

## from the Chair

*Agnes M Whiten OAM*



### Interfaith Summit

An Interfaith Summit for Peace and Harmony in Australia and the Asia Pacific Region with the theme 'One Humanity, Many Faiths' was held at the Brisbane City Hall in February. The Summit was organised jointly by Griffith University's Multi-Faith Centre and its director, Prof Toh Swee-Hin, and the Pure Land Learning College and its President Ven. Master Chin Kung AM.

The Summit was attended by almost 350 delegates including from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Korea, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Philippines, New Zealand, Singapore, China, Japan, Fiji, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Australia. One of the speakers at a plenary session was KH Abdurrahman Wahid, former President of the Republic of Indonesia.

Leaders from different faith communities spoke on the role of faith in building peace and harmony in Australia and the Asia-Pacific Region.

All religions believe in respecting and accepting each other's beliefs and practices and that one has to go beyond 'tolerance' to create an harmonious society.

Social justice is a strong component of all faith communities and organised activities assist members support those in need.

A speaker from the Baha'i community said that unless equality is achieved between men and women we will not achieve peace. An Imam agreed that a secular society with freedom of religion is preferable.

The last day of the Summit gave delegates the opportunity to visit the Catholic Church's St. Stephen's Cathedral, the inauguration ceremony of the Ancestral Memorial Hall of the Amitabha Buddhist Association of Queensland, the Masjid Al Farooq-Kuraby Mosque, the Brisbane Sikh Temple (Gurdwara) and the Hindu Temple (Shri Laxmi Narayan Mandir).

### Saving City Hall

I have been at the Brisbane City Hall on many occasions and the beautiful rooms and the organ in the Main Auditorium never cease to impress me. This is an iconic building, the symbol of Brisbane City, and it is a community hall. An independent report from the City Hall 2010 Committee found that the building is suffering from serious structural, electrical, mechanical, hydraulic and safety issues and is in critical need of restoration. The cost will be about \$200 million. Community representatives were invited to a workshop to assist the Council finalise its response to the report's recommendations. You can find further information relating to Saving City Hall at [www.brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au).

### Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

The year 2008 was the 60<sup>th</sup> year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Australia's ratification of the United Nations' CEDAW. Eleanor Roosevelt, chair of the United Nation Human Rights Commission said in 1948: "in the small places close to home... so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world..."

unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere." CEDAW enshrines the principle that women are entitled to have their human rights protected on an equal basis with men. Elizabeth Broderick, Australia's Sex Discrimination Commissioner says increasing women's awareness about CEDAW is essential in making it clear that gender equality is a national obligation. Capacity building workshops are now being held around Australia and I attended the workshop in Brisbane.

### Human Rights Consultation

An independent committee consisting of the chair, Fr. Frank Brennan, Mary Kostakidis, Mick Palmer and Tammy Williams are conducting a national consultation on human rights. The key consultation questions are:

- which human rights and responsibilities should be protected and promoted;
- are human rights sufficiently protected and promoted;
- how could Australia better protect and promote human rights.

I encourage you to participate in this consultation. To find out more visit <http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au>.

### Multilink Community Services

ECCQ receives many invitations and I had the pleasure of attending the official opening by Lindy Nelson-Carr, Minister for Communities and Multicultural Affairs, of Multilink's Day Respite & Community Centre at 61 Mayes Avenue, Logan Central. Multilink, formerly Logan Migrant Neighbourhood Centre, started as a small community-based organisation at a house in Jacaranda Avenue then moved to two houses at the Logan City Council precinct at Wembley Road. It has grown to a significant service provider in the area and is now based in another premises and the respite centre is an addition. I recall the efforts of the early community leaders who worked tirelessly for this organisation which is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year in April. Congratulations to Multilink, its management committee, staff and volunteers.

I was invited by **Oxfam Australia** to the launch of Sisters on the Planet, short films of six women in developing countries on what they do in their communities to deal with climate change. These films are so powerful and inspiring and encourage us to look at what we can do to fight against climate change. The Queensland Governor Penelope Wensley delivered a very informative speech which reflected her vast experience. She accepted the invitation because the subject is in line with her three great interests: fighting poverty, support for women and climate change. Her speech is on the Government House web page.



## Dates to Diarise

**Members' Meeting Wednesday 15 April 2009 - 7pm**  
**ECCQ House, 253 Boundary Street, West End**  
**(entry to Gumbaya downstairs meeting room via Granville Street)**

**Guest Speaker: *Dr Jo Barraket***

Professor Jo Barraket specialises in social enterprise – not-for-profit businesses with a strong social purpose - and the relationship between non-profits and governments in social policy development. She will speak of her research on the impacts of a number of social enterprises seeking to stimulate intercultural learning and pathways to employment for those migrants and refugees who are most disadvantaged in the labour market.

**Women's Ethnic Network (WEN) meeting - ECCQ House, 253 Boundary Street, West End**  
**(entry to Gumbaya downstairs meeting room via Granville Street)**

**Next Meeting: Thursday 9 April at 12noon**

WEN meetings are held at ECCQ House, 253 Boundary Street, West End on the second Thursday of the month, commencing at 12noon. Members, new members and guests are most welcome at WEN meetings. For further information call the convenor, Irene Cayas, on 0407 145 000 or Laraine Brandon at ECCQ on 3844 9166.

## New members

**Welcome to:**

Teresa Keating  
Hedy Sri Munaswati Nicolson  
Mark Nicolson  
Fabiane Ramos  
Neuva Suastha  
Logan Samoan Advisory Council Inc  
Multicultural Centre for Mental Health & Well-Being (Harmony Place)

Membership of ECCQ is open to individuals and organisations. To join, or if you know of any organisation or person who would like to join ECCQ, call our office manager, Laraine Brandon, on 3844 9166, email [administration@eccq.com.au](mailto:administration@eccq.com.au) or visit [www.eccq.com.au](http://www.eccq.com.au).

