

THURSDAY 15 - WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH



#WAHARMONY



# HARMONY WEEK

## 15-21 MARCH 2018

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:

**Office of Multicultural Interests**  
**Department of Local Government,**  
**Sport and Cultural Industries**

Telephone: (08) 6551 8700 Fax: (08) 6552 1555

Freecall: 1800 620 511 (Country only)

E: [harmony@omi.wa.gov.au](mailto:harmony@omi.wa.gov.au)

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**CELEBRATE WA'S DIVERSITY**

**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](mailto:harmony@omi.wa.gov.au)**





# FAST FACTS

Western Australia is one of Australia's most culturally diverse States. The 2016 Census showed that:

- one-third (32.2 per cent) of Western Australians are born overseas – that's the highest percentage of the population for any Australian State or Territory
- among those born overseas, people from non-main English speaking countries (410,291) outnumbered those from main English speaking countries (387,423) for the first time since the Census began in Western Australia
- the top five countries of birth are England, New Zealand, India, South Africa and the Philippines
  - among these countries, arrivals from the Philippines increased the most (78.9 per cent) followed by India (65.1 per cent) since the 2011 Census
- overall, the numbers of people from Asia, the Middle East and many African countries have increased, while those from Europe have declined since 2011



## Profile: EUPHINA YAP

Young Western Australian percussionist Euphina Yap was awarded a Young People and the Arts International Scholarship in 2017 to study a Master of Music degree in Boston, USA.

Euphina's passion for music started at age four when she followed other family members by learning piano. She changed to percussion when she won a musical scholarship to Churchlands Senior High School, and later went on to study music at the University of WA.

"Percussion is very visual and involves lots of movement in performance, which is more engaging for an audience. I also love the versatility—since we play multiple instruments, percussionists can be jazz vibraphonists, steel pan experts, rock drummers, orchestral musicians, and everything in-between—sometimes all in one day."

In Boston, Euphina is discovering new performance experiences, gaining different skills, and learning with some of the best teachers and fellow students in the world.

"It's an exciting, vibrant life, and I wouldn't have it any other way."

Asked about Harmony Week, Euphina said "I love that Australia is so culturally diverse. I believe that discovering and honouring the differences in our communities during Harmony Week can only make us stronger as a nation."

- WA's population speaks more than 240 languages
  - the top five languages spoken at home (other than English) are Mandarin, Italian, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Tagalog. Except for Italian, the largest 'language other than English' groups were made up of Asian and African languages
- more than 100 religious faiths are followed in WA
- Hinduism is the fastest growing religion, followed by Islam and Buddhism
- Perth has the second-highest percentage of people born overseas of all Australian capital cities (36.1 per cent) after Sydney (36.7 per cent).

## Cultural diversity is good business!

WA's cultural and linguistic diversity is an asset that brings benefits to everyone by:

- creating new jobs
- increasing trade between Australia and other countries
- building new networks
- introducing new skills and better skill levels
- stimulating new ideas and leading to higher rates of innovation
- increasing 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.



### Profile: CHARMINE KUWANA

Zimbabwe-born mental health nurse with a passion for social cohesion and mental health, Charmaine is fighting to break the stigma attached to mental illness in CaLD communities.

"My journey as a migrant and experience of working in mental health services led me to start Mental Health Keys to inform services on multicultural mental health, workplace mental health and in schools discussing self-efficacy and mental wellness.

"I want to change the narrative and stigma associated with mental illness within CaLD communities and also be an advocate for mental health clients so stakeholders provide culturally sensitive mental health care."

Charmaine is also a small business owner who makes skin and haircare products that aim to empower girls and women from African backgrounds.

"My passion for mental health and my business led me to complete an African Leadership Initiative course and later become a recipient of a FECCA scholarship. I am a keynote speaker at the G200 2017 Youth Summit in Dubai and will speak about Mental Health in CaLD communities and in the workplace.

"During Harmony Week, let's celebrate each other's differences and find common ground that unites us as a multicultural country."

## WHY HARMONY WEEK?

Harmony Week originated in Western Australia and is this State's seven-day celebration and recognition of our cultural diversity.

