

**PRIME MINISTER**FOR MEDIASUNDAY, 25 JULY 1982A. I. M. A. EVALUATION OF GALBALLY REPORT

Four years ago, the Galbally Report presented this Government with a compelling analysis of the need for action in an area neglected for decades and a package of measures to assist migrants and ethnic communities realise their full potential in Australian society.

The Report was based on the fundamental principles of equal opportunity and equal access to general services, providing special services where needed, respect for cultural diversity, and encouragement for self-help and self-reliance.

The Government endorsed these principles and accepted all 57 of the Report's recommendations initiating a major re-orientation of migrant services and programs, and a commitment to realising the promise of a multicultural nation.

The Galbally Report was a watershed in our development as a multicultural society, but it was not the last word. Policies and programs have to be adjusted and developed.

Since the Report was accepted, the Commonwealth Government has taken further initiatives in multiculturalism including establishing multicultural television on a permanent basis, per capita grants to ethnic schools and a program of expanding community language courses in tertiary institutions.

The Government has now received and considered the evaluation of the objectives and implementation of the Galbally Report, prepared by the Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs.

That Evaluation concludes that there has been an impressive record of implementation and that the package of measures recommended by the Galbally Report has made "a crucial contribution to the well-being of migrants and to the commitment to a multicultural nation." At the same time, achievements in some areas have been less than we had hoped.

The Evaluation emphasises the need for adjustment to maintain momentum, to re-adjust programs in the light of experience and changing circumstances and to undertake further major reforms. Above all, it stresses the need for greater efforts to be made to ensure that all our institutions are responsive to Australia's ethnic and cultural diversity.

The Evaluation makes 89 recommendations and a number of important ancillary proposals. They cover a comprehensive range of areas and groups - education, employment and the arts, welfare and the media, children and adults.

The measures proposed will extend and improve special programs and services for migrants, and most importantly, they will considerably enhance equality of access and opportunity and direct assistance to those most in need.

The Government has accepted the proposals almost without exception. Taken together with decisions relating to the Australia-wide extension of multicultural television which followed the Government's consideration of the Evaluation, the direct additional cost of the package of measures will be of the order of \$21 million over the next three years.

This outcome is the result of a number of significant expenditures, a number of savings where these are consistent with increased program effectiveness and a substantial re-allocation of resources.

The breadth of the Evaluation's recommendations and of the Government's response is apparent in the summary of Government decisions and the statements by my colleagues, the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and the Minister for Communications.

The far-reaching character of the measures can be seen in just three of the areas covered by the Evaluation: legal reform, the media and migrant welfare.

In the area of the law, the Evaluation evidences a need for further action to end discrimination between migrants from different countries. This discrimination is incompatible with our commitment to multiculturalism, and we now commit ourselves to a substantial program of legal reform to put all migrants on an equal footing before the law. We have already amended the Electoral Act to make all migrants equal in Commonwealth electoral matters, and the States agreed that this should be uniform throughout Australia. The Commonwealth wants an Australia-wide commencement date, and later in the year we will be reviewing progress.

The Evaluation also highlights the existence of many other anachronistic Commonwealth laws, discriminating between migrants on the basis of their country of origin. Important among these is the area of Commonwealth employment. We will amend all Commonwealth acts which have a nationality requirement for Commonwealth employment so that Australian citizenship is the only requirement for eligibility. Beyond this, the Attorney-General's Department will prepare a report within

six months on all other legislation discriminating between migrants from different countries, and suggest amendments necessary to remedy the situation. On the basis of this Report we will act to end such discrimination.

A second area is the media. In October 1980 multicultural television commenced transmission - the only service of its kind in the world. Its introduction was surrounded by controversy but in a short space of time most of the critics have seen its merits. The Evaluation has found results of the first year and a half of multicultural television to be very encouraging. There is a high degree of public acceptance that multicultural television provides a worthwhile alternative service, and it has shown itself capable of attracting audiences of all backgrounds. The service is still at a formative stage and further progress can be made in a number of areas.

The Government has accepted recommendations made by the Evaluation to achieve this, including greater use of multilingual community service announcements, a better linguistic balance and the teaching of English. There is a strong desire for multicultural television to be extended beyond Sydney and Melbourne. The signal already passes through the nation's capital, multicultural television should be extended to Canberra in 1983 and proposed that high priority be given to providing the service to Newcastle and Wollongong, and to making provision to extend it throughout Australia. Having considered the Evaluation, the Government has decided on a three-year timetable to extend multicultural television across Australia: in 1982/83 to Canberra and its surrounds; in 1983/84 to Newcastle and Wollongong, Adelaide and Brisbane; and in 1984/85 to Hobart, Perth and Darwin.

In the area of migrant welfare the Galbally Report called on the Government to assist ethnic communities in their self-help activities.

One of the key means was the funding of voluntary bodies to employ social and welfare staff through extending the grant-in-aid scheme. The evidence gathered by the Evaluation shows that the strategy has been a significant success. Ethnic groups have established and extended vital welfare programs. These are proving well-used, effective and popular. This is a tribute to the capacity of ethnic communities and other voluntary organisations to help those in need in our society.

The Government's faith in what groups can do for themselves, their ability to respond flexibly and appropriately, has been well vindicated. Over the next three years funds for the grant-in-aid scheme will be increased so that another 60 grants can be awarded. The general level of grants will be increased, and grant allocations will be adjusted each year to take appropriate account of anticipated changes in costs. In all, this will involve an expenditure of over \$6 million over the next three years.

Beyond this, we will be moving on a number of other fronts to improve the provision of welfare services to migrants. These and other measures we will introduce will consolidate and enhance what has been achieved as a result of the implementation of the Galbally Report.

Australia now has a range of programs and services which make up the most comprehensive system of multicultural and migrant services in the world. It is an achievement which is important to the nation at large. It benefits and enriches the lives not only of the newest members of the community, but of all Australians. On behalf of the Government, I reiterate the commitment made four years ago to a united, just and multicultural Australia.

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