



Serving the Community since 1956

Published by the Australian Asian Association of WA Inc.

Happy New Year!

We wish
all our members
the Joy and Peace of
the festive season.

May 2010 bring
you good health,
happiness and
prosperity.

From The Executives

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- AAA Services
- President's Message
- CEO'S Report
- AAA News and Activities
- Community News
- Community Cultural Profile
- Government Information
- Advertisements



SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR THE COMMUNITY

► SETTLEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM:

Funded by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Please contact Sophia Karutjindo in Joondalup Office on **(08) 9300 2720** or austasia2@iinet.net.au
Office Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday, except Tuesdays: Sophia meets with CaLD women's group at a Community Centre, Merriwa.

► EMERGENCY RELIEF:

Funded by Lotterywest and Department of Family and Community Services.

Available to those who find themselves in a financially difficult situation.

Contact Perth Office on **(08) 9328 6262**

Contact Joondalup Office on **(08) 9300 2720**

Contact Gosnells Office on **(08) 9398 9156**

Gosnells Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 12pm

► TRIPLE A CARE:

Funded by Commonwealth and State Governments.

Please contact Chris Brama
CACP Coordinator on **(08) 9228 9833**

Please contact Sarojini Fernando
HACC Coordinator on **(08) 9328 7688**

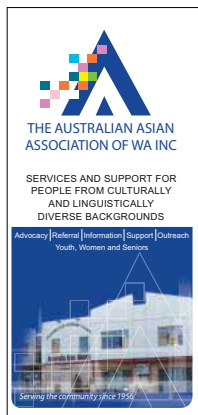
► IMMIGRATION:

Qualified Migrant Agent available for free consultations and assistance.

Please contact Olga Ramasamy on **(08) 9328 6202**
or email: austasia1@iinet.net.au



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FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TO BOOK YOUR PRINTING TIME

CONTACT THOLLA (08) 9328 6202



President's Message



My dear extended family

It is in a festive atmosphere that I greet you in my second communication after taking over as your President in our closely contested Annual General Meeting. I thanked you for

your trust placed in me and promised to keep you abreast of the many events, decisions and implementations as they occur from one period to the next.

In my last message I explained that the association's building houses the ethnic offices of many of our conglomerate members from round the world and many of the association's own offices on both levels. During the last period two more community groups have been provided offices, The Buddhist Council of Western Australia and the African Australian Union.

You may like to come and join the seniors for a delicious lunch on Friday (for a reasonable cost) and take a tour of the building. You are very welcome but please call ahead.

In my last message I had informed you that we had been successful in obtaining the Community Partnership Programme grant to the value of \$ 65,000. I am extremely delighted to inform you that the office has been informed that our grant application for "**Engaging Youth to Forge Ahead**" has been approved. We are in the process of interviewing to appoint a co-ordinator for the youth programmed. Under the grant youth from 18-25 will be helped and encouraged to develop their leadership skills.

As mentioned earlier, the association is able to run several programmes that a large number of our members have become dependent on. These programmes are run through Federal, State and Local Government funding. I shall endeavour to acquaint you with a snap shot of what is accomplished within these grants. The first one I am going to highlight for you is the Settlement Grant Programme (SGP). This grant is a Federal grant and is funded through the Department of Immigration. The co-ordinator of this programme, Sophia Karutjindo, has her office

in Joondalup, in the Lotteries House building. You may like to visit our office there. Sophia's main role covers persons entering Australia under the Humanitarian, Refugee and newly arrived Migrant Programmes. This includes finding accommodation, suitable schools for the children, health, jobs, direction to service providers like Centre link and helping them to enroll in classes to improve their English skills. This is achieved through face to face case work as well as advice and referrals over the telephone.

Three of our staff went to Melbourne for an Aged Care Conference titled "Our Journey and Beyond", primarily focusing on Residential Care. Amidst the networking and speeches by national and international speakers, the association benefited as contact was established with the Macedonian Residential Care Facility in Osborne Park, who is looking to share a 90 bed facility, through Lotteries funding. Our office in Gosnell's is in need of volunteers. The e-mail address is austasia3@inet.net.au.

On a social front the Telethon Dinner Dance, was enjoyed by all who attended, a cheque for \$ 4000 being handed over live, from the association earlier.

It was pleasing to note that a migrant from the sub continent Doctor Ralph Martin was nominated as the West Australian of the Year. We wish him all success on the 26th of January 2010 and in his research with Alzheimer's.

