opinions even as they record them".

The effectiveness of the public opinion polls is questioned in the context of the recent immigration debate.

One of the conclusions was that "... opinion polls cannot be seen as simply registering news whose existence is entirely independent of the method by which they are observed ..."

For copies contact the Ethnic Affairs Commission Library on 237 6988.



Constructing Public
OPINION

Where, When and How of Learning English

This is an updated version of the English as a second language programme directory, prepared by the Ethnic Affairs Commission of New South Wales.

The directory is a comprehensive guide to the range of English language programmes available in New South Wales for both adults and children. The Directory gives details about the wide choice of classes available through organisations such as the AMES, Colleges of TAFE, Universities, Community Centres.

For copies contact the Ethnic Affairs Commission Library on 237 6988.

Manuals on the Language and Culture Backgrounds

The NSW Adult Migrant Education Service has produced a series of manuals for teachers in the Adult Migrant Education Program to make them more aware of the various cultural influences affecting their students.

The manuals deal with aspects such as family relationships, employment, housing, health, various forms of expressions and many other issues.

Up to now three manuals have been produced:

- Language and Culture -- Laos
- Language and Culture -- Vietnam
- Language and Culture -- Kampuchea

Produced by the AMES for the Adult Migrant Education Program.

The Working Mothers Handbook, Blackburn (Vic.)

By Latham, Marianne.

This handbook attempts, in a very straightforward way, to deal with the everyday problems faced by women who have decided to work after having a child.

Some of the issues discussed are the factors involved in making the initial decision to work; women's role in the workforce; finding good, reliable childcare; male partners (attitudes, co-operation, etc.); single mothers; and so on.

Most chapters include a list of contact organisation, both Government and community based.

Dove Communications, Melbourne, 1984. Price: \$7.95.

Directory of Mental Health Services for the Sydney Metropolitan Region

By the N.S.W. Association of Mental Health

The aim of the directory is to improve access to mental health services by workers and volunteers in this field and to provide an exchange of information about groups and services. It covers a wide range of approaches, including counselling, alternative services and also the more traditional mental health services needed, such as accommodation, grief, support, personal growth, and so on. It is a valuable reference source for individuals or groups needing support services or information about these services available in New South Wales.

N.S.W. Association for Mental Health, Sydney, 1984. Price: \$4.20.

It Ain't Half Racist, Mum: Fighting Racism In The Media

By Cohen, P. & Gardner

This book is produced by the 'Campaign Against Racism in the Media' group and looks at all forms of media; press, radio and television and all types of programmes, ranging from popular 'comedy' to serious current affairs programmes. It investigates both the subtle and explicit racism in several different media situations in Britain, the contributions to the media by the Black Community and concludes with a section on how to fight racism in the media. It is essential reading for anybody interested in combating racism and would also be a valuable inclusion in any school library collection.

Comedia Publishing Group, London, 1982. Available from Second Back Row Publications. Price: \$7.95.

"The Neglected Press: A Study of Arab and Greek Newspapers and their Sydney Publics"

By Tenezakis, Maria, D.

This study, which was commissioned by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, investigates the question of the role of the ethnic press in Australia. It presents the results of an analysis of the contents of six Arabic and five Greek newspapers, and of a readership survey of particular groups serviced by these papers. The study shows an emphasis on the need for more active involvement from both Government and non-government bodies and, more importantly, from within the ethnic groups which make up the potential audiences of ethnic newspapers.

Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1984.



Proof Reading

The Refused: The Agony of the Indo-China Refugees

By Wain, Barry.

Barry Wain, veteran diplomatic correspondent for the Asian Wall Street Journal, tells the story of the Indo-Chinese refugees. He follows their trail as they flee their homes, travel in tiny overcrowded boats, risk their lives and their few possessions, only to have doors shut to them by the nations from which they sought sanctuary. It is a very comprehensive account of a problem which, as Wain points out, the whole world must face.

Dow Jones Publishing Co., Hong Kong, 1981. Price: \$5.95.

Changing Choices: Girls, School and Work

By Foster, Victoria.

"Changing Choices" looks at the employment opportunities and aspirations of girls in the light of the education they receive. It claims that Australian schools are not serving girls well and, as a result, girls are ill-equipped to make career decisions and participate effectively in the workforce.

