



Western Australia still the Nation's most **Culturally Diverse State**

The much-anticipated 2001 Census results, recently released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), reveal a nation of rich cultural diversity.

The Census also reveals that Western Australia continues to be the nation's most culturally diverse State, with the highest proportion of people born overseas; a staggering 495,240 individuals, or close to one third of the State's total population.

The Census statistics have important implications for the Government, businesses and the community as they plan for the future well-being and prosperity of our society. We cannot afford to take for granted our culturally diverse heritage. Our migrant and indigenous populations have made, and continue to make, a vital contribution to the social, political, economic, religious and cultural fabric of our society. The many benefits that diversity bring must continue to be acknowledged, valued and protected.

The ethnicity related data from the Census will be particularly useful to service providers in the planning and delivery of optimal service to their culturally diverse clients. Awareness of the cultural and religious characteristics of their community, will better prepare them to evaluate the effectiveness of services for clients from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and determine if programs or services are meeting their needs.

The analysis and use of cultural diversity data can assist Agencies to:

- Plan services for clients from different cultural and language backgrounds, for instance to meet needs for interpreting and translated information;
- Meet efficiency gains and reach better access and equity outcomes;
- Appreciate the diversity of their clientele and workforce; and
- Plan and deliver services that are effective and culturally appropriate.

The Office of Multicultural Interests can provide information on a range of ethnicity related demographic data including birthplace countries and regions, ancestry, languages spoken at home, proficiency in English and religious affiliation. For more information contact OMI Policy Officer Paul Rafferty on 9426 8690.

Official newsletter of

the Office of Multicultural Interests



Minister's Message	2
Seminar Series	2
Community Snapshots	2 & 4
Behind the White Picket Fence	3
OMI's New Executive Director	5

CONTENTS

Multicultural Ambassadors Awards	6 + 7
Cultural Ambassador For Indigenous Harmony	7
WACA and DIMIA Harmony Event	7
Community Noticeboard	8



A Message from the Premier and Minister for Multicultural Interests



The 2001 Census has revealed that Western Australia remains the most culturally diverse State in Australia.

That diversity brings with it a range of obligations that apply to all of us to ensure that all Western Australians have equitable access to, and can participate in, the democratic process.

To this end my Government, through the Office of Multicultural Interests, is developing a multicultural policy for our State. The policy will affirm our commitment to promoting a cohesive and inclusive multicultural society in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, have equality of opportunity, and are free from prejudice, discrimination and exclusion, regardless of their race, religion or ethnicity.

A sub-committee of the Anti-Racism Strategy Steering Committee that I have established and chair has been appointed to advise and assist in the development of the policy. The sub-committee will address key issues including the development of an effective working definition and conceptualisation of multiculturalism, Indigenous people and multiculturalism, and the perception that multiculturalism is just an ethnic issue. I intend to make the draft policy, which will provide the basis from which the Strategy will be developed, available to a broad spectrum of the community for public comment.

The Steering Committee has now discussed a framework for the development of a Strategy, seeking to ensure that the development of the Strategy is based on widespread consultation and a sound knowledge base, in what is a multi-faceted and complex yet fundamental issue.

The effectiveness of other anti-racism strategies and initiatives undertaken around Australia and overseas is currently being evaluated by a team of researchers at Murdoch University and a report of their findings will be presented to the Steering Committee in the coming months.

Sub-committees have also been established to develop options in key areas identified by the Steering Committee including: community consultation, community education, systemic issues and research. The sub-committees' findings will be submitted for consideration by the Steering Committee in the near future.

Out of this process I intend that we will have an Anti-Racism Strategy that will significantly contribute to ensuring that all Western Australians are indeed part of a cohesive and inclusive multicultural society.

Dr Geoff Gallop MLA
Premier and Minister for Multicultural Interests

Seminar Series

The Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) is striving to build better understanding between Government, communities, the corporate sector and service providers, so that each can benefit from the opportunities of multiculturalism and have the capacity to confront its challenges.

To this end OMI is holding a Seminar Series through to the end of the 2002/03 financial year.

The seminars will provide information and stimulate discussion on a wide range of contemporary issues related to multiculturalism in Australia.

