
Leony Bowey
2012 winner of the Chief Minister’s Medal for Outstanding Service to the Multicultural Community in the Northern Territory

Leony was presented with her award on Wednesday 18th April at a special reception held at the Alice Vietnamese Restaurant. Her husband, sister and two daughters joined her for a photo with Chief Minister the Hon Paul Henderson MLA and MCSCA Coordinator Marguerite Baptiste-Rooke.

Leony’s involvement with the migrant community in Central Australia began in the early 80’s when she moved to Alice Springs. See page 3 for more details of her ongoing and generous service to the community.

Leony with last year’s award recipient, Michele Castagna.

More on page 3
Hi everyone

Here at Multicultural Community Services we have had a busy couple of months. Various members of the committee have been interstate or overseas, and we have had a change of staff in the office. As mentioned in our last newsletter Arleen Jerusalem has headed off to a new full time job and Criste Evangelista has taken on the role of Admin Officer / bookkeeper with us. Welcome Criste.

We’ve also had dust, dirt and upheaval with the renovation of the hub which started in March and has come to a conclusion in May. Thanks to the Northern Territory Government, the new improved space is fresh and ready to go again for use by members of the community, please speak to Christe in the office if you would like to use the space for your community event. We hoping to have an official launch of the facility in June, stay tuned for more details!

A MCSCA Community Forum will be held in the Hub on Sunday June 17th from 12.30 onwards. This is an opportunity for you to meet the committee, find out more about MCSCA and raise any concerns that you may have regarding the multicultural community and services in Alice Springs.

There are a few multicultural events coming up over the next couple of months, these include the Mabuhay Multicultural Association of Alice Springs celebrating the 114th Philippine Independence Day on Saturday 23rd June (see notice on page 5), and the South Sudanese celebration of the 1st Anniversary of Independence Day on Saturday 8th July (see notice on page 8).

Harmony Day was a lot of fun this year, a great turnout of interested viewers and some wonderful performances were held at the Mall Markets. Unfortunately we had trouble with our camera and none of our photos worked out, we were lucky that Arleen had her camera and you can see some of her photos on page 3. If you have some photos from the day that you can share with us please let us know.

A Multicultural Big Day Out will be held on Sunday July 22nd at 12.30 in the afternoon at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station. This is a picnic for everyone interested or involved in multiculturalism. Bring your family and friends and join us for a picnic and entertainment on the banks of the beautiful Todd River at the Telegraph Station.

Finally I’d like to congratulate Leony Bowey on her award. The presentation night was a very enjoyable affair and I’d like to thank Marguerite for the great job she did organising the event with Andre Burgess from the Chief Minister’s Department, and also to Tinh and Lan for their efforts in decorating and catering for the enthusiastic crowd.

All the best
Michael Kanaan
MCSCA Chairperson
Harmony Day celebrations co-incided with the Todd Mall markets this year and stallholders and market goers got into the spirit of the occasion. The Maori Choir gave a beautiful opening performance to the event, they were followed by dancers from many cultures which included the African Multicultural Dance Group, Filipino dancers, Latino Dance Group and Studio B Dance Group.

The Todd Mall markets were alive with the spirit of Harmony Day. The Stallholders decorated their stalls with the Harmony Day colours and balloons. African stallholders Hellen Webster and Christine Keij were busy keeping up with the demand for African hair braiding. Audience members and many passers by visited the MCSCA information stall. MCSCA would like to give a very warm thankyou to all of the groups who participated in making the day a great success.
Leony Bowey (from page 1)

Leony lived out bush when she first came to the NT, her husband Neil was a teacher in an Aboriginal Community near Elliot where they lived for 1 year before moving to Alice Springs where their 3 children were born and bred.

Leony is a mover and shaker. She identifies a need and does something positive about it for all the community, and in particular for those from a Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background.

Leony was one of the founders of migrant services in Central Australia. She started the Multicultural Playgroup which is now SusuMama Playgroup. It was from the playgroup that the Migrant Resource Centre, which is now MCSCA was born. Leony has worked tirelessly in a paid capacity and as a volunteer to assist with the settlement of migrants in Alice Springs. She is known and loved for her warmth, generosity and ability to make people feel valued and esteemed. Nothing is too much trouble for this dynamic lady who practices what she preaches with integrity.

Some examples of voluntary works that Leony has done from 1985 to the present:

- Supporting mothers and babies to attend playgroup by providing transport.
- Home visits to newly arrived mothers and babies from migrant backgrounds, providing emotional support, comfort and the opportunity to discuss cultural birthing practices.
- Accompanying clients to Clinics and Health Centres including Family Planning where she organised specialist clinics for the CALD community.
- Visiting sick and terminally ill migrants in hospital, supporting them and their families during their sad times. Leony was a constant presence of support and endearing comfort, even cooking special cultural food for new mothers.
- Introducing new migrants to the wider community and creating friendship circles.
- Acting as an interpreter on many occasions and always ensuring that interpreter services were known and understood by Service Providers and Professionals.
- Assisting new migrant/refugee families in moving house, finding donations and distributing household goods, clothes and other items.
- Assisting migrant women with preventative health information and accompanying them to Breast Screening and pap smear test etc. Was responsible for facilitating relevant information sessions on health, domestic violence, law practices in Australia, and the legal system in general.
Leony Bowey (from page 4)

- Assisted in organising many multicultural fundraising dinners and community awareness gatherings from 1989 up to now.
- Participated in many cultural dance groups and encouraging others to participate and promote their cultures to the wider community.
- Always cooking and helping to organise for MCSCA activities such as Harmony Day, Multicultural Big Day Out and the end of the year gatherings and encourages migrants to attend by giving out invitations.

