

General Purpose Standing Committee No 1

Inquiry into Multiculturalism

Final Report

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How to contact the committee

Members of the General Purpose Standing Committee No 1 can be contacted through the Committee Secretariat. Written correspondence and enquiries should be directed to:

The Director

General Purpose Standing Committee No 1

Legislative Council

Parliament House, Macquarie Street

Sydney New South Wales 2000

Internet www.parliament.nsw.gov.au

Email gpscno1@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Telephone (02) 9230 3544

Facsimile (02) 9230 3416

Terms of Reference

That General Purpose Standing Committee No 1 inquire and report on multiculturalism in NSW and in particular:

1. The impact of the Government's *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Bill 1999* on:
 - (a) multiculturalism in New South Wales;
 - (b) the efficacy of Government Departments and Agencies performance in accordance with the Ethnic Affairs Policy Statements (EAPS) and strategies for improvement in relation to EAPS;
 - (c) the adequacy and efficacy of multicultural services in the public, private and community sectors to address the needs of people from non-English speaking backgrounds.
2.
 - (a) the needs and aspirations of artists and communities of non-English speaking backgrounds and possible strategies to meet those needs and aspirations;
 - (b) the appropriateness and efficiency of government administrative processes and procedures and funding, for the further improvement of multicultural arts in New South Wales;
 - (c) the circumstances surrounding the proposed de-funding of the Multicultural Arts Alliance; and
 - (d) the future of multicultural arts as a significant part of the policy of multiculturalism in New South Wales.
3.
 - (a) the role of Carnivale in promoting contemporary multicultural arts practice;
 - (b) the funding of Carnivale, including direct Government funding; and
 - (c) the role of the Board of Carnivale and measures adopted by the Board to independently manage and deliver on its objectives to the community.

These terms of reference were adopted by the Committee on the motion of Hon James Samios MLC at a meeting of the Committee held on 2 February 2000.

Committee Membership

The Rev the Hon Fred Nile MLC, **Christian Democratic Party, Chairman**

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC, **Australian Labor Party, Deputy Chairman**

The Hon Doug Moppett MLC, **National Party**¹

The Hon Peter Primrose MLC, **Australian Labor Party**

The Hon James Samios MLC, **Liberal Party**²

The Hon Henry Tsang MLC, **Australian Labor Party**

The Hon Dr Peter Wong MLC, **Unity Party**

¹ The Hon Doug Moppett MLC represented the Hon Don Harwin MLC for the purposes of this inquiry.

² The Hon James Samios MLC represented the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC for the purposes of this inquiry.

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Chairman's Foreword

On behalf of the General Purpose Standing Committee No 1 I present this final report of our inquiry into multiculturalism.

Our first detailed report dealt with the important question of the impact of the Government's Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Bill.

I am pleased the Parliament accepted our recommendations and the Community Relations Commission was formally established on 13 March 2001 at a special ceremony at Government House, Sydney.

Our remaining terms of reference, parts 2 and 3 covered some other matters related to multicultural arts.

These matters have now, in the main, been superseded by the passing of the *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000*. The new look Commission is just starting its work, and we feel its promotion and funding of cultural matters could be reviewed, if necessary, at some future date. Our Committee has concluded this inquiry with this final report.

The Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC

Chairman

Chapter 1 Report

1.1 This is the final report for the inquiry by the NSW Legislative Council's General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1 into multiculturalism. On 31 May 2000, the Committee tabled an interim report, *Inquiry into Multiculturalism* dealing with part one of the terms of reference. The full terms of reference are set out on page iv. This final report deals with parts 2 and 3 of the terms of reference, namely:

2.
 - a) The needs and aspirations of artists and communities of non-English speaking backgrounds and possible strategies to meet those needs and aspirations;
 - b) the appropriateness and efficiency of government administrative processes and procedures and funding, for the further improvement of multicultural arts in New South Wales;
 - c) the circumstances surrounding the proposed de-funding of the Multicultural Arts Alliance; and
 - d) the future of multicultural arts as a significant part of the policy of multiculturalism in New South Wales.
3.
 - a) the role of Carnivale in promoting contemporary multicultural arts practice;
 - b) the funding of Carnivale, including direct Government funding; and
 - c) the role of the Board of Carnivale and measures adopted by the Board to independently manage and deliver on its objectives to the community.

1.2 The Committee received 96 submissions and six supplementary submissions (see Appendix 1 for the complete list of submissions.) Of the 96 submissions, a total of 43 submissions from individuals and organisations directly addressed various aspects of parts 2 and 3 of the terms of reference (see Appendix 2 for the list of submissions addressing parts 2 and 3 of the terms of reference).

