

# news **ETHNOS** views & notes



Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW

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## International Youth Year — 1985

*By Victor Boulos*

Criticisms of "International Years" are as certain as night follows day. Despite these criticisms International Years have the potential to benefit their specific causes. The benefits vary according to available resources and the interest expressed by government bodies, community groups, media and others.

There has been no shortage of criticisms of the latest "International Year" dedicated to youth around the world. The critics maintain that preparations started too late; that funding is inadequate; the Steering Committee is unwieldy and that the I.Y.Y. Kit is a disaster. On the other hand, many people have put a lot of effort and energy into planning and preparation.

One of the questions to emerge is the participation of ethnic youth in the I.Y.Y. The themes of I.Y.Y.: Peace, Development and Participation, are of special significance to ethnic youth.

The Commission has interpreted them in the following way:

1. racism and discrimination as they affect peace and harmony in the community;
2. the higher than average rate of unemployment, and lower achievement levels as they affect the development and future of ethnic youth;
3. the limited access to services and limited participation in decision making processes by ethnic youth, which risk alienating the young.

The Commission regards ethnic participation and a multicultural perspective in IYY as essential ingredients for its success. Therefore it arranged a meeting with representatives of ethnic youth groups (immigrants and refugees) to hear their ideas and concerns. The Chief

Executive of IYY, Mr Bill Langshaw also took part. The meeting expressed concern about inadequate ethnic participation on the structures of IYY and about the level of funding available for community projects.

The question of ethnic representation/participation was later raised at the first State Steering Committee meeting which recommended to the Minister, Mr Walker, that a representative of refugee youth be appointed to the Steering Committee, in addition to those young people of non-English speaking background who were already members of the Committee.

The IYY is co-ordinated by a National Co-ordinating Committee and State Committees.

Table 1 summarises the structures which co-ordinate IYY at the National level, in New South Wales and for comparative purposes, the Victorian IYY operation.



The NSW IYY Steering Committee has 17 Sub-committees formed to focus on the specific issues.

Members of these sub-committees can co-opt people capable of contributing. It is expected that the various sub-committees will develop links or even acquire a base in relevant government departments. The Ethnic Youth sub-committee may well develop a base at the Ethnic Affairs Commission, as well as links with other departments, depending on its priorities, to ensure that ethnic youth concerns are not marginalised.

The first meeting of the Ethnic Youth Sub-committee took place on Wednesday 21 November.

The New South Wales IYY structure is the responsibility of the Minister for Youth and Community Services. It consists of:

- \* **The IYY State Steering Committee**  
The Committee is co-chaired by Mr Chris Sidoti and Ms Alana Clohesv. It has 76 members.

### Inside:

- The Coal Wash Waste Saga ..... 3
- Immigrant Women and Adult Education ..... 4
- News Scan ..... 6
- From the Commission In Brief ..... 7
- Events, News, Views ..... 8
- Books ..... 11

**Table I**

<b>IYY Structure</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>New South Wales</b>	<b>Victoria</b>
Dept. with main responsibility	Education and Youth Affairs — Office of Youth Affairs	Dept. of Youth and Community Services	Ministry of Youth, Sport & Recreation
Co-ordinating Body	— National IYY Co-ordinating Committee — 15 members — estb. Oct. '83 — 2 Sub-committees	— NSW IYY State Steering Committee — 76 members — estb. Oct. '84 — 17 Sub-committees (see separate chart)	Vic. IYY Steering Committee — 21 members — estb. May '84 — 10 Sub-committees
Inter-Departmental Structure	— Inter-Departmental Committee of Commonwealth Govt. Depts' IYY contacts.	Various departmental representatives named — no formal Inter-Departmental Committee set up yet.	— Inter-Departmental Working Committee

**\* The Sub-committees**

The Steering Committee comprises 17 Sub-committees:

- Health
- Employment, income support, housing
- Isolated youth
- Disability
- Youth facilities
- Alienation (drugs, crime)
- Young gays and young lesbians
- Occupational health and safety
- International
- Religion
- Aboriginal youth
- Youth arts
- Education and training
- Community education
- Young people of non-English speaking background
- Young women
- Legal issues, discrimination

**\* Young People of non-English Speaking Background Sub-committee**

Members: Lube Markovski (convenor) Wollongong City Council; Felise Koksai, Ethnic Communities Council; Nadya Stani, Ethnic Youth Network; Renee Poulos, Youth Affairs Council; Fiorina Mastroianni; Nino Angelo and a Refugee Youth Representative (to be appointed).

**\* The Executive** of the Steering Committee is half elected and half appointed ex-officio. The present executive is made up of 8 people. It is co-chaired by Chris Sidoti and Alana Clohesy, Mr Bill Langshaw the Chief Executive of IYY and Mr Greg Jones from the Minister's office. The other four members were elected on an interim basis and they are: Lube Markovski, Ian Raymond, Toni Martin and Reece

Coleman.

**\* The IYY Secretariat** provides the back-up to the New South Wales IYY structure. The head is Mr Bill Langshaw, with Alana Clohesy who is also co-chairperson of the IYY Steering Committee and clerical assistant Debbie Highnan.

**\* The National Co-ordinating Committee** has 2 sub-committees: Communications and National Planning (Tony Wisehart, Executive Officer).

**\* The Victorian Steering Committee** has the following sub-committees: Law, Accommodation, Peace, Young Women, Disabilities, Entertainment, Employment, Ethnic Youth, Health, Discrimination.

**IYY Funding**

No detailed information is yet available about funding for IYY activities.

Table II shows Federal, New South Wales and Victorian expenditure on IYY. It also draws attention to the potential for involving private enterprise in funding IYY activities.

Funding guidelines are being considered by the Minister for Youth & Community Services, Mr Walker. Once approved they will be published and a deadline set for applications. Meanwhile, the IYY Secretariat would like to hear from groups wishing to discuss projects for possible funding.

It is worth noting that of the \$1.5 million available for IYY, \$850,000 will be available during 1984-85 for Secretariat and Steering Committee

expenses as well as for grants to community groups.

So far \$50,000 has been earmarked by the Minister for the Sydney Festival and \$25,000 for an international piano competition.

**Sources of Information**

Both the National and the New South Wales IYY bodies issue newsletters about IYY. Also, the Youth Affairs Council of New South Wales issues bulletins through YACON News.

The National IYY body has prepared an IYY Kit which should soon be available and the Campaign Palace has been engaged to carry out the media promotion campaign for IYY.

