

## **Multicultural Project 2005-2006**

It has been a very busy year for the Multicultural Project. It has expanded some of its' activities and introduced few new activities in response to community needs. It is great pleasure to deliver services to the grass roots people. Sometimes it can be frustrate to work under resources where needs remain unmet.

The Multicultural project is funded by the Department of Community Services (DOCS). This funding is spent to employ the Multicultural worker. The project gets other sources of funding to run various activities. The project also woks in partnership with the City of Sydney Council and other local community organizations to establish the different activities, and classes.

### ***English conversation classes***

The demand for conversation classes has always been high.

After the announcement of Mandatory English Test for resident and citizenship applicants, the classes are getting very busy. Now the classes are not only focusing on to improve students' conversation skills but to improve reading and writing skills as well. The project offers 3 English classes per week. The level of classes are beginner to intermediate. For the next year the project is planning to deliver more classes with different level of language.

We have received a Small Grants Funding??? From the City of Sydney Council to cover some of the cost for English classes. We have some volunteer teachers who have been dedicating their valuable time to teach the students. I would like to thank to Julie Flood, Rebuke???, Christine Papas, and special thank to Jan Piggott and Josh Knuts for their wonderful work through out the year.

***Time: 10.30 am on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday***

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### ***Multicultural cooking classes***

Multicultural cooking classes held on every Friday (except school holidays). These classes are very informal and run by the participants who bring their own recipes and try them out at the class. Varities ethnic dishes such as Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Chinese, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Indian, Indonesian, Italian, Iranian, Irish, phillipino. Classes which give them opportunities to practice their English informally with others. These classes are good sources of social gathering and networking as well as sharing cultural values and beliefs. Cooking classes also play a vital role in the Surry Hills Community where most people are isolated in the inner city or are living in high rise buildings.

***Time: 10.30 am on Friday, Location: Northcott Community Centre (Near Ward Park)***

## ***Monthly Excursion***

Every month the excursion bus takes people to the different scenic places such as Kiama, Minnamurra Falls, Bali Garden and Bahai Temple. This is a joint project with the Central Sydney Community Transport and City of Sydney council. This project has been running successfully for several years. Elderly people and pensioners are the main target groups. The bus leaves 8.30 am and comes back to the centre at before 5 pm.

## ***Sewing Classes***

People in the community asked for organising sewing and knitting classes for a long time. The Multiculture project didn't have enough money to buy the machines and employ a teacher. Beginning of this year Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre and the Big Hart have jointly funded to purchase the sewing machines. Sonia Antipenkov, a long time client and was teaching the classes as a volunteer. Later Tracy Jones, a fashion designer and a community worker (Co-ordinator teaches classes. Classes are not formal. People can bring anything to sew.

*Time: 10 am Thursday, Location: Northcott Community Centre.*

## ***Walking Group***

Walking group has been going on for a long time. The group meets at the Shanon Reserve on Wednesday morning at 8am and then go for an hour walking to different places in Surry Hills and other neighbouring suburbs. If it rains at 6 am then the walking will be cancelled.

*Time: 8am on every Wednesday, Location: Shanon Reserve*

## ***Tai Chi***

Johnny Lee, a regular participant at the cooking classes teaches Tai chi. Classes held every Friday at 10am just before the cooking classes start.

## ***Others***

Referral and information dissemination are the main focuses among others. We have telephone and drop-in referral. The project has arranged several information sessions such as Access to public Health, Human Rights and Tenants' Rights. Current and relevant information have been distributed among the clients time to time.

The project also has advocated for refugees, asylum seekers and private tenants who have received positive outcomes.

The Multicultural project has conducted several focus groups, survey and informal conversation to get feedback about the services. The project has worked together with other services such as Occasional Care, OOSH and Yearly Festival.

Over the year Multicultural project has worked closely with the City of Sydney Council, the Department of Housing, TAFE, AMES, Assylum Seekers' Centre, Central Sydney Community Transport and other local community organisations.

Thanks to All my colleagues at the Centre, the Manangement Committee, Denyse Roberts, Anna Kovic, Barry McFarlane, Bill Pikington. I also like to thank to our volunteers who put their valuable time for the cooking classes.