Western Australia has already been treated to three outstanding seminars by academics Professor Andrew Markus, Dr Samina Jasmeen and Acting Equal Opportunity Commissioner, Moira Rayner.

The next seminar in August will be presented by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner & Acting Race Discrimination Commissioner, Dr William Jonas, AM.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Chung Wah Association Inc. – A part of Western Australia's Landscape since 1909

Established in 1909 to meet the social, cultural, educational and political needs of Chinese people in Western Australia, the Chung Wah Association is the largest ethnic association in the State and is run entirely by volunteers, except for a small office staff.

Its members range from migrants and business people to senior citizens with everyone's interests met through programs that stimulate, support and enrich the community.

Educational and social programs include Mandarin language classes for children and adults, health discussion groups and women's groups, as well as Chinese culture classes, lion and dragon dance troupe activities, and youth focused community events to foster cultural development.

A focal point of the Chung Wah Association is its welfare and community services including its Home and Community Care Programs in Aged Care providing daily activities and meals for the elderly Chinese and Vietnamese communities.

In line with its mission of creating cultural harmony, the Association anticipates expanding its programs and facilities over the next few months to include other Asian cultures.

For further information phone: 9328 8657

Behind the **White Picket Fence**

Acting Commissioner for Equal Opportunity in Western Australia, Moira Rayner spoke about lives and living behind the 'white picket fence' at the Seminar Series on 24th June 2002. Below is an edited version of her speech.



Australia sees itself as a 'white' country – albeit with a 'black' history. That is why it is appropriate tonight, and on every public occasion, to acknowledge that there were, and are still, traditional owners of this land. It is also appropriate to acknowledge that this is the tenth anniversary of the Mabo decision, which reminds us about our failure to achieve reconciliation, and to turn our thoughts to the relationship between reconciliation and multiculturalism, indigenous rights and immigrants' issues, and to find the commonalities between them.

We are a nation in search of our identity. Our past, as all pasts are, has both horror and hope in it. But we must acknowledge our past if we are to forge our future. We are building a culture. It had better be based on truth and some universal principles.

A 'picket' can be a paling, part of the 'border protection' around a suburban home. It has another meaning, as a particular way of protesting outside an establishment.

In the current environment – in a war against terror, after a race and fear-based federal election, and as we are apparently being threatened with another one based on 'border protection' tub-thumping; as we are uncomfortably aware that dark skinned, non-European unlawful non citizens are either on their way in leaky boats or locked up behind cyclone and razor wire

– 'behind a white picket fence' is a very apt description of fortress Australia.

But repelling boarders [1] requires a house undivided. Ours is a blended – ethnically, racially and religiously – household. This means there are jealousies and tensions; it is not entirely clear what to do with divided loyalties, or where authority lies, and what 'the rules' are. Yes, we are committed to a 'fair go,' but we're not entirely sure what that means, and pejorative terms like 'queue jumper', 'bludger' and 'racist' trip readily off the tongue.

So I hope this will lead to a discussion about the real meaning of racial and religious and ethnic harmony. I hope that I will have at least made us think about our own individual and our government's role in dealing with 'racism', and even question the assumptions about 'race' that lead to discrimination and distrust.

Let me turn, then, to the role of women of racial and cultural minorities, focusing again on both Indigenous and migrant women, but also making the clear connection with women in more privileged positions, whose 'race' is not an issue. If you want a litmus test of your own racial sensitivities, ask yourself whether you are likely, when entering a room, to take note of how many of its occupants were 'white': I thought not. We notice the 'otherness' of dark skin.

Women have always contributed to society whatever cultural group they belong to. However, women's contributions have historically gone unnoticed, especially economically. It is easy to deny what you have not recorded.

I think that's why we find it so hard to use the language of racism when we see the problems associated with our real religious, racial and ethnic differences. We would rather pursue 'harmony'. We would rather not attain 'reconciliation' because that implies there was fault. We would rather smooth over the corrugations of race issues, because 'discrimination' implies 'racism' and that we are bad people. Recently I spoke to a Chief Executive of a large organisation who was deeply offended at the suggestion that there was evidence of indirect race discrimination in his organisation. He could only see it as a claim that he was personally 'racist'. But discrimination does not have to be intentional. Indirect discrimination, systemic discrimination, practices that seem fair and normal to the historically powerful group, exclude people whose interests and experiences are not heard.

