



**Government  
of South Australia**

**South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs  
Commission  
2019-20 Annual Report**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION**

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Date presented to Minister: 29 September 2020

To:

Hon Steven Marshall MP, Premier of South Australia  
Multicultural Affairs

This annual report is to be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Act 1980*.

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 AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION by:

Mr Norman Schueler OAM

Chair, South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission

Date 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Schueler". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

## From the Chair



It is my great pleasure to provide the *South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Annual Report 2019-20*.

The Commission's relationships and engagement with the state's diverse communities are pivotal in ensuring that we have a broad and deep understanding of our multicultural society. This important role contributes to a cohesive and robust multicultural South Australia.

Over the past year, we have connected with and heard directly from community leaders and stakeholders across business, government and non-government sectors, providing us with a balanced and informed perspective of emerging issues and opportunities.

This year marks an important milestone as we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *South Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Act (1980)*, which is our state's key piece of legislation about multiculturalism.

The establishment of SAMEAC in 1980 was a bipartisan acknowledgment that multiculturalism adds much to the richness and vitality of our State.

When I reflect on the role and work of SAMEAC over the years, it is with great pride to see the Commission's impact in promoting and championing the value that diversity brings.

We cannot underestimate the critical role that migrants and refugees have played, and continue to play, not only within their communities, but also the wider community. Cultural diversity is a significant part of our South Australian story.

Multiculturalism has delivered remarkable community harmony, continuous cultural renewal and vigour and extraordinary economic prosperity. This is underpinned by the hard work, expertise and skills of migrants and refugees and their descendants.

Since SAMEAC came into effect 40 years ago, we have witnessed significant growth, change and development in our multicultural population across the state.

This has prompted reflection by our Government of South Australia, with the office of Multicultural Affairs (Department of the Premier and Cabinet) leading a review of the Act. The review featured a comprehensive consultation process, including state wide community forums, a stakeholder workshop, an online survey and written submissions.

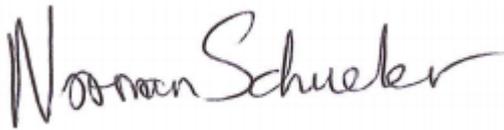
The government has listened to the diverse views expressed by the community, and my Commission looks forward to the introduction of the Bill to Parliament in the year to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the unprecedented and challenging times we are experiencing here in South Australia, nationwide and globally with the impact of COVID-19.

We have all worked hard to follow the necessary restrictions to ensure our wellbeing and safety. The role of our community leaders, multicultural organisations, associations, clubs and volunteers are playing in response to COVID-19 is commendable.

It is our community connections and links which unite us and keep us strong.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the Hon Jing Lee, MLC, Assistant Minister to the Premier and to the members of the Commission for their leadership and contributions to multicultural South Australia. Also, to Multicultural Affairs for their commitment and professionalism in supporting the work of the Commission.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Schueker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N'.

**Chair**

South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission

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## **Overview: about the Commission**

### **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 role**

The South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission (SAMEAC) is a statutory body, 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 diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

The primary functions of the Commission are to:

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

### ***Meetings of the Commission***

In 2019-20, SAMEAC met on the following dates:

- 9 July 2019
- 30 August 2019
- 25 October 2019
- 29 November 2019
- 7 February 2020
- 1 May 2020
- 19 June 2020

Attendance at South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission meetings in 2019-20.

<b>Commission member</b>	<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Attended</b>
Mr Norman Schueler OAM (Chair)	7	7
Mrs Antonietta Cocchiaro OAM (Deputy Chair)	7	6
Mrs Laura Adzanku	7	7
Mr George Chin	7	6
Ms Adriana Christopoulos	7	6
Cav Maria Maglieri	7	6
Dr Sridhar Nannapaneni	7	5
Ms Thuy Phan	7	7
Dr Valdis Tomanis	7	5
Mr Muhama Yotham	7	6
Dr Ning Zhang	7	6
Mr Ahmed Zreika	7	7

## Our Commission members



### **Mr Norman Schueler OAM**

#### **Chair**

His knowledge of the Jewish community and his extensive business experience are valuable qualities to assist the Commission in its work.

