



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**The Hon Andrew Robb AO MP**

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Immigration  
and Multicultural Affairs

**015/06**

**Monday, 20 March**

### **Canberrans of all ages embrace Harmony Day**

Canberrans will enthusiastically celebrate Harmony Day tomorrow with 150 events taking place across the territory, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Andrew Robb, said today.

Events on Harmony Day, on Tuesday, March 21, will vary from students at Gunghalin's Good Shepherd Primary School creating a Harmony Day smile on the school quadrangle to tots at the Magic Tree House, Braddon, enjoying multicultural activities.

Just over the border, the Queanbeyan City Council will host a Harmony Day concert and fashion parade at the Queanbeyan Conference Centre later in the week on March 25.

Mr Robb said Harmony Day was a time to focus on the values that unite Australians rather than on the distractions that so often grabbed newspaper headlines.

"It is a day to celebrate the many steps Australia has taken to free itself from discrimination and racial hatred, but also a day to reflect on the challenges that remain and to renew our commitment to overcoming them," Mr Robb said.

"These values include respect for the rights of the individual, tolerance of differences, a commitment to the country's laws, the equality of men and women and the 'fair go' attitude that is about acceptance, fair play and compassion for those in need.

"These values have served us well and have helped us to successfully settle more than 6.1 million people from some 200 countries since 1945.

"By coming to Australia people commit to Australian values and in return Australia makes a commitment to help people by providing, among other things, educational opportunities that lead to employment so they have a stake in the country's future."

Now in its eighth year, Harmony Day has become Australia's most significant multicultural event and falls on the same day as the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

More than 300 000 Australians of all backgrounds and beliefs will celebrate Harmony Day at 5000 events across the nation.

"I encourage all Australians to join in the Harmony Day festivities and build on our achievements as a prosperous and peaceful nation," Mr Robb said.

For more information of Harmony Day go to [www.harmony.gov.au](http://www.harmony.gov.au)

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