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Government of South Australia

South Australian
Multicultural
Commission

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION **2022-23 Annual Report**

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION

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To:

The Honourable Zoe Bettison MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *South Australian Multicultural Act 2021* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the South Australian Multicultural Commission by:

Ms Adriana Christopoulos
Chair
South Australian Multicultural Commission

Date 1 September 2023

Signature



Acknowledgement of Country

The South Australian Multicultural Commission proudly acknowledges the traditional custodians of all the lands on which we gather, meet, work, live and stand.

We acknowledge Aboriginal peoples as the Traditional Owners and occupants of the land and waters in South Australia who continue to maintain and develop their cultural and heritage beliefs as the longest living diverse culture, with a significant historical and ongoing role as the First Nations people in South Australia.

We, as a Commission, are committed to continuing to listen, learn and support First Nations Peoples in our collective journey to becoming a more inclusive nation.

From the Chair



On behalf of the South Australian Multicultural Commission, I am pleased to present our 2022-23 Annual Report. The report provides an overview of the operations, activities, achievements and highlights of the Commission throughout the year.

I extend my thanks to my fellow Commission members for their ongoing support and work on behalf of their communities and the wider South Australian multicultural community.

I acknowledge the leadership, guidance and support provided by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Zoe Bettison MP. Her work and commitment to listening and helping the community, and her personal passion and dedication for multiculturalism has been instrumental in our work and success. I also acknowledge the Premier of South Australia, the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, for his commitment and support for Multicultural Affairs in our state.

I thank Justine Kennedy, Director of Multicultural Affairs and her team for their dedication, professionalism, passion and incredible work in implementing policies that support our diverse communities, and providing services and activities that support our multicultural communities.

The South Australian Multicultural Commission has appreciated the opportunity to work closely with Multicultural Affairs over the past year, to provide independent and valuable advice to the South Australian government about the advancement of multiculturalism and interculturalism.

During the year, the Commission has participated in consultation engagements on various policy topics relating to multiculturalism and interculturalism in South Australia, and the nation. We have provided input and feedback to state and federal government review processes, so the voices of our multicultural communities are heard by the Minister, and the wider South Australian Government, and their perspectives are included, respected and valued.

The Commission was honoured to play a role in the public consultation process to develop South Australia's first Multicultural Charter this year. We now look forward to supporting the state government's efforts to promote the Charter across the community.

South Australian Multicultural Commission members, including myself, are honoured to represent the Commission and speak at ceremonies, events and engagements throughout the year. These are valuable opportunities to raise the profile of the Commission in our community, but also to share our own personal experiences and stories as proud multicultural South Australians.

South Australia has a long history of multiculturalism, with people from over 200 culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse backgrounds now calling South Australia home. This diversity, together with the many cultures of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, has helped to create a uniquely Australian identity.

I want to acknowledge the very busy and exciting year it has been for our multicultural communities, with Commission members attending record-breaking arts and cultural festivals and exhibitions, the sharing of meals and culinary delights at faith and cultural gatherings and supporting communities at the local and professional level.

The past year has had many highlights, and takeaways, setting the stage for another exciting, rewarding and engaging 12 months ahead in our great state.

In 2023-24, we look forward to building on our relationships and engagements with state and federal governments, and with communities, as well as strengthening partnerships with South Australia's multicultural organisations.

Celebrating multiculturalism is vital, so on behalf of my fellow Commission members, I invite you to get involved in supporting and advocating South Australia's multicultural communities, however you can.



