

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
LAID ON THE TABLE

25 Oct 2018

# **South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission**

## **2017-2018 Annual Report**



Government  
of South Australia

## **SAMEAC's VISION**

To achieve an open, inclusive, cohesive and equitable multicultural society, where cultural, linguistic, religious and productive diversity is understood, valued and supported.

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## CHAIR'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The past 12 months has been a time of change and renewal for the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission (SAMEAC). The State election in March 2018 ushered in a new government and with it, a change in direction and focus for SAMEAC. The transfer of the Multicultural Affairs portfolio to the Premier was followed by the appointment of new Commission members who will take up their positions on 1 July 2018.

Against this backdrop, the vision of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission remains unchanged: *To achieve an inclusive, cohesive equitable and prosperous multicultural society in which all communities are able to fully participate in social, cultural, economic and political life.*

To help assist our state's ethnic communities preserve and promote their language and culture, build capacity and have access to services and facilities, the South Australian Government's 2017 Budget provided grants to ethnic clubs and associations. SAMEAC welcomes this funding with members playing an important role in the assessment of grants to eligible applicants.

In line with previous years, SAMEAC continued to meet with leaders and representatives of different ethnic communities. In 2017-18, community engagement meetings were held with organisations from the Iranian, Latin American and Sri Lankan communities. This strategy provides an opportunity for the Commission to meet with specific ethnic communities to gain insights into their concerns, challenges and aspirations. Where appropriate, the Commission offers support, advocacy and referrals on their behalf to other state and federal government agencies for direct assistance. SAMEAC plans to continue engaging our state's cultural communities in 2018-19.

The annual Governor's Multicultural Awards, held in March 2018, celebrated its tenth anniversary this year. Held on the grounds of Government House, these awards continue to grow in stature and recognise the outstanding contributions that both individuals and organisations have made in a variety of endeavours that help develop a society that embraces and celebrates multiculturalism. Nearly 70 nominations across 15 categories were received for the 2017 Multicultural Awards with 17 award winners.

The Interpreting and Translating Centre (ITC) continues to provide a valuable service to South Australia. Over the last 12 months, ITC provided 37 906 interpreting assignments in 105 of the 110 languages provided, up 8.2% from 35 028 in 2016-17. Sixty-four percent of all interpreting services occurred in the 10 most requested languages. Translations experienced a significant decrease in total documents translated, 1 454 down 34.7% from 1 959 in the previous year.

The multicultural events calendar was once again full of festivals, national holiday celebrations, and days of religious and cultural observance. All these events showcase the diversity of cultural communities who continue to enrich our state. Moreover, these events present an opportunity for all South Australians to experience and enjoy the vast array of cultures, customs and

traditions being practised by more than 180 different ethnic communities. It was pleasing to see that many communities took advantage of Multicultural SA's online calendar of events to promote their events to the wider public.

The Commission's presence at these occasions is an important part of fostering closer relations with different ethnic communities, particularly new and emerging communities. Making these connections provides opportunities for ongoing dialogue with leaders and representatives from different communities. In some cases, invitations to SAMEAC to attend festivals and events followed Community Engagement meetings with specific ethnic communities.

The ever-increasing number of community cultural events continue to enrich our society, reflecting its significant diversity and providing opportunities for all South Australians to experience and enjoy the colour, atmosphere and traditions of nearly 1500 ethnic clubs, associations and organisations. All these events required significant support and assistance from ethnic communities. In this regard, it was the hundreds and thousands of hours of work provided by dedicated and loyal volunteers that make these vibrant cultural experiences successful.

The following is a sample of these events:

- Anniversaries of historical events, including:
  - 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sri Lankan Independence
  - 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the People's Republic of China
- Anniversary or milestone celebrations for organisations, including
  - 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the St Hilarion Aged Care
  - 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chinese Weekly Newspaper
- Religious ceremonies, including:
  - Eid Al-Adha Festival (2017)
  - Blessing of the Waters Ceremony (Feast of the Epiphany) – (2018)
  - *Madonna di Montevergine* Feast Day (2017)
  - *Madonna della Grazie* Feast Day (2017)

Festivals and other events, including:

- Somali Independence Day
- 'Amazing India' Performing Arts Concert
- Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival
- Unmasked African Festival
- Pakistani Medical Association Gala Dinner
- National Italian Festival Exhibition (Official Opening)
- Annual Friendship Dinner - Zhu-Lin Buddhist Association
- Sicilia Night Gala Dinner
- Greek National Day
- Diwali Gala Dinner

- Port Power Intercultural Day
- World Humanitarian Lunch
- Australia Day in the City
- 2018 Chinese New Year
- Official Opening of the Italian Space Agency
- Dimitria Greek Festival
- Korean Culture and Food Festival
- United Nations Day Dinner
- Italian Festival 'Carnevale'
- Eid Festival
- SANFL Iftar Dinner (2018)
- *Festa della Repubblica* (Italian National Day)
- 2017 Multicultural Festival

2017-18 also saw several SAMEAC members attend Citizenship Ceremonies in local government areas, including Campbelltown, Charles Sturt, Mount Barker, Prospect and West Torrens. Attendance at these Citizenship Ceremonies provided SAMEAC members with an opportunity to meet new citizens and inform them about the role the Commissions plays in the community.

In closing, I want to pay special tribute to the former Chair, the Honourable Grace Portolesi who resigned from the Commission on 16 February 2018. Grace was unique, not only because she was the first female to hold the position of Chair, but she had also previously served as Minister for Multicultural Affairs. This previous experience meant she had already developed strong working relationships and networks with many of the communities SAMEAC engages with. Grace brought great energy to the role of Chair and her idea for the Commission to meet directly with specific ethnic communities on a regular basis by means of hosting Community Engagement meetings has been tremendously successful and will be one of her great legacies.

My sincere thanks also to my SAMEAC colleagues, some of who I have served with for many years on the Commission but whose terms expired on 30 June 2018. All of them have been active in the community representing SAMEAC's values and promoting the important role that multiculturalism plays in the development of a socially cohesive and harmonious community.

