

ethnos

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“An EAC Work Plan for the Next Three Years”

“Library Services in a Multicultural Society”

The Ethnic Affairs Commission of N.S.W.

An EAC Work Plan for the Next Three Years

The Ethnic Affairs Commission has responded to the request from the Premier and Minister for Ethnic Affairs, Mr Neville Wran, for an agenda for 1986, 1987 and 1988.

The Commission discussed its three-year plan with the Premier when he attended its monthly meeting on 8 November.

A document setting out the work priorities for the triennium was presented to Mr Wran.

The following is the slightly amended and updated introduction text to the document.

1. BACKGROUND: The Period 1977-1985

The Ethnic Affairs Commission was set up in 1977 as a one-year investigative body, and in 1979 as a permanent statutory body.

It has the three tasks of advising the Government, serving the public and consulting.

Its broad aim is to foster the participation of people of ethnic background in the life of the State.

The Ethnic Affairs Commission has now reached a good state of development and has responded to a request from the Minister that it restate its priorities, to verify whether or not they correspond to the expectations of the Government and the community.

Three Phases

The Commission's work over seven years can be divided into three phases:

- **1977-1978:** Investigation, research and reporting through the preparation of the "Participation" report (1978). Several specific research projects were also initiated in 1977 and completed after 1978.
- **1978-1983:** Period of strong intervention, on several fronts, to implement the Government's policy on ethnic affairs, deriving from the recommendations of "Participation".

In the five-year period the Commission decided not to give strict priorities to the different areas of its intervention, but rather to press on several such fronts at once (e.g. education, public health etc.). The results of this strategy have been positively judged by the Government, as they closely relate to the considerable achievement of NSW in ethnic affairs in that period.

Throughout this period, the major service arm of the Commission, the Community Interpreter and Information Service, built up a reputation as both a reliable provider and as a pacesetter in the field of professional interpreting and translating.

There were, however, some problems for the EAC at three levels. Internally, there was in that period a sense of elation and excitement, but also of fatigue and of some disorientation. Externally, the Commission faced the criticism that it was trying to do too much too fast.

Finally, the community had difficulty in understanding the Commission's role.

Gradually, as the Commission's "prime mover" role was producing results in specific areas (such as the teaching of community languages), it was able to diminish its pressure there and to concentrate elsewhere. This led to an almost "natural selection" of areas of work of prime interest.

- **1983-1985:** The Commission had the Government's agreement to commit itself to diversifying all of the Government's public administration and to make "main stream" services better accessible to ethnic groups. The Government affirmed that one of the Commission's major work priorities was to be the promotion of "mainstreaming" in its many aspects. The first part of this work has been of preparation, of bulkhandling dozens of lengthy and complex management plans, the Ethnic Affairs Policy Statements (EAPS), and of assessing their contents and their comparative importance in the context of mainstreaming.

Current Focus of Services

At the end of 1985, the Commission's work is centred around seven main areas:

- interpreting services, generally seen as a priority in terms of resource deployment and now supplied on a relatively large and effective scale, as confirmed by a 1984 Governmental "audit", which also

offered guidance about areas to be improved;

- research and projects — the area where the bulk of "mainstreaming" work is carried out;
- assistance to persons with overseas qualifications, supplied on a small scale, but competently;
- library services, again on a small scale, but effectively;
- media and publicity services, effective as far as the contents of publications of the Commission are concerned, but still developing general and media contacts;
- community liaison, with a new program now being developed;
- grants, extremely useful and generally seen as a priority service, but in urgent need to be reoriented in line with the realities of this new period of development of ethnic affairs.

Staff Resources

Administration provides the backbone to these services.

More resources are urgently needed in most areas, so that the Commission as a whole may meet its commitments in a more effective way. Some regrading of staff positions is also seen as urgently needed.

Staff development is regarded as a priority. As any other organisation, the Commission has staff with differing degrees of competence and skill. To all it has a duty to provide scope for personal growth.

The Commission Itself

The Commission itself, composed of two full-time Commissioners, up to 10 part-time Commissioners and up to 45 non-statutory members of committees, perceives its role not only as corporate policy-making, but also — for its individual members — to be a trait d'union with ethnic communities.

2. THE THREE-YEAR WORK PLAN

Having regard to the above premises, and taking into account what the community expects of a State Department of ethnic affairs (now fairly clear after the extensive studies done not only in NSW but also in Victoria and South Australia), the

Commission has received the Minister's endorsement of a list of priorities, which conform with the three goals:

- a) of becoming more effective in a number of areas where it has been shown it should apply more attention;
- b) of mainstreaming; and
- c) of affirming people's right to live without racial prejudice and discrimination.

All the goals take into account expressed viewpoints of Government, community, commissioners and staff.

Hence, the Commission's work priority plan is centred on the three essential areas of:

- the Commission itself, as a service to the public and adviser to Government;
- other sections of the NSW public service; and
- the community

Priority tasks are being developed as "projects" to provide guidelines as to timing, resources and methods. Because the three areas overlap, the work-plan is not a collection of independent projects, but envisages a collective effort, where certain jobs are predominantly, but not solely, done by certain officers.

The Commission's Services

The Commission has to look at itself first. Unless properly equipped with personnel, skills and clear ideas, it cannot presume to lead others in the field of ethnic affairs. Thus the Commission's internal goals are centred on effectiveness --- that is, on how best to provide answers to the questions put by the Government and by the community represented by the elected Government.

The Commission has recently acquired the status of an administrative office. It answers directly to the Minister. It has now to maximise its skills in keeping the Minister well informed and capable of quick reactions when needed.

At the same time it has to ensure the involvement of all of its Commissioners, appointed by the Government to enhance ethnic participation in public affairs management.

It also has to enhance staff development, according to Equal Opportunity principles, to improve even more the professionalism of its staff with the aim of making all of its

structures keener to react, in the proper way and at the proper time, to public expectations.