Mr Schueler, who was born in the United Kingdom, arrived in Australia in April 1966. In 1984, he founded Normetals, a scrap metal and steel sales business. Mr Schueler has travelled extensively and regularly to China to establish a flourishing import/export business.

Actively involved in the Jewish community, Mr Schueler is a past President of the South Australian Jewish Youth Council and the B'nai B'rith Youth Organisation.

He has been President of the Jewish Community Council SA since 1994, Vice President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, and was a former Director of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, as well as being a director of numerous companies.

Mr Schueler is currently a Director of the National Australia Day Council.

### **Mrs Antonietta Cocchiaro OAM**

#### **Deputy Chair**



Mrs Cocchiaro's extensive experience and knowledge of the education sector, from her work as a school principal to her experience in education policy and governance, brings valuable insights to the deliberations of the Commission.

Mrs Cocchiaro has been a member of the Ethnic Schools Board, the Multicultural Education Coordinating Committee, and the Coordinating Italian Committee – Education Sub-Committee.

Mrs Cocchiaro was a finalist in the 1996 Italian Lions Italian of the Year Award.

She is a recipient of the ACEL: Educational Leadership Medal Award 2010 and the Alby Jones Gold Medal Award 2012.

### **Mrs Laura Adzanku**



Mrs Adzanku's work with the African Communities Council of South Australia as a settlement officer back in 2008 ignited her passion for working with CALD communities.

Mrs Adzanku has established an extensive network within several CALD communities and actively participates and supports various community initiatives that build community capacity. She is an active supporter of the annual African Festival and a familiar face at many community events.

Mrs Adzanku volunteered with the African Women's Federation of South Australia as the public relations officer. She is currently a member of the Council for Migrant and Refugee Women of SA and sits on the advisory committee of the MUSES Project SA: Multicultural and settlement services supporting women experiencing violence.

As a community support and liaison officer at PEACE Multicultural Services, Relationships Australia SA, Mrs Adzanku has been successful in pioneering a number of community projects addressing health and wellbeing issues prevalent within CALD communities. She is a financial counsellor and family dispute resolution practitioner.

In 2014, Mrs Adzanku was the winner of the Governor's Multicultural Award in the Community Sector (Individual) category. She was also a recipient of the African Australian Community Champions Award in 2014.

### **Mr George Chin**



Mr Chin has been actively involved in social, commercial and community work since migrating to Australia in 1992.

He has operated a Wendy's Franchise and an Espresso Coffee shop in Chinatown for many years, along with other businesses, and now runs the Chinatown Lotteries.

Mr Chin is a founding member of the Central Market Precinct Association, and a former President and current Vice Present of Chinatown Adelaide of SA.

He has been an ambassador of the OzAsia Festival since its inception in 2010.

Since 2013, Mr Chin has been an Honorary Advisor to the Oceania Federation of Chinese Organisations from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos Incorporated.

### **Ms Adriana Christopoulos**



Ms Christopoulos holds an Honours Degree in International Studies from the University of Adelaide which she obtained as a mature age student while raising a young family.

She has been involved with many community groups and continues to represent the community as an elected member for the City of Mitcham and previously for the City of West Torrens.

Ms Christopoulos has worked in both state and local government, and her focus has been in the area of governance and policy, and now in the area of economic development and grant funding.

Ms Christopoulos has also served on the Australia Day Council from 2008 until 2015 and chaired the Council from 2013-2015.

### **Cav Maria Maglieri**



CEO Maglieri Group

Growing up on the family vineyard in the heart of McLaren Vale, Maria Maglieri was always destined for a life in wine. Coupled with tours of the great wine regions of the world, Maria was inspired to follow her father and mentor, Serafino (Steve) Maglieri into the family business.

With a superior wine knowledge gained from more than 20 years' experience, Maria has thrived as CEO of the Maglieri Group including Serafino Wines, Serafino McLaren Vale Hotel, McLaren Vale Bottlers and property investments. Under her strong management skills and marketing flair, Serafino has been endorsed as a leading wine brand of South Australia and in export markets, in addition a tourism destination for its unique offering of an onsite winery, cellar door, accommodation, restaurant and events centre in the hub of McLaren Vale.