Adriana Christopoulos

Chair

South Australian Multicultural Commission

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Overview: about the South Australian Multicultural Commission

Our strategic focus

Our Purpose	To raise awareness and understanding of multiculturalism and interculturalism in our South Australian community, drawing on the cultural diversity, skills and experience of its members to provide independent advice to the South Australian government about the advancement of multiculturalism.
Our Vision	To achieve an open, inclusive, cohesive and equitable multicultural society, where cultural, linguistic, religious and productive diversity is understood, valued and supported.
Our Values	<p>The South Australian Multicultural Commission embrace the values of the South Australian public sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service • Professionalism • Trust • Respect • Collaboration and engagement • Honesty and integrity • Courage and tenacity • Sustainability
Our functions, objectives and deliverables	<p>The Commission’s main functions are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advise the Minister on the needs, aspirations and contributions of South Australians from diverse backgrounds • advise and consult with State authorities to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to the advancement of multicultural affairs • advise on the extent to which services and facilities meet the needs of diverse communities • increase awareness and understanding of the diversity of the South Australian community and the implications of that diversity • promote unity, understanding and harmony among all communities • raise awareness and promote understanding of multiculturalism and interculturalism • raise awareness of the harm that racism and other forms of discriminatory behaviour can do to multiculturalism and interculturalism in South Australia • promote the South Australian Multicultural Charter and the advantages of a multicultural and intercultural society • review and report on the extent to which government funded services and programs are achieving and furthering the purposes of the Act.

Our organisational (Board) structure

South Australian Multicultural Commission structure as at 30 June 2023.

Name	Position	Initial Appointment	Appointment Expiry Date
Ms Adriana Christopoulos	Chair	1 July 2021	30 June 2024
Ms Anna Cheung	Member	1 July 2021	30 June 2024
Mr George Chin	Member	1 July 2021	30 June 2024
Mr Bruce Djité	Member	1 July 2021	30 June 2024
Ms Carmen Garcia	Member	1 July 2021	30 June 2024
Ms Manju Khadka	Member	1 July 2021	30 June 2024
Cav. Maria Maglieri	Member	1 July 2021	30 June 2024
Mr Rajendra Pandey	Member	1 July 2021	30 June 2024
Ms Shaza Ravaji	Member	1 July 2021	30 June 2024
Mr Hussain Razaiat	Member	1 July 2021	30 June 2024
Mr Reinhard Struve	Member	1 July 2021	30 June 2024
Ms Khuyên (Quin) Trần	Member	1 July 2021	30 June 2024
Ms Eugenia Tsoulis OAM	Member	1 July 2021	Resigned 14 April 2023
Mr Denis Yengi	Member	1 July 2021	30 June 2024
Mr Ahmed Zreika	Member	1 July 2021	30 June 2024

Changes to the agency

During 2022-23 there were no changes to the agency's structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

Our Minister



The Honourable Zoe Bettison MP is the Minister for Multicultural Affairs

In recognition of the strong commitment to serve our diverse communities in South Australia, the Minister is responsible for the Multicultural Affairs portfolio, including that of the South Australian Multicultural Commission, which reports to the Minister.

Minister’s message

As Minister for Multicultural Affairs, I thank the Chair, Ms Adriana Christopoulos, and members of the South Australian Multicultural Commission for their valuable contribution to the Commission, and for their advice and support to myself and my office in 2022-23.

I particularly acknowledge the Commission members for their support, contribution and promotion of the South Australian Multicultural Charter. In addition, I appreciate their support of the state government’s Multicultural Affairs election commitments, aimed at supporting and strengthening our state’s multicultural sector.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Commission to support our multicultural society long into the future.

Commission members



Ms Adriana Christopoulos is the Chair







As Chair of the Commission, I am committed to demonstrating and displaying a true commitment to social justice, multiculturalism and social cohesion, together with a passion for inspiring, leading and engaging the entire community. My role is to provide leadership and foster collaboration with not only Commission members, but with all members of the many multicultural groups here in South Australia.









Ms Anna Cheung is a member



Mr George Chin is a member

	Mr Bruce Djité is a member
	Ms Carmen Garcia is a member
	Ms Manju Khadka is a member
	Cav. Maria Maglieri is a member
	Mr Rajendra Pandey is a member
	Ms Shaza Ravaji is a member

	Mr Hussain Razaiat is a member
	Mr Reinhard Struve is a member
	Ms Khuyên (Quin) Trần is a member
	Ms Eugenia Tsoulis OAM was a member
	Mr Denis Yengi is a member
	Mr Ahmed Zreika is a member

* Biographies of the Commission members are available on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's website

Legislation

South Australian Multicultural Commission

Commission members were initially appointed for a three-year period under the *South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission (SAMEAC) Act (1980)*. On 2 December 2021, a new Act, the *South Australian Multicultural Act 2021*, came into operation. Among other purposes, the new Act replaced the former SAMEAC with the South Australian Multicultural Commission (SAMC). Former SAMEAC members were transferred to SAMC under a transitional clause in the new legislation.