The Commission is now preparing:

- a three-year budget plan centred on the principle that, while the Commission wishes to remain lean on resources, it cannot be expected to perform effectively as a service if it is resource starved;
- a three-year plan of projects and research with the appropriate mix of:
 - new research
 - "mainstreaming" follow-up; and
 - other project work;
- a plan for the review, and likely re-orientation of the grants program, in line with expressed community expectations, and the recent development of initiatives complementary to the EAC grants;
- a plan for the review and re-assessment of the Commission's interpreting, translating and community liaison functions to allow for changes in population of non-English-speakers in different areas of NSW and to utilise better all of the public contact staff;
- a plan gradually to computerise relevant functions;
- a plan to upgrade the Commission's public consultations and information centre (including relations with the media), and to develop its Library-Resource Centre.

Within all the plans five priority issues have been identified:

- (1) unemployed youth;
- (2) anti-racist education, especially of the young;
- (3) provision of services for the aged;
- (4) immigrant women;
- (5) increased participation of local government in ethnic affairs.

Other NSW Government Services

The Commission will continue to give priority to the diversification of Government mainstream services through the application of the management plans called "Ethnic Affairs Policy Statements" (EAPS). The Commission has prepared:

- a plan involving a limited number of Government bodies chosen because of their importance and need for support;
- a plan for the three-year period to involve the community in consultations on EAPS whenever

possible and to obtain broad community consensus for the policies of mainstreaming. In this respect the Commission will remain watchful that (contrary to the Premier's wishes) mainstreaming does not become a way for the public service to escape rather than face responsibilities.

The Community: Relations and Development

The EAC has clear obligations under its Act to foster community development. Over the next three years, the Commission will strengthen its links with communities, especially those in receipt of Government grants, with a view to encouraging co-operation in the pursuit of common objectives.

At the same time it will implement broad strategies to combat overt and covert racism, especially by influencing the Government administration and the mass media. In particular, the Commission will operate by:

- considering the effectiveness of each Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement in influencing management and employees to eliminate unfair practices, from a community relations point of view;
- identifying the proper role for the Ethnic Affairs Commission in anti-racist public education, vis-a-vis other allied organisations, both State and Federal, as well as voluntary;
- defining concerted plans with such other bodies and obtaining resources from Government;
- identifying manifestations of intolerance, racism, and sexism also within ethnic communities themselves, and devising appropriate strategies of public education.

In all public pronouncements, both suggested to the Minister and from the Commission itself, the Commission will keep in mind the need to give consistent anti-racist messages.

The Commission's document is accompanied by thirty-eight attachments, in which the description of the individual priorities and plans was slightly expanded. Community reaction to the proposals would be welcomed. The full text of the document is available from the Information/Publicity Unit, Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW, 189 Kent St. Sydney NSW 2000.

Library Services in a Multicultural Society

Two representatives from the State Library of NSW were invited to speak at the October Ethnic Affairs Commission meeting on a number of important issues in multicultural library services.

Mr Russell Doust, State Librarian, and Ms Helen Woodward, Head of the State Library Public Libraries Department, talked to the Commissioners on the role of the State Library, the proposed introduction of the Community Language Lending Pool and the action taken so far on the recommendations made by the Commission in its 1978 publication, "Participation".

It was made clear that, while the State Library had a role to play in providing information to the community, this has traditionally been the responsibility of the public libraries in each local government area. The State Library does contribute towards the cost of public libraries, but this is dependent on and proportional to the population in each locality and the funding made available by each local authority. In addition to financial support, the State Library's Public Libraries Department has had a long tradition of providing counselling services to local government libraries.

Since the mid 1970's and particularly since the publication of the "Participation" Report, the State Library has attempted to redress the lack of attention paid to library services for immigrants in NSW. At present, NSW libraries have about 200,000 community language (other than English) books. Of these, 165,000 are in public libraries and 35,000 are held by the State Library in boxes at its Kogarah facility, for supplementation of local resources. For some public libraries these boxes have been the only source of community language books.

The Public Library System currently includes eight full-time Ethnic Services Librarians, while fifteen libraries meet regularly to discuss their services to immigrants.

For many years, the State Library has recognised that there are problems in the current provision of community language material to people of non-English-speaking background. While they can make recommendations, the local authorities and public librarians have the final say about the content of their libraries. Although some public libraries cater extremely well for the particular needs of their community, others may see the provision of

community language material as a nuisance, something that gets in the way of their mainstream service rather than being part of it.

The percentage of a typical local library's book budget set aside for community language material rarely, if ever, reflects the non-English-speaking population in the area. The community language collection of some libraries is negligible.

Public libraries also find that, within a certain time period, much of the community language material becomes "read out" and there is usually no money left in the book vote to buy new material. The result is that, unless they want to re-read books, there is little or nothing for people of non-English-speaking background to read in their own language.

Pooled Collection

It is obvious that the current system must be changed. There have been a number of proposals, and the State Library is now implementing one of these. A pooled community language collection is being organised and will be kept with the already established boxed collection (35,000 books) at Kogarah.

The State Library is requesting that all public libraries donate their "read out" books so that they will be kept in language boxes and circulated around the NSW public libraries according to need.

The Commission was assured by Mr Doust and Ms Woodward that books still in use or books in a language that is highly represented within a particular locality will not be expected to be donated to the pool.

While this system seems to be widely accepted by public libraries, there is some opposition to the proposal.

It has been brought to our attention that ethnic communities themselves are worried that the pooled collection will take the community language books away from the communities.

The opponents of the new system believe it to be a tokenistic gesture which does not address the real problem. They suspect that public librarians may support the pooled collection partly because it takes "the problem" out of their hands.

The critics suggest that a better alternative would be to establish "areas of excellence" in all the major community languages. This would mean that the public library in a local government area with a high population of (for example) Greek-speaking people would be the centre for books in the Greek language.

This system would work in much the same way as the subject specialisation system in NSW public libraries.

1978 Recommendations

The meeting also discussed the recommendations made in the Commission's "Participation" Report in 1978. While some of these recommendations have been implemented, some have not and others have been superseded.

