

# Multicultural Western Australia



Office of Multicultural Interests  
Government of Western Australia

Newsletter of the Office of Multicultural Interests

February 2007

**HARMONY WEEK**  
15-21 MARCH 2007

Celebrating the cultural diversity of WA

**CONNECT**  
outside the square  
and make a world of difference  
visit [www.omi.wa.gov.au](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au)

**CONNECT  
@ HYDE PARK**  
**FREE EVENT!**

Sunday 18 March 2007, 11am-6pm

Come and see the world in one place when Hyde Park hosts over 30 cultures in one global celebration. Enjoy live world music at the Universal Stage, learn Brazilian capoeira at a Harmony Hotspot, try delicious European sweets and Ethiopian coffee at the World Village or share your ideas at the Mind Marquee. Join the fun and connect!  
Corner Vincent and William Street, Highgate.

Harmony Week runs from 15-21 March and is all about recognising, respecting and celebrating our differences. Be they cultural, linguistic or religious; all are valuable and all contribute to the vibrant community we enjoy in Western Australia.

Harmony Week started in 2003, and is unique to WA. The last day of Harmony Week is a reflective one, marking International Day for the Elimination of Racial discrimination, which remembers the 1960 Sharpeville massacre in South Africa.

Harmony Week also acknowledges that barriers still exist in the community. These barriers, such as racism and discrimination, prevent some groups and individuals from participating fully in aspects of public life. Harmony Week enables all Western Australians to take a stand against these barriers, and to promote equality.

This year's message is 'Connect outside the square and make a world of difference', symbolising the need to value our diversity, connect with others, and create a harmonious society.

## Harmony Week 2007

### What is happening in Harmony Week?

#### Western Australian Multicultural Community Service Awards Presentation Evening

The 2007 Awards recognise excellence and innovation in advancing and promoting multiculturalism, inclusiveness and participation, and improving access to and equity in services for minority communities. The Awards will be presented in a ceremony held on 14 March, also marking the beginning of Harmony Week 2007. Attendance is by invitation.

#### Secondary School Conventions

Secondary School students are invited to attend one of five School Conventions organised in conjunction with the Constitutional Centre of Western Australia. The Conventions will be held in Perth, Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie on 15, 16, 19, 20 and 21 March 2007.

Visit [www.omi.wa.gov.au](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au) for more details and resources.

#### CONNECT @ HYDE PARK

Lovers of world music, global flavours and scintillating discussions will find utopia at CONNECT a free outdoor event combining the talents of many different cultures, all in one spot. Presented by OMI and the Town of Vincent, on Sunday 18 March, the event aims to showcase WA's rich cultural diversity.

CONNECT @ HYDE PARK will be a highlight of Harmony Week 2007, with a jam packed program of highly interactive activities. Wander through the World Village, Universal Stage, Mind Marquee and Harmony Hotspots and CONNECT with your cultural communities from 11:00am.

### Community Events for Harmony Week 2007

#### Harmony International Folk Fest 2007

An extravaganza of folk music, song and cultural performances from across the world. The Folk Festival will capture the talents of the many people of diverse backgrounds who have made Western Australia their home. The event is organised by the Australian Asian Association of Western Australia Inc. (AAA) and will be held at Burswood Theatre on Sunday 18 March from 5:00pm. For more details and ticketing please contact AAA on 9328 6202.

Visit the **Harmony Week 2007 website at [www.omi.wa.gov.au](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au) for more information.**

***"Connect outside the square and make a world of difference"***

## Chinese/Vietnamese New Year Celebrations

Starting on Sunday 18 February 2007 is the Year of the Pig (Boar).

Across Western Australia, members of our Chinese and Vietnamese communities celebrate with colourful cultural displays and performances. The Chung Wah Association hosts one of the many festivities in Perth. The Chung Wah Association can be contacted on 9328 8657.

We wish members of our Chinese and Vietnamese communities and all those who celebrate the Chinese New Year, a very Happy and Prosperous New year.

### Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Request documents available from WA Government Contracting Bulletin Board at [www.gem.wa.gov.au](http://www.gem.wa.gov.au) OR Valencia DeCosta on 9222 9571 or email [valencia.decosta@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:valencia.decosta@dpc.wa.gov.au)

### Funding - Mental Health Services Request No. DPC1207

Provision of mental health services for people from new and emerging culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities.

Closing date: Wed, 14 March 2007 at 11:00am WST.

## Free English Classes

Central TAFE provides English classes through the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). Perhaps you know someone who is eligible for 510 hours or more of FREE English Classes with the AMEP? TAFE now also offer English courses on-line and weekend classes.

If you would like more information, please phone 9427 1239 or 9427 1377 or visit [www.central.wa.edu.au](http://www.central.wa.edu.au)

### Special Preparatory Program (SPP)

The SPP is an English language tuition program, as part of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP). It's specifically tailored to suit eligible humanitarian entrants who may have difficulty adapting to the more formal environment offered by the AMER. The SPP is offered to eligible entrants before they commence AMEP classes.

Up to 100 hours of English language tuition may be provided to humanitarian entrants 18 years and older, who have had difficult pre-migration experiences, such as torture and trauma.

For more information about the AMEP visit [www.immi.gov.au/amep](http://www.immi.gov.au/amep)

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Email: [harmony@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:harmony@dpc.wa.gov.au).

Phone: (08) 9222 8800 Fax: (08) 9222 8801

Website: [www.omi.wa.gov.au](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au)

## The Racial Vilification Community Forums

The Equal Opportunity Commission and the Office of Multicultural Interests co-hosted two community forums during December 2006 to inform members of the African and Muslim communities about forthcoming legislative changes to the Equal Opportunity Act. The Equal Opportunity Amendment Bill 2006, currently before Parliament, will significantly extend protection to people who are victims of racial hatred in Western Australia.

The sessions, attended by 100 Muslim and African community members, explained the proposed new changes to the Equal Opportunity Act and how the new laws will help individuals and communities deal with racial hatred.

Further community forums are planned for the Vietnamese, Chinese, Sikh and Jewish communities during 2007.

## Extra Support Services for Refugees



Project Coordinator, Jean Westerhout

OMI is currently implementing an Integrated Services Centre (ISC) Pilot Project to provide a range of settlement services for humanitarian entrants. The ISC Pilot Project aims to address issues relating to service delivery in the area of health; education; training; employment; and family and community development.

The importance of this project is reflected in the collaborative efforts of a number of Government and non-Government agencies in the implementation and the delivery of specific services at the Intensive English Centre sites at Koondoola and Parkwood Primary Schools.

As Project Coordinator, Jean Westerhout brings to the role a wealth of experience in the area of project management and knowledge of cultural diversity, including issues affecting CALD communities. Jean has worked in community, government and private sectors across a range of industries, both in Australia and overseas. She is committed to social justice issues, an arts and culture vulture, passionate about the environment and has a serious travel bug!

If you would like to know more about the ISC Pilot Project contact Jean on 9222 8800.

## International Women's Day Celebrations 2007

The event is organised by the Ethnic Communities Council of WA Inc and will be held on Friday 9 March. For details and ticketing contact ECCWA on 9227 5322.