Our next major public event is our Harmony Concert during Multicultural Week in March 2010. Please keep in touch with the office for this extravaganza of colour, music and dance.

I take this occasion to thank Mr. Paul Farrell Director of Immigration who will be departing our beautiful state in May 2010. Paul has always worked well with the association and we wish him well in Canberra.

I take this occasion to wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas. Have a great holiday and a fantastic 2010.

Unity in Diversity

Mel. Fialho





CEO'S Message

The days and months of 2009 have just flown by – and we are soon to see the dawn of a brand New Year. The Harmony Concert 2009 is still fresh in my mind and so is the Annual General Meeting when a brand new committee was elected. The current Committee has a great deal of depth which augurs well for the Association. Every year we have changes to implement and challenges to face. This year we had a spot audit from the Department of Consumer Protection for compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984, resulting in improvement notices being issued for Evacuation Procedures, maintenance of a Register of Hazardous Substances, Risk Assessment reports of Hazardous substances, conduct of training in the use of Hazardous substances and labeling of containers containing hazardous substances. This section did not pose any problems. However their requirement to ensure that portable electrical equipment is protected by RCDs (residual current devices) proved to be very costly. We were compelled to hire an electrician at a cost of \$14,000 to ensure that the whole building was compliant. Unbudgeted expenditure !!

We were very disappointed that the youth grant was not extended for another year, as it would have greatly helped the clients if the Mentoring program was extended. We could have made them job ready, because we had recruited very highly qualified volunteers in IT, multi media, physics, English and employment who were very dedicated and took pride in getting satisfactory outcomes.

We are eagerly awaiting the results of our grant applications for a legal officer, a relationships program and growth funding for HACC. We are confident that we will get the results early in the new year.

The Executive Committee is having second thoughts about organising the Telethon Ball next year as the response this year was not as good as expected. May be they will adopt another form of fund raising to provide the annual donation to Telethon.

Our relationship with the funding bodies, stake holders and other agencies has been stronger than before, because we have made every effort to ensure that AAA is not left out in the cold when these bodies are deliberating on policies and programs, and their delivery and accountability. With the State and Federal governments constantly making procedural changes and tightening compliance and accountability it has become essential that we do not miss out on the deliberation of these issues. It is important to maximize our presence, access and influence by being at seminars, workshops and meetings. We can make a difference by contributing something of substance to say and making smart representation. Whilst being at meetings does not guarantee influence, not being there guarantees lack of influence.

Wishing all our members and their families peace and joy at Christmas and God's choicest Blessings throughout the New Year.





COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROGRAM (CPP)

FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGEING

Under this program The Australian Asian Association of WA will be able to provide information to seniors from the following communities:

AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESHI, FILIPINO, IRANIAN, LAOTIAN, PAKISTANI and SPANISH SPEAKING

This program is to help older people and their families in these communities to understand more about how to access Aged Care Services and programs in Western Australia.

The CPP coordinator is available to meet with groups or individuals to provide information about available Aged Care Services and how to contact and access them.

- *Would you like to know more about residential aged care support?*
- *Would you like to obtain more information in regards to Aged Care Services in general?*
- *Would you like to know more about assistance to stay at home?*

If so, please contact CPP Coordinator, Tholla Chan
Tel: (08) 9328 6202 Mob: 0408 094 078
Email: cpp.coordinator@iinet.net.au



In November, Tholla Chan, the CPP coordinator from the Australian Asian Association had organised two information sessions for the Spanish speaking and the Iranian elderly seniors.

The topic of interest to our seniors was Dementia. The topical information was delivered by an education officer from Alzheimers Association. It was well received by the participants who asked many questions at the end of the session. Many pamphlets and brochures in their languages were distributed at both information sessions.

WHAT IS DEMENTIA?

Dementia is not a disease, but rather an umbrella term for a variety of symptoms that may accompany or indicate certain diseases or conditions. Today over 60 different conditions are known to cause dementia symptoms.

After a dementia diagnosis, the focus is often only on the person's symptoms and behavior rather than on his or her needs. It can seem that there is not much that can be done, which makes it very hard to maintain a positive attitude. However, if you shift your focus and energy to the person's strengths and remaining abilities, it helps you keep a positive attitude and enables you to encourage and inspire improvement, joy, hope, and wellbeing in those you support.