It seems that the main problem, as always, is funding and that the State Library needs more money to improve library services to immigrants. But, if mainstreaming is all about reallocation of services, perhaps local councils and public libraries should be prepared to undertake a reallocation of funds. This seems to be where difficulties arise and where there is a real need for an extensive campaign within the public library system to "increase awareness of immigrant reading needs, knowledge of community services to immigrants and available reading resources."



Multicultural Musicians' Cooperative

The newly formed Multicultural Musicians' Cooperative (MMC) held a two-day conference and festival at the Paddington Town Hall on 28 September. Speakers represented a wide variety of organisations and music from about thirty different countries was performed.

A steering committee for the MMC was established in March this year, following discussions with Linsey Pollak, founding member of the successful North Perth Ethnic Music Centre, and the Music Board of the Australia Council. It was felt that there was a need for a group to provide some point of contact for ethnic musicians while creating more interaction with the Anglo-Saxon sector of Australian society.

The committee decided that a conference/festival would be one way of launching the MMC into the public arena and also of attracting both musicians and interested members of the public.

The steering committee obtained considerable financial support from the Music Board, without which the event could not have occurred. In addition to the forum, the festival element aimed at attracting a variety of ethnic musicians, while providing a sample of the great diversity of music in the Sydney metropolitan area.

Overall, the weekend was a success and the MMC definitely got off the ground and established a direction for itself.

Speakers included Al Grassby, Helen Colman (from the Ministry of the Arts), Gary Dawson (who spoke on 'Immigration and Integration'), Dr. Sardool Singh ('The Status of Ethnic Musicians'), Linsey Pollak, Professor Platt (from Sydney University Music Department), Paolo Totaro, Peter Parkhill (who spoke on 'The Preservation of Ethnic Music'), Raul Bassa (from La Pena Latin American Cultural Centre), Sabahattin Akdagcik

(Director of the Turkish Music Academy) and others representing various projects and musical perspectives.

Throughout the weekend a very high standard of performance in music and dance from the different countries was maintained.

Some very constructive ideas emerged from the many hours of discussion. The steering committee (Rigel Best, Linda Marr, Daood Tabrizi and Wendy Upjohn) outlined the original aims of the MMC, which had included establishing a Centre for



Ethnic Music in Sydney and also producing a directory of ethnic musicians.

The conference decided that it is not practical, at this stage, to work towards establishing a Music Centre. Other initial aims, such as fostering an interchange between the musical groups from various communities, finding work and defending the rights of ethnic musicians, were strongly endorsed by the conference.

The MMC decided that it needs to

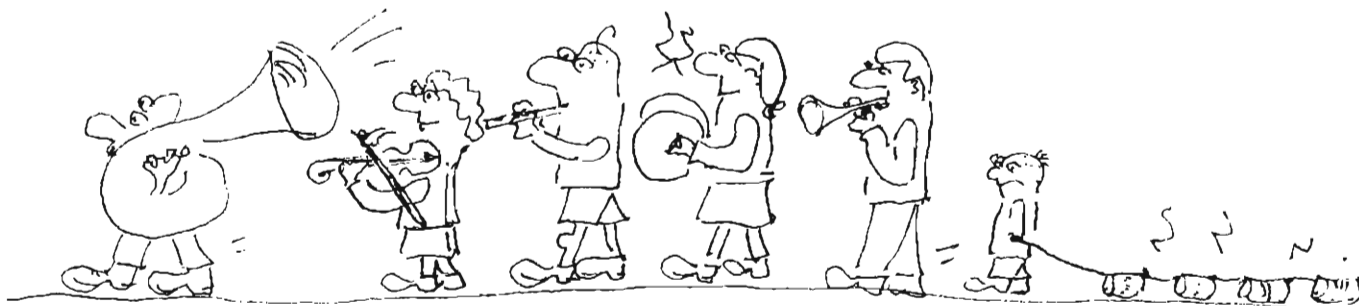
make itself better known to a wider circle of ethnic musicians and to establish its own credibility. It was proposed that funds would be sought to appoint a co-ordinator in 1986, to contact all the different ethnic groups in Sydney and to take the idea of a Musicians' Co-operative "into the field".

From now on, the MMC will hold regular concerts, each in conjunction with a different ethnic community, thereby involving the members of that community and their music. At each concert, there will be an additional musical group representing a different nationality.

The November concert was held in conjunction with the Greek Community, at the Addison Road Community Centre. Music was performed by Greek Musicians, and Maria Fotiadis. Two Greek folkdancers also performed. There was also music from Persia, performed by Nakisa. The next concert, held at La Pena on Saturday 7 December, featured Latin American music by Chichitote and music from Afghanistan.

Another meeting of the MMC was held at La Pena, 585B King St, Newtown on 1 December.

If you would like any further information on the MMC or if you can contribute data for a Music Board sponsored research project on ethnic musicians in Sydney, phone Linda (810 1482), Davood (888 2335) or Wendy (560 1749). The address of the MMC is P.O. Box 135, Leichhardt, 2040.



Nineveh Eagles (Assyrian) Soccer Club

A large number of the Assyrian people who migrated to Sydney, did so in the late 1960s and early 70's, and most settled in the western suburb of Fairfield. One of their first organisations, the Assyrian Australian Association, formed the Assyrian soccer team in 1971.

The team was admitted into the 2nd Division of the Southern Districts Soccer Football Association (S.D.S.F.A.). The following year the team was competing in the 1st Division. In 1976 it was admitted into the new Seventh Division of the NSW Soccer Federation and the name of Bonnyrigg Eagles was adopted that year.

In its five years in the Southern districts, the Assyrian team was always among the top four teams.

On admission to the NSW Soccer Federation, the Assyrian team felt rejuvenated, knowing that new avenues of promotion were available. During five years the Eagles gained promotions from the 7th to the 2nd Division and in 1981 the club was playing in the restructured 2nd Division of the NSW Soccer Federation. This is a record the club and the players are very proud of.

Bonnyrigg Eagles have been blessed with good soccer talent among the Assyrian youth and, with the involvement of the club in junior soccer and the great support the members of the community give to sport and soccer, the team's prospects looked good.