1.3 In general terms, the submissions were very supportive of the significant role of multicultural arts in New South Wales. Many individuals and organisations pointed to the importance of Carnivale in the promotion and support of ethnic communities and artists in the organisation and delivery of cultural events. A number of submissions, primarily from individuals, supported the Multicultural Arts Alliance (MAA) and the assistance provided by this organisation to non-English Speaking Background (NESB) artists and communities. The Committee greatly appreciates the effort taken by individuals and organisations in providing submissions to the inquiry.

1.4 It is the Committee's view, however, that the issues raised by parts 2 and 3 of the terms of reference, and in particular the circumstances surrounding the funding of the Multicultural Arts Alliance, and the role of Carnivale, have, in the main, now been superseded by the recent passing through both Houses of Parliament of the *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000*.

- 1.5** The Committee is of the view that the newly established Community Relations Commission (CRC), which replaced the Ethnic Affairs Commission on 13 March 2001, must be given the opportunity to perform its duties in relation to the promotion and support of multiculturalism in New South Wales. The Commission should be given the chance to operate within the new framework of community relationships. The Committee is concerned that a public inquiry process in relation to the matters set out in parts 2 and 3 of the terms of reference would serve little useful purpose and could, in fact, be an unnecessary distraction for the new Commission at this critical stage in its development. The Committee encourages the CRC to continue to play a major role in the development of policy and the delivery of services in all areas of government, including the promotion of cultural diversity through the arts.

Appendix 1

List of Submissions

1. TAI, Mr Kek^{*3}
2. PONG, Mrs Angela (Chinese Elderly Welfare Association Inc)*
3. PANG, Mr Eric (Australian Pan-Yu Association Inc)*
4. ELEFThERIADES, Mr George (Australian Hellenes & Europe Nexus)*
5. TAI, Mr K*
6. YA, Mrs Tek Heang (Cambodian-Australian Welfare Council of NSW Inc)*
7. LO, Mrs Virginia (Evergreen Elderly Centre Trust)*
8. ESBER, Mr Fouad Abi (Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW – Youth)*
9. HAROU-SOURDON, Mr Bernard
10. CRONIN, Mr Alan
11. KAHLA, Jay (Macarthur Migrant Resource Centre)*
12. KEMP, Mr Paul
13. BERAM, Mr Tom (Croatian Intercommittee Council for NSW)*
14. OOI, Dr Cary*
15. EMERTON, Mr Neil
16. SQUIRES, Ms Tien (Inner & Eastern Sydney Migrant Interagency)*
17. JAKUBOWICZ, Dr Andrew (University of Technology, Sydney)*
18. CIDADE, Ms Beatriz (Fairfield Migrant Interagency)*
19. MILLER, Ms Eliana Freydel
20. BABIC, Filipa*
21. ANG, Dr Thiam (Chinese Australian Forum)*
22. MISKIN, Rohani
23. HART, Mr Robert
24. CHAN, Mr Henry (Migrant Resource Centre of Newcastle & the Hunter Region Ltd)*

³ * denotes the submissions the Committee made public. For more information, see Minutes No. 32, in *Inquiry into Multiculturalism. Interim Report*, Report 9, May 2000, p.142

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25. MAYMAN, Mr Peter
26. McILVENNY, Ms Kerri (Community Arts Association)
27. ARMIDA, Croccolo
28. ALBORE, Stefano
29. HENNESSY, Mr John (NSW Teachers Federation)*
30. SALAMATBAKHSH, Balash
31. FONSEKA, Rajanie
32. YUE, Mr Kit (St James' Anglican Church Chinese Congregation)*
33. NGO, Mr Dacco (Australian Chinese Buddhist Society Inc)*
34. DONNELLY, Mr Robert (Australia-China Business Association Pty Ltd)*
35. CYRIL
36. FERGUSON, Mr Andrew (Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union)
37. CAGGEGI, Ms Carmel (Local Government Community Services Association Inc)*
38. DIEC, Mr Sam (International Chinese Poem Association)*
39. DILLEY, Mr Rob (Ethnic Communities' Council – Newcastle & Hunter Region Inc)*
40. CONFIDENTIAL
41. ROACH, Mr Neville (Council for Multicultural Australia)*
42. CARR, Mr Bob (Premier, Minister for the Arts & Minister for Citizenship)*
43. HAY, Ms Athena (Council on the Ageing)*
44. JACOBS, Mr Alan (Unity Party, The)*
45. CHUNG, Ms Catherine (Committee for Community Relations Commission & Principles of Multiculturalism Bill 1999)*
46. MASSELOS, Ms Paula (Carnivale Ltd)
47. KERKYASHARIAN, Mr Stepan (Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW)*
48. FIELD, Ms Amanda (Illawarra Ethnic Communities' Council Inc)
49. CHUA, Dr Ka Sing*
50. BAXTER, Mr Don (Australia Council for the Arts, The)*

