



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

9 April 1987

The Government's newly established Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs is to prepare a National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia. I proposed this to the Council at its inaugural meeting in Canberra today.

The National Agenda will comprise a program of specific priorities that will translate our policy of multiculturalism into a series of concrete initiatives. It will need to be developed on the basis of consultation with a broad range of community interests.

My Government sees multiculturalism as a key social policy which significantly affects all Australians. It is central to the pursuit of social justice. There is a need to ensure that all Australians, regardless of ethnic origins, are able to enjoy equal life chances.

Through the National Agenda, the Council is being asked to assess how far Australia has come in achieving these objectives, and to chart future directions. I envisage that the Agenda will incorporate policies designed to promote equity and access in both the public and private sectors, as well as plans for effective community education.

In determining a National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia, the Council will look at such areas as the law, education, employment, health, media, culture, women's and youth affairs, trade unions and business.

I am confident that the varieties of talents represented in the Council will ensure that it is well placed to provide the Government with the best possible advice.

The 22-member Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs is charged with providing advice to me and the Minister Assisting, Mr Young, on ways in which the Government might advance its objective of encouraging the further development of our multicultural society. It is chaired by Justice Sir James Gobbo, of the Victorian Supreme Court, and includes Mr George Wojak (Deputy Chairperson), of the Federation of the Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia; Mr David Brydon, Managing Director of ACI International Ltd; Sir Nicholas Shehadie, Chairman of SBS; and Mr Simon Crean, President of the ACTU. The Advisory Council, the full composition of which is attached, will be supported in developing the National Agenda by the new Office of Multicultural Affairs within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The National Agenda will look to a multicultural future in which all Australians, irrespective of background, are able to participate fully in national life, in which community resources are fairly available to all, and in which the skills and abilities of all Australians can be harnessed without barriers of discrimination and prejudice.

An action-orientated Agenda will make a major contribution to my Government's commitment to equity. I see multiculturalism as central to enhancing the quality of life for the next generation of Australians.

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)