Further information can be obtained from the NSW IYY Secretariat located on

Level 14  
Macquarie Chambers,  
183 Macquarie Street,  
Sydney 2000.  
Phone 221 1011

**EAC's Proposals for International Youth Year**

The Chairman of the Ethnic Affairs Commission Dott. Paolo Totaro met with a delegation of young people to discuss the Commission's proposals for International Youth Year.

Amongst these proposals is the appointment of a young Commissioner to the Ethnic Affairs Commission to bring young people's perspective to the deliberations of that body. A list of suitable young persons of non-English speaking background who are under 26 years of age will be forwarded for consideration by the

Premier.

The Commission has also designated one of its Project Officers to work on the youth policy area.

Young people's involvement in the ethnic and multicultural media will be encouraged, but will depend on the willingness and capacity of various sections of the media to co-operate.

The Commission is also considering offering awards in various

fields of youth endeavour, particularly the arts, to encourage the development of future artists of non-English speaking background. In addition, the Commission is keen to offer grants to youth based and community oriented projects. This proposal however, will be subject to funds being made available in the 1985-86 State budget.

**Table II**

IYY Funding	National	New South Wales	Victoria
Main IYY funds available	\$2.3m over 3 financial years: 1984-85 to 1986-87	\$1.5m over 2 financial years: 1984-85 to 1985-86	\$0.5m in 1984-85 budget. (\$200,000 was spent in 1983-84 on Planning and Development grants for IYY)
Funds from other areas of government for IYY.	\$1.8m Community Employment Program (CEP) project others expected to be announced	\$300,000 Dept of Health \$50,000 Dept of Local Govt. Others expected to be announced	\$100,000 Dept of Youth, Sport and Recreation. \$180,000 Ministry for Arts Others expected to be announced
Private enterprise.	Firm engaged by Commonwealth government to publicise and seek corporate sponsorships for IYY — sponsorships to be announced as they are obtained.	\$35,000 obtained by the "Wanbinga" Youth Crisis Centre, Blacktown from various sponsors for "International Youth Art '85", to raise funds for the Youth refuge. This is one of the first large privately sponsored IYY Projects. More to be announced.	\$20,000 from Caltex, others to be announced.

## The Coal Wash Waste Saga

27th November, 1984, marked the first day of public hearings of the Inquiry into the proposal to locate a coal wash waste dump at Cringila or Dapto in the Illawarra region. The setting up of the inquiry has followed years of intensive campaigning by Cringila residents against the plans of Australian Iron and Steel, a subsidiary of B.H.P.

The Big Australian proposes to dispose of up to 7 million tonnes of blast furnace slag, steel slag and coal wash waste on the outskirts of Cringila — a residential suburb of Port Kembla located in the immediate neighbourhood of the steelworks. The proposed dump would be in operation for 3 to 5 years and it is intended that coal trucks would operate every day, Mondays to Saturdays, from 6 in the morning until 10 in the evening. Over the period the trucks will take an estimated half a million journeys through the already pollution-



plagued town. The waste would finally cover 45 hectares and reach some 35 metres in height.

Australian Iron and Steel then plans to compensate local residents for the years of noise, traffic and additional dust by turning the site into a recreational area.

Cringila has some four thousand residents, 95% of who are immigrants. The major ethnic groups in the area are Macedonian, Serbian, Croatian, Turkish, Portuguese and 95% of whom Arabic speaking communities. Some 400 families would be affected by the planned dump, most of them people of non-English speaking background who have great difficulty

in expressing effectively the reasons for their rejection of the proposal.

**T**he residents already experience extreme levels of industrial pollution — among the highest recorded in NSW.

Industrial fallout, noise and fume discharge are factors contributing to the very high percentage of Cringila residents receiving in-patient hospital treatment for diseases of the respiratory system.

The Cringila Coal Wash Dump Protest Committee has been effective in persuading authorities to set up the Inquiry and the Company to consider other sites. It has also convinced the

Minister for Planning and Environment that special consideration should be given in the Inquiry's proceedings to people who have language difficulties. As a result oral submissions will be accepted by the Inquiry.

The Ethnic Affairs Commission has provided a team of interpreters for the duration of the Inquiry, to ensure that the people who will be most affected by the proposal will have a real opportunity to make their views heard.

For more information contact Dr Glenn Mitchell, Regional Migrant Health Centre, Cringila, on (042) 746 233.

## Immigrant Women and Adult Education

*By Joan Bielski*

**T**here are some mid to late 20th century trends in Australia which are detrimental to the level of control people have over their personal and group lives. I mention

- The professionalising and institutionalising of education, welfare, health (including mental health) and politics. All of these have been raised to a level of expertise, where the professionals control our lives and people doubt their own good sense. Traditional skills and competences are downgraded. The medicalisation of motherhood, the packaging of nutrition, of parenting are examples.

- Credentials as an entry to many areas of well paid employment and as a basis of self esteem. Amateurs are not welcomed.

- An increased complexity of public life and Government, including increased social controls, a plethora of boards, commissions, councils and enquiries, all of which decrease or have the effect of decreasing people's feeling of control of their own lives.

- Representative government has lost some credibility. People demand participation between elections. This is evidenced in the urban renewal/resident action movements, the conservation movement and the peace movement.

- A coincidental decrease in the social-cum-political education provided by institutions such as unions and other working class organisations. Unions now tend to concentrate on the training of their officers, not the whole membership.

While there appears to be decline in people's faith in the union movement

other than in its regulatory role, there has been a concomitant rise in people's belief in the need for a say in the quality of work life and the nexus between work and home, part time work etc. The latter is unsupported and frequently opposed by the union movement despite the fact that many desire it.

These have diminished people in general but women and migrants have added dimensions of disadvantages and powerlessness. Some factors are:



- A system of public education which has tended to take the social situation of women as given, and educated women and girls within the limits of that social perspective. This has had and continues to have a crippling effect on women.

Adult women in Australia in the mid-20th century emerge from the education system with less formal and technical education than comparable men. have broken work-histories, work in relatively low-status, low-paid occupations and depend for their well-being on husbands' incomes. As

a group they exhibit less self-esteem and work force competence; considerably less disposable income than comparable males; a limited knowledge of Maths, Science and Technology and possible work options; of how government, business, unions, taxation and social security policy apportion life changes and slots the majority of women into secondary roles and/or poverty if unsupported by a male i.e. single parents, divorcees, widows or aged.

