



Government of South Australia

South Australian
Multicultural
Commission

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION 2024-25 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 September 2025

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 September 2025

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



On behalf of the South Australian Multicultural Commission, I am proud to present the 2024–25 Annual Report. This report provides a comprehensive account of our operations, initiatives, and achievements over the past year showcasing the collective efforts made to strengthen and celebrate our state’s rich cultural diversity.

It has been an honour to serve as Chair over the past year. I extend my sincere appreciation to Deputy Chair, Amarjit Grewal and all Commission members for their unwavering commitment, expertise, and tireless work in support of South Australia’s multicultural communities.

I wish to acknowledge the outstanding leadership and advocacy of the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Honourable Zoe Bettison MP. Her passion for our multicultural communities is evident in her genuine engagement, responsiveness, and steadfast commitment to listening and taking action. I also extend my gratitude to the Premier of South Australia, the Honourable Peter Malinauskas MP, for his resolute support of multiculturalism and his dedication to fostering social cohesion across our state.

Our achievements would not be possible without the dedicated team at Multicultural Affairs, led by Director, Justine Kennedy. I thank Justine and the team for their support to Commission members and for delivering programs and policies that directly strengthen our diverse communities.

The past year, I have engaged with the community at 100 multicultural events and meetings with community leaders. Thank you to my fellow members who have also engaged in many events and taken the time to connect with communities. As a commission we have participated on grant panels, external boards and committees and award judging panels. I am deeply grateful for the warmth with which I, and my fellow members, have been welcomed into communities, and for the opportunity to immerse ourselves in a multitude of cultural traditions and celebrations.

A key focus of our work has been our community engagement forums three of which were held within this year with the Burmese, Ukrainian, and Greek communities. These forums provided an invaluable platform to hear community voices, share lived experiences, and work collaboratively towards solutions. The communities have appreciated coming together, which often doesn't occur to collaborate and explore local issues.

Comprehensive reports from each forum have been presented to the Minister, ensuring that the perspectives and priorities of our multicultural communities are heard at the highest levels of government. I extend my thanks to all community leaders who participated, trusted us with their stories, and partnered with us in advocating for positive change.

We remain aware of the challenges faced by communities affected by global conflicts and natural disasters, whose impacts are felt deeply here in South Australia. We also acknowledge the unacceptable number of incidents of racism experienced by some communities. The Commission stands firmly against all forms of discrimination and reaffirms our commitment to unity, kindness, and respect.

Looking ahead to 2025–26, we will continue to deepen our engagement with communities, strengthen partnerships with multicultural organisations, and collaborate more closely with State and Federal governments. We encourage all South Australians to embrace and participate in the celebrations, cultural events, and community initiatives that make our state vibrant, inclusive, and united.



Luisa Greco

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 embraces 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	Appointment	Appointment Expiry Date
Luisa Greco	Chair	1 July 2024	30 June 2027
Amarjit Grewal	Deputy Chair	1 July 2024	30 June 2027
Mehmet Aslan	Member	1 July 2024	30 June 2027
Bernadette Belej	Member	1 July 2024	30 June 2027
Kimberly Goh	Member	1 July 2024	30 June 2027
Ye (Becky) Houston	Member	1 July 2024	30 June 2027
Manju Khadka	Member	1 July 2024	30 June 2027
Chloe Kourakis	Member	1 July 2024	30 June 2027
Rajendra Pandey	Member	1 July 2024	30 June 2027
Hussain Razaiat	Member	1 July 2024	30 June 2027
James Rothe	Member	16 September 2024	20 March 2025 (Resigned)
Irene Rowe	Member	1 July 2024	30 June 2027
Khuyên (Quin) Tran	Member	1 July 2024	30 June 2027
Thuyen Vi-Alternetti	Member	1 July 2024	30 June 2027
Denis Yengi	Member	1 July 2024	30 June 2027

Changes to the agency

During 2024-25 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

I am pleased to contribute this message to the South Australian Multicultural Commission's 2024–25 Annual Report.

My thanks to Commission members for your ongoing commitment to tackling racism and discrimination, and to promoting social cohesion and meaningful community engagement. Your support and insights have helped ensure multicultural communities remain central to the development of inclusive policies and programs, and informed decision-making across South Australia.

Your dedication to promoting unity, mutual understanding, and harmony among all communities, and to raising awareness and appreciation of multiculturalism and interculturalism, is deeply appreciated.








Finally, I commend the Commission for its achievements over the past year and look forward to its ongoing engagement with multicultural communities as we work together to strengthen South Australia's cultural diversity and social cohesion.