Women know all about this. Women, by and large make the homes and care of the families behind those white picket fences, and, especially Aboriginal women, and women from immigrant backgrounds, know what it is like to be invisible. Women from immigrant backgrounds, who now make up such an important part of Australian community life face multiple difficulties: the problem of settling in, making the best of a novel set of economic and social circumstances, and finding a balance between the need to find paid work, and the need to support their families, and their men, as they too struggle. Indigenous women face all the social disadvantages that come from a long history of dispossession that damaged parenting bonds and family connections.

Continued on page 4



Continued from page 3

I don't think we think enough of the problems of migrant and refugee women, desperately worried about families left behind or scattered, alienated or in custody, or embarking on dangerous voyages of dubious lawfulness and still less safety. There are women whose homelands are being laid waste by warlords; or whose homelands are being wasted by boredom, hopelessness, booze and drugs. They confront the difficulties of finding work, and the need to work, without easily identifiable skills and competencies or real choice in their employment, and – it seems increasingly likely – without the protections of safe and fair working conditions. They face the problem of maintaining their culture and their identity, in a community that proclaims tolerance, yet expects them to be 'less different'; which expects them to acquire language and social competence by some process of osmosis. They deal with the problem of bigotry, and the uninformed opinions of colourful personalities and no credentials to speak of, such as mayor of a country town who managed to get headlines recently by threatening to kill 'badly behaved' refugees. I believe we all face the same problem of growing racial, cultural and religious intolerance, led by the foolish as much as the well-connected.

Discrimination on the ground of 'race' is a pervasive sickness. Acknowledging this should not result in competition for the status of the greatest victim, but a lesson in how we can all live better together. It is also the role of government to give moral leadership.

Whatever our population policies and however absolute our right to protect our white picket-fenced homeland, we also have an ethical obligation. We have provided accommodation for asylum-seekers, but meanly, and given genuine refugees temporary visas which deny them the right to visit their families or let them join them. Let us be thoughtful about what that says about us. We have celebrated harmony by eating the exotic foods of other cultures and relished their dances and adornments, while fearing their poverty and need. What are we so afraid of losing? We grudgingly acknowledge the historical facts of our possession of this land: why can't we provide equality of opportunity for the owners' children?

It takes education to see the benefits of listening to the experience of others, to form the close bonds, to tolerate and value what surprises and even shocks us, to provide economic and social support to each other for no other reason than we are citizens. That is why we must not allow ourselves to relapse into seeing the claims of 'others' to inclusion and respect as special pleading, and the rights of minorities as in themselves 'selfish' and somehow dangerous, instead of adding to the reservoir of the common good.

We are a democratic society, and a democratic society provides a decent life for everyone. We must resist politics that enable those who are secure, socially and economically, to resent the claims of those who are not. It is also very important that the victims of discrimination make common cause, not competition for status as the biggest victims.

We should take our own individual experience of discrimination, and imaginatively transform this into a powerful force for the betterment of others. Where there is a hostile environment, a struggle for survival, where powerful interests systematically exclude groups or classes of people, it is a duty to become an advocate for those groups, as well as our own. Migrants and refugees who are already here know what it felt like, to long for safety and still to long for what has been lost. Aboriginals know what it is like to be feared and detested. Yet we also know that without all of it, we will never have made a community and glue it together.

Let us praise the strength of the survivors and borrow it, crossing cultural, religious, ethnic and racial picket fences and lines, to commit ourselves to a home of relative peace and real respect for difference. Let us particularly honour those who have held, and still hold, their families and their cultures entire; the courage and endurance of all the homemakers who have come to this country and grown up in this country and silently sought to make it a tolerant and accepting place for all children, who teach our children by example to think and to accept and to challenge unfairness.

[1] The pun is intentional.

Cards, Clogging and Community Choir at Dutch Society Neerlandia



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



The Dutch Society Neerlandia began in 1969, when a group of friends who played card games together decided the group was too large to accommodate in a single living room at one time.

Since establishing its clubhouse in Wembley, the Society has increased to over 400 members and a busy social calendar, which includes the continuation of card game rounds.



Leela takes on Executive Director's role

Meet the new Executive Director at OMI.