- A migration program of nearly 40 years' duration which has only in the last 10 or 12 years begun to reflect the needs of migrant children and their parents.

Persons of ethnic origin experience similar socio-economic disabilities to those of women. In their case it is exacerbated by language difficulties, in some cases, by illiteracy both in their mother tongue and English, by lower socio-economic class, by their predominating rural origin and by their lack of knowledge of the social mores and political organisation of the country of their adoption.

**A**gainst these trends, in the latter part of the 20th century, there has developed a series of liberation movements which, when analysed, are movements by people in groups to regain control of personal and group life. This has been specific in the case of women and Aboriginals.

The movement to multiculturalism, including multicultural education is, in essence, a liberation movement. It has been articulated by migrants and is a demand by them to become part of the mainstream political and social

process. It is worth noting that the leaders of these liberation movements tend to be people with reasonable levels of education, high levels of self-esteem and political consciousness. The majority, as against the leaders, tend to lack such characteristics. Many women and many migrants have yet to benefit from the doors opened by their political/social movements. Adult education has a role in facilitating such movements so that they embrace all levels and social classes within the groups.

Need, efficiency and justice are the basis of the claims of these groups to priority in the funding policies of government educational agencies and to priority in the programs of publicly funded organisations.

If women and migrant groups, partly assisted through education, are to increase control over their own lives, then adult education must begin where the clients are — that is, recognising the disabilities presently accruing to them as groups and addressing these in their programs.

Non-government organisations are well placed to carry out many of the educational programs that such a process will require. Government educational authorities and their programs are frequently the object of public criticism and therefore their programs will tend to omit or defuse controversial issues. However, for efficiency's sake and in order to maximise the use of existing resources for adult education, some of the curriculum development work could well be done by existing authorities, such as the Department of Technical and Further Education, who have experience in developing packages for women, migrants and Aboriginals.

Such programs and curriculum packages would provide an educational program not only for women and migrants themselves but for the activists within their organisations, many of whom work from a basis of goodwill and good sense, but without an inadequate information base. Programs for leaders have a "trickle down" effect. This is especially valuable to migrant leaders, who in turn, can translate and communicate their information base to their non English speaking members.

Programs which could be taken up by voluntary associations for women and migrants would address such issues as:

- The history and role of women's and migrants' work in Australia.
- The politics of women and migration
- The structure of government in Australia

- Labour markets
- Unions — their role, services and how to participate
- Industrial relations, wages, etc.
- Discrimination legislation and other redress laws and authorities
- Wealth and poverty; wealth distribution, social security and taxation — their distributive effects
- Technological change and work
- Mental, physical and industrial health
- Effective oral and written communication
- Information access
- Report and submission writing
- Maths/competence in calculations
- Computer literacy
- Lobbying and persuasion techniques.

The kind of programs suggested would envisage a longer period of study than the usual 8 to 12 weeks and therefore sequential programming ought to be encouraged. For maximum effectiveness, programs could well be developed in association with women's and migrants' organisations.

Such programs would depend for their success on the quality of the educator. The ideal adult educator for women and migrants is one who is prepared to work at times when people have leisure; who is a facilitator rather than an authority; who is prepared to experiment; to recognise the competencies that people already have, attempts to reinforce them and has a clear perception that his/her role is to empower rather than to create dependence.



Voluntary adult education associations appear not to have applied their mission zeal to disadvantaged adult women and to adult migrants.

"We have got a program, come and get it". The program has to be promoted in the ethnic press, on ethnic radio, through women's networks and women's organisations; through social workers, play groups, parent organisations and unions.

Only in the last 10 years or so has Australian education really begun to address the needs of migrants or the multicultural society. Adult education lags behind general education, except

in the provision of English language teaching and even that is insufficient. It is instructive to study the program of a society which has similar problems.

The Swedish education authorities cater for a multicultural mix similar to that served by Australian educators. As a matter of interest, in December 1981, they calculated that Sweden had 501 Australian immigrants, who represented 0.1% of all foreign nationals in Sweden.

The most extensive adult education service in Sweden takes the form of study circles arranged in municipalities by 10 state-approved adult education associations. A circle usually comprises 8 to 10 persons who discuss their way through a subject so as to arrive at a common fund of knowledge. Each circle has a leader with knowledge of the subject being studied. It is this leader's duty to see that progress is made. The participants jointly find their goals and determine the rate of progress. The subjects studied tend to be social issues and modern languages, elementary Swedish, English, Civics and Mathematics.

Immigrant employees are entitled by law, since 1973, to attend Swedish and Social Education courses for 240 or 160 paid working hours. This provides a 'carrot' for the employee and a 'stick' for the employer. Whether the applicant takes 240 or 160 hours of instruction depends on the employee's initial knowledge of Swedish. New immigrants must be informed as soon as possible of their rights and be given the opportunity of leave of absence to attend lessons not more than 60 days after taking up their employment. The Swedish Government is developing a register of immigrants to ensure that they exercise their rights.

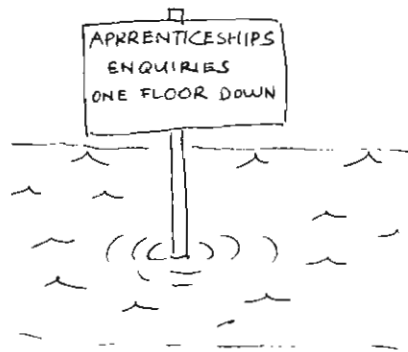
This sounds like a valuable variation which might be emulated by our Government and our Adult Migrant Education Service. The Swedish Government Report, **Immigrants and Immigrant Teaching in Sweden Scheme, 1983**, (in English) describes an innovative and imaginative program of social and adult education for migrants to Sweden.

My point is that adult education programs for women and migrants need to be innovative, welcoming, accessible and empowering. Women and migrants, as individuals, having been through the kind of consciousness-raising empowering process I have described, are more likely to become active in union affairs, in ethnic affairs, in women's affairs and in public affairs.

