



## Minister for Multicultural Interests

### Ministerial Multicultural Advisory Group

#### Former members

##### Ms Teresa Kwok

Theresa Kwok migrated from Hong Kong in the late 1980s with a background in social work and is CEO of Chung Wah Community and Aged Care.

For more than 25 years, Theresa has worked to promote access and equity in migrant and aged-care services in Asian and other culturally diverse communities. As the driving force and architect of Chung Wah's culturally appropriate aged-care services, she is always sensitive to the needs of non-English speaking seniors and constantly reshapes existing ways of delivering aged and community care services to meet changing demands.

Theresa has received many awards including a Multicultural Community Service Award in 2003 for her dedication to the Chinese, Vietnamese and Cambodian communities, and a High Commendation in the 2016 Community Organisation Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Multiculturalism.

##### Mr Iqbal Samnakay

Iqbal Samnakay migrated to Australia from Africa in the early 1970s and grew up in the Pilbara.

He has more than 25 years of operational, regulatory and policy experience skills developed through a variety of positions in government agencies and has a strategic outlook focused on improving community outcomes. In addition to his professional career, he holds qualifications in science and public health.

Iqbal has an established record of voluntary work with sports and social organisations,

including membership of the Muslim Social and Sports Association where he has held the positions of secretary and Chair. He is currently Chair of the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre.

### **Mr Ramdas Sankaran OAM**

Ramdas Sankaran OAM is a professional social worker with 35+ years' senior managerial experience in Commonwealth and State public services and the community service sector.

He has been the CEO of the Multicultural Services Centre of WA and is the current president of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA and Deputy Chair of the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council. He co-founded and administrator of the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre, and is a member of the Australian Institute of Management and the Australian Association of Social Workers.

Ramdas has extensive experience in public policy development, research, evaluation, advocacy and lobbying, as well as planning and implementing a wide range of programs and services. He has served on a variety of Ministerial Committees.

### **Ms Sara Shengeb**

A former refugee from Eritrea, Sara is an advocate for empowering and engaging young people to shape the policies that influence their lives through her work with government and non-government organisations.

Sara has designed and led programs that bring the voices of refugee and migrant youth directly to Western Australian politicians and policymakers. Having graduated from the University of Western Australia, Sara is currently working for the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Sara continues to work for young Western Australians. She has been recognised as a finalist for the Australian Young People's Human Right Medal, the West Australian Young Achievers Award and for Outstanding African Australian Youth WA.

## **Ms Janine Freeman MLA, Member for Mirrabooka**

Janine Freeman was elected to WA State Parliament in 2008. Her current Mirrabooka electorate is known for its diversity and, as the local MP, she enjoys working with a range of communities and attending many cultural and sporting events.

As a long-standing member and current chair of the parliamentary Education and Health Standing Committee, she has worked on key health policy initiatives, including the Public Health Bill, the Sustainable Health Review, inquiry into Aboriginal Youth Suicides and report on the impact of FIFO work practices. Janine's other roles include Acting Speaker in the Legislative Assembly, and President of the State Parliamentary Labor Party. She also works to further women's participation in politics as a member of EMILYs List WA.

## **Mr Nick Agocs JP**

Nick Agocs has been instrumental in initiating and providing high-level input to multicultural policies and programs at government, community and national levels.

He has improved service delivery to all migrant groups over a substantial period of 30 years. He is the past Senior Deputy Chair and Secretary of the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council, past President and Secretary of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA, past Chair of the North Perth Migrant Resource Centre/ Multicultural Centre of WA, and past Chair of the Catholic Migrant Centre among other community organisations in the multicultural sector.

## **Ms Andrea Creado**

Andrea Creado is the Chief Executive Officer of Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services. She has over 17 years of experience working with ethnic communities in the area of community health.

Andrea holds a Master's Degree in Human Development, Bachelor of Psychology, Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Psychology, and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. She has further training in business, resource, finance and personnel management.

Andrea has experience in leading people, programs and thinking at strategic and operational levels, in both the government and non-government community-based health services

sectors. She was the inaugural Chair of the Ministerial Multicultural Advisory Group. She is the Chair of the Women's Community Health Network and Committee Member of the WA Women's Hall of Fame.

### **Ms Joan Hillman OAM**

Joan Hillman is the President of the Jewish Community Council of WA (JCCWA), the umbrella organisation that represents all Jewish community organisations and all Jews to the wider community.

