



**Government  
of South Australia**

**South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs  
Commission  
2020-21 Annual Report**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION**

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Date presented to Minister: 27 September 2021

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:

Ms Adriana Christopoulos

Chair, South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission

Date 27 September 2021

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adriana Christopoulos', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

## From the Chair

It is with great pleasure to provide the *South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Annual Report 2020-21*.

South Australia has a strong, diverse and vibrant multicultural society which is recognised for its valuable contribution to our states economic and cultural life. As Chair, I am heartened by the display of true commitment to multiculturalism, and social cohesion, together with a passion for inspiring and engaging not only members of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission (SAMEAC), but the community as a whole.

SAMEAC members bring established, longstanding, strong and deeply valued relationships with our state's diverse communities. It cannot be underestimated the significance of these connections, particularly during these unprecedented times and challenges our communities are experiencing with the impact of COVID-19.

During this difficult year, the Commission, like so many other sectors, industries and communities looked to new and different ways to remain connected and engaged. It was important to SAMEAC that communities knew that they too felt connected and supported.

On behalf of the members of the Commission, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the work and commitment of the South Australian Government, notably, the Department of Premier and Cabinet and SA Health who have been working closely with multicultural communities to ensure they have access to up to date, accessible and language appropriate COVID-19 information, health messages and resources. It was evident that government's commitment to the safety and wellbeing of our communities was paramount.

I would also like to acknowledge the significant work of our community leaders, multicultural, religious and faith organisations and the many volunteers who have been working tirelessly, providing support and care to their communities and to the most vulnerable, during these challenging times.

This year, the Hon Steven Marshall MP, Premier of South Australia introduced the South Australian Multicultural Bill 2020 to Parliament. I extend my sincere thanks to the Premier and the Hon Jing Lee, MLC, Assistant Minister to the Premier for their leadership and contributions to multicultural South Australia. Also, to Multicultural Affairs, Department of the Premier and Cabinet for its commitment and professionalism in supporting the work of SAMEAC.

The introduction of the South Australian Multicultural Bill 2020 marks an exciting time in our state's history. We have had the opportunity to expand our thinking on multiculturalism and continue the work that contributes to building a strong and vibrant multicultural society.

I take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the Commission for their dedication to multicultural South Australia and, importantly, I would like to thank the outgoing Chair and members of SAMEAC for their contribution and commitment in advocating for and raising awareness and understanding of our diverse community.

We have all worked hard to support communities from addressing emerging issues as a result of the impact of COVID- 19 to improving equality and tolerance for all.

I look forward to contributing to the work of the Commission, building on its relationships and engagement with communities, supporting the Bill and the development of the Charter that reflects South Australia's cultural, linguistic and religious diversity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adriana Christopoulos', written in a cursive style.

Ms Adriana Christopoulos

**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 2020-21, SAMEAC met on the following dates:

- 17 July 2020
- 11 September 2020
- 2 October 2020
- 13 November 2020
- 5 February 2021
- 23 April 2021
- 21 May 2021
- 25 June 2021

Attendance at South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission meetings in 2020-21.

<b>Commission member</b>	<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Attended</b>
Mr Norman Schueler OAM (Chair)	8	8
Mrs Antonietta Cocchiaro OAM (Deputy Chair)	8	8
Mrs Laura Adzanku	8	6
Mr George Chin	8	8
Ms Adriana Christopoulos	8	6
Cav Maria Maglieri	8	5
Dr Sridhar Nannapaneni	8	6
Ms Thuy Phan	8	8
Dr Valdis Tomanis	8	7
Mr Muhama Yotham	8	4
Dr Ning Zhang	8	8
Mr Ahmed Zreika	8	5

## Our Commission members



### **Mr Norman Schueler OAM (term expired 30 June 2021)**

#### **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 Cocchiario OAM (term expired 30 June 2021)**

#### **Deputy Chair**

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

Mrs Cocchiario 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 (term expired 30 June 2021)**



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 (term expired 30 June 2021)**



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 (term expired 30 June 2021)**



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 (term expired 30 June 2021)**

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 (term expired 30 June 2021)**

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 (term expired 30 June 2021)**



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**

- 56 events attended by the Chair, South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission
- 134 events attended by Commission members
- Eight Commission meetings

### **Parliamentary receptions**

In 2020-21, Premier Steven Marshall MP hosted the following receptions which were attended by Commission members, in honour of:

- Greek Independence Day on 22 March 2021
- End of Ramadan on 17 May 2021
- World Africa Day on 19 May 2021
- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Filipino Community in South Australia on 29 May 2021
- Italian National Day on 31 May 2021

### **Commission meeting highlights**

The Commission held eight meetings during 2020-21. Highlights of these meetings included presentations from:

- Ms Erma Ranieri, Commissioner for Public Sector Employment
- Dr Emily Kirkpatrick, Deputy Public Health Officer, SA Health
- Mr Borui Lu, Committee Member of the Adelaide University Chinese Students' Association

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

SAMEAC once again supported and promoted the Governor's Multicultural Awards in 2020-21. 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 assessed the nominations and determined the finalists and winners of the 2020 Governor's Multicultural Awards. Two of the judges were SAMEAC members, Mrs Antonietta Cocchiara OAM and Dr Valdis Tomanis.

The former Governor, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, announced the winners of the 2020 Governor's Multicultural Awards at Government House on Tuesday 16 March 2021. Twelve award recipients were chosen from 25 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 [www.dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/multicultural-affairs/events/the-governors-multicultural-awards](http://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/multicultural-affairs/events/the-governors-multicultural-awards).

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

The Policing for a Multicultural Society Award was initiated by SAMEAC in 2009. In 2020-21, 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 2020-21 were:

- Georgia WALDEN
- David ONGARATO
- Tyler JONES
- Kristy MCENTEE
- Melanie JOHNSON
- Kelisha MAYNARD
- Luke KEESING
- Chantal PELLIZZER
- William O'NEILL
- Sarah HARTLEY
- Michael DOYLE

## 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 [DPCFOIunit@sa.gov.au](mailto:DPCFOIunit@sa.gov.au)