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Government of South Australia

South Australian
Multicultural
Commission

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION **2023-24 Annual Report**

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION

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<https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/multicultural-affairs/south-australian-multicultural-commission>

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Date presented to Minister: 30 October 2024

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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 Luisa Greco

Chair

South Australian Multicultural Commission

Date 30 October 2024

Signature

Luisa Greco

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 (2023-24)



On behalf of the South Australian Multicultural Commission, I am pleased to compose our 2023-24 Annual Report.

This is my last Annual Report as Chair of the South Australian Multicultural Commission. Having served first as a member and now as Chair, I am so proud of what the Commission has achieved in recent years. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity I've had to Chair the Commission for the last three years, and to lead our collective efforts to advance multiculturalism in South Australia.

2023-24 was another exciting, busy and productive year for the Commission. To ensure the voices of our culturally and linguistically diverse communities were heard in decision making, I had input to policy discussions, research, and government and community engagement. These activities helped build and strengthen the Commission's networks across our local and national multicultural sector, and kept the Commission updated on topical issues impacting our diverse communities.

Through the strong and committed state government we have today, the Commission has been empowered to champion our state's cultural diversity, drive positive change, and shape South Australia as a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive place for everyone.

I thank the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Zoe Bettison MP for her leadership, guidance and support to me and to the Commission during my term, and I acknowledge her hard work to build and deliver on the state government's Multicultural Affairs priorities. I also acknowledge the Premier of South Australia, the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, for his strong and active support for multiculturalism and his commitment to supporting policy and programs that strengthen social cohesion and promote inclusion.

Our dedicated, committed and supportive Commission led two valuable community engagement forums this year. These events provided the opportunity to hear directly from multicultural community leaders and representatives on matters of concern to them. I thank these leaders for attending the forums, and for openly sharing their concerns, challenges and feedback with me, so I can be their voice to the state government, and to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

This past year, we have also been reminded that we are not immune from the effects of conflicts and natural disasters around the world. Global events continue to bring grief and sadness to many families and community organisations in South Australia. Where appropriate, I have been committed to reaching out to affected communities, to listen and learn from them. As Chair of the Commission, my thoughts and concerns are with all those who are hurting, and I remain committed to doing what I can to promote unity, understanding, and harmony amongst all our communities.

Amidst the sadness, there was also great joy this year. In the past 12 months, I attended over 100 events that celebrated or showcased South Australia's multicultural communities and cultural diversity. There were many highlight events and memorable moments that sparked learning, conversations, and connections. There was also a lot of food, music, dancing and colourful fun!

To my fellow Commission members, past and present, we have worked so well together to deliver on the functions of the Commission, and our achievements reflect our collective strengths. We have strived to make a meaningful difference in all our endeavours, and I thank you for standing beside me in my leadership role. I hope working together has been as rewarding for you as it has been for me.

Working full-time while chairing and representing the Commission comes with obvious challenges, and I would not have been able to perform this role as effectively without the administrative, policy and business support of the staff from Multicultural Affairs. To Justine Kennedy, Director, Multicultural Affairs - thank you for your professionalism and support, and for leading a team that is so committed to cultural diversity, making a difference, and ensuring the wellbeing of our multicultural communities!

As I complete my term as Chair and Member of the South Australian Multicultural Commission, I know the Commission is in a strong place to continue raising awareness and understanding of multiculturalism and interculturalism in our South Australian community, and to advancing multiculturalism across the state.

South Australia is and will always be a proud multicultural state!

I wish you all my very best – stay safe, stay well.



Adriana Christopoulos

Chair

South Australian Multicultural Commission

30 June 2024

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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 2024.

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 AM	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	Resigned 14 October 2023

Changes to the agency

During 2023-24 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 outgoing 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.

The Commission’s support of the state government’s Multicultural Affairs election commitments, aimed at supporting and strengthening our state’s multicultural sector, is greatly appreciated, as is the positive impact of the members’ engagement with our multicultural communities.

The members’ skills, knowledge and expertise are a considerable asset to the Commission and have all distinguished themselves as passionate champions for multiculturalism.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Commission to deepen our state’s commitment to a thriving, diverse, multicultural society.

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 AM 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 was a member

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							
	7/07/2023	11/08/2023	8/09/2023	3/11/2023	1/12/2023	2/02/2024	5/04/2024	7/06/2024
Adriana Christopoulos	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Anna Cheung	√	√	√	√	√	√	A	√
George Chin	√	√	√	√	√	√	A	√
Bruce Djité	√	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Carmen Garcia AM	√	A	A	√	A	√	√	√
Manju Khadka	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Cav. Maria Maglieri	√	A	√	√	A	√	√	√
Rajendra Pandey	A	√	√	A	√	√	√	A
Shaza Ravaji	A	√	√	A	√	√	√	√
Hussain Razaiat	A	√	√	√	√	√	A	√
Reinhard Struve	A	A	A	√	√	√	√	√
Khuyên (Quin) Trần	√	A	√	√	√	√	√	√
Eugenia Tsoulis OAM	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Denis Yengi	A	√	√	A	√	√	√	√
Ahmed Zreika	√	A	√	X	X	X	X	X

√ = Attendance / A = Absent / X = Resigned

Reinhard Struve had approved leave of absence from the Chair (24 April to 31 October 2023)

Commission meetings

The Commission held eight meetings during 2023-24.

