



## The Launch of the Diverse Australia Program

On the 28 January 2009, the Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, Mr Laurie Ferguson MP released the outcomes of the Living in Harmony program review and launched the new Diverse Australia Program in the company of 120 people at the Fairfield Community Hall in Sydney.

The key elements of the new program include: the introduction of a small grants scheme; the strengthening of the grants component that enables the Government to proactively respond to emerging issues; the merging of the former Living in Harmony and National Action Plan funding rounds; the new branding of the Diverse Australia Program with its tagline – Everyone Belongs; and the continuation of the program's national day of celebration, Harmony Day, on March 21.

In addition, Mr Ferguson also launched a youth based DIAC community project “A Diverse Bridge of Understanding”, administered by the NSW Spanish and Latin American Association for Social Assistance Inc (SLASA), Fairfield, Sydney.

This community and government event included guest speaker Mr Nick Lalich, Fairfield City Mayor and Jesica Varela-Perez, the Coordinator of the project “A Diverse Bridge of Understanding”, SLASA.

The launch embraced the spirit of diversity with a selection of African and Spanish food, entertainment provided by a Latin singer, Cambodian Dance Group and an African Drumming and Dance troupe.



(L-R Jesica Varela-Perez, Mr Laurie Ferguson MP and Fairfield City Mayor Mr Nick Lalich)

## Harmony Day March 21

Join thousands of people around Australia and celebrate our cultural diversity this year on Harmony Day.

These events are uniting people across Australia and are becoming activities that help bring us together



as a country- particularly in times of tragedy like we have recently experienced.

So please join us in spreading the message that in this great country, 'Everyone Belongs'.

For more information on Harmony Day 2009, and how you can participate, visit the website: [www.harmony.gov.au](http://www.harmony.gov.au)

### Celebrate your school's diversity

Harmony Day has a new image and your school is invited to bring it to life. Use our new design as a basis to create your own artwork depicting the diversity at your school. Share your art project with the Harmony Team at the Department of Immigration and Citizenship: email us at [harmonyday@immi.gov.au](mailto:harmonyday@immi.gov.au) with a photograph of your artwork, tell us how you created it and include some details about your school.

### A Taste of Harmony

A Taste of Harmony is an inaugural event run by The Scanlon Foundation, which will take place during the week of 16 March - 22 March 2009. The week coincides with National Harmony Day, which is held on 21 March.

For more information visit [www.tasteofharmony.org.au](http://www.tasteofharmony.org.au) or call 1800 077 067

### Diverse Australia Program Grants

The Islamic College of South Australia (ICSA) is the largest Muslim school in South Australia. The school is continually looking for opportunities for its students to connect with non Muslim students.

ICSA recently received a \$30 000 Diverse Australia Program grant to bring together students, teachers and staff from other schools to learn from each other and to strengthen their relationships.

The project hopes to involve up to 100 students from ICSA, Nazareth Catholic College and the Adelaide Secondary School of English in a seafaring experience. Students from the three schools will jointly crew the Port Adelaide-based sailing ship "One and All" and as they perform all the shipboard tasks involved in sailing a tall ship they will have the chance to learn more about each others' cultures and backgrounds. For further information and guidelines on our community grants and how to apply visit our website [www.harmony.gov.au](http://www.harmony.gov.au)