# News Scan

- The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs has recently announced that a special grant will be made to the Cabramatta Community Centre to upgrade it to Migrant Resource Centre level. The Ethnic Affairs Commission has attended a meeting held at Cabramatta on the 26 November, 1984, to discuss how this new source of funding will affect the future activities and objectives of the Centre.
- The new Australian Citizenship requirements for appointment to permanent positions in the Australian Public Service came into effect on 1 November, 1984.
- Another meeting of the Migrant Women's Network convened by the Hon. Franca Arena was held on 5 November 1984. This meeting was addressed by the minister of Youth and Community Services and attended by some 50 women. The network is becoming an effective means of information exchange and development for ethnic women.
- The Council on the Ageing has now developed a strong policy statement on the ethnic aged and is devoting considerable efforts to ensuring that the needs of this group are adequately covered by the proposed Homes and Community Care Program currently being negotiated between the Commonwealth and the States. They have also successfully lobbied Meals on Wheels to get them to accept the need for special meals for immigrant aged. Two applications are currently being negotiated through the Community Employment Program to begin pilot programs for Ethnic Meals on Wheels in Wollongong and Sydney.
- The annual conference of the Oral History Association will be held in Melbourne on 8 and 9 June 1985. For information write to: The Oral History Conference Conveners, c/- Pat Grimshaw and John Lack, History Department, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, 3052.

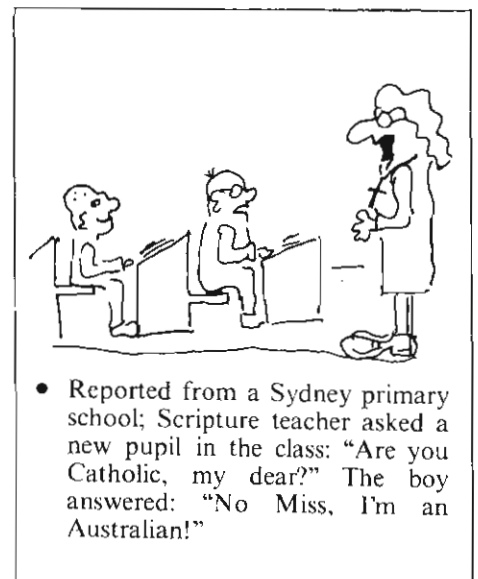
- The Water Resources Commission has taken steps to encourage people of non-English speaking background to apply for apprenticeships offered in a number of country locations. The response to the advertisements in the ethnic press has been very good, according to the officer responsible for recruitment.



- **Macedonian Language Newspaper**  
A Macedonian Language newspaper is now published in Newcastle. This is the only locally produced community language newspaper. The paper is available free to members of the local community and Macedonian-Australians located elsewhere.
- Professor Jayasuriya, Chairman of the National Advisory and Coordinating Committee on Multicultural Education, welcomed the Education Commission's Report "**Research in Multicultural Education**". The report, released during Carnivale '84, aims to set future research priorities for multicultural education. The report was prepared by the Working Party on Multicultural Education.
- The Education Commission's Working Party on Multicultural Education has another two projects under way. Mr Alan Hodge, Head of the multicultural Education Centre, Sydney College of Advanced Education, is preparing an overview of policy development in multicultural education, and Ms Barbara McLean, of the School of Education, Macquarie University, has accepted a consultancy to prepare a review of services providing community language courses.

Source: Education Commission of New South Wales, News Digest, October 1984.

- The SBS Review Committee is due to hand down its report on the 21 December, 1984. Rumour has it that the SBS will remain as it is for another five years, when another review is expected. The long term prospect seems to be that after that time the ABC and the SBS will merge.
- The New South Wales Drug and Alcohol Authority has created a position of Ethnic Services Co-ordinator. This new position has been established by converting a vacant position on the Authority's existing staff. One of the first tasks of the new officer will be the preparation of the Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement. The new worker will also assist ethnic welfare services in making links with the drug and alcohol services network.
- The New South Wales Council of the Australian Bicentennial Authority held a consultation in Strathfield on 4 November, to hear suggestions from ethnic community groups for the 1988 Multicultural Programme. Several ethnic communities were represented. Workshops were held under headings such as History, Education, Environment, the Arts, Special Facilities, etc. Suggestions included the establishment of a multicultural centre, the collection of "ethnic memorabilia", the creation of a bicentennial cartoon character and a living history project for children and senior citizens of non-English speaking background.



- Reported from a Sydney primary school; Scripture teacher asked a new pupil in the class: "Are you Catholic, my dear?" The boy answered: "No Miss, I'm an Australian!"

# From the Commission ... in Brief

## Young People Invited to Write for ETHNOS

The Chairman of the EAC, Dott. Totaro, has issued an invitation to young people of non-English speaking background to write for the Commission's newsletter Ethnos.

The Chairman said that young people who are not yet able to write in English, should be advised by teachers, friends etc. Their contribution, written in their own language, will be translated by the Commission and published in English. For further information about Ethnos call the Senior Publicity Officer Mrs Jarka Sipka on 237 6666, or call Mr Victor Boulos, Project Officer for matters relating to International Youth Year, on 237 6797.

## New EAC Advisory Committees

On the 16th November, 1984 the Premier, Mr Neville Wran, announced the establishment of the Western Sydney Ethnic Affairs Advisory Committee. The Premier also announced the establishment of two enlarged committees in the Hunter and Illawarra Regions.

**The Western Sydney Advisory Committee** will be chaired by the Deputy Chairman of the Commission, Mr Bill Jegorow and will include 20 people associated with various ethnic communities in the area.

**The Hunter Region Advisory Committee** will be chaired by Commissioner, Ms Geertrude Mill-Evers and will comprise 15 members.

**The Illawarra Region Advisory Committee** will comprise two Commissioners, Ms Maria Szajewski (Chairperson) and Dr Ron Witton (Deputy Chairperson) and 15 other members.

The committees will assist the Commission with advice on matters such as welfare, employment, education, cultural activities etc. affecting local ethnic minorities.

- The Ethnic Affairs Commission's applications for Community Employment Program workers will be considered this month, so that recruitment of approved positions will take place in January 1985.

The Community Employment Program Advisory Committee is now meeting on a weekly basis to process applications — those from community groups are being processed first, then local and state government applications will be considered.