Maria's achievements have been recognised locally and globally; the South Australian Business Ambassador in 2006, nominated for the Telstra Business Woman of the Year in 2010, named the 2012 Molisana Business Woman of the World in Italy and recently awarded the title "Cavaliere", Order of Merit of the Italian Republic in 2018 for her contribution to the Italian community and Women in business.

Maria serves as a volunteer of the Molise Associazione Adelaide SA, member of the McLaren Vale Grape Wine Tourism Association, including Board member 2013 – 2016 and is an advocate for working women and mothers in business.



### **Dr Sridhar Nannapaneni**

Dr Neni is a committed Indian community leader and successful dentist in South Australia.

He is passionate about helping migrants.

Dr Neni has sponsored many Indian community organisations and provided migrants and new arrivals with assistance with health and dental needs.

Dr Neni is experienced in providing a range of advice on policy issues, preparing policy reports and briefings, undertaking research and analysis, and creating relationships with key stakeholders.



### **Ms Thuy Phan**

Ms Phan arrived in Australia as a Vietnamese refugee, via boat at age 13 with her parents, two brothers and two sisters.

After graduating from Edith Cowan University in Western Australia with a Bachelor of Science (Nursing), Ms Phan has been working in aged care for over 26 years.

Ms Phan currently works for the ACH group (aged care) and is committed to assisting other culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, clients and loved ones to make the transition from home to residential care as homely as possible and accessing community services as needed.

Ms Phan has strong leadership skills, extensive clinical, management background in the health and aged care sectors, having worked in various leadership roles within aged care including as Chief Executive Officer at a CALD aged care provider.

Ms Phan is currently working in partnership with various CALD communities to further facilitate their understanding of the aged care industry.



### **Dr Valdis Tomanis**

Dr Tomanis was born in a refugee camp in Regensburg, Germany, in 1947 and arrived in Adelaide at the age of 18 months.

He was in private practice as a dental surgeon for almost 47 years before retiring in August 2016.

Dr Tomanis has spent a large part of his life within the Latvian community – Latvian school, scouts, basketball, folk dancing, performing in the Latvian theatre as well as a committee member of the Adelaide Latvian Students Society.

He is a life member of the Latvian Association of Adelaide (including 10 years as vice-president to Bruno Kruminis OAM).

In 1994, Dr Tomanis was one of the foundation members of the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Australia and has been their president for the last nine years.



### **Mr Muhama Yotham**

Mr Yotham is a Senior Pastor at the Amazing Grace Gospel Church.

He has extensive experience over the past 12 years working with refugees and migrants through the Australian Migrant Resource Centre, the Refugee Council of Australia, the Australian Refugee Association, African Communities Council of South Australia and The Burundian Community Association of South Australia.

Mr Yotham's current work as a Community Development Worker with Uniting Communities is now concentrated in the New & Emerging Communities program which falls under the City of Playford's Community for Children program.

Mr Yotham works closely with new migrants to help them access quality education and improving health and wellbeing in order to build a sustainable life for themselves and their children in Australia.

### **Dr Ning Zhang**



Dr Zhang is Deputy Dean (International) for Faculty of Arts, and Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Sciences, at The University of Adelaide.

Dr Zhang is an ambassador of OzAsia Festival, former President of the Asia Pacific Business Council for Women SA, and a former member of the SA Chinese Culture and Trade Promotion Association.

Dr Zhang is also an accredited Translator in English and Chinese Languages (both directions).

Dr Zhang conducts research in history and the state of education in China, and comparative studies in vocational education.

She has also published work on teaching the Chinese language.

### **Mr Ahmed Zreika**



Mr Zreika is the General Director and Co-founder of his family business, ZLA Pty Ltd.

He is the current (since 2015) President of the Islamic Society of SA, the current Principal and Business Manager of the Al-Salam Arabic School, and the current Chairperson and founder of the Al-Salam Festival.

The highly successful Al-Salam Festival's purpose is to create awareness of the Muslim community and Islam, through providing entertainment, food and informative activities that allow people to grasp a general perspective of the religion and address any queries they may have.