We look forward to meeting new and prospective members at our Members' meetings on the third Wednesday of every month.

**ECCQ meetings are an excellent opportunity for community members, family and friends to join with us and our guest speakers, be brought up-to-date on the latest information in our multicultural community and join in stimulating discussion on issues important to our cultural diversity.**

## Evolution and Evoca

Evoca is moving more confidently into the e-age. The next step in the evolution of our popular newsletter is a stronger shift away from a paper-based edition to a web-based and emailed edition.

Members will be immediately notified every time the new issue is uploaded onto our website, [www.eccq.com.au](http://www.eccq.com.au) and also sent the latest issue in PDF format by email.

To make sure we have your email addresses, so we can keep you informed, please email [administration@eccq.com.au](mailto:administration@eccq.com.au).

If you do not have internet access, or still want a print copy, please let us know at ECCQ on 3844 9166 or pop in and see us at ECCQ House.

***Evoca - March/April 2009***

## Policy & Advocacy

from Andrew Bartlett



### Tough Times ..... So blame 'Them'

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, recently visited Australia. His position overseeing refugee issues and debates at a global level makes him well qualified to make his assessment that: "When things go wrong in a country, there are two potential targets: one is the government, the other is the foreigner."

There has been a significant rise in racial tensions in a number of European countries in the wake of the economic downturn. Fortunately, Australia's political leadership has so far not sought to encourage this sort of misguided blame game. However, recent actions by a small minority of people on Australia Day expressing aggression and hostility to people from different cultural backgrounds are a reminder that such attitudes can easily get out of control if they are encouraged.

Standing up against veiled and not so veiled attacks on migration, migrants and refugees is an important part of leadership. It is also an important part of ECCQ's role: to encourage and support those in government and other leadership positions in highlighting the many positives which people of migrant and refugee background bring to our society and economy.

Surveys show that this view is supported by the majority of Australians. The Australian Election Study, which tracks trends in public opinion from election to election, showed the percentage of people who recognise that "immigrants are good for the economy" has been steady at close to 60% over the last five years, while the percentage of those who believe "immigrants make Australia more open to ideas and cultures" has been around 80% for over a decade. The percentage of people who believe the old propaganda line that "migrants take jobs away from people born in Australia" has been steadily dropping, going below 30% in 2007. However, the surveys also indicated that 43% agreed that "immigrants increase the crime rate", which

is a reminder that negative stereotypes still linger and more work needs to be done to address these attitudes.

The survey showed that over the last ten years, the majority of people have supported either increasing immigration levels or keeping them the same, even though migration has been at record levels in recent years.

As skilled and business migration is demand driven, there will automatically be a reduction in numbers in this area, particularly in the long-term temporary visa category, as a result of reduced employment opportunities. The criteria for visas in this area are set by government to reflect the expected market situation. But the economic downturn is already being used by some in the community to justify calls for huge cutbacks in immigration – mostly from the same people who always oppose immigration.

A key part of ECCQ's advocacy efforts is to ensure the debate on Australia's immigration intake is fact based and that the crucial role of multiculturalism in maintaining a strong social fabric is not damaged by ill-informed debate or policies.

I can be contacted on 3844 9166, mobile 0418 743 789 or email [andrewb@eccq.com.au](mailto:andrewb@eccq.com.au).

***Andrew Bartlett is ECCQ's Senior Policy & Advocacy Consultant, employed under the State Government's Community Advocacy in the Multicultural Sector (CAMS) program***

### Interpreter initiative

Established by Disability Services Queensland (DSQ) as Interpreting & Translating Assistance Strategy (ITAS), the Support with Interpreting, Translating and Communication (SWITC) service of DSQ is a new initiative which will facilitate interpreting and translating services across Queensland.

SWITC aims to address the diverse communication needs of people accessing disability services. The purpose of the program is to assist target groups to have equitable access to information and services provided through DSQ-funded non-government service providers.

SWITC aims to assist people from four target groups: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; CALD people, including Australian South Sea Islanders; deaf or hearing impaired and who use sign language to communicate; and blind or visually impaired and who use Braille.

For further information or to make a booking contact Carmel Murphy or Pauline Tanzer at DSQ on: voice 3892 8500; TTY 3892 8501; fax 3392 8511; helpline 1800 645 916; email [dsq@deafsq.org.au](mailto:dsq@deafsq.org.au) or visit [www.deafservicesqld.org.au/our\\_services/interp.html](http://www.deafservicesqld.org.au/our_services/interp.html).



## Strengthening Ethnic Community Associations (SECA)

from Sharon Orapeleng

### SECA Training

A special acknowledgement to all community members who have attended SECA training in the past month.

I wish to congratulate the Congo Konexion new management committee who attended the Effective Leadership workshop in February. This workshop aims to strengthen the capacity of new committee members to more effectively run their community association.

Also in February we held our first workshop on project management, facilitated by Donata Rossi. This was very successful, attended by 18 participants from many different organisations. Due to great demand for this workshop we scheduled another workshop on project management for 7 March. And for those who missed out on these two workshops there will be another workshop in May.



And in late February we held another Effective Leadership workshop in Toowoomba, attended by 30 community leaders from the Sudanese Community Association Darling Downs Australia Inc (SCADDA Inc), Sudanese Equatorial Women's Group, Toowoomba African Men's Village, Awulian Community Development Association Inc., Toowoomba Sudanese Youth Association Inc., Clifton Filipino Association, Gatton Sudanese Community Association and West African Community Group. I want to thank Roberto Garcia, community development worker for Lifeline Darling Downs and South West Queensland for organising the session and to all the community leaders who attended.