Armed with a strong and determined personality, Leela de Mel is passionate, believes strongly in transparency and accountability, and hasn't wasted any time since taking on the job.

"I really want to put multiculturalism on the agenda in terms of social equality and human rights for all, and the removal of barriers to equal participation in all aspects of life."

"Multiculturalism is about all of us, and is about ensuring that all Australians irrespective of their perceived race, religion, ethnicity or culture have equality of opportunity and are treated with dignity. Mutual respect between individuals and between groups is paramount."

"One of OMI's main roles is to facilitate opportunities for diverse voices to be heard so that they can influence government decisions. I think public sector agencies are often tempted to speak on behalf of their clients rather than empower the clients to speak for themselves. I don't want OMI to be the expert on all issues impacting on ethnic communities, we need to have a strong partnership with our clients so they can represent themselves."

She concedes that there are some challenges facing the area. "There is

often a lack of understanding of diverse cultures and religions within our community and a lack of community ownership of problems facing ethnic minorities." She cites stereotypes and ingrained racism, fuelled by media generated images and perceptions, as an issue to confront. "We often only see bits of the whole story."

"Multiculturalism is about creating an environment that is free of prejudice and discrimination. Unfortunately the Tampa issue and the currently negative debate on refugee/immigration has really set multiculturalism back, so we have some work to do."

Leela's passion for the area of multiculturalism stems from a life long interest in social justice and an upbringing in Sri Lanka where she saw first hand the tragedy of a community, families and friends divided by conflict.

Born in Sri Lanka, Leela completed a BA at the University of Sri Lanka, Peradeniya Campus and was appointed as Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Political Science at the same university.

Leela came to Australia on a Ford Foundation scholarship to the Australian National University and completed a Masters in International Relations and later read for a Doctorate in the School of Social Inquiry at Murdoch University.

Initially recruited by the Health Department, Leela has worked in many

Government Departments including Community Development, Planning, Training, Higher Education, Aboriginal Affairs and the Office of the Auditor General.

She says the move into the position of Executive Director at the Office of Multicultural Interests was not anticipated.

"It came about more by accident than being a planned career move. Having started OMI off on a particular course as Acting Executive Director, it seemed a logical step to apply for the position when it was advertised, so that I could progress the office on that course."

One of OMI's biggest challenges over the next couple of years is the development and implementation of the State Government's Anti-Racism Strategy. "Community engagement with its development is the key", Leela said.

"I hope the Anti-Racism Strategy will raise awareness of issues relating to racism across all levels of the community and get people thinking not only of their own prejudices but about policies and practices that impact discriminately against Aboriginal people and ethnic communities."

When she takes off her Executive Director hat, Leela says she's a hands-on kind of person who likes pottery, silk painting and cake decorating.

"I'm also a great lover of travelling, reading and cooking."

Preserving old traditions such as clog dancing and the celebration of important dates like the April celebration of the Dutch Queen's birthday, are important to the Dutch community and each month functions at the clubhouse tap into traditions with activities that range from country and western nights to senior member luncheons.

With its population now ageing the Society has found that many of its elderly members want to return to speaking in their native tongue and therefore activities and card games are organised to create an open language forum.

The Society also runs a government funded Aged Care Program, catering to Dutch, German and Flemish community members.

Well-known in the metropolitan area, the Dutch Choir, consisting of Dutch Society members, performs at local nursing homes and community events. Formed five years ago, the group has even been known to perform the occasional clog dance.

For further information phone: 9454 6879

Multicultural Ambassadors Awards

The inaugural Multicultural Ambassador Award and Youth Ambassador Award, presented on 22 March as part of Harmony Day celebrations, were awarded to three inspirational Western Australians in recognition of their efforts in serving and developing multiculturalism in Western Australia. Here we meet the winners.



Aisha came to Australia from Indonesia when she was just six weeks old and when barely five her father passed away, leaving a wife and four young girls to fend for themselves in the remote opal-mining town of Coober Pedy.

Aisha Novakovich – Breaking the Barriers

The family moved to Adelaide, relocating often over a short period due to increasing financial pressures. Aisha and her family were placed in separate foster homes to help overcome their hardship. In 1992 the family was reunited and moved to Perth.

