

Multicultural Western Australia

Newsletter of the Office of Multicultural Interests

December 2006

Sport : Makes a world of difference



The State Government and the City of Stirling have launched a new initiative to give Western Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds a sporting chance at a better life.

Ms Julia Gyomber has been appointed full-time to the City of Stirling as special project officer to increase sport participation for people from culturally diverse backgrounds, particularly young refugees and humanitarian entrants.

Stirling Mayor Terry Tyzack said he was confident the project would enable young people from culturally diverse backgrounds to access the large number of mainstream sporting clubs and facilities in the area.

Ms Gyomber will be based at the Herb Graham Recreation Centre in Mirrabooka.

New Arts Marketing Initiative to Grow Culturally Diverse Audiences

Western Australia is the focus of a new \$600,000 multicultural arts initiative.

The Multicultural Arts Marketing Ambassadors Strategy (MAMAS) is a program that will enable arts organisations to reach out to and engage culturally diverse communities. It is co-funded by the Australia Council for the Arts and the West Australian Department of Culture and the Arts. The 12-week professional development initiative includes seminars and research presentations by expert speakers and provides arts organisations with in-depth knowledge and tips on how to make their programming and marketing more culturally inclusive.

The dynamic cultural and linguistic diversity and excellence of artistic expression across the state are key reasons for the initiative being developed and rolled out in WA ahead of the eastern states. The Australian Institute of Management and the University of Western Australia's Integral Leadership Centre are delivering the program, which commenced in the second half of 2006. The Office of Multicultural Interests is participating on the Reference Group for MAMAS.



Office of Multicultural Interests
Government of Western Australia

OMI welcomes the new Minister

The Hon Ljiljana Ravlich MLC has been appointed as the Minister for Multicultural Interests and Citizenship.

Ms Ravlich is the first woman born in a non-English speaking country to be elected to the Western Australian Parliament and to be appointed a Minister in the Western Australian Government.

She was born in Split, Croatia in 1958 and is believed to be the first Croatian born woman ever elected to a parliament outside of the Republic of Croatia.

We warmly welcome her appointment as the Minister for Multicultural Interests and Citizenship and look forward to working with the Minister to broaden opportunities for building an inclusive Western Australia where all individuals and groups participate fully and equitably in all aspects of society.

Please visit Minister's Website at :

<http://www.ministers.wa.gov.au/ravlich/index.cfm>



The Hon Ljiljana Ravlich
BA(SocSc) DipEd
DipEd(Admin) MLC

Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year

Inclusion and Integration Grants Program (IIGP)

The Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests has approved one-off grant funding to nine community based and non-government organisations to undertake projects designed to build community capacity, and promote integration and active participation by all members of Western Australia's diverse community.

This grants program is an initiative of the Western Australian State Government. It flows from the Council of Australian Governments' National Action Plan, to address issues of alienation and marginalisation that can lead to exclusion and social isolation for members of religious and ethnic minorities, particularly those from new and emerging communities.

The nine successful recipients of the grants are: the Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS); Edmund Rice Centre; Fremantle Migrant Advisory Association; Gosnells Community Legal Centre; Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Centre; Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation; Muslim Women's Support Centre; Volunteering WA and Cockburn Volunteer Resource Centre; and the Western Australian Council of Social Services (WACOSS). Details of these projects are available on the OMI website.

A total of almost \$140,000 will be disbursed in the first round of grants and a second application round will be advertised in early 2007.

Community Relations Integration Officers (CRIOs)

A new one-off funding program to link people from new and emerging communities with government and non-government services and programs is being finalised by OMI. Applications for funding will be invited from not-for-profit community organisations to employ specialised officers for a 12 month period.

The role of these officers will be to improve access to services and programs for members of new and emerging communities and to build the capacity of these communities to identify and find solutions to their needs.

The officers, to be known as Community Relations Integration Officers (CRIO) will target communities that have been established within Western Australia in the last five years or communities that do not yet have the resources or numbers to have established their own community support mechanisms.

A copy of the application package is available at www.omi.wa.gov.au or by telephoning OMI on (08) 9222 8800.

To subscribe to [Multicultural Western Australia](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au)
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Ethnic Youth Advisory Group (EYAG)

The Ethnic Youth Advisory Group (EYAG) is a group of 15 young people who have an advisory as well as a practical role in highlighting and addressing issues faced by ethnic youth in Western Australia. Established in 2005, EYAG achieved some significant milestones in 2006.

During Harmony Week 2006, members of EYAG organised, conducted and facilitated the Youth-Faith-Harmony Forum, an interfaith dialogue for young people.

Since the Forum, EYAG has taken up three major new programs:

- an Ethnic Youth Radio Program every Thursday from 1:00pm to 2:30pm on 6EBA Multicultural Radio (95.3FM).
- The EYAG Website Project, which was initiated to provide young Western Australians with a window into EYAG's work, and to provide an online "one-stop shop" for ethnic youth. See www.multiculturalwa.net.au/youth for more details.
- EYAG is also in the process of suggesting improvements to settlement information provided to newly arrived young migrants.

EYAG is looking forward to a productive 2007, with the aim of building the capacity of its members, and working toward improving outcomes for ethnic youth in Western Australia.



Online WA Multicultural Communities (OWAMC) Receives National Award

The Online WA Multicultural Communities (OWAMC) Gateway, a joint initiative of the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) and the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia (ECCWA), has received national recognition by winning the prestigious 2006 National Multicultural Marketing Awards in the Information Technology category.

The National Multicultural Marketing Awards is an initiative of the Community Relations Commission of New South Wales. The Awards recognise the efforts of businesses and organisations that seek to harness the benefits of Australia's cultural diversity.

Visit www.multiculturalwa.net.au today or call Said Padshah on (08)9222 8800 to find out more about OWAMC.