



MEDIA RELEASE

**THE HON. KEVIN ANDREWS MP
MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES
SENATOR THE HON CONCETTA FIERRAVANTI-WELLS
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES**

15 December 2014

Australian Multicultural Council members announced

Minister for Social Services Kevin Andrews and Parliamentary Secretary Concetta Fierravanti-Wells today announced the new members of the Australian Multicultural Council.

The Council advises the Government on multicultural affairs.

Mr Andrews said the Government's support for the Council confirmed its commitment to a multicultural Australia and to building a stronger Australian community.

"The Council will advise the Government on ways to sustain and support socially cohesive communities, to ensure all Australians have the opportunity to participate, engage and contribute to Australian life," he said.

"It will examine ways to further harness the economic and social benefits of our Nation's cultural and linguistic diversity and advise on how we can promote social cohesion by fostering the successful integration of migrants into the broad Australian community.

"The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that all people have the opportunity to participate fully in our society with a strong emphasis on responsibilities as well as rights." Mr Andrews said.

"I look forward to receiving the Council's expert advice to guide policy and programme innovation, enhance civic engagement and help drive an agenda of migrant participation and broader community cohesion."

"At the same time, it is important for all Australians to take pride in our common citizenship and reflect on the importance of being Australian."

"The principles of citizenship remain an overriding loyalty to Australia and its people, a shared belief in our democratic process, respect for rights and liberties of others and a commitment to uphold and obey Australia's laws."

Senator Fierravanti-Wells said Australia has been a great multicultural success story and advisory bodies such as the Australian Multicultural Council play a valuable role.

“Leaders from Australian business and civil society, all with an interest in multicultural policy, comprise the new Council,” she said.

The Council members are:

Dr Sev Ozdowski OAM, Chair

Dr Bulent Hass Dellal OAM

Ms Helena Kyriazopoulos

Ms Faiza Rehman

Mr Vasan Srinivasan

Ms Charlotte Vidor

Members will serve three-year terms on the Council.

Biographical information is attached.

Media contact: Anthony Moate 0402 415 167

Biographical information of the AMC members

Dr Sev Ozdowski OAM FAICD – Chair

Dr Ozdowski is the Director, Equity and Diversity at the University of Western Sydney. He was the Australian Human Rights Commissioner and Disability Discrimination Commissioner at the then named Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission from 2000-2005. He has also headed the Office of Multicultural and International Affairs in South Australia for five years, and since 2006 is the President of the Australian Council for Human Rights Education. His commitment to multiculturalism and human rights has been demonstrated throughout his distinguished career and recognised through various Australian and international honours, including an Order of Australia medal in 1995.

Dr Bulent Hass Dellal OAM

Dr Dellal is the Executive Director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation. He has considerable experience in multicultural affairs and sits on several boards. He was a member of the Australian Multicultural Advisory Council until June 2011 and the former Australian Multicultural Council until June 2014. His service to multicultural organisations, the arts and the community was recognised through an Order of Australia medal in 1997.

Ms Helena Kyriazopoulos

Ms Kyriazopoulos is an Access and Equity Unit Coordinator for Alzheimers Australia and has contributed towards journal articles and published works related to aged care and disability rights. She has over 30 years' experience in the multicultural sector and currently sits on multiple boards. She is currently Chair of the Multicultural Communities' Council of South Australia.

Ms Faiza Rehman

Ms Rehman is a Youth Officer at the United Muslim Migrant Association and an advocate for youth empowerment and inspiring young people to push their boundaries to achieve their goals. She was nominated for the Young Australian Muslim of the Year Award in 2005 for her community work.

Mr Vasan Srinivasan

Mr Srinivasan is the Director of Shimak Davar International and Chair of the Confederation of Australian Indian Association Inc. He is a well-known community leader active in mental health and multicultural sectors throughout Victoria and was awarded the Meritorious Service Award for Excellence in multicultural affairs by the Victorian Government in 2013. Mr Srinivasan served as a President of the Federation of Indian Association of Victoria and was a founding member of the Federation of Indian Multifaith Organizations Victoria Inc.

Ms Charlotte Vidor

Ms Vidor is a Director of the Toga Group of Companies. She has strong community ties through planning development and her involvement in tourism boards. Ms Vidor was the Director of the JewishCare Foundation and continues to be involved in community wellbeing and development.