
2008 Fact Sheet

Our Goals:

The Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) was established to:

- represent the needs, aspirations and achievements of the multicultural community, especially those persons who have experienced the refugee and migration processes;
- enhance and enrich the well-being of the multicultural community as part of the broader community;
- foster a spirit of cooperation and harmony amongst ethnic communities within the broader community;
- embrace a culturally diverse society and promote a socially cohesive society;
- promote and address the issues surrounding the multicultural community within the context of the Australian community.

Our Philosophy:

We promote the common interests and articulate the purpose and direction of the multicultural community in the ACT through:

- community collaboration and consultation;
- engagement and participation in public debate;
- formulation of relevant policies;
- representation to Government; and
- community education, conferences and seminars.

How we got started:

On 14 December 2005, over 40 community leaders met to discuss future directions in response to the issues raised at the previous Saturday's Multicultural Summit convened by the ACT Government. Attendees unanimously decided that the way forward was the formation of a new peak body to provide leadership and accountability for the ACT multicultural community.

On Harmony Day, 21 March 2006, the ACT Registrar-General's Office incorporated the CMCF under the provisions of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991*.

Mr John Hargreaves, MLA, ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs, launched the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc at the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, on Thursday 29 June 2006.

What we do:

Since its inception, CMCF has been busy ensuring that there is a united voice for the ACT multicultural community. We have provided strong leadership, cohesion, and accountability for Canberra's ethnic communities. CMCF has received several small grants from both the ACT and federal governments to host events and run projects. Our activities have ranged from governance training for community groups to managing the volunteers for the National Multicultural Festival and facilitating a summit on languages and ACT education.

CMCF has also been busy behind the scenes doing a great deal of liaison, lobbying and networking on behalf of Canberra's ethnic communities. We have provided submissions to numerous federal and territory government enquiries on behalf of the Canberra multicultural community, such as a strongly worded submission to the federal Department of Immigration and Citizenship opposing the introduction of mandatory citizenship testing.

We have also developed and nurtured productive working relationships with other key groups that form part of the ACT community. We have excellent relationships with our members, funding bodies, partnership organisations, sponsors, and other key groups influencing multicultural ACT, such as the high commissions and embassies and migrant support groups. We also have particularly strong relationships with the Australian Federal Police and the ACT Council of Social Service and actively work with these groups.

CMCF hosts a number of community events, such as the National Multicultural Festival Gala Dinner. Last year's dinner was very successful, with over 600 attendees enjoying a night of good food, great music and outstanding entertainment at the Hellenic Club. As well as the dinner, this year we are also hosting Canberra's major Harmony Day event on 29 March 2008. If you want more information on what we are doing to 'paint Canberra orange' please contact Ms Mimi Zhang, on 0421716814.

Who we are:

Patrons

Mrs Ellnor Grassby

Her Excellency Karin Ehnbohm-Palmquist, Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Sweden

Committee

Name	Role
Mr Sam Wong, AM	Chair
Ms Diana Rahman	Deputy Chair
Ms Kerry Markoulli	Deputy Chair
Mrs Chin Wong	Secretary
Ms Carol Keil	Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Mr Alfred Flask	Public Officer
Dr Mandy Scott	Education
Mr Graham Cooke	Newsletter and Media
Victor Marillanca, JP	Member
Stan Kowalski	Member
Patrick O'Flaherty	Member
Irene Forostenko	Member

Advisors:

Christopher Peters, AM JP (Business and Governance)

John Kalokerinos, JP (Legal)

Kanti Jinna, JP (Ageing & Aged care)

Mario Gonzalez (Community Liaison)

John Gunn (Youth Issues)

Where to go for more information:

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