South Australian Multicultural Act 2021

An Act to advance multiculturalism and interculturalism in South Australia, to establish the South Australian Multicultural Commission, to provide for the South Australian Multicultural Charter, to repeal the *South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Act 1980*, and for other purposes.

A copy of the Act is available on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet [website](#).

South Australian Multicultural Commission's Performance

Commission meeting dates and members meeting attendance

The Commission must meet at least six times in any calendar year

Commission members	Meeting dates									
	15/07/2022	12/08/2022	14/10/2022	11/11/2022	9/12/2022	3/02/2023	3/03/2023	14/04/2023	12/05/2023	9/06/2023
Adriana Christopoulos	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Anna Cheung	√	√	√	√	A	√	√	√	√	√
George Chin	√	√	√	A	√	√	√	√	√	√
Bruce Djité	√	√	A	√	√	A	A	√	√	√
Carmen Garcia	A	A	√	√	A	A	√	√	√	√
Manju Khadka	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	A
Cav. Maria Maglieri	√	A	√	√	√	√	A	√	√	√
Rajendra Pandey	√	√	√	A	A	√	√	√	√	√
Shaza Ravaji	√	√	√	√	A	√	√	√	√	√
Hussain Razaiat	A	√	√	√	A	A	√	√	√	√
Reinhard Struve	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	A	A	A
Khuyên (Quin) Trần	√	√	√	√	A	√	√	√	√	√
Eugenia Tsoulis OAM	A	√	A	A	A	A	A	X	X	X
Denis Yengi	√	√	A	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Ahmed Zreika	A	√	√	√	√	√	√	A	√	A

√ = Attendance / A = Absent / X = Resigned

Eugenia Tsoulis OAM had approved leave of absence from the Chair

Commission meetings

The Commission held 10 meetings during 2022-23, and the Hon Zoe Bettison MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs attended three of them. An Adviser from the Minister’s office was also present at seven meetings.

Highlights of the meetings included the following guest speakers, presenting on areas of interest or information relevant to the Commission and our multicultural communities:

2022	
Australian Red Cross Lifeblood - Ms Leila Pardon, Group Account Manager	July
South Australia Police, State Protective Security Branch Simply Speaking - Ms Barbara Chappell, Facilitator, South Australian Multicultural Charter	August
Adelaide Festival Centre - Mr Douglas Gautier AM, Chief Executive Officer & Artistic Director, Ms Christie Anthony, Head of Public Affairs, and The Hon Hieu Le AC, Chair, Adelaide Festival Centre Trust Adelaide Cemeteries - Mr Michael Robertson, Chief Executive Officer	October
City of Salisbury - Ms Vesna Haracic, Manager, Community Health & Wellbeing	November
Council on the Ageing SA - Ms Miranda Starke, A/Chief Executive Officer and Ms Clara Tait, Cultural Diversity Officer Royal Life Saving Society (SA) - Mr Jake Culkin, A/Chief Executive Officer and Ms Cristabel Gigena, Multicultural Programs Officer	December
2023	
Community Corporate - Ms Carmen Garcia, Founder and Chief Executive Officer (Commission member)	March
Australian Bureau of Statistics - Mr Justin Lokhorst, Strategic Partnership Manager (SA Government)	April
St Basil’s Homes - Mr Harry Patsouris, Chair and Ms Michelle Church, Chief Executive Officer	May
StudyAdelaide - Ms Jane Johnston, Chief Executive Officer Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Ms Leonie Miller, A/Senior Grants Management Advisor, Multicultural Affairs	June

Attendance at ceremonies / events / engagements

Commission members attend, speak and support many various community-led events and initiatives throughout the year. Their presence provides the opportunity to connect, engage and listen, and report back on any matters of importance.