I also want to extend my sincere thanks to the former Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Honourable Zoe Bettison MP for her energetic and unwavering support of the Commission's work whilst she held the Multicultural Affairs portfolio.

I welcome and thank the Honourable Steven Marshall MP, Premier of South Australia and the Honourable Jing Lee MLC, Minister Assisting the Premier for their strong support of the Commission in charting a new direction for multiculturalism in South Australia.

I also thank the hundreds of ethnic associations, clubs and organisations in South Australia, which continue to promote and preserve their rich cultures, traditions and languages. As a state, we are fortunate to have so many migrants

and refugees who have willingly shared their culture, customs and traditions with all South Australians, which makes our state richer for the benefits that come from multiculturalism.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to the dedicated team at Multicultural Affairs for their commitment and professionalism in supporting the work of the Commission.

Looking ahead, the next year will be a period of renewal. The appointment of new Commission members opens the way for SAMEAC to refresh its agenda and develop new priorities and initiatives while continuing to work towards a more inclusive, harmonious and multicultural South Australia.

Mr Norman Schueler OAM  
**Deputy Chair, South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs  
Commission**

## **MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

### **Hon Grace Portolesi (Resigned on 16 February 2018)**

Hon Grace Portolesi was the first woman to hold the position of Chair of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, assuming the role on 1 September 2014 and resigning on 16 February 2018.

Ms Portolesi served in the South Australian Parliament from 2006 – 2014 representing the electorate of Hartley in Adelaide's North- eastern suburbs. In 2009, she was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. The following year, Ms Portolesi was appointed Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Multicultural Affairs, Youth and Volunteers. She later held the Education and Childhood Development portfolio before moving on to become Minister for Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

### **Mr Norman Schueler OAM (Deputy Chair)**

Mr Norman Schueler was born in the United Kingdom. He migrated to Australia in 1966 and joined Hines Metals. In 1984, he founded Normetals, a scrap metal, steel sales and marine equipment business. Mr Schueler has travelled extensively, including regular trips to China to establish an import/export business.

Actively involved in the Jewish community, Mr Schueler is a past President of the South Australian Jewish Youth Council, the B'nai B'rith Youth Organisation, and the Jewish Community Council SA. He has also been Vice President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

Mr Schueler is currently a Board Member of the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Australia Day Council and Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, as well as being a Director of Pipes International (Qld), S & D Chemicals, Darwin Steel & Pipes Supplies and several other companies.

### **Ms Teresa Nowak (term expired on 30 June 2018)**

Ms Teresa Nowak is a Polish multilingual woman, Teresa has a background in economics and counselling. She gained a Graduate Diploma in Counselling in 1985 and has been employed as a Coordinator with Uniting Care Wesley Community Services in Whyalla. Ms Nowak has also been a dedicated community worker for more than three decades, which included serving as a Justice of the Peace for 33 years.

Ms Nowak is heavily involved in the Whyalla community, specifically in supporting migrant women and bridging the interface with other special needs and opportunities. She is involved with the Filipino Cultural Association, the Pastoral Council of the Catholic Parish of Whyalla, St Vincent De Paul Society's Whyalla Conference and SAMEAC's Women's Advisory Committee.



Ms Nowak was awarded Whyalla Citizen of the Year in 2002, and in 2005 was awarded the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia (FECCA) Award, celebrating 25 years of service for commitment and contribution to Australian multiculturalism. Ms Nowak is a Member of the Migrant Women's Lobby Group SA, and twice received this group's Irene Krastev Award (2004 and 2011) for ongoing leadership, commitment, dedication and passion and community spirit in regional Australia.

Ms Nowak was previously the Deputy Chair of SAMEAC and the Convenor of the SAMEAC Northern Region Advisory Committee.

### **Mr Peter Ppiros (term expired on 30 June 2018)**

Mr Peter Ppiros was first appointed to the Commission in January 2003 and held the role of Deputy Chairman from 2006 to December 2011. Mr Ppiros is a strong advocate for regional South Australia and multiculturalism. Originally a refugee from Cyprus, Mr Ppiros lived in Renmark for several years and is the founder and editor of the *Greek Community Tribune*, a national Greek/English newspaper, established in 1993.

Mr Ppiros has extensive experience in delivering and managing a wide variety of services directly to immigrants and refugees over the years. In 2004 he was elected Chairman of the Riverland Multicultural Forum, an organisation that represents the region's multicultural community and provides settlement services to new migrants. He is also the founder of the Riverland Greek Festival, which was acknowledged with the 2000 SA Great Regional Award for the Arts for its contribution towards multiculturalism and reconciliation with the Indigenous community. Mr Ppiros is a recipient of the Centenary Medal for service to the community through the advancement of multiculturalism.

Mr Ppiros was previously the Convenor of the SAMEAC Riverland Region Advisory Committee.

### **Ms Sumeja Skaka (membership revoked by Minister on 29 December 2017)**

Ms Sumeja Skaka was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She is an active member of the Muslim community, conducting cross cultural workshops in schools about Islam, through the Muslim Women's Association of South Australia, as well as organising various educational programs about Islam with a youth-run organisation, Ayn Academy. She has also initiated an interfaith program entitled 'Building Bridges', in collaboration with the Catholic youth group, Magis, which conducts Soup Kitchen events for the homeless four times a year.

In 2006, Ms Skaka was named as Youth of the Year in the Australian Muslim Achievement Awards and in 2008 she was named Bosnian Youth of the Year by the Australian Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina Organisations. Ms Skaka was previously the Convenor of the SAMEAC Youth Advisory Committee.

### **Ms Miriam Silva (term expired on 30 June 2018)**

Ms Miriam Silva came to South Australia from England as a six-year old with her family who heralded from Guyana in South America. She has more than 20 years experience working across multiple industries, including pharmaceuticals, banking and agribusiness, managing large and geographically diverse teams.