A diagnosis of dementia can be extremely distressing and the current medical view of a pessimistic future disheartening.

It is important to know that stages and symptoms are not definite prognoses for everyone with a dementia diagnosis. Each person will be affected in his or her own unique way, which is also dependant on the type or cause of their dementia.

Providing a caring, happy and fulfilling environment for a person with dementia can be both challenging and rewarding. It also requires energy and patience coupled with the forming of a supportive partnership between professional and family carers and the person with dementia.

THE SPARK OF LIFE APPROACH

The Spark of Life Approach visibly rekindles the spark of life in the person with dementia. The results are remarkable, with profound, dramatic and long lasting benefits. Spark of Life grows a culture of optimism, enthusiasm, appreciation, and love, creating the best context for supporting people with dementia to thrive socially and emotionally beyond the diagnosis.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROGRAM



28th AGED CARE CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE

Together with the CEO and the HACC coordinator I attended the 28th aged care congress in Melbourne from the 15th to the 18th of November. It was a very informative congress. It was themed “OUR JOURNEY BEYOND TODAY”. The session on Sunday 15th November, was for the registration of delegates, and welcome reception. There were over 500 delegates, inclusive of stall holders.

Day two commenced with the official welcome by the President Aged care association of Australia. This was followed by an address by the Federal minister for ageing. The presentation of employer choice awards took place thereafter. Mr Mike Munro, the television personality spoke to the delegates on overcoming adversity. It was his own life story, of how he overcame a degrading childhood to achieve what he has.

The pre lunch sessions were four concurrent sessions. I chose to attend sessions which had a flavour of cultural diversity. The first afternoon session was on the national and international economic scene and its bearing on aged care now. This was followed by a talk and cine presentation on how to build a unwritten culture of team spirit in the workplace which will be a tremendous asset. This was followed by a panel discussion on staff motivation and making aged care an employer of choice.

Day three commenced with a talk on Australia’s ageing population, understanding current trends and the future trends. This was followed by

a panel discussion on future directions of the industry. The pre lunch session featured a talk on the global and Australian economic situation and the impact on retirees. The pre lunch session was a concurrent session and I decided to attend the session on care models leisure activities in the prevention of dementia, adopting the palliative approach guidelines of care planning etc. The afternoon featured the coalition view of aged care reforms. The congress was officially closed during this session and was followed by the official dinner.

Benefits derived by attending this conference were many. To highlight a few:

1. Obtained an overview of the government view on aged care.
2. A good knowledge of the impact of the global economic recession on aged care.
3. Motivation of staff in order to retain staff and have an efficient staff.
4. A good exposure to the various devices used to make carers jobs easier.
5. The advancement in the use of IT in the aged care industry.
6. Net working with other providers.
7. Being known in the industry at national level.

S.C. Bramananda
CACP Coordinator



Emergency Relief Conference - WACOSS November 2009 in Perth, WA.



From left to right:
Ms. Kaye Mc Lennan,
Ms Denise Ellis (Australian Red
Cross, Kalgoorlie),
Ms Trish Jones, Manager of
Centacare, Kimberley and
Ms Deane Lewis, Manager of
Newman Women's Shelter.
They were speakers who talked on
rural perspectives of Emergency
Relief, giving description of some
innovative models practised todate.

I had the privilege of attending The 2009 Emergency Relief Conference which ran for on 25th and 26th November at the Perth Town Hall. Conference attendees comprised many volunteers. Some people came all the way from Queensland. There were also representatives from different welfare organizations which receive funding from the government and Lotterywest to distribute to people who need emergency relief.

Day One began with a welcome speech from the President of WACOSS, who said that the number of people who wanted to attend the Conference exceeded their expectation. It increased from 40 to 140 with 25 people on the wait list!

He indicated that the Conference would look into Innovative Models of Service Delivery.

There were speeches given by prominent speakers: Lin Hattfield, National Director of Uniting Care Australia, Elizabeth Stehr, Money Management Program FaHCSIA Business Centre, Canberra and Sue Ash, Chief Executive Officer of WACOSS.

Following morning tea, Marie Regan who was once an ER client, delivered a very powerful personal story which touched the hearts and souls of the Conference attendees.