In 1981 the soccer team was fully sponsored by the Nineveh Club Ltd., a new club with new, fully licenced premises. The Nineveh Club is a creation of the Assyrian Australian Association and in 1982 the name of the soccer team was changed to that of their Sponsor. That year, the team suffered its first setback when it was demoted one division, and, because of the restructuring of the NSW Soccer Federation, the team started 1983 in the 1st Division of INTER-URBAN. The team is presently playing in this division but, with the injection of the new blood and youth into the team, is looking forward to a new era of promotions.

This year the club secured other sponsorship in addition to that of the Nineveh Club, and is organising a soccer tour to the USA, where they will participate in a tournament against other Assyrian teams from California and Chicago.

Eddie Isaacs

From the EAC Committees

Illawarra Region Advisory Committee

The October meeting was addressed by the Regional Director of Youth and Community Services, Mr Barnetson, and dealt mainly with social welfare matters.

In the absence of Commissioner Dr R.A. Witton, Mr George Harrison chaired the meeting.

Mr Barnetson briefed the Committee on a number of topics, including staffing problems, the effect of ceasing the Cash Emergency Relief Scheme, and funding for ethnic organisations. The Illawarra area received \$100,000, allocated to various ethnic organisations, including the Illawarra Migrant Resource Centre, the Wollongong Vietnamese Community, the Macedonian Welfare Association, the Queanbeyan Multilingual Information Centre and the South Coast Portuguese Association. Mr Barnetson indicated that he had no official information about funding for 1986.

The other major issue discussed was the district officers' positions, where a number of languages have been identified as required to ensure equal access to the services provided by the Department.

The Committee made several recommendations relating to issues raised.

Mrs Ozcan briefed the Committee on the meeting of the Illawarra Area Assistance Scheme at which topics such as priority needs, the appointment of Regional Advisory Committees and funding were discussed.

Hunter Region Advisory Committee

At its most recent meeting, the Committee dealt extensively with matters relating to education,

interpreting and Commonwealth Employment Program applications.

The Committee supported a number of applications received but questioned the application for a Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre in Maitland. They rejected the application for a Multicultural Research and Resource Centre as this would duplicate already existing facilities.

The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Party on Education which were made with the objective of resolving long-standing urgent needs of non-English-speaking students in the Hunter Region.

The Co-ordinator of the Community Interpreting and Information Service (CIIS), Mr L. Goodstone, described the Division and its functions in the Commission and explained the operations of CIIS and its six Branch Offices.

The Committee also discussed the CEP applications made by the Ethnic Communities' Council of Newcastle and District and made recommendations for action.

Western Sydney Regional Advisory Committee

The October meeting was attended by representatives of the Ethnic Child Care Development Unit, Mrs V. Koutsounadis-Germanos and Ms R. Suag, who presented a paper on "Ethnic Child Care in the Western Sydney Area". Mrs Koutsounadis-Germanos pointed out that the percentage of NESB children in child care centres in Blacktown, Liverpool and Fairfield was disproportionately low. She said the Unit was seeking to establish priority for NESB children and to provide information in community languages for parents.

Other guest speakers representing the Department of Youth and Community Services spoke on the Department's efforts to make its services more accessible to members of ethnic communities.

Alderman Hartley presented the report of the Child Care Working Group which suggested that all local government bodies be requested to advise on the extent and nature of all Child Care Services within their areas.

Reports from the Health Working Group and the Arts and Culture Working Group were also presented at this meeting.



Events, News, Views

Opening of First Immigrant Women's Resource Centre — Lidcombe

The first Immigrant Women's Resource Centre in New South Wales was officially opened by Mrs Jill Wran in November.

The Centre was established with a State Government Special Grant of \$23,500 and Mrs Wran announced a further \$30,000 in funding to assist its activities.

More than 200 people attended the opening at John Street, Lidcombe.

Mrs Wran said the centre marked a turning point in the provision of services for non-English-speaking women in New South Wales.

"This resource centre will be a continuing source of information and reference, both for immigrant women and for all those who seek to assist them," Mrs Wran said.

"Proper communication is the essential first step in any battle.

"You have established a direct line here — not only for the 57% of New South Wales non-English-speaking women who live in the surrounding western suburbs, but for all the educators and policy makers who need knowledge before they can act effectively."

The Centre is operated by the Immigrant Women's Speakout Group.



(Left to Right) Franca Arena MLC, Jenny Ow, Liason Officer of the Ethnic Affairs Commission and President of the Migrant Women's Speakout Group, and Mrs Jill Wran at the official opening of the Migrant Women's Resource Centre in Lidcombe.

Ten Years of Service for the E.C.C. of NSW

The Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW celebrated its 10th Anniversary at a Gala Ball held on Saturday 9 November, 1985.

The venue was the Sydney Town Hall where ten years ago the meeting which saw the formation of the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW was held.

This event was honoured by the presence of the NSW State Premier, Mr Wran, and Mr Whitlam, who was Prime Minister at the time of the formation of the Council and was present at the public meeting for that purpose. Other guests included the Federal Opposition Leader, Mr Howard, State Opposition Leader, Mr Greiner, the Shadow Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Mr Cadman, and Mr McLeay, representing the Prime Minister.

NSW Committed to the SBS

The Premier, Mr Neville Wran, made a personal approach to Prime Minister Bob Hawke in October, in defence of the independence of the Special Broadcasting Service.

Mr Wran sent a message to Mr Hawke urging that the Federal Government refrain from amalgamating or in any way associating the SBS with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

"The identification by the Australian community and the ethnic communities within the Australian community of SBS involves its independence of the ABC and its right to run its own affairs," the Premier told Mr Hawke.

"To bring SBS under the umbrella of the ABC in any way will, in my opinion, set back the development of multiculturalism in this country.

"I recognise your commitment to the cause of multiculturalism and your life-long concern for minority groups and, because of that concern and commitment, I am confident you will reject proposals to alter the basic arrangements in relation to SBS."