In September 2014 Ms Silva was appointed Acting Chief Executive of TAFE SA. She had previously been the Chief Operating Officer for FleetPartners, a leading leasing and fleet management organisation across Australia and New Zealand. Prior to this, Ms Silva was General Manager, Commercial Operations, at Elders Ltd, responsible for national operations. She has previously held a number of roles with ANZ Banking Group, including Chief Operating Officer for the Pacific, a role which involved looking after operations across a number of Pacific Island countries.

Ms Silva has been a member of a number of boards including TAFE SA and University of SA Council. She has volunteered with a number of organisations including the Muslim Women's Association of SA, International Women's Day Committee (SA) and Rotary. She is a Member of the South Australian Women's Honour Roll for 2011 and in 2012 was named as one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence in the Financial Review and Westpac Awards. Ms Silva is a founding mentor for the Financial Review BOSS Emerging Leaders Program.

### **Ms Malgorzata (Gosia) Skalban OAM (term expired on 30 June 2018)**

Ms Gosia Skalban was born in Poland and came to Australia in 1968. Prior to her current employment with Domiciliary Care SA as Multicultural Consultant, Ms Skalban set up linkage and advocacy services across Adelaide, Whyalla and the Riverland. She has also worked with refugees and victims of domestic violence. Ms Skalban has a Bachelor of Arts (Spanish and Italian major), a Bachelor of Social Administration and a Masters of Business Administration.

Ms Skalban has been involved in various community and departmental committees responsible for the initiation of ethno-specific services. She is President of the Polish Women's Association in Adelaide, and a Member of advisory groups including the National Cross-cultural Dementia Network, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Consumer Advisory Council, the International Women's Day Committee of South Australia, the Migrant Women's Lobby Group and the Polish Hill River Church Museum Committee.

In December 2000, Ms Skalban was awarded the Gold Cross for services to the Polish community by the Polish Government. In June 2005 she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the community, particularly through multicultural and aged care organisations. In 2009 she was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for services to the Polish community.

### **Dr Joseph Masika OAM (term expired on 30 June 2018)**

Dr Joseph Masika is a Team Leader in the Statewide Services Directorate of Families SA. He has a Doctor of Medicine degree, a Masters of Public Health, and Certificates in Australian Migration Law, Management and Leadership, and Environmental Health.

Dr Masika has nearly 30 years experience in the health and community service industries in a range of clinical, administrative, research, service co-ordination and delivery, service evaluation and managerial positions. Dr Masika has also given nearly 30 years of voluntary service to the community including 17 years of actively volunteering in Australia and 12 years overseas.

Dr Masika was the Chairperson of the African Communities Council of SA from 2007 until 2014. He is also a Board Member of Health Consumers Alliance, Associate Board Member of the Australian Migrant Resource Centre, Vice Chairperson of Australian-African Services Foundation, and Board Member of Multicultural Aged Care. He also provides expertise in multiculturalism in his involvement with a range of projects and organisations that address mental health and stigma across South Australia.

Dr Masika is a White Ribbon Ambassador and was the Finalist of the National White Ribbon Ambassadors Awards in 2011. He is the Winner of the Australian-African Man of the Year Awards 2011 and Winner of African-Australian Living Legend Awards 2012. In February 2013, Dr Masika was awarded the Governor's Multicultural Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement.

### **Ms Swee Ming (Michelle) Dieu (term expired on 30 June 2018)**

Ms Michelle Dieu is of Chinese Malaysian background. She migrated to South Australia in 1992 as a skilled migrant, joining her parents who had migrated four years earlier. She speaks Mandarin, Bahasa Malaysia and the dialects Fuzhou and Fujian.

A qualified teacher with a Bachelor of Education from Flinders University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta (Canada), Ms Dieu worked as an educator and migrant settlement volunteer in the Chinese community for the Chinese Welfare Services after arrival. She then worked for more than 10 years for the Overseas Chinese Association of South Australia coordinating the Community Settlement Services Scheme and managing the Settlement Grants Program, Joblink Services and Coaching for Multicultural Taxi Driver Training for Chinese and humanitarian entrants. Ms Dieu is currently employed at the Australian Migrant Resource Centre(SA).

In 2003 Ms Dieu was appointed an Ombudsman Referral Delegate under the Justice Access Referral Program by the State Ombudsman's Office. She is a registered migration agent, and a Member of the Migration Institute of Australia.

### **Major-General Vikram Madan, VSM (Retd.) (term expired on 30 June 2018)**

Major-General Vikram Madan, VSM (Retd.) served as an Infantry Officer with the elite Gurkha Regiment for 37 years, following four years of training as an officer cadet. He was twice decorated by the President of India receiving the Vishist Seva Medal in 2000 and 2006 for services of distinguished order. His company, battalion, brigade and divisional commands have been in operational areas bordering China and Pakistan.

In the latter part of his service (2003-2006) he was Deputy Master-General of Ordnance, responsible for the project management and maintenance of Indian Army material. Upon retirement from the Army, he assumed a role as Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Business Development with a multinational company, before moving to Adelaide in 2007. Major General Madan also owns a strategic defence consultancy company in the sub-continent and the gulf region and is a Senior Advisor to an Adelaide-based international counter terrorism consultation and training company.

Major-General Madan has a post-graduate degree in Defence & Strategic Studies, a post-graduate degree in Management and Master of Philosophy in International Relations and Strategic Studies. He speaks English, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and Nepalese fluently. He is a former President of the Indian Australian Association of South Australia and currently sits on the Passenger Transport Standards Committee of the SA Government and the International Humanitarian Law Committee of the Red Cross SA Chapter.

### ***Dottore* Angelo-Raffaele Fantasia (term expired on 30 June 2018)**

Mr Angelo Fantasia has a long association with various Italian-based clubs and organisations in South Australia. He is the current President of the Co-ordinating Italian Committee (CIC) and the Carnevale Italian festival. Mr Fantasia has extensive knowledge and experience in the aged care sector brings significant skills to his role as a board member of CO.AS.IT (Italian Assistance Association SA Inc). He is also a board member of COM.IT.ES, a representative body for Italian communities, directly elected by Italians resident in countries outside Italy.

