



**MCoT's Vision**

To Be Central in a Culturally and Linguistically and Religiously Diverse, Tolerant, Inclusive and Multicultural Society.

**Aims and Objectives**

1. To promote joint action and co-operation among ethnic communities on issues of common concern.
2. Ensure people from diverse cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds have equal rights, including effective participation in decision-making and sharing of resources.
3. Encourage the development of ethnic organisations and cultural diversity in relation to the social and cultural life of their communities.
4. Foster and promote multicultural education and multiculturalism.
5. Work together for the common good of all Australians and in particular Tasmanians from diverse cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds.

**Membership**

Membership for MCoT is open to all individuals and community organisations that share similar goals and objectives with MCoT, as detailed above.

**Annual Membership:**

- Individuals \$10.00
- Community Organisations \$30.00

Community organisations need to nominate three (3) members as delegates for their organisation.

Please contact the office on 6231 5067 for the membership form.

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# MCoT News

## Multicultural Council of Tasmania Newsletter

*Promoting Multiculturalism and Harmony in Tasmania*

49 Mollie Street, HOBART TAS 7000  
 Tel: (03) 6231 5067 Fax: (03) 6231 5069  
 Email: [mcot@tassie.net.au](mailto:mcot@tassie.net.au)  
 Website: [www.mcot.org.au](http://www.mcot.org.au)

June 2007

### NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

**MAY 27th - JUNE 3rd 2007**

It was the 27th May 1967, Australians overwhelmingly empowered the Parliament of Australia to remove racially discriminatory clauses from its constitution. This of course meant that the Australian Government was no longer able to shirk its responsibilities to Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders.

This didn't come about overnight but ten years of unrelenting campaigning by the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, (FCAATSI), which culminated in a referendum. The parliament had to amend two sections of the Constitution.

Section 51 which stated that the Federal Government had the power to make laws with respect to "the people of any race, other than the Aboriginal people in any state, for whom it is necessary to make special laws". The words "other than the Aboriginal race in any state" were removed.

The Whole of section 127 was also deleted, which read "In reckoning the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth or of a state or other part of the Commonwealth, Aboriginal natives should not be counted".

This 1967 referendum also exposed injustices and disadvantages faced by indigenous Australians.

Forty years is a long time, yet not enough seems to have been achieved, not only the successive governments have failed to improve the living conditions of the indigenous community but we as citizens, in particular the ethnic communities have also failed them by not keeping our politicians on their toes and by not lobbying the politicians and reminding them of the disadvantages and injustices that still exist for the indigenous community after so many years.

One would think that the present day scoreboard would be much more impressive than what it is after so many years have passed since government received an absolute mandate to effect meaningful change and advancement for its indigenous people.

The Multicultural Council of Tasmania hopes that the next few years bring about the substantive changes that we all expect from our political leaders.

**Mahendra Pathik**

**MCoT Council Meeting**

**7 p.m. Wednesday  
20th June 2007**

**Guest Speaker**

**Ms Moira Nolan**

**State Office Manager—NAATI**

*Migrant Resource Centre,  
49 Mollie Street*

**All Welcome**



### The MCoT Office Welcomes Visitors

Office Hours are :

**Monday-Thursday**

**9.30 am - 2.30 pm**

**Friday**

**Unattended**



Please telephone first to make sure that the office is attended when you plan to drop in.

*Three grand essentials in this life are something to do, something to love and something to hope for.*

Addison



# UPDATES

The Hon Kevin Andrews, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, also one of the keynote speakers of the Congress-launched the new FECCA website at an event in Melbourne on 14 May 2007. Voula Messimeri thanked the Minister for launching the website and acknowledged the funding provided by DIAC. She also said that the FECCA website has always been well browsed and that this new revamped website has many enhanced features to assist in the sourcing and dissemination of information. 'Online polls and surveys, special interest columns, youth blogs and a secure on-line forum space for FECCA's Policy Development Committees to deliberate, are some of the features of our new website', she added. Well worth a visit.

## Philippines Independence Day

(12 June 2007)

The Philippines-Australia Community of Tasmania Inc. is celebrating 109 years of independence with a Dinner and Entertainment evening to be held on: **9 th June 2007** at the **Tasman Room - Wrest Point Casino** commencing at **6.30pm**.

Tickets: \$ 47.00 Members

\$ 49.00 Non members

\$ 24.00 Children 8-16 years

For details phone Emilie on 62739752

**The Ethnic Schools Association of Tasmania** urges you to learn another language other than English and enrich Australia's language and culture.

**The Ethnic Schools Association of Tasmania** is a member of the **Australian Federation of Ethnic Schools Association of Australia (AFESA)**.

