



## MCoT News

Welcome to the March 2010 edition of The Multicultural Council of Tasmania newsletter

*Promoting Multiculturalism and Harmony in Tasmania*

If you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe please send an email to [mcot@tassie.net.au](mailto:mcot@tassie.net.au)  
Please email or phone us on 6231 5067 if you would like to contribute items for the newsletter. The deadline for each month's issue is the first Monday of the relevant month.

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### **MCOT NEWS AND UPDATES**

#### **Next Council Meeting**

The next meeting of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania will be on 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7 p.m. in the Acacia Room at the Migrant Resource Centre, 49 Mollie Street, Hobart.

#### **March Days**

- 3 National Day (*Bulgaria*)
- 6 Independence Day (*Ghana*)
- 8 International Women's Day**
- 11 End of Soviet occupation in Lithuania 1990
- 12 National Day (*Mauritius*)
- 15 National Day (*Hungary*)
- 20 Independence Day (*Tunisia*)
- 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**
- Harmony Day**  
Newroz (*Persian, Kurd and Baha'i New Year*)  
Independence Day (*Namibia*)
- International Migrants Day**
- 22 World Day for Water (UNESCO)**
- 23 National Day (Pakistan)**

- 25 National Day (*Greece*)  
Independence Day (*Belarus*)  
26 Independence Day (*Bangladesh*)

## **NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES**

### **Estonian Association of Tasmania**

The President of the Estonian Association of Tasmania is pleased to announce that the Association was successful in its application for a Community Based Grant. This grant will enable Estonians living in and around Hobart to travel to Bicheno together in a bus to celebrate Easter with traditional foods, games and songs. Members from northern Tasmania will also attend as well as young backpackers visiting Tasmania during the European winter. It should be interesting to exchange ideas about customs with a new generation of Estonians. All of this is only possible through the help of MCoT. The Estonian Association is not an incorporated association but had access to the state government grants through MCoT. The President would like to take this opportunity to encourage other groups and communities to approach MCoT for information and assistance.

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### **Lithuanian Community**

The Lithuanian Community celebrated Independence Day with a flag raising at the International Wall of Friendship on February 16<sup>th</sup> followed by a shared meal at the German Club, Glenorchy on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>. This was attended by the Mayor of Glenorchy, Adriana Taylor and Janet Ong of Multicultural Tasmania as well as members of the Latvian and Estonian communities. There was food, entertainment and good company – a happy Independence Day!

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## **GENERAL NOTICES**

### **Fecca welcomes reforms to skilled migration program – Media Release 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

FECCA has welcomed the release of a discussion paper flagging reforms to the skilled migration program points test.

“The Skilled Migration Program has needed improvement with evidence showing many people who have come through the program have not found work in their skilled area. This benefits neither the skilled migrant personally or the nation economically,” said Pino Migliorino, FECCA Chair.

“The review of the point’s test and discussion paper is a step forward in strengthening the skilled migration program. The previous points test saw an explosion in the local private vocational college market, which included some very dodgy providers, delivering very dubious courses primarily aimed at meeting permanent residency requirements.

“The Government’s general direction of increasing the skill levels and English language proficiency under the skilled migration program makes sense as this will deliver more optimal employment outcomes”.

“However, additional points for community languages need not be reduced as bilingualism assists Australia’s international trading prospects in a globalised world.

“Points systems always involve some fairly arbitrary decision making so the review process could also consider whether there could be a strengthened independent and qualitative overlay of the points system as a further reform.

“The Government also needs to consider unintended labour market consequences of these changes. Many people coming under the General Skilled Migration program have been filling unskilled positions in areas like retail, hospitality and transport. If the Government tightens up the General Skilled Migration Program to ensure people under this program only worked in skilled areas it may need to consider a further unskilled program or larger refugee program to help fill low skilled labour shortages. “These sensible reforms in the General Skilled Migration program should not be confused with the separate family reunion and refugee programs which must remain absolutely non-discriminatory and not include, for instance, English language testing. While skilled migration serves the economic needs of our nation, family reunion and refugee migration meets our human rights obligations,” concluded Pino Migliorino.