51. MALARA, Mr Roberto (Blacktown Migrant Resource Centre)*
52. HARRIS, Usha Sundar
53. TAI, Mr Soong*
54. KOUTSOUNADIS, Ms Vivi (Greek Orthodox Community of NSW Ltd)*
55. BENJAMIN, Mr Susai*
56. TONGSUMRITH, Dr Somchai*
57. HUYNH, Mr Hoc Ku*
58. GERMANOS-KOUTSOUNADIS, Ms Vivi (Ethnic Child Care, Family & Community Services Co-Operative Limited)*
59. JOHNSTON, Ms Annette*
60. VINNICOMBE, Mr Bob
61. KIMBERLEY, Mr Gareth
62. MAK, Mr Bun (Sydney West Elderly Welfare Association Inc)*
63. CLIFT, Mr Colin
64. HUANG, Mr Zhao Bang (Australia Guangzhou Association Inc)*
65. KUANG, Mr Ben (Benco Trading Pty Ltd)*
66. HUANG, Mr Bill (Chinese Migrant Welfare Association)*
67. WONG, Mr Victor (Australia Hokkien Huaykuan Senior Citizen Branch, The)*
68. KAPANTZIAN, Mr Arthur*
69. FONG, Dr Cecilia (Elderly Australian Chinese Homes (NSW) Co-Operative Ltd)*
70. DONOVAN, Mr Scott
71. MANSOUR, Mr Morris (Inner West Migrant Resource Centre)*
72. BELLAMY, E W
73. BAHARI, Ms Myriam (NESB Youth Issues Network – Youth Action & Policy Association)*
74. GOTSIS, Mr Dimitri*
75. GOTSIS, Ms Anne*
76. GOTSIS, Ms Nina*
77. GOTSIS, Mr Trakii*

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78. GOTSIS, Mr Nicholas*
79. GOTSIS, Ms Eleni*
80. WINTER, Ms Barbel (Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW)*
81. ABOOD, Ms Paula*
82. HONG, Mr Chuck*
83. NICOLAOU, Mr Paul (Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW Inc)*
84. DART, A
85. NGUYEN, Than (Vietnamese Community in Australia – NSW Chapter Inc)*
86. NAHLOUS, Ms Lena (Information & Cultural Exchange Inc and Fairfield Community Resource Centre)*
87. RANDALL-MOHK, Nola (Australian & Khmer Consultancy Service)*
88. TAI, Mr Kek (Minto Chinese School)*
89. KHOO, Mr Charles*
90. COPE, Dr Bill (RMIT University – Centre for Workplace Communication & Culture)*
91. NGO, Cr Thang (Fairfield City Council)*
92. JEGOROW, Mr Bill*
93. SALEM, Amir*
94. OUDOMVILAY, Ms Mimi (Lao Community Advancement NSW Co-Op Ltd)
95. TOTARO, Dr Paolo
96. LEMBANOVA-MAKEDONSKA, Ms Jana