Mr Fantasia is also involved in religious festivals for the Italian community at the Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Payneham, and is the current President of the Saint Anthony of Padua Committee. His other community involvement is with the Metropolitan Musical Theatre Company (SA) Inc, an Amateur theatre company that produces two musicals every year.

### **Ms Yu Chen (term expired on 30 June 2018)**

Ms Yu Chen is a PhD candidate at the University of Adelaide. Her research interests and specialties are in the discipline of Entrepreneurship, particularly in Chinese immigrant entrepreneurship. Yu's research is also interested in exploring the transnational linkages that entrepreneurs developed between China and Australia.

As an academic, Yu is a passionate and patient teacher and mentor for the bachelor and research honors students at the University of Adelaide. From 2012, Yu has been tutoring at the University of Adelaide. Her teaching subjects include International Business, Introduction to Management, International Management, and Organisational Behaviour. Meanwhile, she is an education consultant for international students to choose their education path in Australia.

Ms Chen is a reliable adviser who has compassion for students and she is able to diagnose students' needs professionally. Being an international student and migrated to Australia few years ago, Yu has developed a strong understanding of both Chinese and Australian cultures, social norms and the education systems. The overseas study and migration experience helps her to be a role model for many students who have an international background and use English as the second language for their academic study.

Ms Chen is also highly involved in the Chinese community based in South Australia. As a result, Yu was able to provide suggestions to students for various issues, such as time management, stress and financial issues, study, work and life balance; and how to integrate into the workforce and focus on personal self-development.

### **Mr Hiep Nguyen (term expired on 30 June 2018)**

Mr Hiep Nguyen was born in Vietnam in 1956 and has two adult children. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree and also has computer sciences and electrical engineering qualification from the University of Adelaide. He was previously a recipient of Colombo Plan Scholarship for university study in Australia from 1974 to 1977. Professionally, Mr Nguyen has 37 years of experience in engineering and information technology. He also operates his own consulting business to provide professional services in Engineering, Information Technology, Telecommunications and Management. Mr Nguyen has a long history working with the Vietnamese community. For the past nine years he has been the current Principal of the Dac-Lo Vietnamese Ethnic School which has more than a 1000 students and more than 50 staff members. Mr Nguyen also served as the President and Chairman of the Pastoral Council of the Vietnamese Catholic Community in South Australia for nine years. He founded the Vietnamese Australian Benevolence Foundation which aims to establish special aged care facilities in South Australia.

### **Mr Mabok Deng Marial (term expired on 30 June 2018)**

Mr Mabok Deng Marial Mabok arrived in Australia over a decade ago as a refugee and has since worked tirelessly within the Sudanese Community and with other African communities. Mr Mabok Deng Mabok Marial has a degree in Bachelor of Science from Nagpur University in India and a Master of Environmental Management from Flinders University. His work history includes Accommodation Officer for Anglicare SA, Client Services Officer for Centrelink and currently he is part of the Multicultural Unit in Centrelink.

- Former President of the Sudanese Community Association in Australia (SA Branch)
- Former Secretary General of the Sudanese Community Association in Australia SA Branch
- Former Public Officer of the SPLM Chapter Secretariat in South Australia
- Former Chairperson of Rumbek Community Welfare Association of South Australia, one of the founders of the African Communities Council of South Australia (ACCSA)
- Former Vice Chairperson of African Communities Council of South Australia (ACCSA)
- Chairperson of the African Communities Council of SA (ACCSA)
- Co-patron of South Sudan Human Right development Organisation in Australia
- He has been on the Migrant Resource Centre of SA Board for the past six years
- Divisional Board member of Australian Red Cross in South Australia.

## **ROLE OF THE COMMISSION**

SAMEAC is a Statutory Authority, which was established under the *South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Act 1980*. Members, whose collective skills assist the work of SAMEAC are drawn from a number of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

SAMEAC is required to:

- advise the Minister for Multicultural Affairs on matters relating to multicultural and ethnic affairs by facilitating communication between the Government and CALD communities
- promote multiculturalism as an integral part of the State's social and economic policies, and work towards an inclusive society
- endeavour to increase the awareness of the services available to people from CALD backgrounds
- promote social harmony amongst CALD communities and the wider community
- foster and support community development activities by CALD communities and
- lead and manage multicultural initiatives in partnership with other organisations and the community.

The functions of SAMEAC are detailed in full at Appendix 1.

### **Meetings of the Commission**

In 2017-18 the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Commission met on the following dates:

- Ordinary Meeting – 18 August 2017
- Ordinary Meeting – 17 September 2017
- Ordinary Meeting – 26 October 2017
- Ordinary Meeting – 6 December 2017
- Ordinary Meeting – 8 February 2018
- Ordinary Meeting – 26 April 2018
- Ordinary Meeting – 14 June 2018

Attendance at South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission meetings in 2017-18.

<b>Commission Member</b>	<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Attended</b>
Hon Grace Portolesi	7	5
Mr Norman Schueler OAM (Deputy Chair)	7	7
Ms Gosia Skalban OAM	7	7
Mr Peter Ppiros	7	7
Major-General Vikram Madan (Retd.) VSM	7	5
Ms Yu Chen	7	2
Ms Michelle Dieu	7	7
Mr Hiep Nguyen	7	7
Mr Mabok Deng Marial	7	5
Dr Joseph Masika OAM	7	4
Ms Teresa Nowak	7	6
Ms Sumeja Skaka	7	0
Ms Miriam Silva	7	0
Dott Angela Fantasia	7	5

### **External Boards and Committees**

Members represent the Commission on various boards and committees (see Appendix 2).