Aisha excelled academically, graduating from the Australian Islamic College as Dux in 2000. In the same year she scored the highest mark in her Beliefs and Values Tertiary Entrance Exam, and was awarded the Leadership Scholarship by the University of Western Australia.

Aisha is involved in Police Cadet Training and was a speaker at the 2000 Palestinian Peace Rally. She continues to

work enthusiastically in the wider community and is a valued volunteer member of the Youth Sub-Committee of Muslim Women Support Centre where she leads the editorial committee for the organisation's bi-monthly newsletter.

She is also the Muslim and Youth representative of the State Government's newly formed Anti-Racism Strategy Steering Committee, which is a role she is well equipped to serve.

In her 'spare time' Aisha assists with the production of a weekly community television program, 'Breaking Barriers', which brings awareness of the Muslim culture to the wider community.

Frank Chulung – Helping Create a New Future for Indigenous People

Frank Chulung has spent most of his life fighting for land rights, social justice and the improvement of health conditions for Aboriginal people. He was awarded the Multicultural Ambassador Award for his work in improving the conditions and quality of life for Indigenous Australians.

Born and bred in the East Kimberley, Frank set about creating organisations to preserve Aboriginal law, customs and language for future generations. He helped establish such important initiatives as the Aboriginal Homeland Communities, Kimberley Law and Culture and Kimberley Language Centre. He

established the Ngnowar Aerwah Rehabilitation Centre, which today runs 13-week alcohol rehabilitation programs. Frank has also been involved in the establishment of the Aboriginal Medical Service in Halls Creek, youth centres and women's refuge centres.

In the late 1970s he served as Chairperson of the Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation and in the early 1980s was the first Chairman of the Kimberley Land Council and an Executive Member for 14 years. He also served as the East Kimberley representative on both the State Aboriginal Advisory Council and the National Aboriginal Conference (NAC), the body that preceded ATSIC. Frank was appointed ATSIC Regional Councillor for three terms – a period of nine years.





Edie Hoy Poy OAM – Chinese Connections and Reflections

Mrs Edie Hoy Poy was only ten years old when she started helping her old Chinese neighbours to write letters in English. What began as a helping hand at school soon turned into a lifetime commitment to improve the lives of non-English speaking people and, at 75 years of age, she is still fulfilling that passion.

She is the Chung Wah Association's first lifetime member and has also held positions on the Council on Ageing and was on the Office of Seniors Interests' Advisory Committee from 1988 to 1991. In 1988 she was awarded an Order of Australian Medal for services to the Chinese community.

Born in Western Australia, Edie Hoy Poy says she has seen the hard times that migrants went through from the 1940s to the 1970s during what she calls the 'discrimination times' and that multiculturalism has done great things for Western Australia.

"People of all nationalities are now being accepted into the community," she said.

Edie was selected as ambassador for the United Nation's International Year of the Older Person in 1999.

WACA and DIMIA invite you to get involved

The Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) and Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) are holding a Harmony Day event at the WACA on 6 November 2002 during an ING day/night match between Western Australia and South Australia.

As well as the exciting cricket a host of other wonderful events will be happening on that day. Descendants of the original Aboriginal New Norcia Cricket Team will reform the historic team who walked from New Norcia in the 1880s to play cricket against other teams in Perth. They will walk on to the WACA prior to the WA and SA match followed by school children from many different cultural backgrounds dressed in traditional costume. There will be a welcome by the Captain of the New Norcia cricket team as well as involvement from famous cricketers such as Dennis Lillee.

During the meal break there will be entertainment in the form of music and dance, followed by the remainder of the match. There will be lots of food stalls and the historical WACA Museum will be open during the entire match.

For more information contact Tracy Maitland, WACA Harmony Day Project Manager on 9265 7318, or email tracy.maitland@waca.com.au



TOP ABORIGINAL PERFORMER: A Cultural Ambassador For Indigenous Harmony

Aboriginal playwright and musician, David Milroy, is an international performer with a commitment to eliminating racism in Western Australia. He is one of 15 Western Australians appointed to the State's Anti-Racism Strategy Steering Committee.

"There is a real complacency about racism issues and they need to be brought to the forefront," David said.

Born and raised in Perth with strong family links with the Injibarndi and Palku people of the Pilbara, David's opportunity to create a harmonious link between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people is a passion close to his heart.