Marie gave a detailed account of how she came into contact with ER service when she was going through a very hard time of her life. She said that the ER service

providers and their officers need to know that their work was very valuable. Marie said that the person who assisted her had given her a glimpse of hope which led to her making necessary changes to improving her own

life. The ER officer acted with a very compassionate attitude and displayed a lot of love apart from offering practical assistance required at the time. She commented that the officer was very non-judgmental and had a lot of empathy towards her. Her personal feed-back as an ER client gave a lot of encouragement to service providers and their officers. It was a very moving personal story.

After the personal story, the Conference attendees were encouraged to explore the motivation and challenges of the work they do through a session entitled "Let's talk about ER".

Day Two concentrated on Rural Perspectives on ER delivery. It was amazing to hear about new approaches of delivering ER to clients in rural areas. Several contemporary models of service innovation being currently operated in the state were thought provoking.

Jason Clark, who encouraged attendees to question the status quo and identify areas for improvement, engage their minds to think outside the box for solutions, and act on these solutions to make a difference.

It was an excellent opportunity to meet and learn from other people from other welfare organizations. Many business cards were exchanged. It was a special professional development for staff who deal with ER clients.

Tholla Chan, Deputy CEO



Settlement Grant Programme, AAA Joondalup



AAA's office in Joondalup under the Settlement Grant Programs runs information sessions throughout the year on different topics/ issues that are of interests to the targeted groups. The last information session for 2009 was on Tenancy Rights held on the 19 November 2009.

The presenter was Sarah Webley from Joondalup Community Legal Center. The session was attended by 12 clients, a drop in attendance due to the bad weather on the day. Those present were very happy with information they received.



SENIORS WEEK

Thanks to Council on the Ageing (COTA) for its funding, our seniors were able to take a trip out of town to visit a farm in Ginginwest where they enjoyed a picnic, singing and dancing together.





TE RANGATAHI MAORI CLUB

Te Rangatahi Maori club committee have operated over the years to keep members and our community active by creating activities such as, traditional weaving, bone carving, modern dancing. The main feature of our club has been in performing arts. It is in this area where our Maori club has bonded with other community groups as we seem to meet up regularly at the same events. That is all good as far as we are concerned.

An important aspect of our heritage and like many other races is the spirit felt within. We came from New Zealand. We are indigenous to New Zealand, not Australia. When our Maori people walk this land, swim in the water we are mindful of the serpents and spirits which surrounds this land of Australia and we are grateful and feel privileged.

As Christmas draws nearer, we “Te Rangatahi Maori Club” would like to wish everyone:

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa.

Wairangi Paki



HONGI

It’s the essence of life to human kind. Where else does the breath of life enter us? You really have to live it and breathe it to explain it.”

Once the formal speeches are over, the hosts physically greet their guests by pressing noses with them. In the hongī (traditional greeting), the ha or breath of life is exchanged and intermingled.

Through the exchange of this physical greeting, you are no longer considered manuhiri (visitor) but rather tangata whenua, one of the people of the land. For the remainder of your stay you are obliged to share in all the duties and responsibilities of the home people. In earlier times, this may have meant bearing arms in times of war, or tending crops of kumara (sweet potato).

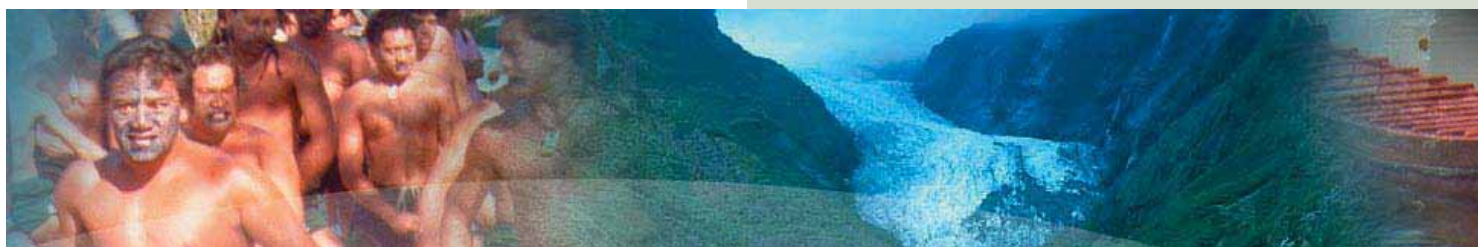
When Maori greet one another by pressing noses, the tradition of sharing the breath of life is considered to have come directly from the gods.

