



HARMONY TIMES

Harmony Day's official newsletter



Community relations funding announced

Expressions of interest

Expressions of Interest are now open for community relations funding for 2008.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson, has announced that \$1.5 million of community relations funding is available to help incorporated non-profit organisations promote respect, fairness, inclusion and a sense of belonging for everyone.

For the first time, this year's budget includes some \$100 000 to assist smaller organisations that may not be able to commit to major projects.

Under this new arrangement, amounts of up to \$5000 will be available for smaller and less complex projects. Major projects will be allocated funding of between \$5000 and \$50 000.

Funding objectives are to promote:

- the importance of respecting difference
- the fair treatment of all Australians
- opportunities to participate in the rights and responsibilities of Australian society
- a sense of belonging for everyone and
- an understanding and acceptance of Australia's changing demographics

Projects should promote these objectives to everyone in their local community or government area.

Funding Priorities

In 2008, the Department is particularly interested in projects that address any of the following priority areas:

- Children and young people
- New and emerging communities
- Integration and community based activities
- Indigenous people

Projects that address other community relations issues consistent with the objectives of the program or adopt other approaches will also be considered.

Groups such as school and other communities, not-for-profit organisations, service clubs, sporting bodies, youth organisations, local government authorities, universities and colleges are invited to submit project proposals.

Application process

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the 2008 'Community Relations Projects' guidelines before applying. The guidelines contain detailed information about the selection criteria, program objectives and the priorities for 2008.

The guidelines and application form are available at www.harmony.gov.au.

Closing date

Applications must be lodged with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship by 6pm Eastern Standard Time, **23 May 2008**.

For more information contact the Funded Community Projects team on 1800 780 002.

SBS Peace Song Tapestries cutting-edge success

Peace Song Tapestries is a key initiative between the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and SBS Radio.

Peace Song Tapestries provides an excellent opportunity for young people from different backgrounds and walks of life to work together to discover new ways for peace through the power of music.

The project also employs the cutting-edge Peace Songs website to offer young Australians the opportunity to compose music and lyrics by utilising an extensive sound bank and other free software. The compositions reflect the themes of racial tolerance, respect, rights and creating social harmony.

The enthusiasm generated by this project was harnessed by the SBS Youth Orchestra with a concert held in Sydney to celebrate Harmony Day on 20 March. The concert showcased a selection of musical compositions created through the project, celebrating the success of the Peace Song Tapestries' project and its ability to reach young people.

Accompanied by the SBS Youth Orchestra, young artists presented their original works, which featured live performances and short music films over a wide genre of music styles including rap, jazz, classical, world, rock, hip hop, new swing, folk song traditions and a cappella.

Young people can participate in the project by logging onto:
<http://www.peacesongs.info/>

Launch of the Macquarie University website - StepOne

The *StepOne* Macquarie University website was officially launched by the Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson, in Sydney on 28 March 2008.

The *StepOne* website was the result of a Living in Harmony partnership between the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion, Macquarie University.

StepOne provides guidance and practical resources to councils and community groups interested in implementing community harmony initiatives in their local areas. The site features downloadable 'best practice' case studies covering a range of activities which reduce racism, intolerance and negative stereotypes, and build positive and sustainable relationships between communities.

For more information visit:
<http://www.stepone.org.au/>

High school students examine stereotyping

A film made by students from Sydney's Strathfield South and Windsor High Schools on the subjects of multiculturalism, stereotyping and racism will soon be distributed to secondary schools nationally by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Written and directed by the students, the '*We are all Australian*' film examines stereotypes with particular emphasis on how Muslims, Lebanese and Asian groups are represented particularly by the media and others.

The film, funded under a Living in Harmony project that began in late 2006, shows young Australians of predominantly Lebanese and Asian backgrounds from Strathfield South High School getting to know students of Anglo-Celtic backgrounds from Windsor High School, with a great deal of frankness and humour evident in the interaction between the students.

The DVD also has commentary from prominent community representatives, including Dr Jamal Rifi, Fadhi Abdul Rahman, Councillor Keith Kwon, actor Ivan Clarke, university academics, teachers and the Strathfield South High School principal, Peter Valenti.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson, launched the DVD at Strathfield South High School in February 2008.

The film is accompanied by a teaching resource kit containing a series of structured activity questions that are based on subjects in the film including racism, stereotyping, discrimination and religion.

Queries can be directed to the Funded Community Projects team on 1800 780 002.