Harmony Week Kit

Wednesday 15 to Tuesday 21 March 2017

Be part of Harmony Week 2017

Get together to celebrate WA’s rich and diverse cultural heritage

We at the Office of Multicultural Interests have prepared this kit to inform and inspire you, your school, university or organisation to get involved and make Harmony Week 2017 the best yet.

March 2017 #WAHarmony
Harmony Week 15–21 March 2017

Western Australians share a rich and diverse heritage that originates from every part of the world. Harmony Week is a time to celebrate our diversity and the many social, cultural and economic benefits that it brings to every Western Australian.

This kit contains educational and promotional resources together with information and suggestions on what you can do to get involved.

For more information about Harmony Week contact:

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Advertise your event for free! Register your Harmony Week event on the Office of Multicultural Interests website by sending the details to harmony@omi.wa.gov.au
Tag your photos with #WAHarmony

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February 2017
Western Australia is one of Australia’s most culturally diverse States. The 2011 Census showed that:

- almost one-third (30.7 per cent) of WA’s population was born overseas:
  - that’s the highest percentage of the population for any Australian State or Territory
- the top five countries of birth are the UK, New Zealand, South Africa, India and Malaysia
- WA’s population speaks more than 270 languages:
  - the top five languages spoken at home (other than English) are Italian, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese and Australian Indigenous languages
- more than 100 religious faiths are practised in WA
- Perth has the highest proportion of people born overseas of all Australian capital cities.

Cultural diversity is good for business!
WA’s cultural and linguistic diversity is an international and economic asset that brings benefits to everyone. It:

- creates new jobs
- increases trade between Australia and other countries
- builds new networks
- gives us better economies of scale
- introduces new skills and better skill levels
- stimulates new ideas and leads to higher rates of innovation
- increases global competitiveness.

It’s also good for culture. WA’s festival calendar now boasts spectacular cultural events like Chinese New Year celebrations, the festival of lights (Diwali/Deepavali), the Buddha's birthday, the Greek Easter parade, the Italian blessing of the fleet and film festivals from every part of the planet.

The Blessing of the Fleet

The Blessing of the Fleet was first introduced to Fremantle by Italian migrant fishermen in 1948. It’s now an important annual event for the port, combining culture and history.  
*Image courtesy of City of Fremantle*
How did Harmony Week start?

Harmony Week originated in Western Australia. The idea came about from the United Nations’ Harmony Day, also known as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Harmony Day is observed on March 21 because it is the anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre when police fired on a peaceful demonstration against apartheid ‘pass laws’ in South Africa in 1960.

The WA Government wanted to celebrate this State’s cultural diversity and launched Harmony Week in 2003. Organising events over a week was a new approach from the practice of celebrating on 21 March, a date now reserved for reflection.

Harmony Week is Western Australia’s seven-day celebration and recognition of all the good things that diversity brings us.

Discover Multicultural Perth

Western Australia’s many culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities have contributed significantly to Perth’s development and have helped make it the vibrant city it is today. As communities evolve, our shared cultural heritage will continue to grow and be enriched.

Many locations around Perth have historical or current significance to WA’s CaLD communities.

You can explore these via the Discover Multicultural Perth maps available online at www.omi.wa.gov.au/trails.cfm

This Harmony Week, try mapping some places of cultural significance in your area!

Food, Faith and Love in WA

Western Australia’s multicultural community is home to stories as diverse as the individuals themselves. As part of Harmony Week 2017 celebrations, we explore some of these stories through Food, Faith and Love in WA—a series of personal narratives from across the State’s culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Take the time during Harmony Week to laugh, learn and be inspired by these powerful true stories.

www.omi.wa.gov.au/omi_ffl.cfm
Get involved!

Harmony Week runs from Wednesday 15 to Tuesday 21 March 2017.

Everyone can join in—community organisations, businesses, State government agencies, local governments, schools, colleges and universities. See below for ideas on how to get started.