Appendix 2

List of submissions addressing parts 2 and 3 of the terms of reference

This list includes only those submissions dealing directly with parts 2 and 3 of the terms of reference.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Submission No. 1 | Mr Kek Tai |
| Submission No. 4 | Mr George Eleftheriades, Australian Hellenes & Europe Nexus |
| Submission No. 8 | Mr Fouad Abi Esber, Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW - Youth |
| Submission No. 9 | Mr Bernard C. Harou-Sourdon |
| Submission No. 11 | Jay Kahla, Macarthur Migrant Resource Centre (MMRC), Campbelltown |
| Submission No. 13 | Mr Tom Beram, Croatian Intercommittee Council for NSW |
| Submission No. 14 | Dr Cary Ooi |
| Submission No. 17 | Dr Andrew Jakubowicz, University of Technology, Sydney |
| Submission No. 20 | Filipa Babic |
| Submission No. 21 | Dr Thiam Ang, Chinese Australian Forum |
| Submission No. 22 | Rohani Miskin |
| Submission No. 23 | Mr Robert Hart |
| Submission No. 26 | Ms Kerri McIlvenny, NSW Community Arts Association |
| Submission No. 27 | Croccolo Armida |
| Submission No. 28 | Stefano Albore |
| Submission No. 30 | Balash Salamatbakhsh |
| Submission No. 31 | Rajanie Fonseka |
| Submission No. 36 | Mr Andrew Ferguson, Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union |
| Submission No. 38 | Mr Sam Diec, International Chinese Poem Association |
| Submission No. 39 | Mr Rob Dille, Ethnic Communities' Council, Newcastle & Hunter Region Inc |
| Submission No. 40 | Confidential |
| Submission No. 41 | Mr Neville Roach, Council for Multicultural Australia |
| Submission No. 42 | Mr Bob Carr, Premier, Minister for the Arts & Minister for Citizenship |
| Submission No. 46 | Ms Paula Masselos, Carnivale Ltd |
| Submission No. 48 | Ms Amanda Field, Illawarra Ethnic Communities' Council Inc |
| Submission No. 50 | Mr Don Baxter, Australia Council for the Arts |
| Submission No. 51 | Mr Roberto Malara, Blacktown Migrant Resource Centre |
| Submission No. 52 | Usha Sundar Harris |
| Submission No. 54 | Ms Vivi Koutsounadis, Greek Orthodox Community of NSW Ltd |
| Submission No. 58 | Ms Vivi Germanos-Koutsounadis, Ethnic Child Care, Family & Community Services Co-Operative Ltd |
| Submission No. 59 | Ms Annette Johnston |
| Submission No. 71 | Mr Morris Mansour, Inner West Migrant Resource Centre |
| Submission No. 73 | Ms Myriam Bahari, NESB Youth Issues Network – Youth Action & Policy Association |
| Submission No. 74 | Mr Dimitri Gotsis |
| Submission No. 75 | Ms Anne Gotsis |
| Submission No. 76 | Ms Nina Gotsis |
| Submission No. 77 | Mr Trakii Gotsis |
| Submission No. 78 | Mr Nicholas Gotsis |
| Submission No. 79 | Ms Eleni Gotsis |
| Submission No. 81 | Ms Paula Abood |
| Submission No. 83 | Mr Paul Nicolaou, Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW Inc |
| Submission No. 85 | Than Nguyen, Vietnamese Community in Australia – NSW Chapter Inc |
| Submission No. 86 | Ms Lena Nahlous, Information & Cultural Exchange Inc and Fairfield Community Resource Centre |

Appendix 3

Proceedings of the Committee

Minutes No. 50

Thursday 8 March 2001
At Parliament House, at 2.15pm

1. Members Present

Revd Nile (in the Chair)
Mr Kelly
Mr Moppett
Mr Primrose
Mr Tsang
Mr Samios
Dr Wong

2. Apologies

Nil

3. Confirmation of minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Dr Wong: That the minutes of meeting No. 49 be confirmed.

3. Inquiry into Multiculturalism

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, on the motion of Dr Wong: That, after consideration of the issues raised in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference and a review of the submissions, that the Committee is of the view that the inquiry is now complete and that a brief report be prepared for the House outlining the reasons for the decision.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2.30pm, *sine die*.

Julie Langsworth
Senior Project Officer

Minutes No. 51
Wednesday 11 April 2001
At Parliament House, at 10.00am

1. Members Present

Revd Nile (in the Chair)
Mr Moppett
Mr Primrose
Mr Tsang
Mr Samios
Dr Wong

2. Apologies

Mr Kelly

3. Confirmation of minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Dr Wong: That the minutes of meeting No. 50 be confirmed.

4. Inquiry into Multiculturalism

The Chairman submitted his draft report, entitled Inquiry into Multiculturalism Final Report, which having been circulated to each Member of the Committee, was accepted as being read.

The Committee considered the draft report.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Samios that the first sentence of paragraph 1.5 be amended by deleting the word “strongly”.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Tsang that paragraph 1.5 be amended by replacing the words “The Committee is confident that the CRC will continue” with “The Committee encourages the CRC to continue”.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Tsang, that the report, as amended, be the report of the Committee.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Samios that the documents provided to the Committee, upon the Committee’s request of 10 May 2000, in the possession, custody or power of the Premier’s Department, the Cabinet Office or the Ethnic Affairs Commission, in relation to the document ‘The Way Forward: A Consultation Document Leading to a Community Relations Commission’, together with submissions received and transcripts of evidence be tabled with the report.

Resolved, on the motion of Dr Wong, that both the interim report and the final report for the Inquiry into Multiculturalism be distributed to all organisations and individuals who provided evidence to the Committee in submissions or as witnesses, as well as to any other relevant organisations and individuals.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.10am, *sine die*.

Julie Langsworth
Senior Project Officer