**Effective** Leadership workshops aim to build on and support the existing knowledge and management skills of community association members and provide them with useful tools and strategies in establishing, managing and developing their associations.

These workshops provide participants with an opportunity to understand:

- What is needed to establish a community association: Aims and Objectives; Unincorporated and Incorporated Associations; Constitution and Model Rules
- Roles and responsibilities of the Management Committee
- Policies, Practices and Procedures to facilitate good governance
- Accountability
- Running effective meetings
- Discuss areas of concern, the challenges and identify possibilities for further support
- Resources available to help develop an association

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If you wish to have Effective Leadership workshop for your community association, please call or email our SECA Coordinator on [seca@eccq.com.au](mailto:seca@eccq.com.au) or 3844 9166.

I wish to welcome Vikash Upadhyau to the SECA team. We are delighted to have him on board.

I will be away on maternity leave for 4 months from 16 March to 3 July. David and I are expecting our first child due on 21 March. I wish to thank all those who sent their best wishes. Shilpa Banerjee will be acting in my position while I am on leave. She can be contacted on 3844 9166 or email: [seca1@eccq.com.au](mailto:seca1@eccq.com.au)

***Sharon Orapeleng is the coordinator of the  
Strengthening Ethnic Community Associations project  
which is funded by the Department of Communities***

Hi Readers,

My name is Vikash Upadhyay. I was born and raised in the peaceful city of Ahmedabad on the west side of India. I am a community welfare student at Brackenridge TAFE on placement with ECCQ.

It is a privilege to share with you my past life and future goals. I am really happy that I can share this information with you.

I am a very friendly and extrovert person and enjoy making new friends. I am very sincere in my work and a career oriented person.

In my mother tongue, my name 'Vikash' means development. My name, chosen by my parents, is a blessing from them and I feel that due to their blessing, I will always be involved with and motivated by development activities.

For my Bachelor and Masters degrees I chose Business Administration, so I can think ahead and think of development opportunities. I have had the opportunity to work as a finance advisor and relationship manager on the stock exchange for Indian companies.

Over the last four years I also volunteered as a supervisor therapist in the Setu Development Intervention Centre where I was also involved in management, the accounts department and training for disabled people.

On admission to the Brisbane North Institute of TAFE, I enrolled in the Diploma of Community Welfare, with a major in community development.

ECCQ is a good organisation working to enrich Queensland's community by encouraging, coordinating and advocating for the participation of culturally and linguistically diverse people.

I wish to especially thank ECCQ's Executive Manager Ian Muil and ECCQ's SECA program coordinator Sharon Orapeleng for giving me this opportunity.

I feel very proud to join this organisation and I am learning something new all the time to assist me in my studies.

Thank you ECCQ.



***Vikash Upadhyay***

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### **Population flows: immigration aspects - 2007-08 edition**

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has put out another report on Population flows and includes state statistics. This report can be found at <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/popflows2007-08/>. This report provides detailed information on the composition, size and operation of Australia's Migration, Temporary Entry and Humanitarian Programs. It includes assessments of migrant outcomes such as labour market performance and citizenship rates, reports on the range of settlement services offered to our migrants, and provides information on migration flows to the states and territories.

## Chronic Disease program

*from Nera Komaric, Hong Do & Neila Helac*

### Workshops held in February



**Nera Komaric**



**Hong Do**



**Neila Helac**

#### **Diabetes Workshop for the Bosnian Community:**

Mirsada (Mimi) Hadziahmetovic, ECCQ's Bosnian Multicultural Community Health Worker, held a diabetes workshop on 18 February at the Mosque in Eight Mile Plains. The group consisted of 12 women aged over 70. The workshop covered topics such as the prevalence of diabetes globally and in Australia, what is diabetes, the different types of diabetes, symptoms and prevention and was facilitated in the Bosnian language. Members from the Islamic Women's Association partnered with ECCQ to help organise and transport this group to and from the venue.



**Participants in the Diabetes Workshop for the Bosnian community with Mimi Hadziahmetovic facilitating**

#### **Culturally Tailored Healthy Eating Workshop for the Vietnamese Community:**

Minh Tran, ECCQ's Vietnamese Multicultural Community Health Worker, held a Culturally Tailored Healthy Eating Workshop at Durack State School in Inala on 26 February. The group consisted of 17 women aged 30 to 40.

Mission Australia and Harmony Place partnered with ECCQ to help organise the workshop and look after the children of the participants. This session was one of three sessions addressing healthy eating and nutrition for the Vietnamese community. Topics covered in this session included basic nutrition, food groups and how to read labels.



**Participants in the Culturally Tailored Healthy Eating Workshop for the Vietnamese community  
Minh Tran, standing, facilitating the workshop**

**Nera Komaric is the Manager of ECCQ's  
Statewide Chronic Disease Program  
Hong Do is the Chronic Disease Program Officer  
and Neila Helac is the Chronic Disease Project Officer**



# Culture and Conflict Resolution

**TIME:** 9am-4.30pm

**DATE** **CODE**  
Wed 22 April CR-901  
Wed 1 July CR-902

**VENUE:** 2nd Fl., The Precinct, 12 Browning St,  
West End 4010 (DVRC Room)

**CATERING:** morning/afternoon tea & lunch  
provided

**YOUR INVESTMENT (exclusive GST)**  
\$ 295 per person for Government/Corporate  
(\$ 265 per person for 4 or more)  
\$ 250 per person for NGO's and Community  
(\$ 220 per person for 4 or more)

**ENQUIRIES**  
Ph: 07-3844 9166 ; Fax: 07-3846 4453  
Email: admin@picc.org.au

## WHAT THE PROGRAM OFFERS

The program focuses on the interface of conflict and culture and how our understanding of and ways of dealing with conflict are shaped by our cultural background. Participants are encouraged to reflect on their own cultural assumptions and to develop culture and conflict fluency to enable them to better deal with stressful and/or conflictual situations. They will also develop a deeper understanding of the cultural starting points of other people.