128 ceremonies / events / engagements	Attended by Chair
177 ceremonies / events / engagements	Attended by members

Australian Citizenship ceremonies

Commission members attend and speak at various Australian Citizenship Ceremonies in South Australia, conducted by Local Governments, on behalf of the Department of Home Affairs.

The presence of Commission members provides the opportunity for them to welcome the new citizens as members of the Australian community and introduce themselves as a contact in the multicultural sector.

Multicultural receptions

Commission members contributed to the guest list and attended the following community receptions hosted by the Premier of South Australia and/or Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

75th Anniversary of Indian Independence Day	11 August 2022
Diwali	31 October 2022
Iranian Community	22 November 2022
Afghan Community	2 February 2023
Nepalese Community	22 February 2023
Bangladeshi Community	8 March 2023
Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)	26 April 2023
Africa Day & 60 th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Organisation of African Unity	23 May 2023
77 th Italian National Day	2 June 2023
Multilingual: Voices of the Community Refugee Week Celebration (co-hosted with Community Language Schools SA)	19 June 2023
World Refugee Day (co-hosted with AMRC)	20 June 2023

Multicultural Chambers of Commerce Group networking events

The newly established Multicultural Chambers of Commerce Group is a collection of small chambers of commerce in South Australia who represent global connections and business interests, with a focus on opportunities in import and export markets.

Commission members attended the Chambers of Commerce networking event on 28 February 2023 which was co-hosted by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Business SA. A presentation on tourism investment opportunities was delivered by Ms Emma Terry, Chief Executive Officer, South Australian Tourism Commission.

South Australian Multicultural Charter

Members of the South Australian Multicultural Commission supported and contributed to the development of the South Australian Multicultural Charter, through leading and participation in engagement and consultation forums and working groups.

Representing the Commission on the Charter Working Group was Commission Chair, Ms Adriana Christopoulos, as well as fellow Commission members Ms Carmen Garcia, Mr Rajendra Pandey and Ms Khuyên (Quin) Trần.

Commission members, Ms Anna Cheung, Ms Manju Khadka, Mr Rajendra Pandey, Ms Shaza Ravaji and Ms Khuyên (Quin) Trần lead a series of public consultation forums with the support of Multicultural Affairs, DPC.

Under the provision of the *South Australian Multicultural Act 2021*, Commission members have an ongoing role in promoting the Charter and the advantages of a multicultural and intercultural society.

Governor's Multicultural Awards

The Commission once again supported and promoted the annual Governor's Multicultural Awards in 2022-23. These important awards recognise and celebrate South Australians who promote multiculturalism and increase the understanding of the benefits of cultural diversity in our community.

An independent panel of judges chaired by His Honour Judge Rauf Soulio AM assessed the nominations and determined the finalists and winners of the 2022 Governor's Multicultural Awards. The judging panel also included Commission Chair, Ms Adriana Christopoulos, and Commission member, Mr Ahmed Zreika.

Her Excellency the Hon Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, announced the winners of the 2022 Governor's Multicultural Awards at a ceremony at Government House on Thursday 9 March 2023. The Commission members were invited to attend. Nine award recipients were chosen from 21 finalists across nine award categories.

Policing for a Multicultural Society Awards

The Policing for a Multicultural Society Award was initiated by the Commission in 2009. The award is presented to the police cadet in each graduating recruit course who shows the highest level of appreciation and understanding of migrant, refugee and cultural diversity issues relating to policing.

Recipients of the Policing for a Multicultural Society Awards in 2022-23 were:

Award Winner	Graduation Date	Course Number
Cody Palumbo	20 July 2022	52 (21)
Ali Khan	12 October 2022	53 (21)
Lachlan Thomas	16 November 2022	54 (22)
Zofia Foley	18 January 2023	55 (22)
Harrison Lock	29/ March 2023	56 (22)
Erin Schrapel	26 April 2023	57 (22)
Samuel Margetts	07 June 2023	58 (22)