## **BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY**

### **Multicultural Funding**

The South Australian Government is committed to enriching, strengthening, celebrating and showcasing South Australia's wonderfully diverse multicultural community.

Multicultural Affairs within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) provides a range of grants to support the development of an inclusive and cohesive multicultural society, where diverse cultures and intercultural exchange is valued and supported.

The Multicultural Affairs grants program provides funds to multicultural and ethnic community organisations to:

- increase understanding of the culturally diverse community in which we live
- celebrate and value cultural diversity
- improve equality and acceptance across our community
- increase participation by South Australians of all backgrounds.

The program is divided into four funding streams:

- Celebrating Diversity Program
- Multicultural One-Off Grants (Grants SA)
- Stronger Families, Stronger Communities Program
- Multicultural Infrastructure Grants

### SAMEAC representation on grant assessment panels

In 2017-18, SAMEAC members provided input during the assessment process for Grants SA, which is administered by the Department of Human Services, in partnership with DPC.

Major grant rounds of \$20 001 to \$50,000 were assessed twice a year, medium grants of \$5001 to \$20 000 four times a year and minor grants of up to \$5 000 were assessed at the end of every second month.

SAMEAC's representation on the Grant SA Assessment Panels was as follows:

### Major and Medium Grants Assessment Panel

- Mr Peter Ppiros
- Major-General Vikram Madan VSM (Retd.)
- Mr Angelo Fantasia

## Minor Grants Assessment Panel

- Mr Hiep Nguyen

In 2017-18, Grants SA provided over \$3 million in grants to improve community participation, wellbeing and quality of life for South Australians. Multicultural groups and communities are a priority for Grants SA funding, particularly for projects that will develop and strengthen our multicultural communities, encourage cross-cultural awareness, and foster intercultural relationships, mutual respect, understanding and community unity.

Information regarding the community clubs, associations and organisations which received funding in 2017-18 through the Multicultural Affairs grants program can be found on the Multicultural Affairs website:  
<http://multicultural.sa.gov.au/>.

## PROMOTING MULTICULTURALISM

### Diplomatic and Official Visits

During 2017-18 the Chair had the pleasure of receiving the following foreign dignitaries:

- Hon Angelino Alfani, Foreign Minister of Italy
- Mr Luca Vecchi, Mayor of Reggio Emilia (Italy)

### Multicultural Events

SAMEAC places an emphasis on increasing the participation of CALD communities in major public events. This serves the dual purposes of facilitating participation and inclusion of members from these communities and showcasing the richness and uniqueness of South Australia's cultural diversity.

The Commission supports diverse community organisations' involvement in many activities, and particularly the opportunity to share cultural activities, performances, displays and festivals, with the wider South Australian community. In 2017-18 SAMEAC's 'Showcasing Multiculturalism' Program supported the participation of CALD communities in iconic South Australian events including the Christmas Pageant, the Australia Day Parade and the ANZAC Day Eve Commemorations.

### Christmas Pageant

On Saturday, 18 November 2017 the vibrant colour and diversity of South Australia's multicultural community was on full display for the Credit Union Christmas Pageant. For the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the multicultural float themed: 'Christmas around the World' entertained the young and young at heart in an atmosphere of peace, harmony and inclusion.

Dressed in cultural costume, six community groups walked, danced and sang along the Pageant route entertaining the massive crowd of 330 000 people who lined the streets of Adelaide's CBD.

The 2017 Pageant was the first time that organisations from the Nepal, Slovenia and Tanzanian community were represented, bringing the number of different cultural groups represented in the event to almost 80.

The following organisations participated in the Pageant:

- Nepal (Nepalese Society)
- Tanzania (Tanzanian Community Association in Australia)
- Peru (Incas Peru Association of SA Inc)
- Ukraine (Volya Unkrainian Cossack Dancers)
- Slovenia (Slovenian Club in Adelaide)
- Cyprus (Cypriot Community SA)

## **Australia Day Community Parade**

The Australia Day Community Parade in Adelaide celebrates multiculturalism and the diversity of people who call South Australia home. In 2018, SAMEAC helped the Australia Day Council organise the parade. More than 2 000 participants from 87 community groups, including more than 70 cultural ethnic organisations, participated in the parade on 26 January 2018. The parade was watched by approximately 15 000 people who lined King William Street, Adelaide as the participants walked from Victoria Square to Elder Park for the Australia Day Concert and fire.

Prize money and certificates were awarded to the following groups and individuals:

- Judges' Choice - Ukrainian Association
- Best Music - Vietnamese Community
- Most Creative - Russian Community Centre
- Best Costumes - Australian Arts Troupe

## **ANZAC Day Eve Youth Vigil and ANZAC - Multicultural School Visits**

Each year, young people from culturally diverse backgrounds participate in the ANZAC Day Eve Youth Vigil at the War Memorial on North Terrace, Adelaide. As part of the Vigil, young people lay books about the ANZACS instead of wreaths as tributes to the fallen. The gesture, staged by the Returned and Services League (RSL), is designed to provide an opportunity for culturally diverse young people to recognise those who gave their lives in the service of the country. The young people wear national dress reflecting their cultural background and are encouraged to wear their ancestors' medals.

The 2017 ANZAC – Multiculturalism school visit took place at Loxton High School. Mr Peter Ppiros represented SAMEAC, while Mr Rob Manuel (President) represented the Loxton RSL Sub-Branch. Mr Manuel spoke about his experiences as a Vietnam War veteran. Special guest speaker, Mr Howard Hendrick spoke about his service in the RAAF during the Second World War. Two students from Loxton High School who were among the recipients of the 2017 Premier's ANZAC Spirit School Prize, also gave presentations about their trip to Vietnam. Year 10 student Meg Schultz led the service, while fellow Year 10 student Jane van Niekerk recited the *Ode to Remembrance*. An article about the visit was featured in the *Murray Pioneer* newspaper on 21 November 2018.