Mr Wran's intervention followed a pledge he gave to ethnic community leaders that he would do all in his power to convince the Federal Government not to tamper with SBS.

"I would like to say to my Federal colleagues in Canberra that there is no room at all for amalgamating SBS with the ABC or anyone else," Mr Wran said in his speech at the launching of the publication, "A Decade of Achievement in Ethnic Affairs", on 27 September.

"It would be not only a blow but, in my opinion, a tragedy to communications, to education, to the entertainment of literally millions of Australians if SBS loses its identity."

It was reported in November that Federal Cabinet had rejected a proposal to incorporate the SBS with the ABC.

South Africa and Immigration

Mr Hurford, Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, has stated that, although the Department's offices in Pretoria and Capetown had received eight times as many queries in 1985 as in 1984, he does not expect a dramatic increase in immigration from South Africa.

Mr Hurford said that the Government has no plans to make an exception of South Africa in their global rules because of the racial unrest in that country, as resettlement in Australia should not be seen as a solution to all of the trouble spots of the world.

Museums Association of Australia Incorporated

The MAA began in 1937 and assumed its present name in 1956. On a national level, the MAA advises government on the development of museums and museum support services and co-ordinates activities such as International Museums Day and the Museum of the Year Awards.

The NSW Branch is managed by a Committee of ten who are elected annually and represent a broad cross-section of museum interests. At the request of individual institutions, specialist staff of the NSW Branch will visit museum projects and provide on-the-spot technical advice. Other services include quarterly bulletins and a publications program, workshops and seminars, low cost mobile conservation supplies, advocacy for regional museums, register of specialist museum consultants and an exhibition grant program for institutional members.

For further information, contact the Executive Secretary, Museums Association of Australia, NSW Branch, c/o Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, P.O. Box K346, Haymarket 2000 — telephone (02) 217 0133 or (02) 217 0111.

Oral History CEP Project

The Commonwealth Government has allocated \$1.3 million for a CEP oral history project. The project, entitled "The Cultural Context of Unemployment: an Oral Record", will investigate the unemployment experience of five diverse minority groups in Australia.

One project team will be investigating unemployed Indo-Chinese refugees in the Sydney area and will mostly comprise CEP employees drawn from the Vietnamese, Lao and Khmer communities.

For further information contact the Sydney consultant, Dr Judith Winternitz, on 32 1084.



Network for Intercultural Communication

The Multicultural Communication and Development Special Interest Group and the Australian Association for Cross Cultural Practice and Research have amalgamated, after several meetings in which it was decided that both groups had basically the same aims. The newly formed organisation is called "Network for Intercultural Communication".

All members will now receive newsletters and will have the opportunity to attend regular meetings and activities. The November meeting was entitled "Setting the Climate for Learning in a Multicultural Group" and was held on Monday 18 November at the ABC Training and Development Centre.

Community Language Resource Cluster Projects

These projects bring together a group of schools which operate a common Community Language. They aim to stimulate and promote the collective production of learning materials by both Community Language teachers and parents and community members. They also endeavour to liaise with Community Language teachers, class teachers and principals in schools and local community in order to support existing programs and promote the introduction of new programs.

Eight projects are currently funded by the Commonwealth Government and administered by the NSW Multicultural Education Co-ordinating Committee. All projects have a full-time Community Language Resource teacher and some employ a Community Liaison Officer.

For further information on the projects, contact Community Language Cluster Groups, c/- Crown Street Public School, Crown St., Surry Hills 2010. The Co-ordinator, Liz Hodges, can be contacted on 332 4381 (work), 519 3080 (home).

1988 Language Teachers' Congress

As part of Australia's Bicentennial celebrations, an international gathering of modern language teachers is planned to be held in Canberra in January 1988. It is the 16th Federation Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes Congress.

The theme will be "Learning Languages is Learning to Live Together". The gathering will involve about 500 Australian and visiting language teachers from primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. Proposed topics for discussion include the maintenance of the languages of ethnic minorities and indigenous groups, the development of Australian English and the cultivation of language study for international understanding.

AFTS begins SBS Radio Training

The Australian Film and Television School has begun a 35 week training program for SBS radio co-ordinators and broadcasters in Melbourne and Sydney. The School's Head of Radio, Lois Baird, said the project would greatly enhance the growth of quality ethnic broadcasting in Australia.

The program began in Sydney on Monday 21 October and in Melbourne on Tuesday 29 October, and runs until August next year. There will be a series of eight weekly lectures before the hands-on training begins.

For more information, contact Course Coordinator Joan Sharry on (02) 887 1666 or Assistant Coordinator Georgina Guilfoyle on (03) 328 2517.



Multicultural Arts Exhibition

The Australian Visual Arts Gallery has put together an art exhibition featuring artists from various countries who are now living and working in Australia.

Artists from NSW, Victoria and Queensland will exhibit their works, including paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture and ceramics.

Included in the Exhibition will be the etchings and silkscreening of Jacque Charoux, from Mauritius.

The Australian Visual Arts Gallery is on the 1st Floor, 143A Oxford St, Darlinghurst. The Exhibition opened on Tuesday 3 December.

"Izzie an Aussie?"

"Izzie an Aussie?" Crinkle Creme Theatre-in-Education's new high school production has created considerable interest and media attention recently. The play deals with racism, a sinister aspect of Australian society. It's a play with humour, at times hilarious, yet always questioning and thought-provoking.

The play examines the various waves of migration throughout Australian history and attempts to explain better the feelings, expectations and attitudes of successive waves of newcomers, and the impact they have had on those already here.

The principal characters are Bob the Aborigine, Rocky the Italian, Tran the Vietnamese and Ozzie the Aussie.

All give their own perspective on what being an Australian means to them as they deal with anything from job interviews to backyard barbies.

The play, written by Allen Browne and Kym Goldsworthy, strives to foster the sort of understanding that will take a multicultural Australian through the 1980's into the 1990's.

Crinkle Creme have four shows currently touring areas of NSW. They are all great entertainment and demonstrate the rare capacity to help change attitudes as well.

