



Harmony Day

This year, more than 1.5 million people took part in Harmony Day events across Australia, the largest number ever to participate.

The Harmony Day team distributed over 3.5 million free promotional products across Australia. The new product range included posters, badges, fridge magnets and stickers. Harmony Day 2009 coincided with 60 years of Australian citizenship, a unifying force behind our varied ethnic, religious and linguistic heritage.











The Harmony Day team would like to thank the thousands of schools, community groups and businesses who organised Harmony Day activities. Thanks also to the many thousands of Australians who supported these events through their attendance and participation.



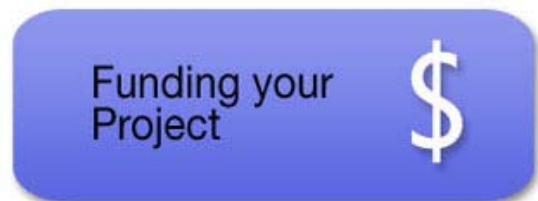
Harmony Day 2009 Cake

Our major supporters

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support of Harmony Day 2009.

-  Australian Football League (AFL)
-  Cricket Australia
-  Guides Australia
-  HMA Blaze
-  RailCorp (NSW)
-  Scouts Australia
-  Spots and Space
-  Unisys Australia
-  Universal McCann
-  Woolworths

We look forward to your continued support in 2010.



**Grants funding is now open
 see page 3 for details**



The Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition celebrates Harmony Day

On Friday 20 March, the Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson, launched the Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition (VIRWC) Victorian Women's Link project. The project is a community relations initiative funded by the Diverse Australia Program. The launch was held during Harmony Day week and attended by more than 100 people at the Multicultural Hub in Melbourne, Victoria.

Mr Ferguson and the Chief Patron of the VIRWC, Mrs Jan de Kretser, entered the function accompanied by a group of Cook Islander women performing a welcoming song.

A documentary video entitled, 'BYO – A Recipe for Community Harmony' was shown to spread the message of tolerance, justice and diversity. Guests were also treated to colourful performances including by the 'Karen Done Dance Background Music Group'.



'Karen Done Dance Background Music Group' from Australian Karen Organisation (AKO).

International Organization for Migration - PLURAL + Youth Video Competition

The **PLURAL +** video competition is aimed at involving youth from around the world in addressing questions on migrant integration, inclusiveness, identity, diversity, human rights and social cohesiveness.

For full details on **PLURAL +** please go to: www.unaoc.org or www.iom.int.

Mount Druitt Embraces Diversity Community Festival

On Saturday 28 March over 800 people attended the Mt Druitt *Embraces Diversity Community Festival* in Sydney's west.

A part of this year's Harmony Day celebrations, the festival marks the beginning of a project managed by the Mt Druitt Ethnic Communities Agency and funded through the Diverse Australia Program.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson was the key note speaker at the festival and entertainment was provided by an African United Peer Support Group, Cook Islands dancers, flamenco dancers, Thuly Dreamers, Indian performers, the Awil Community performance and a puppet performance.

Mt Druitt has a population of newly arrived migrants and refugees from many countries and the festival was

an opportunity to foster a sense of belonging and understanding.



Community grants funding

Expressions of interest are now invited for the 2009 Diverse Australia Program and National Action Plan to Build on Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security grants funding round.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson, announced that \$2 million is available for community grants funding. Funding is to help incorporated not-for-profit organisations to promote respect, fairness, inclusion and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Grants details:
Up to **\$5000** is available for smaller projects and **\$5000 - \$50 000** for major projects.

Funding objectives are to promote:

- the importance of respecting difference
- the fair treatment of all Australians
- opportunities to participate in Australia's economic and social life
- a sense of belonging for everyone and
- the benefits of living in a culturally diverse society

Applications for project funding should focus on these objectives.

Funding priorities

In 2009, the department is interested in applications for funding which address any of the following priority areas:

- children and families
- youth
- new and emerging communities
- Muslim Australians
- Indigenous Australians
- integration and community based activities

Projects that address other community issues and are consistent with the objectives of the program will also be considered.

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

Application process

Applicants are encouraged to read the 2009 Guidelines for Community Grants before applying. The guidelines contain detailed information about the selection criteria, program objectives and the priorities.

For more information, the guidelines and application form are available at www.harmony.gov.au or call 1800 782 002.

Closing date

Applications must be lodged with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship by 6pm Eastern Standard Time, **8 May 2009**