**Workplace**

- For State Government agencies, local governments and not-for-profit organisations: encourage staff to complete the Diverse WA Cultural Competency Training at www.diversewa.omi.wa.gov.au.
- Learn about the cultural diversity in the organisation you work for.
- Find out which culturally diverse community groups live in your area and produce multilingual publications.
- Organise discussion groups with leaders from culturally diverse communities to improve your service provision to each group.
- Promote Harmony Week in your internal or external publications, such as your intranet, website or newsletter, and ask your staff for ideas on what you can do to celebrate.
- Invite an interpreter or a community leader to talk about their work at a morning tea for staff.
- Raise awareness about the government Language Services Policy and use it to assist you in developing your own policy. Invite interpreters into your workplace to talk about their work.
- Organise an event—a fair, a music or dance performance, or a craft workshop—in partnership with a culturally diverse community group.
- Organise a community quiz night on the theme of diverse cultures.

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**Profile: Ali-Raza Yusafzai**

Ali is a young Muslim man who came to Australia by boat as an asylum seeker from Quetta, Pakistan. While he saw and experienced discrimination in Quetta, he could not see safety or peace. Since arriving in Australia he has shared his experiences to promote inclusion and diversity.

He has been involved in several volunteer organisations and youth programs including the Red Cross, Welcome to Australia, Catalyst Youth Summit, MYAN and Shout Out. Photography is his passion and he recently participated in Home Is Where My Heart Is which helps young people, who have experienced homelessness, tell their stories.
Get involved!

At home

- Share your old photographs of family members and talk about how they came to be in Australia.
- Trace your ancestry on a world map.
- Find out more about the traditional Indigenous owners of your area—look online or at your local library.
- Talk about the difference between feeling included or not included and what makes you feel that you belong in Australia.
- Get to know your neighbours—ask about their heritage.

Tell us about your event

Don’t forget to send OMI a photo and a few words about what you did to celebrate Harmony Week, then check our news page and photo gallery to see it online. Or upload to social media with the hashtag #WAHarmony.

With friends

- Organise a dinner and bring a dish from a country of your heritage.
- Learn something different, like another language, how to do throat singing or how to play the oud or the bagpipes!
- Host a Welcome Dinner https://www.joiningthedots.org/the-welcome-dinner-project.
- Whatever you do—facebook, tweet or Instagram it with the #WAHarmony or send a picture to OMI at harmony@omi.wa.gov.au.

Profile: Sara Shengeb

Sara is a student at the University of Western Australia and also works part time at the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia for Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of Western Australia (MYAN WA). She helps coordinate programs that empower multicultural youth especially those from migrant and refugee background to reach their full potential and give back to their communities. She is passionate about a more cohesive and inclusive society and works to change negative stigmas and perspective attached to young migrants and refugees.

Sara’s inspiration for her work comes from her experience as a refugee and she is keen to promote positive images of multicultural youth.

Sara says she has found her sense of belonging in the Australian community and is pursuing a community that encourages every child and young person to reach their full potential regardless of their culture, religious background, gender or sexual identity. She aspires a world that stands united against discrimination, racism, domestic violence and education disparity. She also likes to spread her message of going pass tolerance to experiencing and appreciating the diversity we have in Australia.
Lunar New Year

Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival, is the most important annual celebration in China and many Asian countries. Featuring firecrackers, dragon dances, red packages and traditional lanterns, the Lunar New Year is the time for large public celebrations and parades, as well as feasts of special food.

Schools

- Find out how many people in your class/school are bilingual or multilingual. Get them to teach the class a few words.
- Say ‘good morning/afternoon’ in a different language each week.
- Invite parents and the local community to get involved in an activity during Harmony Week.
- Meet someone new from your school and share cultures.
- Get involved in the Aussie of the Month program at wa.australiaday.org.au/awards/australian-of-the-month/.
- Make a list of words used in English that have been borrowed from other languages.
- Create whole-class or whole-school harmony projects, such as school decorations, art displays, dance demonstrations and assembly performances.
- Make something—a sculpture, patchwork, craftwork or painting—that symbolises the diverse cultural backgrounds of students in the school.
- Incorporate Harmony Week into regular classes, such as art, language or cooking, and use the results to further promote Harmony Week within the school community.

