



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

13 MARCH 1987

I am pleased to announce the establishment of the Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs which will report to me and to Mr Young as Minister Assisting me on Multicultural Affairs.

The Council will be chaired by the Honourable Sir James Gobbo of the Victorian Supreme Court. Sir James has been a leading figure over many years in the development of multiculturalism and has served governments and community groups in many capacities, and I am delighted that he has agreed to accept this new and important post.

His Deputy will be Mr George Wojak who also has a long history of service to the community on multicultural matters, and is currently the President of the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia.

The Council includes members from each State and Territory, men and women from a diversity of backgrounds, who between them possess both extensive experience and youthful enthusiasm and represent a wide variety of expertise and generational viewpoints.

The Advisory Council will be charged with providing advice to me and to Mr Young on ways in which the Government might advance its objective of encouraging the further development of our multicultural society. In recognition of the cultural diversity of contemporary Australian society, the Government seeks to promote an environment in which all Australians, irrespective of cultural origins, can exercise their rights and obligations as full and equal members of the community.

As part of this, the Advisory Council will also be expected to help the Government to ensure that its policies and programs are equitable, and its programs accessible to all members of our community.

The Council's role will be a broad one. It is expected that priority will be given to developing advice for the Government based on consultation and research. The Council will provide an appropriate channel for communications between the community at large and the Government on multicultural matters. It will also be responsible for assisting the Government in promoting multiculturalism across all sectors of the Australian community.

The Council will be supported in these roles by an Office of Multicultural Affairs which is being established in my Department. Three senior appointments have now been made to the Office. The Head of the Office will be Dr Peter Shergold, formerly an Associate Professor in the Department of Economic History at the University of New South Wales, who has had wide research experience in the multicultural field and has worked closely with community bodies and government agencies in conducting that research. He will be supported by Ms Vasiliki Nihlas and Mr Peter Vaughan. Ms Nihlas, who has also had extensive research and working experience in multicultural affairs and especially in the education field, will be responsible for consultation and liaison with communities. Mr Vaughan, who has had long experience in administering government programs in a regional setting and for developing policy advice for governments, will be responsible for the advisory and research roles in the Office.

The role of the Office will be to support the Advisory Council and the Government in developing policies which are equitable and which contribute to the maintenance of social harmony. It will work closely with the Advisory Council.

The Office will consult widely with communities and other Government agencies in developing and carrying out its role.

The Advisory Council is expected to meet quarterly - although, as already indicated, its members will also be involved between meetings in the preparation of information and advice on particular subjects.

The first meeting of the Advisory Council will be held in Canberra next month. Subsequent meetings are expected to be held in other cities.

Mr Young and I look forward very much to working closely with Sir James Gobbo, Mr Wojak and other Council members. The Council collectively has a very broad range of backgrounds and expertise and should be well placed to help the Government advance the cause of multiculturalism.

ATTACHMENT

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Justice Sir James Gobbo (Chairperson)	President, Co As It President, Italian Historical Society
Mr Wlodzimierz (George) Wojak (Deputy Chairperson)	Chairperson, Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia Member, National Population Council
Mr David J. Brydon	Managing Director, ACI International Ltd
Mr Simon Crean	President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions
Ms Helen Cattalini	Commissioner, Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission of Western Australia
Dr David Cox	Snr Lecturer, Social Work, University of Melbourne Chairperson, Settlement and Ethnic Affairs Section, National Population Council
Ms Hanifa Dean-Oswald	Acting Manager, Community Education, Commissioner's Office for Equal Opportunity in Victoria
Mrs Rena Frangioudakis	Greek radio broadcaster, 3EA Committee member, Ethnic Children's Television Foundation
Miss Eugenia Grammatikakis	Secretary, Ethnic Communities' Council of Tasmania
Mrs Margaretha Hanen	Ethnic Consultant, Office of the Commissioner for the Ageing SA, Executive, Ethnic Communities' Council of SA

Mr Steve Karas	Snr Lecturer, Law, Queensland Institute of Technology Chairperson, Ethnic Communities' Council of Queensland, Member of Review of Migrant and Multicultural Programs and Services, 1986
Ms Morag Loh	Member, Historic Records Search Committee for the Bicentenary Oral historian of immigrants; multilingual theatre work
Miss Lidia De Luca	Snr Vice-Chairperson, Ethnic Communities' Council of the Northern Territory
Mrs Therese Thi Huong Morris	Secretary, Vietnamese Community of Newcastle and the Hunter
Mr Nontas Pezaros	Editor, Neos Kosmos
Mr Nino Randazzo	Editor, Il Globo, Victoria
Mr Timothy Ching-Ming Shao	National Director, Australian Council of Churches' Refugee and Migrant Services Executive, Refugee Council
Dr Joachim Schneeweiss	President, Executive Council of Australian Jewry 1977-9, 1981-3 Board member, Australian Jewish Welfare Society
Dr Ahmad Shboul	Snr Lecturer, Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Sydney Hon. Adviser to the Islamic Federation
Sir Nicholas Shehadie	Chairman, Special Broadcasting Service

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Ms Maria Vukadinovic-Jockel	Deputy Chairman, Ethnic Affairs Commission of Victoria Hon. Life member, Australian-Yugoslav Welfare Society
Professor Eric Willmot	Head of Education, James Cook University, Head, ACT Schools Authority (Appointment in 1987)