The reflective component of the program is complemented by practical exercises and tools to enable participants to analyse a conflict situation and its underlying cultural components and to make informed decisions on how to deal with them appropriately. The workshop is highly interactive and the learning activities will be suitable to deal with conflict in a variety of work-related and private environments.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- *Staff and service providers who work in areas of high stress and potential intercultural conflict.*
- *Managers, team leaders and supervisors who work with culturally diverse teams.*
- *Conflict resolvers, social service providers and community workers who are looking for new tools to address intercultural disputes.*

## WHY?

- ◆ For individual staff and service providers: become more aware of how your personal assumptions shape conflict interaction and how you can better understand and deal with perplexing and frustrating situations of intercultural conflict.
- ◆ For team leaders and managers: learn processes that help recognise intercultural conflict early and to support cross-cultural fluency amongst staff.
- ◆ For conflict resolution and development professionals: gain awareness on how conflict resolution processes are shaped around cultural assumptions and how they can be tailored to better fit culturally diverse contexts.

## Culture and Conflict Resolution Core Segments

- Conflict stories and what patterns we can recognise from them
- What is conflict and how can we deal with it
- Multiple layers of culture and how they can impact on conflict management
- The interface of conflict and culture: developing culture and conflict fluency
- Analysing the web of conflict and culture: a workplace situation
- Creating a safe space for resolving intercultural conflict

A RANGE OF CUSTOMISED PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY  
IN YOUR WORKPLACE - please contact Sandra Bennett on 38449166

**Website:**  
[www.picc.org.au](http://www.picc.org.au)

*“An initiative of the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland”*

**Evoca - March/April 2009**



## Sexual Health program

*from Zhihong Gu*

### New Partners in Toowoomba

We were pleased to welcome Simba Siguake who joined us as the full time Multicultural Training, Resources & Community Development officer in February this year. Simba worked as a part time health promotion officer for our English-speaking African communities within our team prior to this appointment. He will now play an important role in managing resources and volunteers, coordinating and developing training as well as strengthening our program with multicultural communities in Queensland. He will also continue working with African communities. We would also like to welcome two new bilingual health educators in Toowoomba, Pauline Muraa and Daniel Akech. Both of them have received training and started working with the Sudanese communities in Toowoomba. They will organise awareness-raising workshops and meetings in Sudanese communities and help people access relevant services. You can contact Pauline on 0421 707 144 and Daniel on 0421 956 599 for further information. This month we sadly farewelled Lauren Waters who was our resource development project officer. Lauren did an incredible job developing two new resources "What You Need to Know...." and "Your ABC Guide of Hepatitis". She will begin her adventure in Spain for two months and then continue her PhD studies at UQ.

The resources development project is at the final stage and will be launched in May during National Hepatitis Awareness Week. Simba will take over from Lauren Waters in completing the production of the new resources.

If you have any enquiries about the new resources, please contact Simba.



*Pauline Muraa and Daniel Akech*

***Zhihong Gu is ECCQ's Sexual Health Program Coordinator***



### Writing the next chapter

I departed on my first ever overseas trip on 1 March. I decided to go to Spain to walk the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage, a dream of mine that has taken shape over the past year. The Camino de Santiago, or 'The Way of St James', has existed since mediaeval times and many thousands of people walk the trail from the Southern border of France to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain each year. The route I have chosen to take will be shorter than the traditional route, but at 730km I still may have bitten off more than I can chew. Because I have been unable to locate a traveling partner who is as ambitious, or naïve, as I am, I will be walking the majority of the way by myself but will be joined by my long-suffering and good-humoured parents at the beginning and end of the walk. I am very much looking forward to the adventure and the opportunity to meet people, reflect and to test out my newly-acquired, but limited, Spanish vocabulary. When I arrive back in Brisbane at the end of April I will be returning to full-time university study to complete my PhD, which I started part time in November 2008. My PhD will be in the field of physical activity research so I am sure that I will have the opportunity to work with ECCQ's Chronic Disease team at some stage over the next few years. I would like to thank everyone at ECCQ for providing me with such a warm working environment over the past 18 months. I especially want to thank ECCQ's Sexual Health Program coordinator Zhihong Gu for her support, encouragement and friendship.

***Lauren Waters  
Resource Development Project Officer***

## Youth health program

from Lauren Godfrey-Smith



### O - What a Success!

February is Orientation month for all international student savvy people and 2009 was no exception. This year we were able to reach students at UQ, QUT, Griffith's Gold Coast and Nathan campuses, ANU, and more through resource distribution, workshops, and information stalls.

Over three weeks over 12,000 resources were distributed to at least 8,000 students at these universities, and we spoke personally to hundreds of students about sexual health and access to services. And on Sunday late February we attended the Brisbane City Council's 'Brisbane Welcomes International Students' event held at City Hall. This gave us the opportunity to set up an information stall as well as run two workshops over the course of the day.

Then, the following Wednesday we set up and ran a stall at UQ Market Day. Being forced inside by rainy weather didn't stop the students, and by 1pm we had run out of free resources!

A big thanks to my colleague Simba Sigauke, our Multicultural Resource, Training & Community Development Officer for ECCQ's HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health Program. Simba coordinated resources for these events with the help of our 'star' volunteers Shashi, Michelle, and Kylie, who together packed over 1,000 condom packs, 1,200 promotional bags, and folded over 1,000 brochures in less than 3 days.