The JCCWA carries out many roles including representing the Jewish community in its relations with the State Government and other institutions.

It maintains a watch on any potential WA Government legislation that could adversely impact the Jewish community and considers the effects of the legislation.

JCCWA takes responsibility to protect and promote the welfare of the WA Jewish community. It projects a positive image of the community and combats anti-Semitism and discrimination.

### **Dr Anh Nguyen**

Dr Anh Nguyen arrived in Australia as a refugee in 1981. He is a medical doctor, and is the proprietor of his own medical practice in Perth.

Anh has been very active in the community. He is the President of the WA Chapter of Vietnamese Community in Australia, coordinator of the Vietnamese Community School of WA, convener of the Vietnamese radio program on 6-EBA FM, a board member of Girrawheen Senior High School, and also a member of the City of Wanneroo's Multicultural Advisory Group. He has also made significant contributions to the Vietnamese Boat People Monument of Gratitude Project, and the Long Tan Peace Park in Koondoola.

### **Ms Maria Osman**

Maria Osman has over 30 years' experience as a senior policy adviser on the intersections of gender equality, multiculturalism and human rights.

She has worked in the government, community and university sectors as an advocate, policy adviser and strategist, speaker and mentor.

Maria has held a diverse range of senior State government positions including Executive Director, Office for Women's Policy, Executive Director, Office of Multicultural Interests and A/Executive Director, Community Building and Services in the Department of Local Government and Communities. In 2015, she was appointed as a delegate to the United Nations 59th Commission on the Status of Women.

She has served on numerous national, State and local boards and currently holds a number of board positions including Chair of the Humanitarian Group; UWA's Public Policy Institute's Advisory Board; the National Harmony Alliance for Migrant and Refugee Women; the National Education Toolkit for FGM/C Awareness Project, Advisory Committee; the WA Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests Advisory Board; and the Somali Women's Association.

### **Mr Duncan Ord OAM**

Duncan Ord has worked at a senior level in the State Government of WA in the areas of culture and the arts, education, training, planning, Aboriginal affairs and economic development.

Previous roles in the private industry include Dean of Performing Arts at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts and General Manager of Black Swan State Theatre Company.

Duncan has been the Chairman of the Arts, Sports and Recreation Industry Training Council and served as a member of various boards and committees including the Australia Council for the Arts. In 2013, Duncan was the recipient of an Order of Australia Medal for his contributions to the arts and community service.

He is currently the Director General of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, which includes the Office of Multicultural Interests.

## **Dr Casta Tungaraza**

Dr Tungaraza is an Intercultural-Relations Consultant with experience as a member/Chair of national and State boards including Advisory Committees in Australia.

She was a member of the Australian Multicultural Advisory Council that developed the National Multicultural Policy.

She has a significant academic background in Social Science and has served as a member of the Expert Panel on the Development of A Racial Equality Index for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva), a Resource Person for the Africa's Regional Consultation on the African Women's Voices (Senegal), and facilitator of the African Union's ECOSOCC Conference on promoting inclusion of African Women in all facets of development (Baltimore).

She has been inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame for outstanding service for gender equality and economic empowerment of women and also received the WA Multicultural Award.

## **Dr Edward Zhang JP**

Dr Edward Zhang arrived in Perth in 1994, studying as a PhD student at Curtin University. After graduating, he worked as a lecturer and coordinator of the China Desk at Curtin University International Office until 2002. He founded the Australian Chinese Times in 1998 and has been working as Chief Editor ever since.

He is a life member, founder and former president of the Association of Australian Chinese Mainlanders and Friends (also known as Association of Great China), which operates two Chinese language schools. He is member of the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests' Multicultural Policy Framework Sub-Committee. He has been a Justice of the Peace since 2008.

## **Ms Nafiso Mohamed**

Nafiso has a passion for working in international policy and research and has a keen interest in service accessibility, inclusion and equity. In 2020, Nafiso completed an internship at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Amman, Jordan, where she focused on combining gender mainstreaming with targeted interventions for women and girls as a tool to

bridge historical gaps in gender equality, participation and access to services.

In 2019, she undertook research in Economic Development and Social Policy at the Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan. Nafiso has engaged in various advocacy and mentor-based programs that support the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Australia through AIME Mentoring and the Youth Affairs Council of WA.

### **Mr Surya Ambati**

Surya Ambati has more than 30 years of engineering, operational, technical and management of railway infrastructure experience.