## **Governor's Multicultural Awards**

SAMEAC once again supported and promoted the 2017 Governor's Multicultural Awards. These annual Awards are open to everyone in the community and aim to honour outstanding contributions by individuals and organisations to promote social harmony and inclusivity and the positive influence of cultural diversity in the community.

An independent panel of nine judges, chaired by His Honour Judge Rauf Soulio was assembled to assess the 69 nominations and determine the finalists and winners of the Governor’s Multicultural Awards.

The nominations received were of a particularly high calibre. A total of 16 winners were selected from 27 finalists across 15 categories. On 27 March 2018, His Excellency Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia presented the 2017 awards on the grounds of Government House announced by Ms Sonia Feldhoff, ABC Radio host.

The award winners are listed below.

<b>Award</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
Outstanding Individual -Achievement	Mr Keyvan Abak
Arts and Culture - Individual	Mr Fahim Hasimy
Arts and Culture - Organisation	Indofest Adelaide 2017
Community Sector- Individual	Mr Kanal Dahal and Mr Deepak Bhardwaj
Community Sector- Organisation	Ahmadiyya Muslim Association SA
Media Award	Ms Rhiannon Elston
Public Sector Award - Organisation	Department for Child Protection
Private Sector Award	Spotless
Senior Volunteer Award	Mr Kruno Batrac and Mr Vladas Lazauskas (High Commendation)
Youth – Individual	Mr Jemal Mussa
Aged Care - Individual	Dr Meera Goel
Aged Care - Organisation	Helping Hand Age Care, Southern Cross (SA/NT) and Research Centre for Languages and Culture, University of South Australia
Family Safety - Individual	Ms Nagita Maureen Kaggwa
Economic Development	Community Corporate Pty Ltd

The cultural performances at the Awards ceremony were the Iranian Women Organisation SA Inc, Fusion Beats Dance, KALNKA Russian Ensemble and the Adelaide City Jazzmen.

Mr Paul Vasileff, Director of fashion label *Paolo Sebastian* and 2017 Young Australian of the Year, delivered the Keynote Address.

Nominations for the 2018 Governor’s Multicultural Awards opened on 21 August and close on 12 October 2018.

### **SAMEAC Multicultural Reception**

The German Club, Adelaide was the venue for the third annual SAMEAC Multicultural Reception. The Reception was attended by more than 400 community leaders and representatives from diverse cultural groups, clubs and associations across South Australia.

The former Premier of South Australia, Hon Jay Weatherill MP, former Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Hon Zoe Bettison MP and the former SAMEAC Chair, Hon Grace Portolesi addressed the gathering to thank them for their contribution to promoting multiculturalism in South Australia. The Reception provided a valuable opportunity for interaction amongst South Australia's culturally diverse community leaders.

### **Refugee Week**

Each year, SAMEAC supports Refugee Week in South Australia, which forms part of the calendar of Refugee Week events held across Australia each year to coincide with World Refugee Day. Local events were held across the state as part of Refugee Week, including movie screenings, exhibitions, excursions, public lectures, lunches, teas, and a soccer tournament. The Chair attended the World Refugee Day event on 20 June 2018 held in the Adelaide Town Hall.

### **Multicultural Events Calendar**

In 2017-18, a Multicultural Events Calendar was published online at [www.multicultural.sa.gov.au/events](http://www.multicultural.sa.gov.au/events). The online Multicultural Events Calendar contains information about days of cultural and religious significance, anniversaries, festivals and other multicultural events in South Australia. Communities are encouraged to submit details of their upcoming celebrations and days of significance online at [www.multicultural.sa.gov.au](http://www.multicultural.sa.gov.au)

### **Multicultural Affairs and SAMEAC website**

The Multicultural Affairs website includes a wide range of information about services available to migrants settling in South Australia, and information about the State's diverse communities as well as a new and improved online events calendar.

### **Community Consultation and Community Engagement**

In 2017-18 SAMEAC continued its Community Engagement Strategy that was adopted in early 2015, hosting community engagement meetings with three different cultural groups. The objective of the Community Engagement Strategy was for SAMEAC to hold every second meeting into the community by inviting identified ethnic groups to present to the Commission about their specific needs and aspirations. This information was used to inform SAMEAC's advice to Government.

The three Community Engagement Meetings held in 2017-18 were with the Iranian community, Latin American communities and the Sri Lankan community.

## **Parliamentary Receptions**

In 2017/18 former Premier Jay Weatherill MP hosted several Receptions at Parliament House, which were attended by SAMEAC members.

Receptions were held in honour of:

- Ethnic Media
- Ethnic Schools
- Dimitria Festival launch (2017)
- Diwali Festival
- Italian Festival (formerly known as Carnevale)
- Indofest (10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

## **Policing for a Multicultural Society Awards**

The Policing for a Multicultural Society Award was initiated by SAMEAC in 2009. In 2017-18 SAMEAC members presented the *Policing for a Multicultural Society Award*, which is given to a police cadet in each graduating recruit course. The award is given to the cadet from each 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 2017-18 were:

- Mr Bradley Winn
- Mr Joseph Elliott
- Ms Veronica Smyth
- Ms Sheryl Scorgie
- Ms Hayley Franklin
- Mr Scott Walker
- Ms Sarah Day
- Mr Liam Bennett
- Mr James Irwin
- Ms Jamine Kelly
- Mr Lee McCann
- Mr Carolyn Hastie
- Ms Zoe Green
- Mr Bill Tuckerman
- Mr Oliver Von Doussa

## **Partnership with SA Police**

2017-18 has seen a continuation of the strong working relationship between SAMEAC and SA Police. Liaison meetings of the Strategic Multicultural Interface Group (SMIG) are held between Senior SA Police officers, the Chair and SAMEAC. The purpose of the meetings is to share information and discuss existing and emerging issues affecting South Australia's ethnic communities.

## **Multicultural Women's Leadership Program**

The Multicultural Women's Leadership Program for women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds was initiated by SAMEAC in 2002 and has had more than 210 graduates from the program. Participants participate in a ten-month program from February to November each calendar year and graduate with a Certificate IV in Leadership and Management.

