



PRIME MINISTER

94/94

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL, TO MARK THE COUNCIL'S INAUGURAL MEETING: 26 OCTOBER 1994

I thank you for agreeing to serve on the National Multicultural Advisory Council. The task ahead is a very important one for members. I look forward to the Council's contributions to the Government's efforts to achieve further advances in our multicultural agenda.

We are a truly multicultural society, and deeply conscious of the fact. Importantly, there is a widespread view in Australia today that multiculturalism is a positive thing.

However, it would not be wise simply to rest on the achievements of the past - we must build on them.

To do this we need to re-assess our current policies and what our priorities are for the future.

A re-assessment of our multicultural policies is of central importance to Australians as we debate the relevant social, economic and political issues of today - including the issues related to national identity.

The formation of the Council comes at a critical time in this debate. I place great importance on your task of updating the National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia.

I look forward to hearing your views about the policy relevance of multicultural issues leading to the year 2000 and beyond and wish you well in your work.

**P J KEATING
CANBERRA**

NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1994-95

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The Council has a mandate to:

- provide advice to the Prime Minister on policies and programs under the National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia, including matters referred to the Council by the Prime Minister;
- advise on the cultural diversity elements of the Centenary of Federation and the Sydney 2000 Olympics, and develop and maintain appropriate working relations with relevant bodies on these issues including the Centenary of Federation Advisory Committee, the Sydney Olympic Organising Committee and the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation.
- promote, through education and discussion (particularly at the local community level), a more complete understanding by Australians of the existing and potential benefits of the diversity of contemporary Australia; and

In carrying out its mandate the Council is to consult widely, including at the local community level.

**MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Hon Mick Young, AO	Chairman	NSW
Mr Joseph Assaf		NSW
Professor Cora Baldock		WA
Professor Stephen Castles		NSW
Ms Helen Cattalini		WA
Mr Martin Ferguson		VIC
Ms Carmel Guerra		VIC
Mr Tac Tam Lam		NT
Mr Lex Marinos, OAM		NSW
Mr Giancarlo Martini-Piovano		VIC
The Hon Ian Macphée, AO		VIC
Mr Prakash Mirchandani		NT
Mr Saleh Parkar, OAM		TAS
Mr Noel Pearson		QLD
Ms Janet Powell		VIC
Mr Vic Rebikoff, OAM		ACT
Mrs Heather Ridout		NSW
Mr Kevin Sheedy		VIC
Ms Helene Teichmann		VIC
Mr Henry Tsang, OAM		NSW
Dr My-Van Tran, OAM		SA
Ms Agnes Whiten		QLD
Mr Harry Zacharoyannis		SA

MEDIA RELEASE

Senator Nick Bolkus

MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC
AFFAIRS AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
(06) 277 7860

MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Former Immigration Minister Mick Young will chair a new Multicultural Advisory Council launched today by the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Senator Nick Bolkus.

"The role of the Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC) will be to advise the Government on how to advance multicultural policies into the 21st Century, and ensure that we maximise all its benefits," Senator Bolkus said.

"In particular, it will have a role in advising the Government on the cultural diversity dimension of the Centenary of Federation in 2001 and the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

"I am very pleased that Mick Young has accepted the position of chairperson, bringing to it his knowledge and experience as a former Minister responsible for Multicultural Affairs."

The appointment of the 23 members of the MAC was based on their significant personal and professional achievements, and their own contribution to multicultural debate. Drawn from all over Australia, they represent the breadth of the impact multiculturalism has had on our lives - from academia and the workplace to the media and sport.

"Much has been achieved since the Government produced its National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia five years ago," Senator Bolkus said.

"Today, multiculturalism is a way of life. The benefits of our cultural diversity are being experienced in every walk of life.

"The MAC will play an important role in ensuring that a wide range of views from the community are represented and considered in the policy debate, promote cooperation between bodies concerned with ethnic affairs and multicultural issues, and foster a better understanding of multicultural Australia.

MAC members have been appointed for a three-year term and the Council is expected to meet for the first time in Sydney in late August.

A full list of members and their biographical details are attached.

CANBERRA JULY 26 1994

Contact: Ruth Dewsbury (06) 277 7860