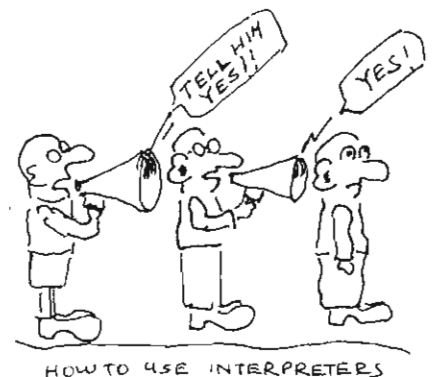
- The Ethnic Affairs Commission received a complaint from teachers at the Spanish School in Woolloomooloo, via the Spanish Consul-General, about harassment, minor assaults and thefts by a group of local residents. The Commission approached the Community Relations Branch of the Police Department who expressed their doubts about the possibility of taking effective action because of the attitude of some of the local residents and the age of the offenders (children and young people). This has been explained to the parents and teachers who have decided to move the School to another area. Concern was expressed that the law offers so little protection in cases like this.



- A complaint that the Public Trustee's office contacted Vietnamese authorities to request the birth certificate of a child born in Vietnam without first consulting his guardians was successfully settled by the Commission. The Public Trustee has now issued directions to its staff that in future no contact will be made with the authorities of certain South East Asian countries without prior approval from senior management.

- Requests for Commission staff to participate in general multi-cultural awareness sessions, which include segments on how to use interpreters, have increased substantially over recent months. There has always been a steady flow of requests of this nature but recently — and possibly because of Ethnic Affairs Policy Statements initiatives — these requests have become more frequent.

In the last month, CIIS personnel have assisted by providing such sessions at the Australian Museum, Department of Youth and Community Service and Department of Technical and Further Education. The Department of Corrective Services and the Police Department also regularly rely on our assistance.



- Since the Premier launched the multilingual Diabetes Manual at the offices of the Commission, sales of the handbook through the Government Information Centre have been quite brisk.

- A Committee of enquiry into the health of women and girls, set up by the Department of Health, is looking at migrant women's needs as an area of special attention. The Commission was not formally notified of the review and wrote to the Committee asking for advice on how migrant women's needs were to be assessed. A submission to the review has been drafted.

- The Commission will finally be able to hire another oral histories' consultant. Interviews will be held soon.

# Events, News, Views

## Fairfield and Campsie Top the List of Immigrant Unemployment

Listed below are the first accurate statistics of the percentage of the unemployed registered at various Metropolitan C.E.S. offices who are of non-English speaking background. Two offices in the Hunter and three in the Illawarra were also included in the count.

Some worrying facts to emerge include:

Mascot C.E.S.	52%
Rockdale C.E.S.	50%
Petersham C.E.S.	59%
Chatswood C.E.S.	33%
Campsie C.E.S.	60%
Liverpool C.E.S.	50%
Bankstown C.E.S.	36%
Auburn C.E.S.	58%
Burwood C.E.S.	44%
Fairfield C.E.S.	61%
Granville C.E.S.	50%
Newcastle C.E.S.	8%
Broadmeadow C.E.S.	7%
Dapto C.E.S.	13%
Wollongong C.E.S.	21%
Warilla C.E.S.	18%

of registered are migrants unemployed for over 3 months.

With these statistics the Commission has for the first time been able to argue in an informed and detailed way for higher targeting of positions for migrants under the C.E.P. scheme.

## Plans for Mosque Rejected

The freedom to worship, possibly the only human right explicitly protected by the Australian Constitution, may be under challenge. The recent rejection of plans by the Islamic Society of Hurstville for a new mosque is an example of why there may be a threat to the freedom to worship. On the 21 November, 1984, the Hurstville Council rejected for the second time an application of the Islamic Society on a number of grounds. Such grounds included matter of fact reasons such as insufficient off-street parking, possible traffic hazards and the area being overdeveloped.

Among the other reasons for rejecting the plans, the Council said that the project was not "in the public interest" — without defining what they meant by "public interest". This

is not an acceptable way of informing a community group about something so important.

The Council's decision is said to have followed protests by residents, which culminated in a rally of some 2,000 people with placards and stickers outside the Council Chambers. Apparently, one placard read "mosque-free zone".

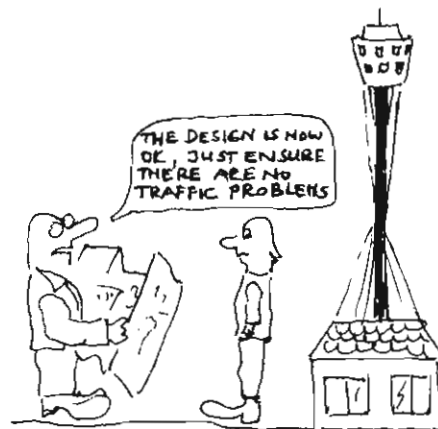
The Commission appreciates the right of residents to express concerns about traffic hazards and other problems stemming from any new public development, but it is also concerned to ensure that people of all faiths have the opportunity to worship in their own way.

The Commission is sympathetic to the real traffic problems which might affect any area where a new mosque is finally built. This is caused by the severe shortage of mosques to service the spiritual requirements of the Sydney Muslim community.

There is a real need for the State Government to develop a plan whereby the building of a number of mosques is approved and carried out simultaneously. This would ensure that no one mosque draws an excessive number of worshippers at any one time.

Doubts have been raised as to whether the action taken by some residents about the Hurstville mosque is based on genuine environmental concerns. Several Muslim community leaders feel that this action was mainly motivated by racial and religious intolerance and has been taken in total ignorance of true Islamic traditions. In fact, it has been alleged that the protest was orchestrated by a small group of people known to have links with extreme right wing groups.

It is likely that the Islamic Society of Hurstville will appeal to the Lands and Environment Court, with the support of the Ethnic Affairs Commission.



## Interpreter Training: Level III Course

Until now, interpreter and translator training in N.S.W. has only been offered to Level II of the standards recognised by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters. A new course — a Bachelor of Arts in Interpreting and Translation — is to be launched at The Macarthur Institute of Higher Education at Milperra in 1985. It will, for the first time in NSW, offer training to Level III.

This is considered the first professional level for interpreting and translation.

The course has been designed to cover a wide program of liberal and cultural studies, as well as interpreter and translator training. The aim is to produce a new generation of tertiary qualified professionals who will complement the work of the highly experienced pioneers in the field of community interpreting and translation.

Community support is important for the new course, and the Institute is keen to enlist the help and advice of agencies and organisations dealing with non-English speaking people. A program of fieldwork is being set up, in which students can gain first hand experience of working in the profession.

Decisions about the choice of languages have been difficult to make as it is extremely risky to try to predict which languages will be in demand, even a few years from now. The eventual choice was Arabic, Italian, Spanish, German and Vietnamese, a selection that represents a match between community demand and the Institute's available expertise. The means to add other languages to the list will of course be there.