Commission members



Ms Luisa Greco
Chair

As Chair of the Commission, I am deeply committed to fostering inclusion, embracing cultural diversity, and promoting meaningful community engagement. I am proud to advocate for the interests of South Australia's diverse communities and to represent their voices. In close collaboration with the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Multicultural Affairs office, other government agencies, community leaders, and key stakeholders, I work actively to strengthen and advance multiculturalism throughout South Australia

	Mr Amarjit Grewal Deputy Chair
	Ms Bernadette Belej Member
	Ms Ye (Becky) Houston Member
	Dr Mehmet Aslan Member
	Ms Kimberly Goh Member
	Ms Manju Khadka Member
	Ms Chloe Kourakis Member

	Mr Hussain Razaiat Member
	Mrs Irene Rowe Member
	Ms Thuyen Vi-Alternetti Member
	Mr Rajendra Pandey Member
	Mr James Rothe Member (Resigned)
	Ms Khuyên (Quin) Tran Member
	Mr Denis Yengi Member

Legislation

South Australian Multicultural Commission

The South Australian Multicultural Commission is a statutory body that reports to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

The Commission was established under the South Australian Multicultural Act 2021, replacing the former South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission.

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's [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					
	8/08/2024	3/10/2024	12/12/2024	13/02/2025	11/04/2025	12/06/2025
Luisa Greco	√	√	√	√	√	√
Amarjit Grewal	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mehmet Aslan	√	√	√	√	√	√
Bernadette Belej	√	√	√	√	A	√
Kimberly Goh	√	√	√	√	√	A
Ye (Becky) Houston	√	√	√	√	√	A
Manju Khadka	√	√	√	√	A	√
Chloe Kourakis	√	√	A	√	√	A
Rajendra Pandey	√	√	A	√	√	√
Hussain Razaiat	√	√	A	√	A	A
James Rothe	-	√	√	√	X	X
Irene Rowe	√	√	√	√	√	√
Khuyên (Quin) Tran	√	√	√	A	√	√
Thuyen Vi-Alternetti	√	√	A	√	A	√
Denis Yengi	√	A	A	√	√	√

√ = Attendance / A = Absent / X = Resigned / - = Not Applicable

Commission meetings

The Commission held six meetings during 2024-25.

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

2024	
Ms Kathryn Calaby, Director, Office for Small and Family Business, Department of State Development	October
2025	
Ms Tanya Day, Principal Policy and Project Officer, Office for Autism, Department of the Premier and Cabinet	February
Ms Katie Trinh, A/Manager, Priority Populations, Preventative Health SA	April
Mr Anthony Cameron, Assistant Director – Adelaide & Barossa Hills Fleurieu Regional Team, SA-WA Branch Department of Health, Disability and Ageing Local Network	June
Mr Calvin Odhiambo, Program Manager, Empowering African Youth Program, Department of the Premier and Cabinet	

Community engagement forums and consultation sessions

In 2024-25, Commission members undertook targeted engagement forums to provide communities with the opportunity to raise topics of interest and to share feedback on challenges and opportunities.

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

Burmese Community Leaders	28 September 2024
Ukrainian Community Leaders	7 November 2024
Greek Community Leaders	15 March 2025

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.

100 ceremonies / events / engagements	Attended by Chair
159 ceremonies / events / engagements	Attended by Members

Representation on boards / committees / councils / working groups / panels

The Commission is invited to join other boards/committees/councils/working groups/panels, to further advance multiculturalism in South Australia and provide advice on matters relating to multicultural affairs within the community. Those currently serving on such bodies, as nominated by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, include:

Boards / Committees / Councils / Working Groups	Member
Australia Day Council of South Australia	Dr Mehmet Aslan
Australian Multicultural Council	Mr Hussain Razaiat
Multicultural Education and Languages Committee	Mr Hussain Razaiat

Australian Citizenship ceremonies

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

Their presence offers a valuable opportunity to formally welcome new citizens into the Australian community, provide an overview of the South Australian Multicultural Commission’s role and functions, and introduce themselves as a point of contact within the multicultural sector.