Higher education

- Hold forums, seminars, debates or lectures on equality, racism, social justice or human rights.
- Work together with the Student Guild and campus clubs to create harmony-themed events, such as multicultural food stalls or public performances.
- Hold a poster or art competition with a multicultural theme.
- Promote Harmony Week in your internal or external publications, such as website, newsletter, magazine and email networks.
- Invite an interpreter to career forums to talk about their work.
- Organise a concert on campus with music from diverse cultures. Ask music students to demonstrate instruments from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Get to know more about the international students at your college.
- Explore opportunities for exchanges with higher education institutions in other countries.
Crank up a multicultural smorgasbord of song to celebrate Harmony Week with the Voices in Harmony playlist.

This unique project features Western Australian artists representing some of the culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities in this State.

The playlist will take you on a musical journey around diverse WA with sounds from our Indigenous heritage before moving through to influences from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, South-East Asia, North Asia, South America and the Pacific Islands.

Listen online at www.omi.wa.gov.au/voices.cfm

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Diwali or Deepavali

The Festival of Lights is a major Indian festival symbolising the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. Diwali events attract huge crowds and feature spectacular performances.

Eid-ul-Fitr

Taking place at the end of the month of Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr is a Muslim festival celebrating the end of the fasting period. It’s a fun and festive time for families, friends and the whole community!
Promotional resources

OMI’s Community Events Calendar
To promote your Harmony Week event on OMI’s Community Events Calendar, email the details with a photo or a flyer to us as early as possible. Use the email header ‘Harmony Week event promotion’ and send to harmony@omi.wa.gov.au by Friday 3 March 2017.

We need to know the date, times and location of the event, as well as who the organiser is, and some contact details or website address so that people can find out more. If there is a charge for entry, or if people have to book in advance, please include that as well.

We’re happy to promote events that are open to the general public and held by not-for-profit organisations, local governments and schools. OMI reserves the right to edit or reject any submission.

National Harmony Day celebration resources
The Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Border Protection has a large range of promotional and educational resources for national Harmony Day celebrations on 21 March. Visit the DIBP website at www.harmony.gov.au.

OMI provides two posters you can download to help you promote Harmony Week. Visit the OMI website at www.omi.wa.gov.au for a generic poster, or one you can adapt to your own event.

Profile: Parul Goplani
A public speaker of Indian heritage, passionate about the voice of multicultural youth, Parul Goplani’s migrant journey has exposed her to the presence of a wide and diverse community under the umbrella of a Multicultural Australia.

Parul’s vision of a united Australia is founded by her own difference in upbringing. She is the proud advocate of both her Indian heritage and the Australian culture, which have shaped her own identity. Parul shares her journey of self-realisation in the hope that someone else who also feels divided between two cultures can learn to embrace them both.

Parul’s unique journey empowers her to volunteer with her university as part of clubs such as TEDxUWA and Guild Volunteering, with a keen focus on inclusion within the community and embracing different stories. Having just completed her Bachelor of Science degree, she looks forward to sharing her university journey and exploring how this experience further shaped her identity in Australia.
Resources

Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI)
www.omi.wa.gov.au

OMI has online resources for Harmony Week, including a downloadable poster, events calendar and a comprehensive range of information relating to cultural diversity in WA.

A World of Difference—A resource for WA schools

Developed by the Department of Education and Training and the Office of Multicultural Interests, this resource introduces students to the principles of multiculturalism in WA. It identifies the key issues and teaches awareness of the importance of cultural and other forms of diversity.

Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC)—rightsEd

AHRC’s human rights education resources for teachers—rightsED—helps students develop a critical understanding of human rights and responsibilities, as well as developing the attitudes, behaviours and skills to apply them in everyday life. Most resources are for secondary students (14 years plus) although some are suitable for younger students (10 years plus).

Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC)

The EOC’s Human Rights Community Education Program aims to build awareness and understanding about human rights, and skills in exercising those rights in WA across a diverse range of communities. EOC can hold community information sessions, forums and workshops on request.

Perceptions of race and crime
mediasmarts.ca/thats-not-me-portal-page

Lessons from the Canada-based Media Awareness Network increase student awareness of how media portrayal of race and crime can affect our attitudes towards minority groups in our society. Suitable for upper primary and secondary school students.

Racism No Way

The Racism, No way! project helps school students to recognise and address racism. The teaching and learning activities target students in Years 4–12. Racism, No way! is managed by the NSW Department of Education and Training

Profile: Amran Abdi
Amran is a juggler by nature. This Somali-born Kiwi is a childcare educator and mother by day and an aspiring entrepreneur and author by night. When she’s not glued to her computer, Amran loves to delve into a good book and blog about life as a young Muslimah living in Australia. This extreme sport fiend also likes to practice the art of henna when not planning her next venture.
The Economic and Social Contribution of Migrants to Western Australia


This research report was commissioned by the State Government to increase community awareness of the benefits that migrants bring to WA. The report outlines the extensive contributions made by migrants to the economic, social and cultural development of WA and considers the potential dividends to be gained from our culturally diverse population.

For teachers for students (FTfs)


FTfs offers resources for use by classroom teachers that can be easily adapted to individual student learning requirements. Themed curriculum support resources on Harmony Day (for lower primary and primary/middle years) are available on FTfs. You will find student facts, lesson and activity ideas, student activity sheets and extra resources.

Perth Greek Glendi

‘Glendi’ means ‘party’ in Greek and this is exactly what happens during this annual community-wide celebration of Greek food, entertainment, arts and music.
Test your knowledge

Just how much do you know about Western Australia and the people you live with? All the answers can be found on www.omi.wa.gov.au.

- When did the first Afghans arrive in Western Australia?
- What percentage of Western Australians speak a language other than English at home?
- What is the proportion of Perth’s population born overseas?
- Other than English, what is the next most common language spoken in Albany?
- What is the Sikh greeting?
- What is the purpose of the Child Migration Memorial in Fremantle?
- Western Australia started celebrating Harmony Week in what year?
- In the 2011 Census, how many Western Australians had Polish ancestry?
- List the top four languages spoken at home in Western Australia (other than English).

Western Australia has always been a very diverse multicultural State!
Profile: Tina Tuira-Waldon

Tina has a passion for helping people through teaching, education and program development. One of her passions is youth work: "there are a lot more worries and temptations for our youth today, and helping them to navigate the best options in life is fulfilling and can be tough at times. But with structure and correct guidance, they'll get there."

Tina organises workshops in mental health awareness, suicide behaviour and cultural awareness in schools and the community. "I’d like to help as many communities as possible and get to know them better".

Tina is of Maori descent and was born in New Zealand with ancestral links to Hawaii, the Pacific Islands and Scotland. She believes we are all unique and complex individuals with many ancestral stories. Knowing where we come from, helps us to understand where our place is on this earth.

Buddha’s Birthday & Multicultural Festival

Celebrated in Perth since 1998 to mark the birth of the Buddha, this hugely popular two-day festival combines vegetarian food with performances, arts and the Buddha’s teachings.

Shinju Matsuri

Broome’s annual Japanese-inspired arts and culture festival celebrates the city’s romantic pearling history when Japanese, Chinese, Malays and others flocked to Broome from the late 1800s.
Help promote Harmony Week
Download the Harmony Week banner from www.omi.wa.gov.au/omi_harmony_week.cfm and add it to your website or newsletters.