Note: The course is subject to accreditation by the NSW Higher Education Board.

Enquiries about the course can be made on 772 9200 ext 295.

## "Bushfire Danger — Survival"

The Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Terry Sheahan, has issued a ten-point bushfire survival plan for people using bushland areas in summer.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has had this vital information translated into ten community languages by the Ethnic Affairs

Commission. Copies have been sent to all N.S.W. ethnic media and to all ethnic organisations listed by the Ethnic Communities Council of N.S.W. and the Commission.

The Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mr Don Johnstone, said "We want everyone in the community to become aware of these standard survival techniques. The Australian bush is special — we must all respect the dangers as well as value the beauty of it."

Copies of the Bushfire Survival Plan may be obtained by request from the Publicity Officer, National Parks and Wildlife Service, 189 Kent Street, Sydney in the following languages:

Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Greek, Italian, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish, Vietnamese.

### **A Gap in Q28 Programming**

In October, 1984, the SBS Board decided to discontinue the only community affairs program on Channel 0/28, "Line Up 28".

"Line Up 28" was the successor to an earlier program, "SCOOP", which in July 1982 received the Media Peace Prize from the United Nations Association of Australia for its coverage of multicultural affairs.

Both programs dealt with the activities of ethnic communities and were well received by viewers. For many people of non-English speaking background those two programs were the only forum on the Australian media scene, which presented their views and events of importance to them.

The axing of Line Up 28 has been seen by many as a definite move away from community access programming.

### **Museum for Vietnamese Artifacts**

A unique project is now underway, co-ordinated by the members of the Vietnamese community, to establish a museum for the preservation of the artifacts documenting the recent history of the departure of refugees from Vietnam. If everything goes well, Australia will be the first country to have such a museum. The museum will play an important educational role: it will show other Australians what hardships were experienced by the Vietnamese refugees, as well as explaining to the next generation why their parents left Vietnam.

The Vietnamese community is now looking for suitable land in the Fairfield area and has made approaches to the N.S.W. Government for support for the

project. The organisers are also planning a massive fund-raising drive in the Vietnamese and general community.

The artifacts will be collected from people already in Australia as well as overseas. The United Nations has expressed its support and indicated willingness to help with collecting items in refugee camps.

### **Survey of Prisoners of Non-English Speaking Background**

Prisoners of non-English speaking background face special difficulties in the Australian prison system. The language barrier, lack of knowledge of the legal and prison system and limited access to information are only a few of them.

The Department of Corrective Services has surveyed prisoners of non-English speaking background, to improve the provision of services to such prisoners. The two major aims of the project were:

1. To obtain information on the access inmates of non-English speaking background have to departmental and other support services in the prison system, and to establish if such services are able to meet the needs of these prisoners.
2. To improve liaison with community-based ethnic social and cultural organizations and relevant government agencies, to encourage their support and on-going assistance to prisoners of non-English speaking background.

The project team interviewed, on an informal basis, the majority of non-English speaking background inmates, who were later formally interviewed for the survey. This enabled field officers to provide information on available services, their rights, and to obtain information relevant to the project.

The team interviewed 237 inmates born overseas of non-English speaking background. Interviews and discussions were also held with a great number of custodial and non-custodial personnel.

The Ethnic Affairs Commission and the Health Department provided interpreters for interviews with the prisoners.

It is hoped that the results of the survey will clarify where improvements need to be made. The report is expected to be completed early next year. We will keep you informed.

For more information, contact Margot Mellick of the Department of Corrective Services, on 2178171.

### **Margins to Mainstream Conference on Women and Employment, Melbourne 16-17 October 1984**

The Conference was designed to assess the relevance of current economic, industrial and educational policies to women's employment. Several excellent sessions were offered explaining how such policies usually ignore and build upon the structural factors which disadvantage women.

Other sessions dealt with education and training and re-training needs and the importance of support services such as child-care, which are essential if women are ever to achieve real equality of opportunity in employment.

The Conference was concerned with factors which continue to cause unemployment (hidden and open) and under-employment among women. It dealt with issues vital to immigrant women, who suffer the greatest rates of unemployment and are concentrated in the most poorly paid, unsafe and boring jobs.

One speaker talked about migrant women being the biggest victims of inadequate industrial planning and referred to the burgeoning of the outwork industry since the removal of trade protection barriers in the clothing trade.

Some conference participants felt that the complex intertwining of gender, race and class factors in the present system was not adequately acknowledged.

The lack of immigrant or Aboriginal women's participation in the Conference was seen by some as a cause for concern, but did not seem particularly surprising, given the realities of the moment. There were also objections about the structuring of workshops at the Conference.

The first day offered a workshop on migrant status which was attended — out of a sense of compulsion — by the predictable handful of immigrant women present. On the second day, it was decided that the few immigrant women present would attend "mainstream" workshops rather than the token one set aside for them on outwork.

The lesson for future conferences seems to be active resistance to the idea of token sessions on immigrants and if necessary, a boycott of such sessions.

This conference, like the previous Women and Labour Conference (Ethnos No.35) raises some important questions about the participation of immigrant women in such events. Do

immigrant women have to be content with token sessions on "their" issues while the central questions are decided elsewhere? Why aren't immigrant women presenting papers? Leading workshops? Is the marginalisation of immigrant women from the actual life of such conferences really inevitable? We need to organise, prepare actively beforehand, use the knowledge, skills and experience we already possess.

### Special Admissions Scheme, Cumberland College of Health Sciences

The Cumberland College of Health Sciences initiated a special admissions scheme in 1981 with the aim of improving access to paramedical services by people of non-English speaking background. Under the scheme, up to 5% of places at the college are made available to students who speak a language other than English.

Students applying under this scheme need to pass the language test conducted by the Ethnic Affairs Commission, but need only meet the minimum entrance requirement to the College. In 1983, 3% of new enrolments were students qualified under this scheme.

In 1984, to try to increase this proportion, the College has broadened its criteria to allow students who have sat for the Higher School Certificate in previous years to apply. It will also allow students who have completed an equivalent examination through the Department of Technical and Further Education to apply.

Courses for which this special admission scheme applies include Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Speech Pathology, Medical Record Administration, Orthotics, and Diversional Therapy.

Students who apply for entry to the scheme make a normal application through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Centre and also apply to the Ethnic Affairs Commission for the language proficiency test, on forms available from the College or the Commission. Phone 237 6795.