In Maori folklore, woman was created by the gods moulding her shape out of the earth. The god Tane (meaning male) embraced the figure and breathed into her nostrils. She then sneezed and came to life. Her name was Hineahuone (earth formed woman).

The Maori in general view the hongī as a very sacred act and an integral part of the powhiri. The Waitangi National Trust estate also follows this traditional custom.



Richard Wally, Aboriginal leader of WA and a Maori representative





THE BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Buddhist Council of Western Australia is the main representative body of the WA Buddhist community and is composed of twelve member Buddhist organisations.

The BCWA represents all the denominations of Buddhism and includes a wide range of Australian Asian communities such as the Burmese, Cambodian, Singaporean, Sri Lankan and the Thai. The BCWA is a great example of Australian-Asian unity because it also has member organisations which are Australian without any Asian cultural links.

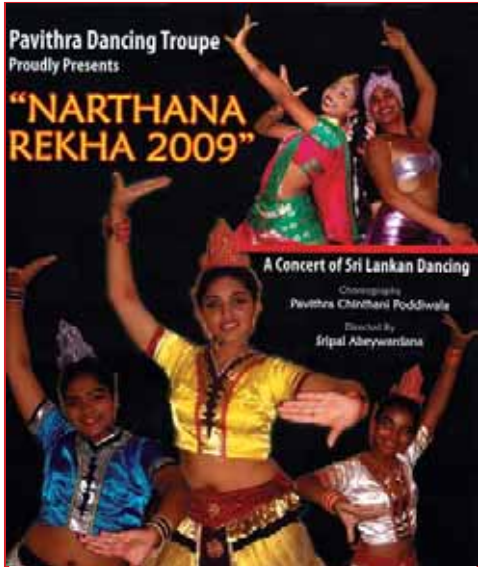
The BCWA is proud to be one of the newest tenants in the Australia Asia House.

FREMANTLE BUDDHIST SPRING FESTIVAL

On Sunday 8th November 2009 BCWA held the inaugural Fremantle Buddhist Spring Festival at the Fremantle Esplanade which drew large crowds. It was wonderful to see so many people from different Buddhist backgrounds band-together for this event which raised money for Telethon Channel 7. This was a follow-on effort from last year's hugely successful fund-raiser for the Burmese victims of Cyclone Nargis in which \$60,000 was raised and channeled through the Save The Children Fund.

If you would like to know more about the BCWA please visit www.wa.buddhistcouncil.org.au





CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PAVITHRA DANCING TROUPE

For having successfully delivered a fantastic Presentation of a Concert of Sri Lankan Dancing at Don Russell Performing Arts Centre on 28th November 2009, which was supported by the Office of Multicultural Interest. The show was choreographed by Pavithra Chinthani Poddiwala and directed by Sripal Abeywardana.

Public Presentation

How Buddhist Meditation Can Help us Know God

7.00pm
 Wednesday 20th January 2010
 Wesley Uniting Church
 Cnr William and Hay Street Perth



Mary Jo Meadow

Mary Jo has practiced meditation for over 50 years in three traditions.

A Catholic sister (sfcc) vowed to the Theravadan nuns' precepts, and mother of eight adult children, Mary Jo teaches Vispassana in the USA, Canada, Europe, and Australia.

She is psychology and religious studies Professor Emerita at MN State University, Mankato, USA.

She offers spiritual guidance, and writes and lectures on spirituality.

Enquiries:
 UNITING CHURCH IN THE CITY

Revd Don Dowling
 Phone: 08 6103 4222
dond@ucic.org.au



Mary Jo Meadow

Also
 Guest Speaker at Morning Worship
 10.00am
 Sunday 31st January 2010

Why Meditate?



An event initiated by the
 Uniting Church in the City



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 Department of **Commerce**
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- getting things fixed