In 2017-18 the course was coordinated through TAFESA, Multicultural Affairs and SAMEAC. The 2017 Women's Leadership Course graduation ceremony was held on 12 February 2018 with 19 women graduating.



## ACCESS AND EQUITY

SAMEAC is involved in many activities that aim to ensure that no person living in South Australia faces barriers to accessing information and services because of their CALD background. The Commission is also pro-active in addressing issues of real or perceived prejudice and discrimination when they arise in the local community. Some of these initiatives are listed below.

### **Access and Equity Strategy**

SAMEAC continued to liaise with the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment regarding workforce diversity and the information gathered through the annual 'State of the Sector Survey'. The Report of the 2016 State of the Sector Survey highlighted some areas where services can be improved, such as access to interpreting and translating services.

In this context, the Commission welcomed the continued progress of the Department for Human Services with both a whole of government interpreting and translating policy and the development of a cultural awareness training program to be made available across government agencies.

## **INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATING SERVICES**

The Interpreting and Translating Centre (ITC) provides interpreting and translating services to a wide range of private, corporate and government clients. Services offered by ITC include face-to-face interpreting sessions, interpreting over the phone, interpreting for business meetings, document translations and multilingual typesetting.

Through 2017-2018 ITC experienced solid growth, particularly in the provision of interpreting services and the recruitment for interpreting staff saw numbers increase to around 340 casual staff to service this increasing demand, up from 297 last year. ITC's administration section also increased to ten full time equivalent staff (nine in 2017-2018) to administer and coordinate these additional interpreting assignments.

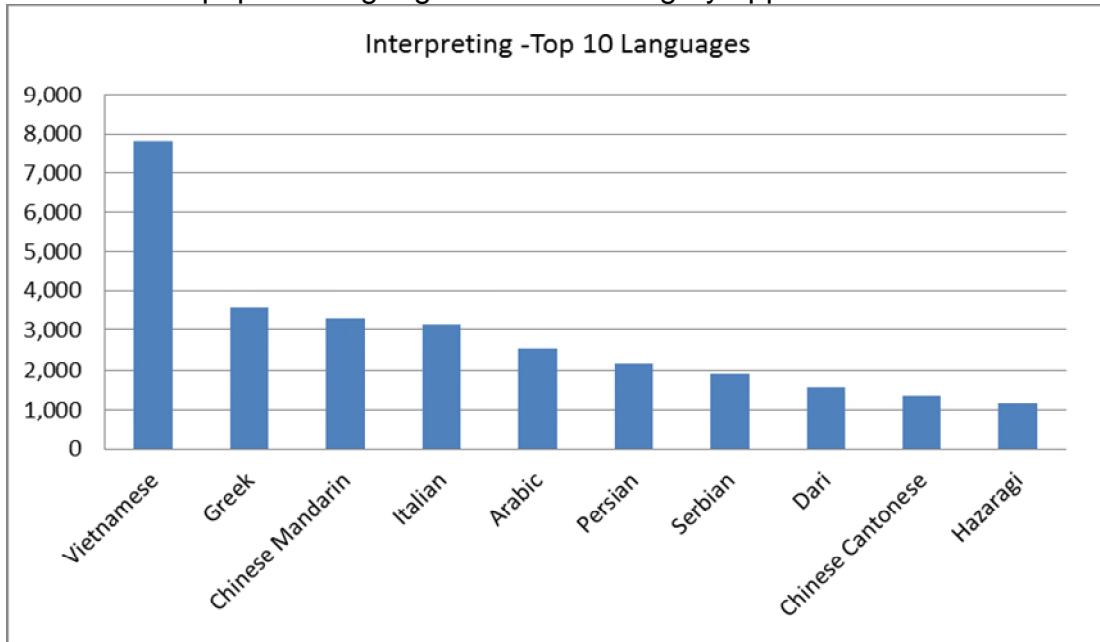
### **Interpreting and translating assignments**

Overall activity for ITC's interpreting services increased through 2017-18 with 37 906 assignments completed, up from 33 395 last year. Most additional demand originated from existing SA Health locations in the lead up to the announcement of ITC's successful tender proposal.

Interpreting assignments for 2017-18 were requested in 105 of the 110 available languages and 71.26% of these assignments occurred in the ten most requested languages, shown in the table below. These languages have consistently been the most popular languages in recent years. Vietnamese remained the most demanded language for interpreting assignments, with over 7 800 assignments.

Translation service provision remained steady with services provided in 56 of the 85 languages on offer with ITC. However, the translation section experienced decreased demand with total documents translated of 1 454 down from 1 959 the previous year and total number of words translated decreased to 644 109 from 783 000 (21.5% decrease)