The success of the events over the last few weeks would not have been possible without the commitment of our volunteers. Thanks, volunteers!

**Lauren Godfrey-Smith is ECCQ's  
Multicultural Youth Health Promotion Officer**

### Simba Makes his Mark

It was with great excitement that I joined ECCQ's HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C & Sexual Health program team on a full-time basis in February. Before taking up my full-time role I worked as a casual for the Program as Health Promotion Officer.

My role involved assessing sexual health information needs and then developing strategies to work with English-speaking African communities, namely from Botswana and Kenya and my own Zimbabwean community.

I hold a Bachelor of Biomedical Science and Master of Health Services Management with a major in Health Promotion from Griffith University.

I have a passion for improving the lives of others, with my other interests being reggae music and politics. Community members themselves are the experts in determining what their community needs are and how they can best be met. I feel honored therefore, to be able to continue working in my community, as well as other CALD communities, in my new role as Multicultural Resource, Training & Community Development Officer.

I will be responsible for the management, development and distribution of program resources to CALD communities and mainstream services in Queensland; training and assistance with the supervision of Bilingual Community Health educators and volunteers; the development and conduct of cultural training for relevant mainstream service providers; and promoting knowledge of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and sexual health issues in the wider multicultural community of Queensland.

I am grateful to be joining the team here at ECCQ and I'll endeavour to approach the job with the same passion and determination for social justice that is shown by my colleagues here at ECCQ House.

I can be reached on 3844 9166 (extension 123), mobile 0415 043 663 or email [simbas@eccq.com.au](mailto:simbas@eccq.com.au).



**Simba Sigauke  
Multicultural Resource, Training & Community Development Officer  
HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, & Sexual Health Program**



**Amy Pittendreich**

## Community Partners Program – Townsville

This year the Community Partners Program (CPP) in Townsville involves working with elders from the Fijian, Samoan, Tokelauan, Papua New Guinean, Filipino and Greek-speaking communities in

Townsville. The main objectives are:

- facilitating access to aged care support services by older Australians of Fijian, Samoan, Tokelauan, Papua New Guinean, Filipino and Greek-speaking backgrounds;
  - providing support to mainstream service providers in provision of culturally appropriate care to clients or residents from Fijian, Samoan, Tokelauan, Papua New Guinean, Filipino and Greek-speaking communities
- Some of the project's recent activities include:

- attending the CPP Forum hosted by Chai Care on the Gold Coast in which CPP and Partners in Culturally Appropriate Care project officers from across Queensland met to discuss project issues and to share knowledge, expertise and resources;
- creating and distributing a Townsville-specific CPP poster to residential aged care facilities in Townsville;
- collaborating with an aged care facility to create a CPP display that promotes the project, Diversicare and cultural diversity. The display will be featured at the aged care facility for three to four weeks.

I have also been organising cultural performances, activities and food at three residential aged care facilities with some of the project's target communities for 'Taste of Harmony' during 16 to 22 March 2009. Taste of Harmony aims to bring together staff to share ethnic foods in the workplace. Visit [www.tasteofharmony.org.au](http://www.tasteofharmony.org.au).



**Ildiko Keogh (PICAC Education Officer, Diversicare), Ian Brumley (CPP Project Officer, Department of Health & Ageing), Mary Andreas (CPP Project Officer, Greek Orthodox Community of St. George) at the CPP/PICAC Forum at Chai Care on the Gold Coast**

**Amy Pittendreich is the project officer of the Community Partners Program in Townsville, funded by the Department of Health & Ageing**



**Julie Fraser**

## Getting lost in the service maze

As we get older we begin to have difficulty getting in and out of the shower; it takes forever to bend down and at times we cannot bend down at all; we begin to wonder how we are ever going to manage on our own.

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) worry about how they will communicate with others. We wonder whether we will be told to go to a nursing home. We wonder whether anyone will understand that we do not want to leave our homes and that we would rather stay there for as long as possible.

**Health Check:** we can all make changes in our lifestyles for the future. Start with appointment with your doctor for a full health check. If language is a barrier then an interpreter should be used.

**Basic maintenance support:** whether the need is transport to and from doctor's appointments or the administration of medications there are Home and Community Services available in your locality. For people who are frail and having difficulty with transport,

enquire about the taxi subsidy scheme or find out more about Home & Community Care (HACC). Too often we wait for a crisis then expect services to be immediately available. This is seldom possible and there are long waiting lists for services in some regions.

**Bringing it together:** People from a migrant background can contact their local Home & Community Care Multicultural Advisory Service. The HACC Multicultural Advisor can guide you through the maze of services available. Information can be provided in other languages and information about ethno-specific services in your area can also be provided.

HACC Multicultural Advisors can be contacted at:

- South Brisbane: phone 3846 1099; mobile 0413 512 967; e-mail: [mas.brisbanesouth@diversicare.com.au](mailto:mas.brisbanesouth@diversicare.com.au)
- Sunshine Coast: phone 5493 9455; mobile 0447 721 968; e-mail: [mas.sunshine@diversicare.com.au](mailto:mas.sunshine@diversicare.com.au)
- Northern region: phone 4723 1470; mobile 0407 045 203; e-mail: [mas.northern@diversicare.com.au](mailto:mas.northern@diversicare.com.au)
- Peninsula region: phone 4051 4715; mobile: 0432 322 154; e-mail: [mas.peninsula@diversicare.com.au](mailto:mas.peninsula@diversicare.com.au)

**Julie Fraser, HACC Multicultural Advisor for the Northern region**

### **Diversicare Information session for elderly Vietnamese and their families**

This session will provide information about the Home and Community Care programs. Some topics covered include:

- What help you can receive at home
- Who can take you to the doctor
- Who can advise you about financial matters
- How much can you have in your bank account and still receive free services
- Which services do you have to pay for
- What can you do when your daughter or son goes on holiday
- What is 'day respite' and 'residential respite'?