### Eye Care and Immigrants

A Working Party on Orthoptists Services is at present reviewing eye care services. The issue of how people of non-English speaking background gain access to the services provided by these professionals has been included in this review.

At the request of the Working Party, the Commission held informal consultations with representatives of ethnic communities and found that cases occur where people who do not speak English are tested for visual defects with the test and instructions given in English. As a result, the patients have to try to guess what question they are answering.

The Commission has also been interested in the question of whether older people, in particular, might defer treatment because of language difficulties.

While informal consultations are useful in giving an impression of the adequacy or accessibility of services, the Commission believes that a thorough assessment has to be based on an analysis of data on the use of services.

The Commission suggested that the Working Party recommend:

1. the compilation of a register of eye health professionals who speak a community language,
2. the dissemination of information on the use of interpreters to eye health professionals,
3. the employment of an orthoptist to screen migrant groups on an experimental basis for a year with a review at the end of the year,
4. the establishment of procedures for collecting data on the use of eye services by different groups.



### New Women's Directorate

A new Women's Directorate has been established in the Department of Industrial Relations. The Directorate will comprise 11 staff, three of whom will be field officers to be located at Parramatta, Newcastle and Wollongong.

The task of the new unit is to monitor the position of women in the workforce, their special needs and to circulate information on issues which affect their employment, pay and working conditions. The Directorate will advise the Government on policies, programs, services and reforms needed to eliminate the disadvantaged status of women in the labour market.

Other areas on which the Directorate will focus include: training, occupational health, access

to superannuation schemes, maternity leave, child care etc. Of particular interest to immigrant women will be how the Directorate deals with the exploitation of outworkers.

Ms. Juliet Richter has been appointed as Director and Dr. Carol O'Donnell as Assistant Director of the unit.

The E.A.C. hopes that women of non-English speaking background will be represented on the staff, as many of the issues to be dealt with by the Directorate will be of vital importance to them.

### Immigrant Women in Newcastle get together

The needs and problems of the region's immigrant women have been addressed during a two-day seminar, organised by the Migrant Resource Centre in Newcastle.

The seminar took place on the 16th and 17th October and was addressed by women of non-English speaking background themselves, policy makers and service providers. The four broad areas addressed were: child care, ageing, law and employment.

Trudi Mills-Evers, Ethnic Affairs Commissioner and a tireless worker for migrants in the Hunter Region, opened the seminar.

Dorothy Buckland-Fuller, ex-Ethnic Affairs Commissioner sociologist and now ethnic worker with the Council on the Ageing, spoke on the problems associated with ageing in Australia for people for whom English is not their first language.

She encouraged the participants to develop a co-operative network to help each other to promote issues of common concern. The suggestion was welcomed and adopted with enthusiasm.

The President of the Anti-Discrimination Board, Carmel Niland, also addressed the seminar on anti-discrimination legislation and procedures for lodging complaints.

Nadia Lozzi-Cutherbertson, the Commission's Executive Officer, talked about the implications of Equal Employment Opportunity initiatives and ways in which all women, including those of non-English speaking background need to prepare themselves to compete more effectively for employment and/or promotion.

Discussion later centred on some of the situations in which the women had experienced difficulties and discrimination. The sharing of ideas for dealing with such problems was obviously welcomed by all participants.

## **"The Tyranny of Prejudice"**

By Al Grassby

In this book, Mr Grassby looks at some of the patterns of racial prejudice in Australia. He claims that, while Australia is not a racist country, there is a great deal of racism in Australia. This is because Australians, in many cases, do not realise that their attitudes are racist. Mr Grassby believes that the root of much of this racism is the promotion of the myth of homogeneity and the policy of assimilation which has supported it in the past.

"The Tyranny of Prejudice" is a well timed investigation of the issues involved in the struggle against prejudice and the development of our national identity, since national consciousness of these issues has been raised in the recent "Blainey Debate".

While Mr Grassby illustrates his book with many personal experiences, anecdotes and humorous observations, his unmitigated opposition to existing racist views and policies is evident and effectively presented.

Published by AE Press, Melbourne, 1984, pp. 107.

## **Migration from the Philippines**

Compiled by Mr Anthony Paganani

This book is a collection of written consultations focusing on the world of the Filipino migrant at the point of departure from the Philippines.

It is not only an attempt to provide an insight into the experiences and perspectives of those about to leave their country, but it is also an attempt to increase awareness of the problems connected with mass migration.

Among the contributors are academics, Government administrators, researchers and representatives of the Church. Each one brings to light the human factor involved in migration, hopefully generating more interest and concern for the aspirations, hopes and difficult struggles of migrants everywhere.

Available from the Centre for Migration Studies, Sydney, 1984 pp 244. Phone 212 1606

## **Hodja Educational Resources Co-operative Ltd**

Hodja Educational Resources Co-operative, situated in Richmond, Victoria, are a publishing company who specialise in producing Australian educational material, including an expanding range of multicultural material for use both inside and outside the school.

The following is a sample of their most recent publications, and it can be seen that they have the potential to be useful both as an educational tool and as a general reference.

### **Diversity and Diversion: An annotated bibliography of Australian Ethnic Literature**

Edited by Peter Lumb  
and Anne Hazell

This bibliography should be of great help to teachers of English and other subjects related to migrant life and cultural diversity. It lists and reviews novels, short stories, biographies and autobiographies under the author's country of birth and provides both an author and thematic index. The books listed have been written from inside most Australian communities of non-English speaking origin and the annotations are both critical and objective. 1983. pp. 123. Price: \$10.00.

### **Flags**

This kit can be used as a teaching aid, or just out of general interest. It contains 20 A3-size flag posters in colour, with teachers' notes, presenting a comprehensive account of the origins, symbolism and use of each flag. 1985. Price: \$15.00.

### **The 1985 All-Australian Almanac: Days of Significance for Australians**

Compiled by the  
Australian Productivity Council

The 1985 Almanac contains over 350 entries, explaining the origin, meaning and practices of various days of significance observed in Australia by the many groups which

make up our multicultural society. As well as providing a comprehensive index to each entry, the Almanac contains a general introduction to the types of observances practised and a description of some of the major religions followed in Australia. The Almanac is designed to complement the 1985 All-Australian Calendar but, being the only Almanac of its type, it is a valuable reference book in its own right — 1984, pp. 279.