By looking at issues such as the development of a new curriculum, classroom interaction and teaching practices, the author presents practical suggestions of ways to improve the education system and open doors to Australian girls in the future. The author also investigates the "Women in the Workforce and Change" program for girls and presents case studies about individual girls for whom the program was very influential.

Hale and Iremonger Pty. Ltd., Sydney, 1984.

An Issue of People: Population and Australian Society

By Robert and Tanya Birrell

This book examines the reasons behind Australia's immigration programme and the effect of immigration on the labour market and on Australian Society. It looks at the status and job conditions of immigrants, and the economic prospects of first and second generation immigrants.

The picture painted by the authors and the conclusions they reach are not encouraging, but contribute significantly to the continuing debate and uncertainty over post-war immigration policy.

Longman Cheshire, Melbourne, 1981 (Australian Studies Series). Price: \$12.95.

"A Woman's Place. Women & Politics in Australia"

By Sawyer, M & Simms, M.

While there are many books which have been written about Australian politics, very few have dealt with the contribution and involvement of women.

A Woman's Place, therefore, fills a gap by examining many of the issues involved in this area. Some of these issues include the political struggle of women throughout history, women as parliamentary candidates, and their relationship with particular political parties. The women's movement is also discussed, as is the growing recognition of the importance of women's voting power.

Unfortunately, the authors have not touched on the area of migrant women in the political arena and therefore seem to have neglected a wealth of issues that badly need explaining.

However, it is a much needed resource and provides valuable research material for students and political scientists as well as enjoyable reading for those interested in the issue.

George Allen & Unwin Australia/Sydney, 1984. Price: \$11.95 P/B; \$22.95 H/B.

Australian Society

By Encel, S. and Bryson, L. (Eds.)

There are five monograph length chapters in this new edition of *'Australian Society'*, each dealing with a major area of sociological discussion in the Australian context. Some of the issues selected for discussion are urbanization and economic development; the changing character of working life; the feminist contribution to social theory in the context of the family; and the media and cultural identities. Of particular interest is the Chapter by Marie de Lepervanche in which she discusses the concepts of ethnicity and class, their relationship and the underlying social conflicts. This is a valuable contribution to the expanding discipline of sociology and like the first 3 editions is in wide use as an academic text and work of reference.

Longman — Cheshire, Melbourne, 1984. Price: \$12.95.

Immigrants and the Media: Case Studies In Newspaper

REPORTING: (Australian Studies Series), by White, Naomi Rosh and Peter B.

The book examines Australian media coverage of immigration and issues or

events which have involved migrants and refugees. It is divided into four parts, discussing issues ranging from the attitudes and opinions of Australians to immigrants and how this relates to the view expressed by the media, to the development of ethnic radio and multicultural television. Three case studies (The 'mafia' at the Victorian Market; The 'British disease' in Australia; and the Vietnamese 'invasion') are also analysed with respect to the depiction of the migrants involved and also whose views of the respective events predominated in the press.

Longman — Cheshire Publishing Co., Melbourne, 1983. Price: \$11.95.

New Lease of Life: Hungarian Immigrants in Victoria: Assimilation in Australia

This publication which contributes significantly to the study of immigrants in Australia was originally submitted by the author as a thesis for her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1981.

Its presents information and data about Hungarian immigrants and their cultural and structural integration in Australia.

While "New Lease on Life" is primarily concerned with the sociology of Hungarian immigrants, it also provides a wider understanding of Australia's multicultural society.

Dezsery Ethnic Publications, Adelaide 1984. Price: \$4.95.

The Canterbury Vietnamese Community Profile: A Descriptive Report"

Intended as an aid of health and welfare workers in an area of high refugee re-settlement, this survey attempts to look at the effects of this community re-settlement, cultural adjustment experienced by Vietnamese Refugees and the reactions of health workers to the influx of Vietnamese refugees in Canterbury.

200 Vietnamese residents were interviewed concerning their use of certain services within the Health Care System and their perceptions concerning re-settlement.

The results, presented in this report, provide an understanding of the main settlement problems facing the Vietnamese in Canterbury, the Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury Commonwealth Health Services or the Department of Health, 1983.