Contact Ben Pocius (02) 810-4597 or Helen McGrath (02) 922-7718 if you would like to find out more about their work and availability.

- The newly appointed Chairman of one of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs' affiliated bodies, The Council on Overseas Professional Qualifications is Professor Kevin Westfold, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Monash University. He replaces the first Chairman of the Council, Professor Peter Whitton, who recently resigned for personal reasons. So far all affiliated bodies of the DIEA, such as COPQ, NAATI and the National Population Council, have at the helm people of English-speaking background and no migrants.
- The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Mr Chris Hurford, has announced that the Federal Government is to undertake a detailed study to ensure its services are accessible to all members of the community. Each Government Department which provides

relevant programs and services will be required to present a detailed report outlining measures adopted to ensure access and equity in delivering services to migrants. Mr Hurford believes that this will demonstrate, in practical terms, the Federal Government's commitment to the "mainstreaming" philosophy. For further information contact Mick Atkinson on (062) 72 6635 or (062) 49 8048.

- The NSW Premier has announced that his Government will again sponsor Senior Citizens' Week 1986. This special community celebration will be held throughout N.S.W. from 2-9 March with the slogan "What's Age Got To Do With It". The program is coordinated by the Office of Aged Services. Further information can be obtained from Bob Gallagher on (02) 20576 Ext 4252 or Cathy Peters, Ext 4254.

- There have been several staff changes at the Ecumenical Migration Centre.

— Mr Wayne Sanderson left the Agency to take up a parish position with the Uniting Church in South Melbourne.

— Marion Webster, who was previously in the position of Co-ordinator of Community Services, has been appointed Director of the Agency.

— Michael Liffman has left the Agency. Michael was Co-ordinator of Community Education and CHOMI for eight years.

- The Italian-Australian Women's Association of NSW held a Conference on 26 October. Entitled "Noi Donne Italiane", it was the first-ever conference on the contribution of Italian-Australian women to Australian society. For further information contact Monica (887-1666) or Louise (923-4943).
- The Project and Planning Unit of the Commission has three new members: Caroline Alcorso, Alan Kashmer and Robyn Iredale. Caroline's special area of interest is education, Alan's is welfare and aged services, while Robyn will be working in the area of industrial relations and refugee matters.

Australia and the Jewish Refugees 1933-1948

by Michael Blakeney.
Croom Helm Australia, 1985.

I was a Jewish refugee who arrived in Australia from Germany in June 1939. My landing permit and those for my wife and parents were granted after many difficulties, so that we could join my brother and his family, who had arrived in September 1938.

This was the time — between the "Kristallnacht" and the outbreak of the war — when the "landing money" intending immigrants had to possess to be allowed into Australia, rose from 40 to 500 Pounds. Our landing money was 250 Pounds. As I am really one of its *dramatis personae*, this book is of very special interest to me.

The political background in Australia at this time, the decision by the Australian Government to increase this landing money so steeply, and the effect of these measures on the intending Jewish refugee migrants, are fully discussed.

Michael Blakeney, professor of law at the University of NSW, has written much more than just the history of the Jewish refugees who entered Australia between 1933 and 1948.

He draws a comprehensive picture of the earlier white immigrants' attitude to Jews who intended to come to Australia as far back as the second half of the 19th century.

He discusses the reaction of the Australian population to the possibility of large-scale Jewish immigration after the pogroms in Poland and Russia at the beginning of the 20th century.

He also devotes a whole chapter to the little-known endeavours to found a "permanent Jewish home" in the Kimberleys, when the political future of Palestine as a location for this "home" looked bleak.

But all of this culminates in the description of events from 1933 to 1948.

The tragic picture emerging is the continuous existence of anti-semitism in Australia. At times it is more obvious, at other times less, but it has had some fanatical adherents at all times.

Anti-semitism seems to have been a regular part of the political discourses. As Blakeney shows, hardly any prominent politician has not, at some time or other, made a racist, anti-Jewish pronouncement. The speeches come from the political right

("Marxists, stirrers, Bolsheviks") as well as the left ("exploiters of the proletariat").

The Jewish community which immigrated before 1914 had come mainly from Great Britain, not from Central Europe. Their members also shared the unwillingness of others to accept the refugees from Europe, whether they were of Russian, Polish, Hungarian or German/Austrian background. They were afraid that a new influx would disturb the balance of the very assimilated Australian Jewry by being "different" and by introducing progressive liberal Judaism into the basically orthodox Australian Jewish community.

This hostility reinforces my personal observation that European Jews believe in the superiority of Western Jews over those from the East.

In this context, East and West has not the modern connotation of socialist versus capitalist ideology, but it indicates that, in the period before World War II, British Jews felt themselves to be superior to the French, who in turn felt that they were better than the German/Austrian Jews, and so on to Hungary, Poland and Russia.

Of course, there were in the Australian community, Jewish and non-Jewish, some wonderful exceptions — people in the political, journalistic and artistic areas who always put human and humane considerations above party politics and general prejudices.

Blakeney shows how in reality the Australian Government only agreed to take any refugees at all to avoid being forced into a situation where it might have to receive even more than the numbers accepted.

I doubt if anybody could add anything of significance to Michael Blakeney's thorough, at times overwhelming, research.

Inevitably, of course, some inaccuracies occur in a research volume of this dimension, but they do not detract from the book's value.

Jessie Street (p.258), that wonderful fighter for any suppressed group (see Peter Secules' *Jessie Street*, Queensland University Press, 1978), was never a member of the House of Representatives — more's the pity. We would have had some brilliant fireworks if she had been! She was, however, the Australian delegate to the United Nation Status for Women Commission, New York, 1948.

The statement is made that "enemy aliens were not permitted to live within five miles of the coast" (p.177). This might have been a National Security

regulation, but I lived with my family in Rose Bay from 1939 to 1956 — and I was an "enemy alien" until late 1942, when I had been a member of the Australian Military Forces for over six months.

