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Dean of Diplomatic Corps  
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Sam Wong AM

## CMCF signs historic understanding with ACT Policing

**August 21, 2008**

Links between Canberra's culturally and linguistically diverse community and ACT Policing have been strengthened by the signing of a Statement of Principle which pledges greater cooperation in pursuit of a broader and deeper relationship.

The Statement of Principle document was signed by the ACT Chief Police Officer, Assistant Commissioner Michael Phelan, APM, and the chair of the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum, Sam Wong, at the police's Winchester Centre in Belconnen.

Mr Wong said the ceremony marked an important milestone in the history of multiculturalism in the ACT. "Since CMCF was founded we have placed the relationship with police at the top of our list of priorities," he said.

"Some of our members come from countries where the police are seen in a very different light to what they are in Australia. There needs to be a continuing education process on both sides"

ACT Policing provides a multicultural liaison officer for the culturally and linguistically diverse community of Canberra. Under the agreement, the officer will attend CMCF quarterly general meetings.

All police recruits in Canberra receive cross-cultural awareness training, and police ensure adequate interpreting services are available to the community.

For its part of the agreement, CMCF will maintain an ACT Policing page on its website and will assist ACT Policing to bridge the gap between police and the multicultural community.

Also present at the ceremony was Superintendent Matthew Varley of ACT Policing's Crime Prevention team and the multicultural liaison officer, Constable Kate Mokrij. Deputy Chair Diana Rahman and Secretary Chin Wong also represented the CMCF.

Mr Wong said he would like to thank Detective Superintendent Ann McEvoy, APM, and the former ACT Chief Police Officer, Assistant Commissioner Andrew Hughes, APM, for their help in the early stages of this project.

"I believe we can now look forward to a new era which will be of immeasurable benefit to both parties," Mr Wong said.

For further information contact Sam Wong on 0433 947 888



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