



## Advancing Community Cohesion *Towards a National Compact Conference* 15-17 July 2015, UWS Parramatta South Campus

### Invitation

The University of Western Sydney (UWS), supported by the Australian Government Department of Social Services, invites you and your organisation to join us at the 'Advancing Community Cohesion' Conference, to be held at the UWS Parramatta Campus from 15 July to 17 July 2015.

The Conference will bring together leading decision-makers, thinkers and practitioners in multicultural affairs to discuss and debate key issues and national initiatives in place to advance community cohesion within Australia and search for new directions.

More than a quarter of all Australians were born overseas, and a further 20 per cent have at least one parent who was born overseas. This is nearly half of the Australian population, reflecting a rich diversity with over 260 languages spoken and more than 270 ancestries identified.



#### **Professor Barney Glover**

As the UWS Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Barney Glover, stressed when endorsing the Conference in January 2015, this *"is an ideal opportunity to examine how we can achieve a more successful and cohesive society"*. As he also pointed out, *"UWS is a fitting place to host a conference focussing on social cohesion. Comprising six campuses in Western Sydney, a region that boasts great diversity, opportunity and growth, it draws students from more than 200 cultural and linguistic backgrounds and includes a significant international student enrolment. UWS continues to strengthen partnerships with the local community to help drive the economic, social and cultural development of the region for which it remains a strong advocate."*



#### **The Hon Tony Abbott MP – Prime Minister of Australia**

Similarly, expressing the Australian Government's endorsement of the Conference in February 2015, the Prime Minister of Australia the Hon Tony Abbott MP highlighted that *"Our nation has a multicultural character and it is unimaginable without the life, the times, and the passion of people who come here from all four corners of the earth. In uncertain times, it is important we do what we can to promote harmony, tolerance and unity. ..."* The Prime Minister also stressed that *"... As a nation, we have found unity in our diversity and respect in our differences. Together, we have built a modern nation where all citizens can exercise freedom of thought, conscience and religion."*



#### **The Hon Bill Shorten MP – Leader of the Opposition**

UWS is delighted that this promising Conference has full bipartisan support, from the Coalition and the Australian Labor Party. As the Leader of the Opposition the Hon Bill Shorten MP stressed in April 2015, in commending UWS for organising this Conference, *"...the vast majority of Australians recognise that immigration has enriched and strengthened us. It is our duty to always protect and breathe new life into our multiculturalism and seize the opportunities that a diverse Australia presents ... we should never be complacent ... In fostering a spirit of cooperation may this conference serve to build an even more harmonious and prosperous Australia for future generations."*

## Who will attend

It is anticipated the Conference will bring together over 300 delegates including:

- Politicians, including Australian Government Ministers;
- Senior public servants from the Australian Government, and the state/territory as well as local governments;
- Academics and students from various disciplines in a range of Australian and international universities; and
- Community sector leaders and practitioners.

## Conference Venue

The Conference will be held in the Sir Ian and Nancy Turbott Auditorium at the University of Western Sydney's Parramatta South Campus, located at the corner of Victoria Road and James Ruse Drive, Rydalmere, NSW, Australia. Although the Campus is relatively new, the site and some of its buildings have a longer history, such as the Female Orphan School foundation stone which was laid by Governor Macquarie in 1813.

## Confirmed Speakers to date

- His Excellency General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
- Mr Hakan Akyol, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship
- Associate Professor Anne Aly, Curtin University
- Dr Irene Bouzo, Senior Policy Officer, the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria
- Senator the Hon Kim Carr, Shadow Minister for Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Industry and Shadow Minister Assisting the Leader for Science
- Dr Bulent Hass Dellal OAM, Executive Director, Australian Multicultural Foundation
- Prof Kevin Dunn, Dean, School of Social Sciences & Psychology, UWS
- Mr Michael Ebeid, CEO & Managing Director, Special Broadcasting Service
- Senator the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Services
- Prof Farida Fozda, University of Western Australia
- Dr Christina Ho, University of Technology, Sydney
- Prof Andrew Markus, FASSA, Monash University
- The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Minister for Social Services
- Assoc Prof Dominic O'Sullivan, Charles Sturt University
- Dr Mehmet Ozalp, Charles Sturt University
- Prof Adam Possamai, Director, Religion and Society Research Centre, UWS
- Ms Faiza Rehman, Australian Multicultural Council
- Professor Peter Shergold, Chancellor of University of Western Sydney
- Dr Tim Soutphommasane, Australian Race Discrimination Commissioner
- Mr Keysar Trad, Muslim Community Leader

## How to Register

For more information and to register for the conference or to submit a paper please go to our Conference website:

[www.advancingcommunitycohesionconference2015.com.au](http://www.advancingcommunitycohesionconference2015.com.au)