It began as 'Harmony Day', taking place on the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This day is observed on 21 March, the date of the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre when police fired on a peaceful demonstration against apartheid in South Africa, killing 69 unarmed protestors.

The WA Government changed Harmony Day to 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.





# GET INVOLVED!

Harmony Week runs from Thursday 15 to Wednesday 21 March 2018.

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](http://www.diversewa.omi.wa.gov.au).
- Learn about the cultural diversity in the organisation you work for.

- Find out what 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 [www.omi.wa.gov.au/Languages/Pages/WALanguageServicesPolicy.aspx](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au/Languages/Pages/WALanguageServicesPolicy.aspx) and use it to assist you in developing your own policy. Invite interpreters into your workplace to talk about their work.
- For local governments: become a 'Refugee welcome zone'. See [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/get-involved/refugee-welcome-zones/](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/get-involved/refugee-welcome-zones/).
- Gather your colleagues together over a delicious lunch of foods from different cultures—see the Scanlon Foundation Taste of Harmony website at [www.tasteofharmony.org.au](http://www.tasteofharmony.org.au) for ideas and to register your workplace.
- Organise an event—a fair, a music or dance performance, or a craft workshop—in partnership with another culturally diverse community group to increase community connections.
- Organise a quiz night on the theme of diverse cultures.





# GET INVOLVED!

## At home

- Share your 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.

## With friends

- Make your voice or music part of OMI's Voices in Harmony initiative—an online playlist that is the soundtrack for Harmony Week. Contact [harmony@omi.wa.gov.au](mailto:harmony@omi.wa.gov.au).
- Organise a dinner and bring a dish from a country of your heritage.
- Choose a multicultural book for your book club.
- Learn something different, like another language, how to do capoeira or how to play the tabla or the zurna!
- Host a Welcome Dinner  
<https://www.joiningthedots.org/the-welcome-dinner-project>.
- Initiate a Community Hub with your local council <http://www.communityhubs.org.au/>.

**Whatever you do—facebook, tweet or instagram it with the #WAHarmony or send a picture to OMI at [harmony@omi.wa.gov.au](mailto:harmony@omi.wa.gov.au).**



## Schools

- Find out how many people in your class/school speak more than one language. 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/aussie-of-the-month/](http://wa.australiaday.org.au/awards/aussie-of-the-month/).
- Make a list of words used in English that come from other languages, for example: shampoo, karaoke, sofa, lemon and robot.
- 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 internal or external publications, such as your 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.

## PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

**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](mailto:harmony@omi.wa.gov.au) by Monday 5 March.**

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.



### Profile: MARYAM KHAN

**Volunteer coordinator of the food relief initiative Halal Food Bank Perth, Maryam Khan gets satisfaction from providing food relief for vulnerable Western Australians.**

"I love witnessing the generosity of the community and being reminded of the power of shared values. I really love that this project gives me a chance to say 'people over problems'. Every time."

Maryam leads a team of 22 volunteers who source, pack and distribute culturally appropriate food parcels for the Muslim community and for anyone in need, Muslim or non-Muslim.

Maryam's passion for working with the community at a grassroots level sees her working on projects that deliver value to the Perth community.

"I've always wanted to contribute to improving my world and believe it's important to participate in society to bring about positive change. I feel pretty lucky that this project found me."

"My thoughts on Harmony Week? To me, it's a reminder of how our differences need to be recognised and celebrated. It's a reminder that differences are complimentary and not contradictory."

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.

OMI also has two posters you can download to help you promote Harmony Week. Visit the OMI website at [www.omi.wa.gov.au](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au) for a generic poster, or one you can adapt to your own event.

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](http://www.harmony.gov.au).

# FOOD, FAITH AND LOVE IN WA

This series of personal narratives from across WA's culturally and linguistically diverse communities explores the themes of food, faith and love—how they can touch us and shape the direction of our lives.

Take the time during Harmony Week to laugh, learn and be inspired by these videos of powerful true stories from WA's amazing diverse communities.



## Profile: COLLIN WIYOTO SURYACITRA

Born in Malang, Indonesia, into a Chinese family, Collin has been in Perth since 2010. He speaks Indonesian, Javanese and English, and is learning French, Spanish and Italian while trying to improve his Mandarin on the side.