A Vietnamese Interpreter will be present and transport will be available for people with special needs. The session will be on 31 March at Inala Community Health Centre, Wirraway Parade, Inala from 9am to 12noon. To reserve a place phone Elizabeth Zajac on 3846 1099 or Taryn Quach (Vietnamese) on 0413 512 967.

*Diversicare is ECCQ's home care division providing bilingual and bicultural coordinated home care to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. If you would like to access services or would like more information on any of Diversicare's services, contact details for Head Office are:*

*49-51 Thomas Street in West End - PO Box 5199, West End, 4101  
phone: 3846 1099; fax: 3846 1107; email: [info@diversicare.com.au](mailto:info@diversicare.com.au)*

*Contact details for offices situated at Cairns; Redcliffe; Sunshine Coast; Townsville; and West Moreton can be found at [www.diversicare.com.au](http://www.diversicare.com.au).*



### **Sowing the seeds for a healthy community**

A couple of hectares of garden beds, a shed and some basic facilities wedged up against the Logan Motorway is providing a valuable communal space for new migrants from countries such as Burundi, the Congo and Sudan. The community food garden helps integrate the new residents into the local community by providing employment and training opportunities and a venue for cultural exchange and expression. Food gardening also provides health benefits through a focus on nutritious plant foods, increased physical activity, and meeting social and psychological needs.

Many of these people come from an agricultural background and it is important to them to have a garden. They relish the opportunity to grow traditional foods and cash crops.

The garden started as a teaching resource for public health students at Griffith's Logan campus. The garden provides a facility for nutrition and other students to experience the health-promoting potential of gardens and explore the direct link between food production and consumption.

The garden has since expanded its role into the local community, supported by community and government agencies under the banner of the Queensland Government's Community Renewal program.

Logan organisation ACCES Services assists in the transition of 600 new immigrants into the local community each year. As well as providing settlement orientation programs, counselling, social support and housing assistance, they also manage the community jobs program to enhance work readiness in participants.

About 20 people from Horn of Africa nations, Thailand, Burma, Samoa and Fiji have been employed in the community food garden, honing practical skills such as building and landscaping. Several participants have found permanent work before the end of their 16-week work blocks.

For further information contact Mardi Chapman at the Gold Coast Campus of Griffith University on 5552 9089 or email [m.chapman@griffith.edu.au](mailto:m.chapman@griffith.edu.au).

### **World Hepatitis Day grants**

Community Activity Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for World Hepatitis Day on 19 May. The Hepatitis Council of Queensland wants to support community organisations to coordinate an activity during National Hepatitis Awareness Week from 18 to 24 May. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available to community organisations willing to raise awareness of hepatitis prevention, treatment or discrimination, to promote collaboration and partnerships, to support people living with hepatitis, promote healthy lifestyles, and increase the profile of services in your community and the services of the Council. The grants aim to provide community organisations with opportunities to hold events or forums on health promotion and access to services. Applications close on 9 April. Call Kelly on 3238 5709 or email [naw@hepqld.asn.au](mailto:naw@hepqld.asn.au) or visit <http://snipurl.com/av1ju>.

## **what's on! what's on! what's on! what's on!**

- **Queensland turns 150 in 2009:** Queensland celebrates 150 years of independence from New South Wales on 10 December 2009. This anniversary provides an opportunity to celebrate Queensland throughout 2009. Visit [www.q150.qld.gov.au/index.aspx](http://www.q150.qld.gov.au/index.aspx) for details of celebrations planned.
- **Harmony Week:** Rejoice in diversity and unity at Griffith University's Harmony Week promotion from 16 to 20 March. Activities are scheduled between 10am and 2 pm at Nathan, Logan, Mt Gravatt, Gold Coast and SouthBank campuses on: Monday 16 March, Nathan; Tuesday 17 March, Logan; Wednesday 18 March, Gold Coast; Thursday 19 March, Mt Gravatt; Friday 20 March, SouthBank. Harmony Day is commemorated nationally on 21 March every year in recognition of the UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and focuses on the elimination of racism. For further information on planned events contact Dr Linda Shallcross at Griffith University on 3735 3831 or email [linda.shallcross@griffith.edu.au](mailto:linda.shallcross@griffith.edu.au). Visit [www.griffith.edu.au/studentservices](http://www.griffith.edu.au/studentservices)
- **Hearing each other, Healing the earth:** the fifth Parliament of the World's Religions will be held in Melbourne from 3 to 9 December. The Parliament will offer opportunities to share your religious tradition, learn about other religious traditions, engage in dialogue, and connect with others who share similar concerns. Visit [www.parliamentofreligions.org/](http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/).
- **Instrument-making course:** open to eligible young people aged 15 to 25, this three-week course commences on 24 March at Visible Ink, 54 Berwick Street, Fortitude Valley. Courses will be on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9am to 2pm. Free lunch provided. For further information contact the Beyond Crisis Office on 3620 7031 or Debbie on 0437 321 328.
- **Make a Move:** National Youth Week 2009 will be held from 28 March to 5 April, with the theme 'Make a Move'. You can:
  - Host your own event – check out the 'get involved' page
  - Enter the National Talent Competition
  - Enter the Win Free Stuff competition
  - Check out the new community service announcement
  - Search the events calendar to find an event happening near you

For further information visit [www.youthweek.com/index.html](http://www.youthweek.com/index.html).