Multicultural receptions

Commission members contributed to the preparation of guest lists and represented the Commission at community receptions hosted by the Premier of South Australia and/or the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

Reception	Date
Reception to celebrate the Latin American Community	12 August 2024
Afternoon Tea to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Polish Women’s Association in Adelaide	22 August 2024
Reception to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival	18 September 2024
Reception to celebrate Chinese National Day	1 October 2024

Reception	Date
Reception to celebrate Dashain	16 October 2024
Reception to celebrate the Australia Sri Lanka Association's Golden Jubilee	22 October 2024
Open Day to celebrate Diwali and Annakut	30 October 2024
Reception to celebrate Diwali/Deepavali	4 November 2024
Dinner to celebrate the 2025 Chinese New Year – Year of the Snake	23 January 2025
Reception for the 20th anniversary celebration of the South Australian Bangladeshi Community Association	18 February 2025
Reception for the 50th anniversary celebration of Radio Italiana 531	24 February 2025
Morning Tea to celebrate International Women's Day	6 March 2025
Reception to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ethnic Broadcasters Inc.	26 March 2025
Reception to celebrate Nowruz 2025	2 April 2025
Reception for the 10th anniversary celebration of Adelaide Nepali Vidhyalaya	29 April 2025
Reception to celebrate Vaisakhi 2025	30 April 2025
Reception to celebrate Africa Day	28 May 2025
Reception to celebrate Italian National Day	3 June 2025
Reception to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia	12 June 2025
Reception to celebrate SA Refugee Week Launch	13 June 2025
Reception to celebrate Philippines Independence Day	18 June 2025
Reception to celebrate the International Day of Yoga	26 June 2025

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 2024-25 Commission members attended the following Chambers of Commerce events co-hosted by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

Networking Event and Presentation	Date
Australia Japan Business Council of SA and Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Adelaide Presentation: ‘State Government Budget, South Australia’s economy and current investment opportunities’ by The Honourable Stephen Mullighan MP, Treasurer	8 August 2024
Australian Asian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. Presentation: ‘OzAsia Festival’ by Mr Douglas Gautier AM, CEO and Artistic Director, Adelaide Festival Centre and Ms Joon-Yee Kwok, Artistic and Executive Producer, OzAsia Festival	6 November 2024
Shanghai Chamber of Commerce SA Presentation: ‘State Government building a bigger health system’ by Dr Robyn Lawrence, Chief Executive, Department for Health and Wellbeing	12 December 2024
French Australian Chamber of Commerce, Adelaide (SA Chapter) Presentation: ‘The Future of Wine’ by The Hon Clare Scriven MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development	19 February 2025
Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc. Presentation: ‘South Australia’s Housing Roadmap’ by The Hon Nick Champion MP, Minister for Housing and Urban Development and Ms Gemma Wallace, Executive Director, Department for Housing and Urban Development	10 June 2025

South Australian Multicultural Charter

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

Through sharing 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 activate the Charter in the community and create inclusive environments where everyone can belong.

Multicultural South Australia Ambassador Program

The Commission actively promotes the Multicultural South Australia Ambassador Program, which seeks to embed the South Australian Multicultural Charter into organisations, to strengthen the cultural and linguistic diversity of their workforce, policies and business practices, and services.

The Ambassador Program demonstrates how organisations of different sizes and sectors, including state government departments, can adopt the principles of the Charter in all aspects of their operations.

Participating organisations get access to individual and group training, toolkits, and support to assess their current level of diversity and cultural awareness and take practical steps to improve their cultural responsiveness in the future.

By the end of the program, participating organisations will have developed a bespoke Action Plan, setting out targeted, realistic and achievable actions to implement the Charter in their workplaces.

The Ambassador Program is a journey of continuous improvement for the benefit of all South Australian organisations and the diverse communities we serve.

Governor's Multicultural Awards

The Commission proudly supported the 2024 Governor's Multicultural Awards which honour outstanding South Australians who promote multiculturalism and foster greater understanding of cultural diversity in our community.

An independent judging panel, chaired by His Honour Judge Rauf Soulio AM, included Commission Chair Ms Luisa Greco and Deputy Chair Mr Amarjit Grewal.

Her Excellency the Hon Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, announced the winners at a ceremony held at Government House on 5 March 2025. Commission members attended the event, where 12 recipients were recognised from among 31 finalists across nine award categories.

Policing for a Multicultural Society Award

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 Award in 2024-25 were:

Award Winner	Graduation Date	Course Number
Probationary Constable Tamara Johns	17 July 2024	70 (23)
Probationary Constable Josh Thompson	14 August 2024	71 (23)
Probationary Constable Massimo Caruso	18 September 2024	72 (23)
Probationary Constable Melanie Erlandsen	16 October 2024	73 (24)
Probationary Constable Kimberley Day	13 November 2024	74 (24)
Probationary Constable Andrew Setter	18 December 2024	75 (24)
Probationary Constable Douglas Rhodes	15 January 2025	76 (24)
Probationary Constable Catherine Hopkins	12 February 2025	77 (24)
Probationary Constable Philip Nitsche	19 March 2025	78 (24)
Probationary Constable Joshua De Pasquale	23 April 2025	79 (24)
Probationary Constable Joel Szalbot	21 May 2025	80 (24)