Information is available on our website: www.commerce.wa.gov.au/tenancy



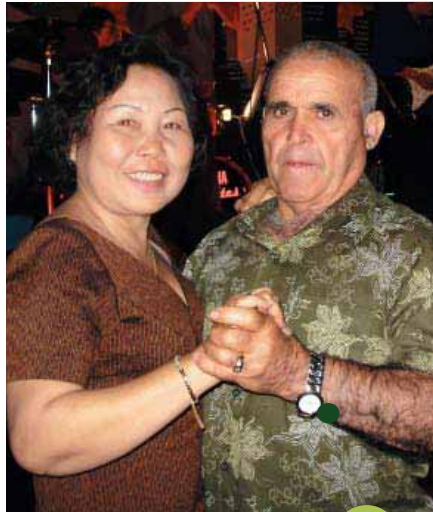
Teletthon Spring Ball 2009





Telethon Spring Ball 2009

November - December 2009



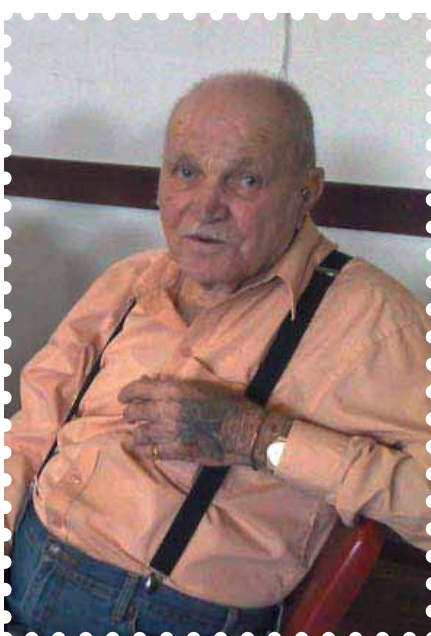


AAA Christmas Party

On 6th December 2009, at the Australia Asia House, a Christmas party was organised for our clients, the newly arrived migrants, their children and our seniors.

We thank the SWEET THURSDAY SINGING GROUP for taking the time to come to sing for us, which gave the occasion the special flavour. We wish them well.







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Tirtha Goradia
 AHA registered Homoeopathic Practitioner
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 tirthagoradia@iinet.net.au
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- Members Locker Room
- Members Swimming Pool
- Reciprocal Clubs - Members have access to other prestigious Clubs, interstate and international reciprocal arrangements.

For full member details refer to www.vines.com.au

To purchase these two memberships please contact 0418 909 760.

Price: AUD \$4000 per membership entrance fee.

(The Vines Resort and Country Club must approve all membership sales)

All annual fees are paid directly to the club upon sale being approved.

Western Australia honours leadership in multiculturalism

Two regionally-based migrant resource centres and a successful Vietnamese fashion designer were among a record field of outstanding nominees commended at the 2009 Multicultural Community Service Awards at Government House last night.

Citizenship and Multicultural Interests Minister John Castrilli presented Organisational Awards to the Albany and Katanning Migrant Resource Centres for its provision of settlement services to migrants and refugees.

The Business Migrant Award was won by Vietnamese-born fashion designer Hue Le, who established Hue Le Designs, a thriving fashion design business that employs staff from Chinese, Vietnamese and Filipino backgrounds.

"The 2009 Western Australian Multicultural Community Service Awards provide an opportunity to acknowledge the positive contributions in empowering culturally and linguistically diverse groups," Mr Castrilli said.

Other Organisational Awards were presented to Reel Connections, which addressed youth social issues in Mirrabooka, Balga and Girrawheen and the State Security Investigation group, set up to encourage social inclusion and interaction of culturally and linguistically diverse communities with police.

Mr Castrilli congratulated all nominees for the positive difference they had made in the lives of so many WA people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Individual category winners included Robyn Sterrett, a community nurse working with newly-arrived refugee clients, and Brother Geoff Seaman, who established the highly successful Adopt A Refugee program in Western Australian schools.

Other Individual Award winners for leadership in multiculturalism included:

- Mulugeta Reda, an active member of the Ethiopian community in Perth and who has provided support, advocacy and mentoring to newly arrived refugees
- Liz Gunther, who has been instrumental in establishing English classes for Sudanese refugees and migrants within the City of Rockingham
- Paul Kyaw, an advocate for the plight of the Karen people and other Burmese refugees in WA.

The Minister said the quality of nominees clearly demonstrated the breadth of work being undertaken in multicultural services and business sectors in this State.

"The awards promote cultural diversity as an international, economic and social asset for Western Australia," he said.

POLICE, ROAD SAFETY

Western Australian police will mount a massive campaign against drink-driving this Christmas and New Year with an 'anywhere, anytime' blitz never before seen on the State's roads, Police and Road Safety Minister Rob Johnson announced today.

Mr Johnson said the State Government was determined to help ensure safety on WA roads during the festive season and would fund an additional 5,500 policing hours to crack down on drink-driving and other offences on the smallest suburban back streets and the quietest regional roads.

