

## **MULTICULTURAL PROJECT**

It is hard to imagine that another year has gone by! This was another challenging and busy year for the project. It continued to deliver all existing programs and identified new ones following community consultations which will commence at our new centre in 2009. The highlights of the project are:

### **English Conversation Classes**

We have offered 4 English classes per week in 3 three different levels – Absolute Beginner, Beginner and Intermediate levels. Basic grammar, pronunciation and conversation practice are the main components. Students also have the opportunity to improve their reading and writing skills. Next year students will be able to use interactive computer programs at the language lab in our new building.

We have received a Grant from the City of Sydney Council for this program to enable us to provide a better quality programme. I would like to thank Denyse Roberts, Jann Piggot and Josh Knuts for their long time teaching roles at our centre.

My special thanks to our wonderful volunteer teachers Carolyn Benn, Joss Knuts, Victoria Cleal and Chris MacGeorge.

*Classes are offered on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday*

### **Monthly Excursion**

In early 2008 we formed a new partnership with South Sydney Community Transport to provide monthly excursions to our clients. Residents from Surry Hills, neighbouring suburbs and our other programs join the day trip which takes people to different scenic places in NSW.

### **Sewing Classes**

This is a joint project initiated 2 years ago with Northcott Community Centre, funding from Big Hart enabled us to jointly purchase sewing machines and SHNC covers the sewing teacher costs. Sonia Anpenkov our current sewing teacher is a local resident and has been involved with the programme since it began.

Classes are not structured. People bring their material to make garments, curtains or cushions. Alteration is another popular component of the class. People can bring their old clothes for mending or alteration.

*Class time: 10 am – 1pm on Thursday*

### **Patchwork Classes**

Earlier this year Ruth Griffiths, a volunteer approached us to run this program as a pilot project. Ruth has many years experience as a craft teacher. Classes are unstructured. Students can do knitting, crochet or patch work dependent on their interest.

Classes have stopped for 2008 and will resume again in January 2009 when we move to the new building.

## **Multicultural Cooking Classes**

Cooking classes have always been popular. We have a monthly roster for cooks who take turns cooking as volunteers. Lots of expert cooks from different parts of the world have made wonderful homemade exotic dishes using their own recipes. Other participants get involved in different tasks such as chopping, cutting and cleaning. After cooking everybody has lunch together. People from CALD and non-CALD backgrounds attend the classes and share their cultural values and beliefs, build up social and support network within the community. We have received funding from the City of Sydney Council to support this project.

*Class time: 10.30 am – 1.30pm on every Friday*

## **Tai Chi**

Classes have been going successfully for several years. Our teacher Johnny Lee is a qualified and experienced teacher. Johnny had taught Tai Chi in China and Australia. Anybody can join the class anytime.

*Class time: 10 am on Friday*

In addition to the above activities the project has also provided advocacy and referral services, assisted with settlement issues, run focus groups, program feedback/evaluations, organised information sessions and distributed information of other services, attended forums and interagency meetings, submitted funding applications and planned and organised new activities for the new centre.

Next year the project will expand its' services and offer more activities such as new vogue dance, computer classes and cooking classes run by local professional chefs.

I would like to thank to the Department of Community Services, City of Sydney Council, Northcott Community Centre, South Sydney Community Transport, Carmen Rupe, Ruth Griffiths and other volunteers for their contribution towards the Multicultural project.

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