It is a pity too that 30,000 immigrants of German descent (p.66) in and around Tanunda are not given their proper historical background.

They were not new arrivals, but had immigrated around 1838. These Barossa Valley families had been treated very shabbily by the Australian authorities and population already in the First World War.

I am sorry that one item was left out of the book. Nettie Palmer is described (p.212) as the "Angel of Refugees" in Melbourne. She had her counterpart in Sydney: Rosine Guiterman was certainly our good angel! Rosine made time to listen to every refugee's woes and would help with advice or personal representations to authorities.

Although it is not strictly within the confines of this book, it should be pointed out that Hitler's propaganda and racism produced a strange international compliance with his ideas, particularly his classification of "Aryans" and Jews.

The doorman at the British Embassy in Berlin in 1938 would ask you for your passport. If it had the red "J" (Jew) stamped on the first page, you had to join the long queue in the courtyard; if not, you could go straight in.

In Vienna, an application for immigration to Australia (after the "Anschluss") was processed much faster if one had converted to Catholicism in the preceding few months.

In Australia (p.117) the Australian Jewish Welfare Society looked after the Jewish refugees and the Catholic Continental Migrants Welfare Committee looked after the Catholic refugees. But it was that wonderful Quaker, the Hon. Camilla Wedgwood, who, with her committee, cared for the "non-Aryan Christians".

These were usually people brought up as Christians, but of Jewish or part-Jewish descent. "Non-Aryan Christians" was a typical classification only the Nazis could have invented, but it was unthinkingly transferred to Australia and can be found in many documents of the time.

Apart from its historical overview of the times, this book shows us how the basis was laid for the post-war immigration policy and the acceptance

of non-English-speaking migrants by a great proportion of the Australian public.

In the *Australian Jewish Herald* in 1947 (p.310), Judah Waten urged the Government to pass laws "banning propaganda inciting people to hatred of a particular race of religious group".

The discussion still goes on: what is needed to make Australia a successful and tolerant multicultural society?

Emil H. Witton

Geography and Ethnic Pluralism

edited by C. Clare, D. Leg and C. Peach

This book explores the segmentation of population by race and culture by examining case studies prepared by specialists in the field of human geography.

The debate on the issue of pluralism as a social and state problem is considered in both the Third World and Metropolitan contexts.

By examining a wide range of locales, the book emphasises the global nature of this issue and the significance of the geographic situation in the study of ethnicity and pluralism. The Australian context is not considered, but much can be learnt from the study of other plural societies.

Of particular interest is a chapter on the Canadian situation, which looks at economic development, tradition and modernity, regionalism and multiculturalism.

Published by George Allen and Unwin, 1984, pp. 305. Price: \$24.95.

Services of Willoughby Municipal Library

Willoughby Library has an extensive collection of community language books. They include fiction and non-fiction for adults and children and are currently available in sixteen languages. As well, there is a large collection of books designed to help those who are learning English as a second language. Some kits of cassettes and booklets are also available for this purpose.

This material is available in the library's Graded English Reading collection. The library also has community noticeboards and information stands to display details of different organisations' activities.

For further information about the library's services, contact the Information desk on 419 7816 or 412 3333 (Extension 159).

SLASA Manual

A Spanish-Speakers' Information Manual has been produced by the Spanish and Latin American Association for Social Assistance in conjunction with the Ethnic Affairs Commission.

The Manual began with a consultation project into the needs of the Spanish-speaking Community carried out by a Spanish-speaking Liaison Officer hired by the Ethnic Affairs Commission under the Wage Pause project.

It was soon realised that existing communication and liaison channels were ineffective in the provision of services to Spanish-speakers. The geographical dispersion of Spanish-speakers in Sydney, the high rate of change in Spanish-speaking groups and Spanish-speakers employed to provide social assistance meant that valuable community resources and potential referrals were not used effectively.

A directory of resources for Spanish speakers was produced two years ago but has been found to be not comprehensive enough to address the needs of this community and it is also out of date. Thus the idea for a Spanish-speakers' Information Manual was born.

It was decided that the Manual would need to be comprehensive and easily updatable. It would include information on clubs, groups, organisations and Spanish-speaking workers and professionals. The Manual is divided into 16 sections, containing information on the following:

- * Government
- * Translating and Interpreting
- * Welfare
- * Health
- * Education
- * Affinity Groups
- * Law
- * Spanish Media
- * Finances
- * Embassies and Consulates
- * Libraries and Bookshops
- * Culture
- * Social and Sporting Clubs
- * Wollongong
- * Newcastle
- * Statistical Information

It also incorporates an introduction, two indexes and instructions on how to use the Manual.

The large proportion of Spanish-speaking people who live in NSW will greatly benefit from the greater flow of information that this project will make

available. The project will also strengthen existing networks and help develop new ones. Also, this interaction and the improved access to information about the Spanish-speaking community will bring about better relations between ethnic groups and will contribute to making the concept of multiculturalism a more tangible reality.

The Manual is being published by SLASA. Ph (02) 747 5311 X321.

Report of the NSW Task Force on Women in Prison (1985)

This is a comprehensive study (345pp) focussing on the conditions experienced by women prisoners in NSW.

More significantly, the study examines female offender management with the overall emphasis of the study on initiating major and widespread changes in custodial facilities for women in NSW.

The Task Force's recommendations number 38 pages. They point to valuable avenues which should be explored if prison life in NSW is to be positively altered to ensure that women in the "system" are equipped to re-enter the community as easily as possible without suffering prejudice. Available from Women's Co-ordination Unit (02) 27 9541.

The Legacy of Job Creation Projects in the Community Sector

This is a research study disclosing the overall impact of CEP projects on industry, the community and on the numerous organisations that are the recipients of CEP funding.

A questionnaire research approach was utilized which highlights several interesting points, including the administration of CEP; its effectiveness in community service organisations; and the subsequent industrial relations which emerged as a direct result of the CEP.

The survey asks whether the utilization of CEP is merely a short-term buffer to the unemployment problem of the 1980's and a means for the Government to pretend unemployment is not as bad as we are led to believe.