"The main aim of this operation is to reinforce the 'anywhere, anytime' message to motorists who think they can run the gauntlet and take the back streets home if they've had too much to drink.

"This Government won't tolerate hoons on our roads and we won't tolerate drink-drivers."

Mr Johnson said the crackdown would see police in patrol cars, unmarked cars and paddy wagons conducting extra patrols in back streets across the State.

The Minister said motorists would be breath tested in those streets 24 hours a day.

"The big booze bus operations and the police Christmas crackdown will still be run in conjunction with this campaign, but we want any complacent drivers to get the message that they can and will be caught anywhere and at any time," he said.

The campaign will warn drivers that police also know those back roads home.

The Minister said the blitz would begin on December 1 and continue throughout Christmas and New Year.



10-year blueprint for WA Health Services

Dr Hames said the WA Health Clinical Services Framework 2010-2020 (CSF 2010) described a public health system delivering quality services close to where people live, and meeting the demands of a growing and ageing population.

“The CSF 2010 is a detailed picture of the services to be delivered by WA’s network of public hospitals and non-hospital services, and is the major planning document for our health system.

“Under this blueprint, there will be strong growth in metropolitan hospital bed numbers.”

“Patients in regional communities will also benefit, with bed numbers at all hospitals to increase or be maintained - reinforcing this Government’s commitment to rural health services.”

“A key element of this blueprint for WA’s health system is the State Government’s decision to retain Royal Perth Hospital as an inner city, tertiary hospital with a major Emergency Department,” the Minister said.

“Royal Perth, Fiona Stanley, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children (PMH) and Sir Charles Gairdner hospitals will deliver state-of-the-art, specialised, tertiary health services.”



A new State Rehabilitation Centre on the FSH campus would replace the Royal Perth Rehabilitation Hospital at Shenton Park.

“Substantial development work and major service upgrades are planned or in progress at Joondalup and Midland health campuses, Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital and Rockingham General Hospital,” the Minister said.

“Together with Peel Health Campus, these will form a network of five strategically located general hospitals.

“These will deliver the bulk of hospital services that most people require under the one roof, reducing the need for patients to travel between hospitals or into Perth.”

The roles of Fremantle, Bentley and Osborne Park hospitals would shift to providing specialised services such as mental health, aged care, rehabilitation and elective surgery.

“Hospitals at Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Northam and Port Hedland will serve as the hubs for rural health service delivery, with major redevelopments planned or under way at Albany, Kalgoorlie and Hedland,” Dr Hames said.

HEALTH

PMH OPENS NEW WARD FOR HIGH-NEED PATIENTS

More than 1,000 children each year will benefit from the \$1.9 million refurbishment of Princess Margaret Hospital for Children’s (PMH) ward for patients with high-level care needs.

Health Minister Kim Hames, who will officially re-open Ward 5A today following the nine-month refurbishment process said “This major refurbishment will allow PMH to deliver an even higher standard of care to children with very serious medical conditions and will provide an improved environment for the children, their families and hospital staff.”

“Ward 5A caters for children with neurological and renal disorders and those undergoing rehabilitation following head or spinal injuries, neurosurgery, cardiology and cardiac surgery.

“There is also a parent retreat room with a lounge, bathroom and kitchen, as well as access to additional fold-out beds for parents.”

“In addition to the enhanced facilities for patients and families, the new Ward 5A provides improved facilities for staff, including a large doctors’ room, a nursing staff room and offices for the nurse manager and clinical development nurse.”



Monday 07 December, 2009 Childcare breaches available to parents

PORTFOLIO: COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Services Minister Robyn McSweeney has today signalled that breaches by State childcare providers of childcare regulations will be made public.

Currently, known breaches by childcare providers are not publicised widely.

"I want childcare providers in Western Australia to lift their game and know that any verified breaches they make, will be published online," Mrs McSweeney said.

"I feel that parents have a right to know if their childcare provider has not acted in-line with current regulations and this information should be freely available.

"If parents can access information about the quality of care offered to their child and feel this is not up to scratch, they have a right to make a decision to move their child to another provider.

"This is an important step to changing the face of the industry and allowing parents to make informed choices about who they entrust the safety and well-being of their child to."

The Minister said the publishing of known breaches by State childcare providers would occur following talks with childcare providers and the Department for Communities regarding how to best implement the changes.