"I love communicating with people and getting to know their culture, and I'm passionate about learning languages."

"Having more than one language has given me some wonderful opportunities such as getting an internship at the Office of Multicultural Interests, participating in the 2017 Catalyst Youth Summit, delivering my own English workshop in my hometown, and studying in France and Italy."

Collin has also been involved in several youth and cultural organisations such as UWA French Club, Perth French Theatre, Indonesian Student Society and AIYA WA.

"I think it's very important for us to embrace our own culture and know our own heritage but also to be open to and interested in other people's cultures, stories and way of life."

"I hope Harmony Week will inspire us to meet new people, start a new conversation, get to know each other's interests and differences, and hopefully make new friends and connections."

## RESOURCES

### Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI)

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

[www.omi.wa.gov.au/Resources/Pages/EducationalResources.aspx](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au/Resources/Pages/EducationalResources.aspx)

Developed by the Department of Education and Training and OMI, 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**

[www.humanrights.gov.au/education/human-rights-school-classroom](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/human-rights-school-classroom)

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 and activities are for secondary students (14 years plus) although some are suitable for younger students (10 years plus).

### **Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC)**

[www.eoc.wa.gov.au/community-education-training/current-courses/eo-for-community-and-schools](http://www.eoc.wa.gov.au/community-education-training/current-courses/eo-for-community-and-schools)

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](http://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!**

[www.racismnoway.com.au/teaching-resources/anti-racism-activities/](http://www.racismnoway.com.au/teaching-resources/anti-racism-activities/)

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.

### **The Economic and Social Contribution of Migrants to Western Australia**

[www.omi.wa.gov.au/Resources/Publications/Pages/Publications2012-13.aspx](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au/Resources/Publications/Pages/Publications2012-13.aspx)

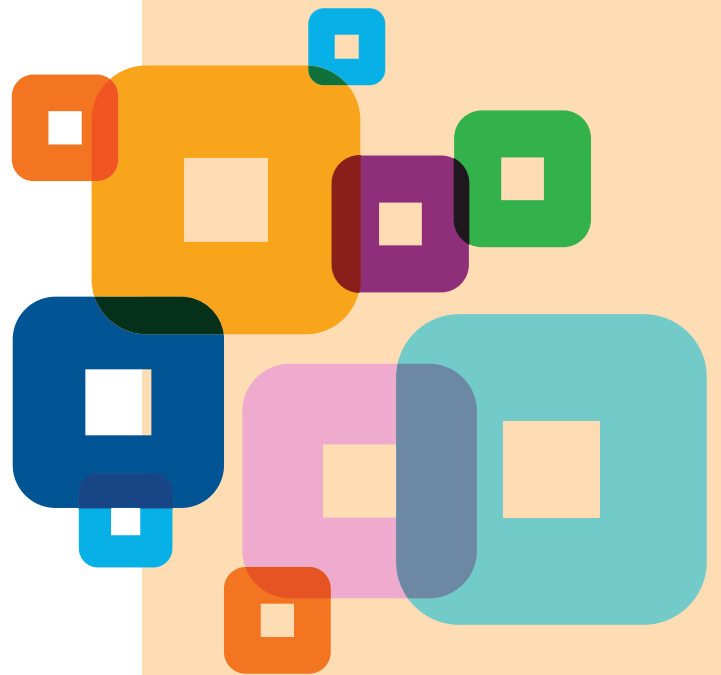
This research report was commissioned by the State Government to increase community awareness of the benefits that migrants bring to WA. The report outlines the extensive contributions made by migrants to the economic, social and cultural development of WA and considers the potential dividends to be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

### **For teachers for students (FTfs)**

[www.forteachersforstudents.com.au/site/themed-curriculum/harmony-day/facts/](http://www.forteachersforstudents.com.au/site/themed-curriculum/harmony-day/facts/)

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'll find student facts, lesson and activity ideas, student activity sheets and extra resources.





## HELP PROMOTE HARMONY WEEK

Download the Harmony Week banner from [www.omi.wa.gov.au/omi\\_harmony\\_week.cfm](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au/omi_harmony_week.cfm) and add it to your website or newsletters.

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