Available from Local Community Services Association, 1985.

Rehabilitation and Migrants

by J. Kalisperis, R. Mapolar and R. Singer, from the Ecumenical Migration Centre — 1985

Since a large proportion of immigrants are employed in **work hazard** occupations (that is, work often classed as hard and dirty), it is no surprise that they make up a large percentage of those injured at work.

Often stereotyped as suffering from a "Mediterranean back", they have inevitably been prejudiced against when seeking workers' compensation.

This thought-provoking paper aims to promote further discussion on how ethnic communities can take affirmative action in assisting their non-English-speaking members to satisfy their rehabilitation needs.

Available from Clearing House on Migration, Richmond, Victoria.

Developmental Disability in Sydney's Arabic Communities

by John Garrick

This report discusses the needs of Arabic parents with a developmentally disabled child. The report highlights the fact that limited data is available on ethnicity and disability.

Consequently, only Lebanese families were used for the survey. Their lack of awareness of benefits, information on services and the constant emotional strain on Arabic parents has unfortunately resulted in many living in poverty.

It is suggested that practitioners dealing with these families should use qualified interpreters to ensure that some of the stress, fear and lack of understanding of developmental disability could be tremendously reduced.

Available from Department of Youth and Community Services, 1985.

Papers on Islam

The Middle East Research and Information Association has produced two papers on Islam and Islamic Communities in Australia. The first, entitled "Islam in Australia", is a set of papers from a seminar held at MacArthur Institute in May 1984. The second, entitled "Islamic Communities in NSW", is a study of how Muslim communities in NSW are creating an Australian Muslim Culture.

Available from Middle East Research and Information Association, 1985.

Committees Handbook: How to Find and Keep a Good Committee (1985)

by Margaret Hunter — from SACOSS

Yet another excellent handbook produced by SACOSS and outlining committee management of a community group. Handy hints and witty illustrations make the "Committees Handbook" a must for those working in or with community groups.

Available from S.A. Council of Social Services.

Other Publications

- **Information on Grants for Projects of Benefit to Women**, produced by and available from the Office of the Status of Women, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra ACT 2600.

- **Policies for Mental Health Services**, January 1985; **Policies for Developmental Disability Services**, January 1985.

These two reports from the Department of Health are designed to assist in providing clearer directions for health workers.

Available from the NSW Department of Health.

- Three recent reports from NCOSS:
— **7th NCOSS Pre-Budget Submission 1985**

— **Living in Poverty: Social Needs in NSW** — NCOSS Issue Paper Number 3, June 1985.

— **Understanding Tax Reform: an Introduction** — published jointly by the Australian, NSW and SA Councils of Social Service, April 1985.

Available from the NSW Council of Social Services, (02) 211 2599.

- **ASEAN — Australian Immigration and the demise of "White Australia"** by David Pope and Peter Shergold.

A paper which attempts to identify potential sources of discrimination in Australia's immigration policies.

Available from the ASEAN-Australian Joint Research Project, 1985.

- **Polish Community Workshop Session** This is the latest report in the 'Insight' series which records community-based in-service courses for teachers in WA.

Available from the WA Multicultural Education Advisory Committee, 1985.

- **Occupational Summary New South Wales June 1985**. The first of a new series of papers giving selected details about the labour market. Future issues are proposed six monthly (June and December).

Prepared by and available from the Occupational Analysis Section, Manpower Analysis and Information Branch, Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, Sydney.

- **The Childhood of an Ideal** by Dr Roget Wiseman.

A study which looks at the teaching of Italian in South Australian State primary schools.

Published by the S.A. College of Advanced Education, May 1985.

- **Studies in Adult Migrant Education (series)**

The latest in this series from the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs is entitled **English learning needs of recent migrants in Sydney's Liverpool area**. It reports the findings of a survey into the continuing language and information needs of migrants as a basis for future program development.

Available from the Australian Government Publishing Service, 1985.

- **Industrial Democracy and migrant unionists: Current Developments**.

Alan Matheson, the Ethnic Liaison Officer of the ACTU, has compiled this report which looks at recent events, innovations and articles in the area of industrial relations and migrants.

Available from ACTU, 393 Swanston Street, Melbourne, (03) 663 5266.

- **International Migration Review Number 68**.

The Winter 1984 issue of IMR is dedicated to migrant women and looks at such topics as women and

migration (historical trends), the labour market characteristics of migrant women and rural to urban migration in the Third World.

Subscription to IMR is available through Pergamon Press, PO Box 544, Potts Point 2011.

- Two recent papers by Loucas Nicolaou — **"Class, Ethnicity and Gender as Starting Points for Sociological Analysis"** (presented at the SAANS '85 Conference, University of Queensland, 30 August — 2 September) and **"Social Welfare and the Role of Unions in Australia: the Case for Minority Groups"** (presented at the "Community Welfare Services in the Australian States" Conference, Melbourne 16-17 August) — look at the role of unionism in social welfare policy and the importance of ethnicity and class in an analysis of the Australian workforce, unions and society in particular respect of minority groups.

These papers will be published soon by the Social Welfare Research Centre, University of New South Wales.

- **Devotion and Traditions: A special booklet on the people of Molfetta (Italy)** from the Associazione dei Martiri, PO Box 291, Rozelle, 2039.

- **The Law, Immigration and Human Rights** by Sev. A. Ozdowski: A paper prepared for the Law and Society Association 1985 Annual Meeting (Calif.) and published as a CHOMI Multicultural Australia Paper (44).

The paper deals with changes to the Australian Immigration Control System and argues for a more substantial remodelling of the system, in particular ensuring better protection of the human rights of immigrants.

Available from the Clearing House on Migration Issues, 133 Church Street, Richmond 3121. 1985 Price: \$3.50.

- **The Home Care Service of New South Wales** has published a new newsletter, **The Home Care Rag**. For copies, ring the Home Care Service on (02) 689 2666.

Published by the Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW, 189 Kent Street, Sydney 2000.

Telephone 237 6500

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