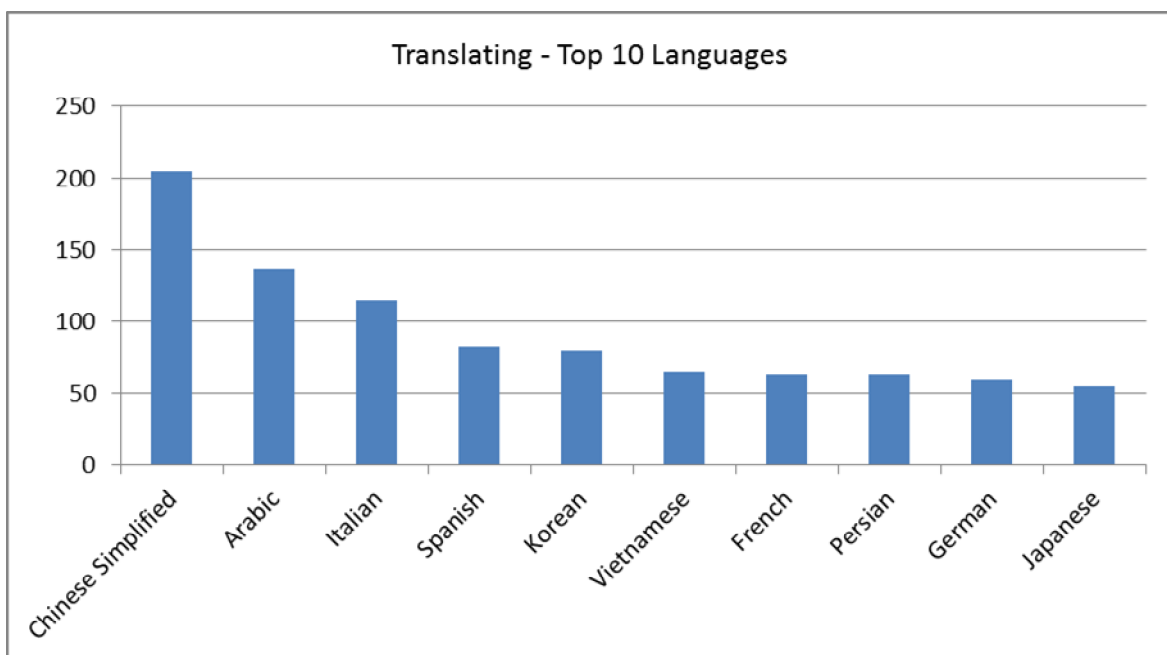
The ten most popular languages of either category appear in the tables below.



Translating assignments were provided in 56 languages and 64% of these assignments were represented in the top ten languages, as shown in the table below.

Chinese Simplified remained the most requested language for translation, with 205 assignments, followed by Arabic with 137 assignments. Korean and French also experienced increases while the demand for Vietnamese and Persian decreased.

### Ten most common languages for translating assignments in 2017-18



## **Training sessions**

ITC continued with its delivery of training sessions on 'Working with Interpreters' in 2017-18 to a number of government and private clients mainly in the health, insurance and legal sectors. ITC delivered seven sessions with the aim of providing an insight into the best practice interpreting to help client agencies communicate effectively when using interpreters with non-English speaking clients. ITC also conducted four induction sessions throughout the year for new interpreters and translators to familiarise them with working in the SA government and the particular work processes at ITC, along with three workplace orientations at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital site.

## ***New interpreters and translators***

During the year, 71 additional interpreters and translators were recruited covering over 40 languages. These languages included Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Cantonese, Chin, Croatian, Dari, Dinka, Dutch, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Farsi, French, Greek, Hakka, Hazaragi, Hindi, Ilocano, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Karen, Khmer, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Korean, Malayalam, Mandarin, Nepali, Pushto, Persian, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Sudanese, Swahili, Tagalog, Turkish, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

The 71 new interpreters and translators were recruited due to increasing overall activity as well as specific requirements for emerging and established language groups and covering for natural retirements and resignations.

## APPENDIX 1: FUNCTIONS OF SAMEAC

The main functions of SAMEAC are defined in Section (12) of the *South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Act, 1980*. These primary functions are to:

- increase awareness and understanding of the ethnic diversity of the South Australian community and the implications of that diversity; and
- advise the Government and public authorities on, and assist them in, all matters relating to the advancement of multiculturalism and ethnic affairs.

The other functions are:

- to assist in the development of strategies designed to ensure that multicultural and language policies are incorporated as an integral part of wider social and economic development policies
- to work with public authorities to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to the advancement of multiculturalism and ethnic affairs
- to keep under review and advise the government and public authorities on the extent to which services and facilities are available to, and meet the needs of, minority CALD groups
- to assist public authorities to devise effective methods for the evaluation and reporting of policies and programs for the advancement of multiculturalism and ethnic affairs;
- to develop, in conjunction with other public authorities, immigration and settlement strategies designed to support and complement the State's economic development plans and to realise the potential and meet the needs of individual immigrants
- to advise, assist and promote cooperation between CALD groups and organisations concerned in CALD affairs
- to inform and consult with CALD groups and other interested groups and organisations about the work of SAMEAC and issues relating to multiculturalism and CALD affairs
- to provide or assist in the provision of interpreting, translating, information and other services and facilities for the benefit of CALD groups and others
- to publicise generally the work of SAMEAC.

**APPENDIX 2: REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES AS THE COMMISSION'S NOMINEE AS AT 30 JUNE 2018**

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Courts Administration Authority Community Relations Committee	Mr Mabok Deng Marial
Australia Day Council	Mr Norman Schueler OAM

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## APPENDIX 3: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

### Freedom of Information Statement

In order to conform to the requirements of Section 9 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*, the following statement has been prepared and is presented as part of the Commission's Annual Report.

### Functions

The main functions of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission are defined in Section (12) of the *South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Act 1980* and are detailed in Appendix 1.

### Interaction with the Public

The Commission does not provide direct client services. The Commission, in fulfilling its statutory objectives, interacts with the public through consultations and forums. Information obtained in this way assists the Commission's strategic planning and forms the basis of policy advice to the Government on multicultural issues.

### Constitution of Commission

The Commission consists of not more than 15 members appointed by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, of whom:

- a) one must be appointed to chair the Commission; and
- b) at least four must be men and four women.

### Documents

A number of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission's documents (such as the Annual Report) may be viewed, free of charge, by arrangement with the Freedom of Information Officer.

### Access

Requests relating to access to other documents should be carried out in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* and outlined on the State Records of South Australia website at <http://www.archives.sa.gov.au/foi>

Requests should be accompanied by the Freedom of Information Access Fee (if applicable) and directed in writing to:

The Accredited FOI Officer  
Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
GPO Box 2343  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Telephone (08) 8429 5489 or (08) 8429 5493  
Website [dpcfoiunit@sa.gov.au](mailto:dpcfoiunit@sa.gov.au)

South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission  
State Administration Centre  
200 Victoria Square  
GPO Box 2343  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8429 5954  
Website: [multicultural.sa.gov.au/](http://multicultural.sa.gov.au/)