Some of David's achievements include: being the first coordinator of Dumbartung Aboriginal Artist Advisory Board; co-establishing the Prisoners' Art Fund; tutoring at Abmusic; writing music for *Blackfellas*, *Exile and the Kingdom*, the radio theme for ABC National's *Speaking Out* program; and being Artistic Director of the Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre.



THE INAUGURAL MUSLIM AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS CONFERENCE IS BEING HELD AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 1.

The conference will provide a useful forum for West Australian Muslims to identify and define their community, develop practical strategies to address the issues facing them, encourage active citizenship and raise awareness of the resources that are available to them within the Muslim and broader communities. For further information telephone: 9276 4511.

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ON AGEING'S 6TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE MATURITY MATTERS

is being held at Burswood 27 – 30 October 2002. Three days of informative discussion on issues relating to maturity matters will be lead by world- renowned environmentalist, geneticist and civil rights activist, Dr David Suzuki. Topics will include social justice, equity and change, independence, care and support, positive ageing, indigenous matters, to name a few. With two-fifths of WA's seniors born overseas, and with WA one of the most culturally diverse societies in the world, the Office of Multicultural Interests proudly supports this conference. For further information telephone: 9220 1104 or email nicl@dcd.wa.gov.au

THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS (AUSIT)

invites you to expand your horizons by attending its fifteenth National Annual General Meeting, Conference and Jill Blewett Memorial Lecture. The Conference theme is "Strength in Diversity" To be held at Central TAFE in Perth, Western Australia, during the weekend 25-27 October 2002. There will be pre- and post- conference activities focused on translator and interpreter practitioner issues. Additional costs apply to activities surrounding the Conference. For further information contact: Mary Gurgone: email: gurgone@iinet.net.au OR the AUSIT National Office: national@ausit.org – Tel: 1800 284 181

■ **The Eleventh International Women in Leadership Conference**, hosted by Edith Cowan University, is being held in late November. To find out more visit www.ecu.edu.au/conferences/wil

■ **Adult Learners Week** is being held 2-8 September. The week is a national celebration and promotion of all forms of adult learning and includes the WA 2002 Adult Learners Week Awards. A new award, Outstanding Learner-New Migrant, is being sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Interests. This award will recognise the achievements of a new migrant from a non-English speaking background. To find out more telephone 9235 6348 or email: alw2002@training.wa.gov.au

■ **AUSTCARE Refugee Week** will be held from 5th – 13th October 2002. Activities this year will include a sports day; English workshops; soccer carnival for people of refugee background; cultural food fests and celebrations; training sessions for people working with refugees; public dinners, and information sessions for people who want to know more about the situation of refugees and how to become actively involved. Community, ethnic groups and government organisations are invited to participate – please contact Caro Nye at the WA AUSTCARE office on 9325 9330 or email: waoffice@austcare.org.au

■ **Women's Refuge Group of WA Conference 2002**, 'Voices of the Past, Visions of the Future', is being held 29-31 October 2002. The inaugural conference aims to generate meaningful debate in exploring and seeking solutions to reduce family and domestic violence against women and children. For more information telephone 9382 3799.

■ Multicultural Business Workshop Series

'Developing Opportunities Through Cultural Diversity' August 22 or October 24 – 6 to 8pm Belmont BEC Training Centre, 313 Abernethy Road, Belmont. The series will explore a range of issues including:

- Starting home-based business Muslim Women;
- Australian business etiquette;
- Understanding Aboriginal Culture; and
- Developing opportunities through cultural diversity.

Cost: \$22.00 (includes information kit and refreshments).

For further information please contact Carol Hanlon or Jayne Willesee on 9479 3777 Email: workshops@bbec.asn.au or visit www.bbec.asn.au

ONLINE WA MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Ethnic communities and not-for-profit community organisations have the chance to get online with their own websites as part of the **Online WA Multicultural Communities** (OWAMC) gateway. The OWAMC project is an initiative of the Office of Multicultural Interests and the Ethnic Communities Council of WA. The project gives groups

the opportunity to learn about building and administering their own websites. The site includes bulletin board, chat facilities, a calendar of events and an Online Stories facility.

For further information contact OMI on 9426 8690 or visit

www.multicultural.online.wa.gov.au