Leony Bowey was an exemplary migrant, and is now an exemplary Australian. She is a positive role model to many other new migrants who seek her advice and company. She is the sort of person that makes Australia the country it is today, bold and brave, hard-working and believing that putting in effort has results not only for herself and her family but for the wider family known as community. She is a quiet achiever, going about her everyday business discreetly and with a human heart ready to reach out to those in need.


A gathering of members from the CALD community and supporters at Leony’s award presentation at the Alice Springs Vietnamese Restaurant.

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Mabuhay Multicultural Association of Alice Springs presents

114th Philippine Independence Day Celebration

Saturday 23rd June 2012 6pm

MacDonnell Room B/CAlice Springs Convention Centre
The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, recently announced the government will cut red tape for businesses looking to address critical skills gaps by simplifying the permanent employer-sponsored visa program.

“The government will establish a fast-tracked pathway from the temporary skilled subclass 457 visa to permanent residence under the employer-sponsored visa program, enabling skilled migrants to settle and work in regional and metropolitan Australia,” Mr Bowen said.

“These reforms will make it easier for businesses and potential migrants to navigate the permanent employer-sponsored visa program, while ensuring the integrity of our visa system.”

Around four in five permanent employer-sponsored visa applicants previously held a 457 visa and the majority of them stay with the same employer doing the same job.

“Skilled migrants deliver major benefits to the Australian economy in terms of contributing to economic growth and offsetting the impacts of an ageing population,” Mr Bowen said.

“We know these workers can do the job and are ready to make a commitment to Australia, so it makes sense to streamline their pathway to permanent residence.”

The government will replace the current six permanent employer-sponsored visas with two new visas and consolidate the existing three sponsored occupation lists—subclass 457, employer nomination, and state and territory general skilled migration lists—into one list.

The reforms to the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) and the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) will commence on 1 July 2012.

Permanent employer-sponsored visa places currently account for 39 per cent of the total skilled migration program for 2011-2012, including 16000 places through RSMS. The program allows Australian employers to sponsor workers for permanent residence to fill skilled full-time job vacancies in their businesses.

More information on the changes is available at www.immi.gov.au/skilled/skilled-workers/permanent-employer-sponsored-visa.htm or contact Dale Astbury, Regional Outreach Officer with the Northern Territory office by emailing outreach.nt@immi.gov.au

Note: These changes to the employer-sponsored visa program are entirely separate from the enterprise migration agreements involving temporary foreign workers taking up skilled positions in the mining industry as in the recent agreement made with Gina Reinhardt’s company Hancock Prospecting Pty Limited.
**MCSCA Programs**

**Multicultural Affairs Sponsorship Program**

NT Department of the Chief Minister, Office of Multicultural Affairs

The purpose of the program is for assistance towards operational, staffing, project funding and to provide support and help for the ethnic communities of Alice Springs. The Program can also assist individual people from ethnic communities who continue to need help after the initial five year period for SGP (Settlement Grant Program) assistance has expired.

Specific projects include:

- Provision of Casework, Referrals and Support
- Mentoring and Developing Multicultural Communities
- Provision of Information Services
- Provision of Basic Computer Training for Migrant Women
- Responding to Urgent Needs of Migrant Groups, including English Language Conversational Group
- Organising multicultural events
- Production of a Quarterly Newsletter
- Organising Forum for Migrants
- Rent towards the Community Hub

**Settlement Grant Program (SGP)**

Funded by Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The aim of the SGP is to deliver services which assist eligible clients to become self-reliant and participate as equals in the Australian society as soon as possible after arrival. The program is focused on providing services to permanent residents who have arrived in Australia in the last five years as:

- humanitarian entrants (refugees)
- family stream migrants with low English language skills
- dependants (often family members) of skilled migrants in rural and regional areas with low English skills

Other people who are eligible for assistance under SGP are:

- Some temporary residents (fiancées, partners and spouses, and provisional interdependency visa holders) in regional areas. To be eligible, these groups must have arrived in Australia in the last five years, and have low English language skills.
- Migrant communities which are getting significant numbers of new arrivals, and who need help to develop, plan and organise appropriate services and advocacy.

MCSCA receives funding from DIAC (Department of Immigration and Citizenship) to deliver the following services:

- Casework: helping individuals and families to get access to services and employment
- Referrals: to agencies and mainstream service providers.
- Group information sessions such as: Australia’s Legal System, Role of the Police, Education and Training, Health, Financial Management, Budgeting.

Currently, the majority of MCSCA's clients are from South Sudan who have arrived in Australia as humanitarian entrants (refugees). MCSCA office is open Monday to Thursday from 8.30am to 4.30pm to help you with settling in to your new community. You are welcome to come and see us in the office when we are open, but if you need more than 15 minutes, or have complex issues that you need help with, please ring and make an appointment with Marguerite. The phone number is **8952-8776**.
SusuMama is a social event for mums, dads and children. Come and share your stories, make some new friends, and have some fun.

Guest speakers are invited to provide information sessions about parenting, health, legal and other issues, and to help you with settling into your new community.

SusuMama meet Friday mornings from 10.30am to 12.30 in the Uniting Church Hall opposite Flynn Church.

The playgroup is funded by FaCHSIA.

Any questions?
Ring us on 8952 8776