## The Commission's performance

### Performance at a glance

- 48 events attended by the Chair, South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission\*
- 168 events attended by Commission members\*
- Seven Commission meetings

### Parliamentary receptions

In 2019-20, Premier Steven Marshall MP hosted a reception in honour of Diwali on 4 November 2019 at Parliament House, which was attended by Commission members.

### Commission meeting highlights

The Commission held seven meetings during 2019-20. Highlights of these meetings included presentations on:

- Aged care by Ms Rosa Colanero, Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural Aged Care
- Engaging with multicultural communities by South Australian Police's Community Engagement Unit
- Religion and intercultural understanding in South Australian schools by Mr Malcolm McInerney, Manager of Humanities Education Projects, Department for Education
- South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) and language studies in South Australian schools by Professor Martin Westwell, Chief Executive, SACE Board.

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\* Due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic during 2019-20, and in accordance with the COVID-19 public gatherings and social distancing restrictions, the Chair and members of the Commission attended a limited number of events during the four-month period, between March and June 2020.

## **Community Forum on ‘Building social cohesion by understanding language and extremism’**

The South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, in conjunction with Multicultural Affairs, hosted its Community Forum on *Building social cohesion by understanding language and extremism* on Thursday 5 December 2019.

The main objective of the Community Forum was to inform government, media, service providers and community leaders about effective languages and narratives that can be used to counter racism and extremism, and to help advance intercultural understanding and build bridges within a diverse society in South Australia.

The community forum featured presentations by:

- **Professor Mohamad Abdalla**, Director of the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education, University of South Australia
- **Mr Peter Wertheim AM**, co-Chief Executive Officer of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry
- **Ms Georgie Cornish**, State Recovery, Department of Human Services
- **Mr Merv Yazarloo**, Detective Sergeant of the Counter Terrorism & Security Section of South Australia Police.

The Honourable Jing Lee MLC, Assistant Minister to the Premier, presented the Welcome Address and Introduction.

The forum presented an opportunity for these guest speakers to share their valuable insights, knowledge and lessons learned, and encourage more objective, balanced, inclusive and accurate language when reporting on culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

## **Supporting the Governor’s Multicultural Awards**

SAMEAC once again supported and promoted the Governor’s Multicultural Awards in 2019-20. These important awards recognise and celebrate South Australians who promote multiculturalism and increase the understanding of the benefits of cultural diversity in our community.

An independent panel of judges, chaired by His Honour Judge Rauf Soulio was assembled to assess the nominations and determine the finalists and winners of the 2019 Governor’s Multicultural Awards. Two of the judges were SAMEAC members, Mrs Antonietta Cocchiara OAM and Dr Valdis Tomanis.

His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia, announced the winners of the 2019 Governor’s Multicultural Awards on Wednesday, 20 May 2020. Eleven award recipients were chosen from 24 finalists across nine award categories.

Further information about the Governor’s Multicultural Awards, which are administered by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet through Multicultural Affairs, is available by visiting <https://dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/multicultural-affairs/events/the-governors-multicultural-awards>.

## **Supporting the biennial Multicultural Festival**

SAMEAC also supported Multicultural Affairs' promotion of their biennial Multicultural Festival 2019, which attracted 7000 people to Victoria Square, Adelaide to celebrate and engage with South Australia's multicultural communities.

The largest to date, the 2019 Multicultural Festival featured 80 groups showcasing up to 50 cultures.

Further information about the biennial Multicultural Festival is available by visiting <https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/multicultural-affairs/events/the-multicultural-festival>.

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

The Policing for a Multicultural Society Award was initiated by SAMEAC in 2009. In 2019-20, 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 2019-20 were:

- Ashlee Belmonte
- Daniel Cowley
- Amanda Todd
- Joshua Foster
- George Bellas
- Leon La Posta
- Andrea Fiebig
- Georgia Walden
- David Ongarato
- Tyler Jones
- Kristy McEntee
- Melanie Johnson
- Kelisha Mayn

## Appendix 1: 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*.

### 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:

- one must be appointed to chair the Commission; and
- 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 [www.archives.sa.gov.au](http://www.archives.sa.gov.au).

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

FOI Officer

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

GPO Box 2343

ADELAIDE SA 5001

Email [DPCFOlunit@sa.gov.au](mailto:DPCFOlunit@sa.gov.au)