- **Iraqi Festival Day:** The Romero Centre and Iraqi community members are holding a Iraqi Festival Day on 4 April from 10am to 4pm, at Marymac Hall, 616 Ipswich Road, Annerley. Enjoy Iraqi hospitality, food, art, culture, music, and dance.

- **Hellenic hospitality at its best:** Paniyiri, Queensland's signature celebration of all things Greek and Queensland's largest cultural festival, will deliver Hellenic hospitality at its best over the weekend of 23 and 24 May 2009 at Musgrave Park and The Greek Club & Convention Centre in South Brisbane from 2pm on Saturday and 10am on Sunday. Now in its 33rd year, Paniyiri is a community initiative of the 25,000-strong Greek community of South East Queensland. Entry is \$7 adults, \$2 pensioners and children free. Funds raised go into the community via the Greek Orthodox Community of St George, Brisbane's oldest Greek community established in Queensland in the 1920s. Visit <http://www.paniyiri.com/>.

- **World Hepatitis Day Creative Competition:** The World Hepatitis Alliance wants creative people around the globe to take part in the first World Hepatitis Day creative competition. Entries can be any creative media including posters, videos, writing, artwork, photography, music or web-based media. Visit [www.worldhepatitistoday.org](http://www.worldhepatitistoday.org). For more on hepatitis, visit [www.hepatitisaustralia.com](http://www.hepatitisaustralia.com).

### **Community Heritage grants open**

The National Library is calling for applications for the 2009 Community Heritage Grants. Grants of up to \$15,000 are available to community groups to help preserve and manage locally-held, nationally-significant cultural heritage collections.

Community organisations such as historical societies, museums, public libraries, archives, Indigenous and migrant community groups which provide public access to their cultural heritage collections are eligible to apply.

A range of projects may qualify for grants, including: significance assessments; preservation needs assessments; conservation and preservation activities and collection management training.

For further information visit <http://www.nla.gov.au/chg>, call 02 6262 1147 or email [chg@nla.gov.au](mailto:chg@nla.gov.au).

Applications close 5 June.

### **Civilization and Heritage**

"A civilization is a heritage of beliefs, customs, and knowledge slowly accumulated in the course of centuries, elements difficult at times to justify by logic, but justifying themselves as paths when they lead somewhere, since they open up for man his inner distance."

**Antoine de Saint-Exupery**

**WWW: WWW: WWW: WWW:**

- **New multicultural hub in Melbourne:** information about Melbourne's new 'multicultural hub' can be accessed at <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=100&pg=4247>.
- **'Healthier future for all Australians: Interim Report':** this report, by the National Health & Hospitals Reform Commission, is a report on long-term reform of the Australian health care system and can be accessed at <http://www.nhhrc.org.au/internet/nhhrc/publishing.nsf/Content/interim-report-december-2008>.
- **New website for Fair Trading:** developed by Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the new Fair Trading website provides improved access to information and services, such as:
  - register a business name
  - find out where my application is
  - search REVS for money owing on a car
  - check my refund rights
  - make a complaint.

Visit [www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au)

**[www.eccq.com.au](http://www.eccq.com.au)**

**ECCQ's website has lots of new reports and publications on topics relevant to migrants and refugee background communities. Visit "Latest News" on ECCQ's homepage for details. If ECCQ's Librarian and Website Manager can be of assistance to you at any time, phone 3844 9166 or email [library@eccq.com.au](mailto:library@eccq.com.au).**

### **New program brings diversity into focus**

Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs & Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson, has launched a program to support communities in their efforts to address cultural, racial and religious intolerance. The Diverse Australia Program will address issues of intolerance with more funding directed to areas of need. The program will fund local groups and organisations to tackle issues specific to each community while promoting respect and fairness.

In 2008 the Department of Immigration & Citizenship (DIAC) reviewed the Living in Harmony program to ensure the best possible approach was being taken to promote the benefits of cultural diversity.

Key elements of the new program include:

- a small grants scheme of up to \$5,000 for small organisations to address community needs; and
- ongoing year-round funding to increase responsiveness to emerging issues of intolerance when communities identify a need.

A key element of the Diverse Australia Program is that it works with different levels of Government and community organisations to empower a local response to issues of racism and intolerance.

Harmony Day, celebrated on 21 March, remains a key event in the new program.

For more information on the Diverse Australia Program visit [www.harmony.gov.au](http://www.harmony.gov.au).

### **Legal Aid Queensland**

Legal Aid Queensland has updated a number of their publications. The new-look publications have been rewritten to make them easier to read and use. To order publications, visit [www.bookshop.qld.gov.au](http://www.bookshop.qld.gov.au), select browse catalogue, publications, Legal Aid Queensland, then enter quantities required and follow the prompts or phone Tabatha Needham on 3238 3431.

### **New locations for Mental Health Association Queensland**

*State Office:* Level 5, 50-56 Sanders Street, Upper Mt Gravatt, phone 3420 8472; *Programs Office:* 1034 Logan Road, Holland Park, phone 3271 5544; *College:* Suite 5, 2 Old Cleveland Road, Stones Corner, phone 0449 252 320; *Gold Coast Regional Office:* Unit 19a, 10 Beach Road, Surfers Paradise, phone 5591 5820. For information and referral phone 1300 729 686 or email [info@mentalhealth.org.au](mailto:info@mentalhealth.org.au).

### **Name change for QIRCH**

The Queensland Integrated Refugee Community Health Clinic (QIRCH), now named Refugee Health Queensland, has moved to 616 Stanley Street, Woolloongabba. The phone and fax numbers remain the same: phone 3163 2880 and fax 3163 8455.