Price: Almanac — to be set.  
Calendar: \$2.80.

### **Teaching for Human Rights: Activities for Schools**

By Ralph Pettman

This book contains a wide range of activities that focus upon our fundamental rights and responsibilities as human beings.

Ten human rights issue areas were chosen for analysis and a number of questions, exploring some abstract ideas and ideals, are posed in each case. All the activities are keyed to these questions and provide students with experiences that help them think for themselves. 1984, pp. 176. Price (to be set).

### **Hodjas Australian Community Series**

This series is designed to provide an insight into various communities which make up our multicultural society. The first two books of the series, 'The Maltese', by Hugh Azzopardi and 'The People from Indo-China', by Phillip and Robert Bennoun and Paula Kelly, have been published.

As well as giving factual background notes on migration to and settlement in Australia, history, geography and cultural activities of each country, each book in the series contains activities for school children. Other titles in preparation are: The Middle-Eastern Community, The Italians, The Poles, The South Americans, and The Greeks.

The Maltese: 1984, pp. 84. Price: \$9.95

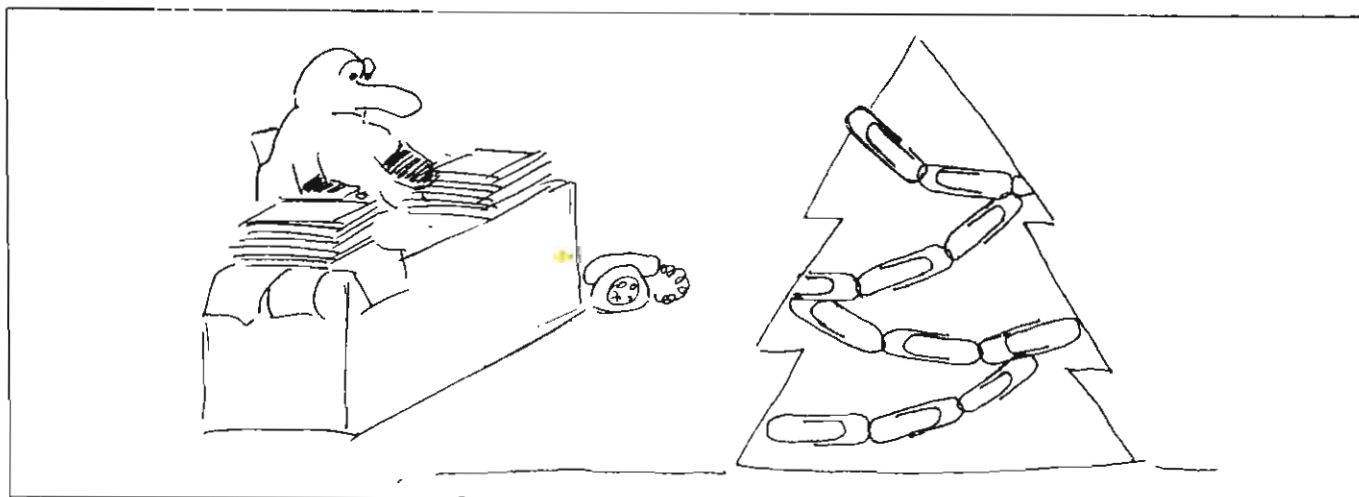
The People from Indo-China: 1984, pp. 256. Price: \$14.95.

## Papers & Reports, Articles

- *Migrant Health Services*  
A directory of Migrant Health Advisors, Migrant Health Workers and Health Translation Service Co-ordinators. N.S.W. Department of Health, contact Mr Tony Dolk on 217 5663.
- The Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs prepared a Statement for the International Conference on Population, Mexico City, 1984, entitled "Australia". It is intended to contribute to international knowledge and understanding of the Australian population and related policies within Australia.  
Available from Australian Government Publishing Service.
- *Immigration and the Labour Market*  
By Norman W. F. Fisher. Address of the Economic Society of Australia and New Zealand, Bureau of Labour Market Research, Canberra, 1980.
- *Immigration and Australian Labour Markets: Issues and Evidence.* By Norman W. F. Fisher. Bureau of Labour Market Research, Canberra, 1982.
- *Plain English Handbook for Starting Community Organisations.* LCSA, 34 Liverpool Street, Sydney, 2000. Telephone: 264 3111.
- *Community Directories, How to Create One: Guidelines for the production of a community directory.* CIIS and LCSA. Telephone: 264 3111.
- *The Probability of Leaving Unemployment: the Evidence from Australian Gross Flows Data.* By Clive Brooks and Paul Volker, Bureau of Labour Market Research, Canberra, September, 1984.
- *Vocational and Educational Needs of Inmates of Non-English Speaking Backgrounds: Final report.* Joint project of the N.S.W. Department of TAFE and the N.S.W. Department of Corrective Services, Sydney, September, 1984.
- *Ethnic Youth Participation in the CYSS.* Department of Industrial Relations, 1984.
- *Australian Multicultural Society. Identity, Communication, Decision-making.* Edited by Donald J. Phillips and Jim Houston, Drummond.
- *Income Support for Young People.* A discussion paper prepared by the Office of Youth Affairs and the Social Welfare Policy Secretariat. A.G.P.S., Canberra, 1984.
- *Occupational Segregation and Youth Employment Prospects.* By K.R. Mackay. Bureau of Labour Market Research, Canberra, 1984.
- *Solving the Monocultural Maze* by P. Logan and D. Bailey. The article describes an approach which gives students of non-English speaking background alternative "pathways" in the education system. In: Education News, Commonwealth Department of Education and Youth Affairs, Vol. 18, No. 12.
- Kids Activities Newtown has compiled a *Multicultural Spring Events and Resources Calendar*, which gives details on the community groups in the area and their activities. For more information, ring 516 4827.

## Pamphlets

- *Casual Ethnic Workers Pool*, a pamphlet produced by the Ethnic Child Care Development Unit, Hut 13, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville.
- *Ethnic Disabled People's Program*, a pamphlet produced by the Ethnic Child Care Development Unit, Hut 13, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville.
- *Out of School Care Centres and Vacation Care Centres.* A pamphlet produced by Community Activity Centres Network, in 13 community languages. For copies, contact Network on 264 3488.
- *Gloria*, a documentary film directed by Patricia Boero, for the benefit of women political prisoners in Uruguay. Enquiries: 699 3697 or 467 9788.



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Telephone 237 6500

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