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

2023	
Ms Mirsia Bunjaku, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Migrant Resource Centre (AMRC)	July
Mr Amer El Hosni, Game Development Trainee, Bachar Houli Foundation and Mr Goy Lock, Multicultural Engagement Coordinator, SANFL	August
Ms Monica Rivas, Manager – Training, The Social Policy Group (on behalf of the Australian Electoral Commission – Voice Referendum)	September
Ms Kerry Rowlands, Chief Executive and Ms Christine Morris, Manager Prevention & Advocacy, Cancer Council SA	November
2024	
Ms Taimi Allan, Mental Health Commissioner for South Australia, SA Mental Health Commission, SA Health	February

Community engagement forums and consultation sessions

In 2024, Commission members undertook community engagement forums to provide the community with the opportunity to raise any matters and to share feedback on challenges and opportunities.

Discussions and outcomes from these forums were reported in writing to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

Hindu Community Leaders	23 March 2024
Afghan Community Leaders	18 May 2024

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 matters of importance.

106 ceremonies / events / engagements	Attended by Chair
130 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, give an overview of the role and functions of the South Australian Multicultural Commission, 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.

Mid-Autumn Festival (co-hosted with Australian Asian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc)	3 October 2023
Filipino Community	9 October 2023
Japan Australia Friendship Association’s 25th Anniversary (co-hosted with Japan Australian Friendship Association)	12 October 2023
Maltese community – in honour of visit by President of the Republic of Malta	15 October 2023
Diwali and Annakut (co-hosted with BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and Hindu Organisations Temple and Association Forum)	18 October 2023
Diwali/Deepavali	13 November 2023
Nowruz-Persian New Year (co-hosted with Persian Cultural Association of South Australia)	20 March 2024
Greek Independence Day (co-hosted with Consul-General of Greece)	25 March 2024
World Africa Day	22 May 2024
78th Italian National Day	3 June 2024
Refugee Week Launch 2024 (co-hosted with AMRC)	18 June 2024

Multicultural Chambers of Commerce Group networking events

The 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.

In 2023-24 Commission members attended the following Chambers of Commerce events:

- 11 July 2023 - The Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce (SA Chapter) co-hosted a networking event in partnership with its member, KPMG.

Mr Richard Price, Chief Executive Officer of the South Australian Space Industry Centre, presented on the commercial success and growth of the space sector.

- 7 November 2023 - The Australian Asian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AACCI) co-hosted a networking event.

Mr David Reynolds, Chief Executive of the Department for Trade and Investment delivered a presentation on trade opportunities and support, following the Government's overseas trade mission led by the Premier.

- 11 April 2024 - The German, Netherlands and Swiss Chambers co-hosted an event at the International College of Hotel Management – Adelaide Campus.

Mr Wayne Buckerfield, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director, Department for Infrastructure and Transport presented on investment in infrastructure projects in South Australia.

South Australian Multicultural Charter

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.

Through the sharing of information about the Charter and using it as a resource when engaging with communities, organisations, institutions, businesses and government agencies, Commission members are actively working to create inclusive environments.

To further activate the Charter, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs launched the Multicultural South Australia Ambassador Program. The Ambassador Program is an organisation-based program that activates the Multicultural Charter to embed its principles within the workforce and business practices of South Australian organisations.

The Ambassador Program was piloted, with the Chair and a Commission member participating in the pilot program.

Governor’s Multicultural Awards

The Commission once again supported and promoted the annual Governor’s Multicultural Awards. These important awards recognise and celebrate outstanding 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 2023 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 2023 Governor’s Multicultural Awards at a ceremony at Government House on Thursday 29 February 2024. Commission members were in attendance. Ten award recipients were chosen from 25 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 2023-24 were:

Award Winner	Graduation Date	Course Number
Probationary Constable Erin Piccoli	19 July 2023	59 (22)
Probationary Constable Olivia Ganz	16 August 2023	60 (22)
Probationary Constable Olivia Kittel	13 September 2023	61 (22)
Probationary Constable Tiffany Summers	15 November 2023	62 (23)
Probationary Constable Samuel Whitbread	13 December 2023	63 (23)
Probationary Constable David Swincer	24 January 2024	64 (23)
Probationary Constable Braden Stewart	14 February 2024	65 (23)
Probationary Constable Elisabeth Pergoleto	13 March 2024	66 (23)
Probationary Constable Michael Frowd	17 April 2024	67 (23)
Probationary Constable Kimberley Abend	15 May 2024	68 (23)
Probationary Constable Kai Ellison	19 June 2024	69 (23)