

3. MULTICULTURAL CITY UPDATE

Officer responsible Community Relations Manager	Author Jenni Marr, Community Adviser, Multi-cultural, DDI 941-8097
---	--

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the recent work of the Community Adviser - Multi-cultural.

INTERCULTURAL ASSEMBLY

The Intercultural Assembly (ICA) met for the second time on 14 May 2003, in 'Our City O-Tautahi'.

Approximately 60 people attended and all actively participated in identifying crucial objectives they were willing to commit to for the ICA. The assembly also enthusiastically suggested some options for how these objectives could be carried out, but were keen for the Council to continue to resource this initiative.

Mark Solomon, Kaiwhakahare, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, has agreed to host the next Assembly meeting, at Te Waipounamu House on 7 August 2003, a very positive step.

RECENT CONSULTATIONS

1. Hon Chris Carter

On 25 May 2003, I attended The Department of Ethnic Affairs' Listening Forum between Hon Chris Carter, Minister of Ethnic Affairs (and Minister of Local Government) and members from a wide range of ethnic and cultural groups. He advised that about 400,000 of New Zealand's population (around 10%) come from backgrounds other than Maori, Pacific Island, or Anglo-Celtic.

Some common themes emerged from the consultation as key issues right across the sector:

- Employment - a key to maintaining experience and confidence, yet difficult to gain employment, and have qualifications recognised.
- Problems of prejudice/racism with host culture.
- Need for local communities to address their own needs and access local funding sources.

Chris Carter advised that:

- A new TV programme would soon be on air designed to break down racial stereotypes.
- Work and Income New Zealand has a new Track and Action Programme to assist skilled migrants find work.
- "*Ethnic Perspectives in Policy*", the new policy manual launched on 18 March 2003, ensures government departments and policy makers consider the needs and views of New Zealand's diverse ethnic communities.

Chris Carter concluded by saying that in forums held elsewhere in New Zealand similar themes had emerged:

- Employment,
- ESOL provision,
- Isolation of communities,
- Funding of communities.

2. New Zealand Police

On 20 May 2003, some council staff, including myself, attended a workshop on Ethnic Community Safety hosted by the New Zealand Police, Canterbury District.

Major safety issues that emerged:

- Lack of communication and knowledge, and lack of intercultural training between police and ethnic communities.

- Lack of safe recreation outlets, particularly for the 20,000 or so temporary international students and those living here permanently but without their parents.
- Youth issues, in particular alcohol and gambling related crime.
- Racial abuse and crime including targeted burglaries.

We were introduced to Kefeng Chu, new Strategic Ethnic Advisor with the Office of the Commissioner in Wellington, who will work with the community on a strategy to reduce crime and increase community safety.

LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

I have been working with Lyn Campbell, Policy Directorate, on the Cultural Stream of this plan.

INFORMATION GATHERING

1. City Council Staff in Similar Roles in Other Cities

I have begun making connections with:

- Philip Yeung, Ethnic Communities Coordinator, Community Development at Hamilton City Council,
- Nadia Fawzi, Intercultural Relationships Coordinator with Wellington City Council,
- Nigel Fitzpatrick, Community Development Adviser, Palmerston North City Council.

There are also two community advisers in Manukau City Council whose work involves strong networks with large new settler communities.

Interestingly, "Intersect Waikato" (Government agencies working with the Hamilton New Settlers Focus Group) launched a Refugee and New Migrant Strategic Plan for 2002-2007 in August 2002, with a New Settlers Draft Policy and Action Plan in January 2003.

The priority for them is to establish a centrally located resource centre.

Both Hamilton City Council and Wellington City Council have begun providing trained and qualified interpreting services to their Council's clients.

2. Language Line

The Office of Ethnic Affairs has launched a pilot interpreting service for six participating government agencies.

- 50,000 non-English speakers and 250,000 with only limited ability in English now live in New Zealand.
- Work and Income, New Zealand Immigration Service, Housing New Zealand, Department of Internal Affairs, Accident Compensation Commission, New Zealand Police are the agencies.
- Thirty languages may be accessed.
- *"If we want new ethnic New Zealanders to settle swiftly and effectively into our society it makes good sense to provide a cost-effective and practical service that can overcome language barriers."* (Hon Chris Carter).

3. Kiwi Ora

Kiwi Ora is a 12 month, distance-learning programme offered at no charge to new New Zealanders - those with Permanent Residence. It has been designed to assist new settlers integrate successfully into New Zealand society.

FUTURE PLANS

1. A community stakeholder dialogue is planned for late June or early July 2003, to assist determination of Cultural Outcomes for the LTCCP.
2. Developing relationships with the organised ethnic communities and continuing to identify with them their issues and possible responses, remains a priority for the next period. I am working to establish a reference group to assist with this; the LTCCP stakeholder dialogue will also inform key issues and appropriate responses.

3. Planning for the next ICA meeting, 7 August 2003.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.