Papers

- *Language Use in Australia*, Information Paper No. 3. By the Victorian Ethnic Affairs Commission, Division of Research and Policy, 232 Victoria Pde, East Melbourne 3002. Phone (03) 419 6700.
- The Italian Catholic Federation has published the transcript of its *17th National Congress*. For copies write to the Federation, P.O. Box 187, Bulleen, Victoria, 3105. Telephone (03) 435 5819.
- *In the Right Direction: Ethnic Relations in Sweden*. Summary. Final Report presented by the Commission of Ethnic Prejudice and Discrimination. Address: Malm Morgsgatan 5, S-111 51, Stockholm, Sweden.
- *Immigration: An Issue of National Importance* Meredith Memorial Lecture 1984 by the Hon. F. Arena, A.M. MLC. at the Latrobe University, August, 1984. (Available for perusal at the Ethnic Affairs Commission Library).

- 4 position papers are currently being prepared for the National Advisory and Co-ordinating Committee on Multicultural Education:
 - Participation and Equity, by Dr. A. Jacobowicz and Dr. A. Sturmen.
 - The concept of Multicultural Education, by Professor Barbara Falk.
 - Information and Exchange, by Mr. D. Warry.
 - Community Education, by Ms. Lorna Lippmann.
- The papers will be available late October.
- For more information contact Helena Rudnik, N.S.W. Board of Adult Education.

- *Racism: Sociological Perspectives*. Paper presented to a Community Relations Seminar, Melbourne, 13-14 July, 1984 by Gill Bottomley, Macquarie University.
- *Homelessness and Inadequate Housing in Australia* A discussion paper W.D. Scott & Co., Melbourne, August 1984.

Newsletters

Work-On is a Newsletter produced by the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations informing ethnic welfare workers about the resources available in the Department. For copies contact Barbara Mauro, Migrant Services, Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, on 269 3242.

Womens Newsletters, published by the N.S.W. Teachers' Federation. The address: 300 Sussex Street, Sydney, 2000.

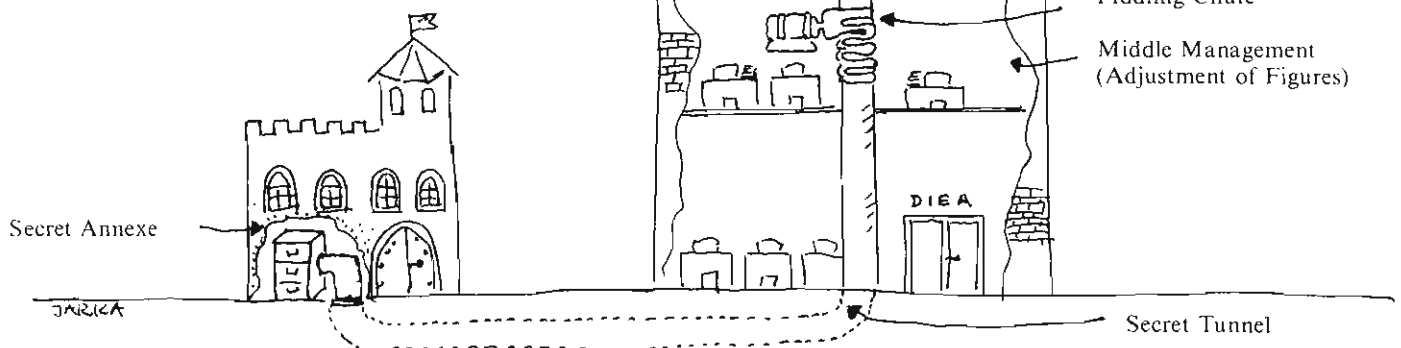
Pamphlets

- The Labour Council of N.S.W. has produced a pamphlet titled "*A Plain English Summary*" of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. It has been published in 12 community languages. For copies contact the Labor Council on 264 1691, 264 1932 or 264 1795.

Blainey and the 'secret room'

... "Professor Blainey, a Professor of Australian History at Melbourne University, says there is a "secret room" in the Immigration Department where policy is actually made and where policies counter to those announced in Parliament are devised ..." (*SMM*, 4th October, 1984).

How it works:



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