Promoting higher standards in higher education regulation

Promoting higher standards in higher education regulation

Legislation passed through the Legislative Assembly recently to ensure that applications to establish a new university or university college in Western Australia are assessed using nationally recognized criteria and standards.

Education Minister Liz Constable said there had been a rapid expansion in the number of Australian institutions offering higher education.

"It is critical that we strengthen our quality assurance framework to maintain our education industry's reputation for quality," Dr Constable said.

"Higher education is a significant export earner, bringing in \$15 billion nationally and approximately \$1 billion into this State," Dr Constable said.

The final decision to grant university or university college status is made by the Western Australian Parliament.

The Minister said the amendments would also provide extra protection for students against fraudulent or negligent providers.

Liberal-National Government launches new disability strategy

Speaking on the International Day of People with Disability, Mr Barnett said 'Count Me In - Disability Future Directions' was a 15-year strategy to tackle the challenges and barriers facing the more than 400,000 Western Australians living with a disability.

"By 2025, one in four people in WA will have a disability. 'Disability Future Directions' will guide the way we work towards delivering a better future for people with disabilities as well as assisting their families and carers," Mr Barnett said.

"Like everyone, people with disabilities need homes and communities that are well-planned and accessible, they need jobs, education and training and access to health services.

"Most importantly though, they need to know that they are valued members of the community. On this front, only actions will speak louder than words"

Mr O'Brien said the State Government had provided more than \$383million recurrent funding for disability services

this financial year, an increase of nearly \$30million.

"Over the four years to 2011-12, there will be additional State funding totalling \$95.5million," the Minister said.

"This funding will provide additional support, over and above previous commitments, for carers, new school holiday activity programs for children with disabilities, an expansion of accommodation options for an estimated 200 people, increased support for up to 800 young adults with disabilities who are unable to work or study full time as well as providing funding for five new respite centres to be built across the State.

'Count Me In - Disability Future Directions' was developed by the State Government in partnership with people with a disability, their families and carers and the wider Western Australian disability sector.

Copies of 'Count Me In - Disability Future Directions' are available from

<http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/countmein.html>
or phone 9426 9328.



Australian Asian Association of WA Inc

HARMONY INTERNATIONAL FOLKFEST 2010

Date: 14th March 2010

Venue: Perth Concert Hall

We are looking forward to seeing you all there!



Denmark FESTIVAL of VOICE

THE DENMARK FESTIVAL OF VOICE (DFOV) is a wonderful annual event held in the south west of Western Australia, in Denmark 4-6 June 2010.

The Festival is a significant annual event in WA's regional music calendar and provides an important opportunity to showcase a wide array of vocal talent, mainly from across Western Australia.

The Festival celebrates WA's rich cultural diversity and in 2010 will produce a special finale concert, the One Voice Concert.

This concert will feature Sikh, Iraqi, Solomon Islands, Macedonian, Brazilian songs, as well as traditional dances from Africa, India and the Solomon Islands.



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- 13th February
- 13th March
- 10th April
- 8th May
- 12th June
- 10th July
- 14th August
- 11th September
- 9th October
- 13th November
- 11th December

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NEW YEAR DINNER DANCE 2010

An evening of grand Indian splendour for charity

7 p.m. on Thursday 31 December 2010 till late (1 a.m.)

Venue: Cinnamon Club,
11 Riseley Street,
Applecross WA 6153
Ph: 9364 2064

Tickets: \$40 per person (including 3-course dinner)

DJ MixtaBishi of 'Bhangrology'

Enjoy the 3-course exquisite cuisine of Cinnamon Club restaurant and help in raising funds for Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

Plenty of attractions and prizes:

Gate prizes, best dancing couples, surprise prizes, raffle prizes

Drinks: BYO (wine)

For further details and tickets please contact:

Atul Garg: 0421456200, Poonam: 93109161, Sushil: 0411354979,

E-mail: atulgarg@iprimus.com.au

Please specify vegetarian or non-vegetarian.

Net proceeds will be donated to the



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Hours of classes in a week: 20 or 25 hours (full-time), 8, 10 or 15hours (part-time) *Part-time not available for student visa holders

Course Fee: Full-time from \$280 per week, Part-time from \$120 per week

Facilities: New computers, Free Wi-Fi Internet, Kitchen, Cafe area, Common areas, Library, TV area, Free tea and coffee.

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- Full-time and part-time classes at our main centres (Balga, Bentley, Carlisle, Midland, Thornlie and Fremantle);
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