### **Fecca calls attention to women's rights at work - Media Release 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2010**

This International Women's Day (8 March), the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) is calling attention to the potential ill effects of the award modernisation process on women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

International Women's Day recognises the global contributions made by women, while drawing attention to the hardships they continue to face.

"In particular, FECCA is concerned that modern awards tend to emphasise broader, more general workplace issues, at the expense of women, including those with family and carer responsibilities. Those with poor bargaining power in the workplace, such as CALD women, have traditionally depended on awards and are unlikely to be able to negotiate for better working conditions," said FECCA Women's Chair, Helen Sara.

"Parallel to this, FECCA is concerned that the National Employment Standards dealing with the requesting of flexible working arrangements and the extension of parental leave do not translate into enforceable entitlements," Ms Sara concluded.

"This International Women's Day we need to recognise the social and economic contribution that CALD women make to Australian society, and ensure their needs are not sidelined in the award modernisation process," said Pino Migliorino, FECCA Chair.

### **FECCA welcomes multicultural focus in draft national curriculum – Media Release 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) has welcomed the National Australian Curriculum History Draft Paper, released by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) for community consultation earlier this month.

"Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Australians contribute greatly to Australia, both socially and economically, and their settlement experiences and contributions to Australian society should be reflected in our national history curriculum," said FECCA Chair, Pino Migliorino.

"The ACARA's commitment to teaching our young people about the migration experiences of Australia's diverse community groups is reflected in the national draft history curriculum, and this is to be commended.

"FECCA is also pleased to note that the new curriculum would address, in detail, the culture and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders," Mr Migliorino continued. "Australia's CALD communities are keen to understand the history of the first Australians beyond the negative media images they so often encounter, and the proposed national history curriculum will certainly assist young members of CALD communities in this regard."

"However," Mr Migliorino continued, "care should be taken to ensure Australia's diversity is explored by students in all year levels. The draft curriculum for years 11 and 12, to be released later this year, must also examine the journeys undertaken, and contributions made, by CALD Australia. [Top](#)

### **The National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council (NEMBC)**

#### **Time to tune in: Australia's migrant and refugee broadcasting communities request government support to survive - Media Release 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

The National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council (NEMBC) is calling on the Federal Government to make a genuine and practical commitment to multiculturalism and multilingualism in Australia by supporting ethnic community broadcasting—Australia's largest multilingual institution. Funding for content production and culturally appropriate training is at the heart of the NEMBC's request to assure the sector's survival.

In an open letter to The Hon Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, President of the NEMBC, Victor Marillanca, requested an increase of \$2.3 million to support the sector. Marillanca said "this funding will go directly into content production for ethnic community broadcasting, which services the cultural, linguistic, social, communications and settlement needs of Australia's diverse population."

Government support for ethnic community broadcasting has stagnated for the past 12 years, placing a burdensome strain on a sector already relying on the goodwill of thousands of volunteers. The NEMBC hopes that the 2010-11 budget will deliver on the ALP's promise for increased support, at a time when

dedicated investment is becoming crucial to promote and maintain harmonious multiculturalism in Australia.

“The sector leads the way in ethnic broadcasting in Australia by producing 2,400 hours of programs every week in over 100 languages. This is four times as many hours of ethnic broadcasting as SBS, in 42 more languages than SBS, at a fraction of what it costs Government to fund SBS,” said NEMBC President, Victor Marillanca.

The McNair Ingenuity Audience Survey of late 2006 reveals that 57% of Australians listen to community radio in an average month, illustrating that community broadcasting plays an important role in Australia’s media landscape.

Ethnic community radio plays a unique and vital role in responding to the changing needs of Australia’s culturally and linguistically diverse population. These services provide translated local and country-of-origin news and information, as well as facilitating connections within and between local communities and local services.

A study conducted by Griffith University found that for new migrants and refugees early access to ethnic community radio makes a profound difference to their settlement outcomes—providing a sense of belonging and inclusion in society and empowering these communities to survive through the broadcasting of critical news and information otherwise unavailable.