AFESA is presenting a paper at the next FECCA Congress in Hobart on the 30th and 31st of July 2007.  
**All Welcome**

## June Days

- 1 National Day - *Samoa*
- 2 National Day - *Italy*
- 4 Emancipation Day - *Tonga*  
International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- 5 Constitution Day - *Denmark*  
World Environment Day
- 6 National Day - *Sweden*
- 10 National Day - *Portugal*
- 12 Independence Day - *Philippines*  
National Day - *Russia*
- 17 National Day - *Iceland*
- 18 National Day - *Seychelles*
- 20 World Refugee Day
- 23 National Day - *Luxemburg*  
Jonine's Day - *Lithuania*
- 25 National Day - *Croatia*  
Statehood Day - *Slovenia*  
Independence Day - *Mozambique*
- 26 National Day - *Madagascar*  
International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- 27 National Day - *Djibouti*
- 30 National Day - *Democratic Republic of Congo*



Received 16/5/07 from Mark Kulasingham (FECCA)

Dhar Chowdury—University of Manitoba (Canada)

The 2006 North American heat wave caused the death of at least 225 people. Many scholars concede that recent heat waves are correlated with the global warming of the atmosphere. Concerns about heat wave vulnerability have been accentuated by the current “graying” trend and the marginalization of some socio-economic groups of the urban population of Canada since reaching them through conventional communication means has been quite difficult.

The general purpose of this research is to investigate options for improving risk communication on climate change-induced environmental hazards in urban Manitoba, Canada. Particular emphasis has been placed on heat waves. The specific focus of this research is to examine how well prepared individuals and local communities are in urban Winnipeg (Manitoba) to deal with climate change-induced heat wave hazards, especially the elderly population. The literature suggests that recipients of risk-communication messages understand and interpret them and other deliveries differently than how senders intended. A communication gap is thus established. The intention of the research is to minimize these gaps through creating user-friendly messages and a two-way communication route between responsible authorities and community residents.

This research involves the development of a “Knowledge Model” to identify the degree of stress associated with extreme heat wave events on the population as well as to determine how local-level community capacity and individuals’ preparedness can be enhanced.

Individual interviews, along with a questionnaire survey, have been conducted to analyze individual characteristics, coping and adapting processes, the levels of awareness and belief and knowledge concerning heat waves. The findings of this research have revealed that improved risk communication could change the risk perceptions of individuals and influence initiatives to change their behaviour.

## MULTICULTURAL MENTAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA

As part of Australia’s annual Mental Health Week,

MMHA is launching a national art competition for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, who have migrated to Australia during the last five years.

Mental Health Week is an annual celebration that is held in October and coincides with World Mental Health Day, which falls on October 10. The theme for this year’s World Mental Health Day is Mental Health in a **“Changing World: The Impact of Culture and Diversity”**. This year’s theme will highlight how understanding a person within their cultural context is essential to quality mental health care. MMHA will use Mental Health Week and World Mental Health Day to promote the importance of good mental health and wellbeing of Australia’s culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities through art.

Art is a valuable way of exploring identity and developing a language of exchange that can be used to foster diversity and harmony within and between cultures. Participating in the art competition gives individuals the opportunity to reflect and celebrate their identity and all that encompasses.

The topic of the competition is: **“I Identity—My Identity”**. You may want to consider how you identify through your culture or how your culture influences how you see yourself.

**Entry Criteria:** You need to have arrived in Australia in the last 5 years and be from a culturally and linguistically diverse background. You can submit one piece of artwork that addresses the theme of the competition. Your artwork needs to be posted and will remain the property of MMHA. Winning entries will be published on the website and the 3 winning entries will be showcased on the MMHA national website and reproduced in the next edition of Synergy magazine.

**Categories: Junior: 8 - 12 years**

**Senior: 13 - 18 years**

**Adult:: 19 + years**

**How to enter:** Fill in the entry form (copies and further information available from the MCoT office). Entry forms are also available at: [www.mmha.org.au](http://www.mmha.org.au). Attach a label (available with the entry form) to the back of your artwork and post to the MMHA address on the entry form.

Entries close: 5pm Friday 5th August 2007

There will be 3 winners and 5 highly commended awards being chosen from each category. Winners will be announced on 21/9/2007 and notified by phone and mail.

Please pass this information on to anyone you know who qualifies and who may be interested.

**Multicultural Council of Tasmania (Inc)**  
49 Molle Street  
HOBART TAS 7000

Address Label  
Goes Here

### **Post Script—For Your Information**

#### ***Invitation***

*An invitation is extended to all ethnic groups, who are interested and do have performers amongst their ranks to apply to perform before the delegates to the 2007 Fecca Congress being held at Wrest Point. The entertainment is being planned for evening of the 30th of July. This would be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the many talents within our ethnic communities and to also show the rest of Australia the immense diversity and richness of ethnic cultures present in Tasmania. It is expected that the event will be covered by both local and national media. All performers will receive dinner (during the evening) and a certificate of appreciation. For further details contact the MCoT office during office hours.*

#### ***Guest Speaker***

We are pleased to announce that Ms Moira Nolan , Office Manager for NAATI Tas has accepted our invitation to address MCoT members and management at the next council meeting, (details on page 1). Moira runs the Tasmanian office of NAATI, the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters. NAATI is a national organisation running testing for translation and interpreting from its head office in Canberra, with a presence in each state and territory of Australia. The organisation is a company run by a board of management and receives funding from both federal and state governments.