## Awards

**Queensland Week Awards:** in June each year Queensland Week is celebrated across the state to showcase our people, places and achievements. These awards acknowledge outstanding Queenslanders and their work.

**2009 Suncorp Queenslanders of the Year:** these Awards recognise individuals who have made a significant achievement in their chosen field and have made a difference in their community. Nominees need not be well known, or known to you personally, but they do need to have made a significant contribution to Queensland.

**2009 Queensland Greats:** these awards honour Queensland individuals and institutions whose ongoing contributions and achievements have played a significant role in the history and development of Queensland.

For further information or nomination forms visit [www.queenslandweek.qld.gov.au](http://www.queenslandweek.qld.gov.au) or phone 3405 5215.

Nominations close on 20 March.

**John Oxley Library Award:** Australia's leading library of Queensland documentary heritage, the John Oxley Library plays a vital role in the development and communication of knowledge of Queensland's history. The John Oxley Library Award promotes the value of historical knowledge to Queenslanders' continuing understanding of themselves and each other. The Award recognises a contribution relating to any aspect of Queensland's social, political, economic and cultural life and is open to individuals and organisations, including historians, writers, filmmakers, broadcasters, local history associations, libraries and archives. The Award attracts a \$5,000 prize. Nominations close at 5pm, 20 March. For more information phone 3842 9442; fax 3840 7873 or email: [kate.hall@slq.qld.gov.au](mailto:kate.hall@slq.qld.gov.au).

**NRMA Insurance Community Grants:** These grants offer funding of up to \$5,000 to Queensland community groups. The funding is offered in four areas: crime prevention; road safety; emergency readiness and response; and environment.

Applications close 31 March. Application forms and information at [www.nrmaqld.com.au/grants](http://www.nrmaqld.com.au/grants).

### Frontline volunteer needed

African Seniors-Australia Incorporated (ASCA) do not have funding to staff their office and are urgently looking for a volunteer to help with general administration, especially reception services to attend to phone calls and help clients with enquiries.

This would suit someone with office skills and an interest in and knowledge of Africa.

If you would like to volunteer or want more information call 3846 7722 or 3844 2007 or email

[africanconnection@yahoo.com](mailto:africanconnection@yahoo.com) or [jokanya2007@yahoo.com](mailto:jokanya2007@yahoo.com). Please always leave a message if you phone.

### Domestic and family violence fact sheets

The Centre for Domestic & Family Violence Research at Central Queensland University have re-printed the following fact sheets: Babies and Toddlers; Children 4-12; Young People; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Violence - Facts and Figures; and a new fact sheet, Adolescent to Parent Abuse. These fact sheets can be viewed on [www.noviolence.com.au/factsheets.html](http://www.noviolence.com.au/factsheets.html), or phone 4940 7838 for further information.

### Vote for your favourite Queensland icons

Now all Queenslanders can help choose Queensland's top 150 icons. Queenslanders can make their choice from a shortlist of 300 Q150 icons across 10 categories. The top 150 icons voted by you will be announced during Queensland Week from 6 to 13 June. Voting closes on 30 April. For further information visit [www.q150.qld.gov.au](http://www.q150.qld.gov.au).



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## **Our Vision, Mission & Objectives**

Our Mission "that all people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds have equal access to services and can fully participate in all aspects of a cohesive and harmonious Queensland" is achieved through a combination of targeted advocacy, representative and consultative functions, and service development and delivery.

Our objectives and goals are:

- To work with government and community agencies so that CALD people have equitable access to community resources and services.
- To promote collaborative action and cooperation between diverse groups and organisations on issues of common concern and to ensure their effective participation in matters which affect them.
- To initiate and promote research into the social and economic conditions of CALD communities in Queensland.
- To advise and inform governments and other organisations of the needs and priorities of CALD communities.
- To support and encourage CALD communities to develop and deliver services which meet the needs of their members.
- To encourage CALD people to participate in the social, educational and economic life of Australia and in any other activities conducive to good citizenship.

### **Our activities and services encompass:**

1. Advocacy
2. Community Development Programs, such as The Strengthening Ethnic Communities Association (SECA) program
3. Statewide HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections program
4. Statewide Sexual Health Network and support groups
5. Statewide Chronic Disease Program
6. Cross Cultural Training Unit, Partners In Cultural Competency (PiCC)
7. Resource and reference Library
8. Multicultural policy development
9. Research on multicultural issues
10. Auspicing
11. Letters of Support for grant and funding applications
12. Special projects
13. ECCQ's Women's Ethnic Network



The Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland Ltd  
ECCQ House, 253 Boundary Street, West End Qld 4101  
P O Box 5916, West End Qld 4101  
Phone: 07 3844 9166 Fax: 07 3846 4453  
Email: [administration@eccq.com.au](mailto:administration@eccq.com.au) Web: [www.eccq.com.au](http://www.eccq.com.au)

**Members' meeting - Wednesday 15 April 2009 at 7pm**  
**ECCQ House, 253 Boundary Street, West End**  
(entry to 'Gumbaya' downstairs meeting room via Granville Street)  
**Members' Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at ECCQ House**  
**West End Bus No 199 and get off at the Boundary & Vulture Streets intersection**

ECCQ's mission "that all people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds have equal access to services and can fully participate in all aspects of a cohesive and harmonious Queensland" is achieved through a combination of targeted advocacy, representative and consultative functions, and service development and delivery.

*ECCQ does not take responsibility for the accuracy of news items, nor are the opinions expressed herein the official position of the Council. Opinions and contributions from ECCQ members and supporters are always welcomed, but must be submitted to the editor, Laraine Brandon, by the 15th of every month.*

*Thank you.*

If undelivered, please return to:  
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