The Howard Government terminated the highly successful Australian Ethnic Radio Training Program (AERTP) in 2004, which had been in operation for 10 years.

“Stations try to make do with their own depleted resources, but these are not sufficient to sustain the sector. The restoration of funding for the AERTP (a modest amount of \$200,000 annually) would provide culturally appropriate training for community broadcasters, which is essential to establishing programs for new communities and sustaining existing programming with technical developments,” said Marillanca. With no increase in funding for 11 years, community broadcasters are asking why the government is turning its back on this vital service and ignoring the perceptions this is generating within and beyond Australia.

For further information please contact:

NEMBC President, Victor Marillanca on 0413 188 289

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### **Home Share Program**

*Homeshare* is seeking referrals from other service providers for older householders living in the Sandy Bay, Dynnyrne, South Hobart, North Hobart and Taroona/Kingston areas for our *Homeshare* program. This program is designed for older people who are eligible and interested in *Homeshare* as a way of assisting them to continue to live at home safely and independently.

Homeshare provides older people with a suitable *homesharer* who will help out around the home for up to 10 hours a week in return for free accommodation.

To be eligible, householders must have a home of a reasonable standard of accommodation, a capacity to live with someone else, a willingness to undergo the assessment process and preparedness to undertake a *homesharing* arrangement for at least 6 months.

If you are in a position to refer, please keep *Homeshare* in mind as a viable option to suggest to anyone who is having difficulty in managing their normal household and external activities and/ or needing the security/safety of another person in the home at night-time.

The presence of a *homesharer* has been demonstrated to delay the admission into residential care for more than 50% of householders in a *Homeshare* program. (Stats provided by Wesley Homeshare, Melb).

If you would like more information about *Homeshare*, please contact Vivien at Community Based Support 62086600 or email: [homeshare@cbssouth.com.au](mailto:homeshare@cbssouth.com.au)

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### **Madi African Cultural Festival March 27 12 noon – 5 p.m.**

Traditional Madi Music & Dance, Food, Pan-African Music and Dance, Joseph’s Children’s Choir. Moonah Community Centre, 7 Gormanston Road, Moonah.

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**The Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre presents its first Tasmanian conference for carers with a focus on aged care.**

This is your chance to learn about the future of aged care in Tasmania, to share the journey of caring and to join a variety of workshops with a focus on aged care, carer wellbeing and putting you, the carer—first. You will hear a range of dynamic speakers, including:

- Dr Jane Tolman, Director of Rehabilitation and Aged Care Services
- Dr Jennifer Scott, School of Psychology UTAS
- Dr Stuart Hooper, Clinical Director, The Hobart Clinic

25th — 26th March 2010

Tattersall's Park Function Centre

Carers please register early to take advantage of a fully paid for place at this event.

RSVP by Friday 12 March to Meegan on FREECALL 1800 052 222 Australian Government

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**Staying Out In Front—Now & Into the Future      Older and online**

Using the internet to make new connections in later life

Everything is happening online - banking, shopping, keeping in touch with family and friends, dating and even monitoring your health. If you're not online you might be missing out, and if you are online there's so much more to discover.

**Join National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre for a FREE forum  
on Wednesday 31 March 2010 from 9:30am to 3pm  
Country Club Tasmania, Launceston**

Enjoy a complimentary morning tea and lunch while sharing your experiences and discovering:

- »»The benefits of being online in later life
- »»The latest research on social networking for older adults
- »»Learning online through U3A
- »»The latest advances in e-health

One lucky attendee will also win an Oricom EZY100 mobile phone!

There are only 100 places available so register today

Call 02 6230 4588 or email [n.stewart@nationalseniors.com.au](mailto:n.stewart@nationalseniors.com.au)

Registrations close Tuesday 23 March 2010

**Interested but can't attend?** Be part of the forum by watching the presentations online at [http://www.productiveageing.com.au/site/older\\_online.php](http://www.productiveageing.com.au/site/older_online.php)

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