Surya is the past President of the Indian Society of WA (ISWA). He led the development and implementation of the new ISWA Constitution, established the ISWA Council comprising of presidents and representatives of all Indian community associations, and was instrumental in ensuring that ISWA successfully operated as the peak umbrella body of all Indian community associations. Surya also played a critical role in acquiring the land for the first Indian Community Centre of Australia in Perth and funding for its building.

### **Ms Joansy King**

Joansy King is the Chief Executive Officer of the Karen Welfare Association of WA and Cofounder of the association.

She also has experience as a Senior Case Manager with the Multicultural Services Centre of WA. She is passionate with the work she does within the government, international organisations, and social services industry.

Her focus has always been assisting people with complex issues both in Australia and internationally, in which she has been successful together with her team.

Her roles include:

- Advocate for White Ribbon Australia
- Community Representative of the WA Police Multicultural Women's Advisory
- Co-Chairperson of the Australian Karen Social Service Network
- President of the Karen New Year Celebration Committee WA.

## **Mr Salim Youssef**

5 May 1969 to 31 August 2022

Salim Youssef worked to implement community projects with local government and other community groups.

As Founder and President of the Australian Arab Association he enjoyed both the challenge and inspiration of motivating a range of people and community groups to achieve their goals.

Salim worked on the Community Advisory Council at Armadale–Kelmscott Memorial Hospital and was a board member of the United Nations Association of Australia Young Professionals and Bendigo Bank Gosnells.

Through his extensive community work Salim received the Community Citizen of the Year Awards from the City of Gosnells in 2016 and the WA Multicultural Individual Excellence Award in 2013. He was appointed a People of Australia Ambassador in 2012 and 2014.

## **Ms Meredith Hammat MLA, Member for Mirrabooka**

Meredith was elected to the WA Parliament in March 2021. The electorate of Mirrabooka is one of the most diverse in the State and Meredith enjoys working with representatives of the many culturally and linguistically diverse communities in the area.

Before entering Parliament, Meredith was the Secretary of Unions WA for eight years, from 2012 until 2020 and Assistant Secretary of the Australian Services Union between 1999 and 2006. Meredith has held a number of positions on WA Government boards and advisory committees, including the State Training Board, the Sustainable Health Review, My Leave (the Construction Industry Long Service Leave Fund) and the LNG Jobs Taskforce.

Meredith has a master's degree from the University of WA and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

## **Mr Ted Nguyen**

Ted Nguyen arrived in Perth as a refugee in 1984. He later completed a Bachelor of Engineering degree at the University of Western Australia and now has more than 22 years of experience in the government sector. His work has encompassed planning through to the design, construction and commissioning of large complex infrastructure transport developments in WA.

Ted also works to connect culturally and linguistically diverse communities to the wider community through sport. He has been President of the Westnam United Soccer Club since 1998, as well as director and coordinator of the Annual Perth Asian Community Soccer Cup.

As vice-president of the WA Chapter of Vietnamese Community in Australia (VCAWA), and a member of the City of Wanneroo's Multicultural Advisory Group, Ted currently leads the VCAWA in delivering the Vietnamese Cultural Centre in WA project.

## **Dr Oanh Oanh Thi (Carina) Hoang, PhD**

Dr Hoang is an award-winning author and publisher, academic, actor and public speaker.

Carina has 30 years of international work experience in different organisations, ranging from government agencies, not-for-profit organisations and large corporations, to small businesses. She has management experience in the areas of human resources, operations, administration, sales and marketing.

Carina is a WA Women's Hall of Fame inductee (2011), Special Representative of Australia for UNHCR (2012), and Board Member of Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services.

## **Ms Maria de Silva**

Maria de Silva was born in Western Australia and has strong Dutch and Sri Lankan family ties.

Maria has been a nurse for five decades, working in Europe, Sri Lanka and Western Australia, including in remote Aboriginal communities. She still works as a nurse and continues to be a voice for patients with Aboriginal heritage and those from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds.

Maria is a member of the Reconciliation Working Party at St John of God Hospital in Subiaco, and is committed to increasing understanding, respect and cultural safety for people of diverse cultural backgrounds, as well as to promoting cross-cultural interaction between Aboriginal and CaLD communities.

Over the past twenty-five years, Maria has served on several committees including as Women's Vice President of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA, Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services, Jewish Care WA and Reconciliation WA.