Northern Territory to celebrate diversity on Harmony Day

20 March 2016

The Northern Territory Government is encouraging Territorians to mark Harmony Day by coming together as a community to celebrate the NT’s rich cultural diversity.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Peter Styles said the occasion will be celebrated across Australia tomorrow and is particularly significant for the Territory.

“It is a day for all of us to embrace our long history of cultural and linguistic diversity which has enriched our society economically, socially and culturally,” Mr Styles said.

“There will be a number of multicultural events across the Territory organised by many different community and government organisations.

“The Country Liberals Government encourages and values principles of tolerance and respect.

“We recognise and appreciate the social, cultural, political and economic contributions of our established and newly emerging multicultural communities.”

Mr Styles said aside from events held tomorrow the Territory’s multicultural communities will also come together for large celebrations in May including; the Alice Springs Big Day Out In Harmony on 14 May and the Harmony Soiree at the Darwin Waterfront on 28 May.

He said the NT Government’s Harmony Grants program supports school and community-based organisations to access grants of up to $1,000 to undertake projects or hold activities to promote multiculturalism in the Northern Territory.

“The Country Liberals Government is committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen our multicultural communities,” Mr Styles said.

“Community feedback is currently being considered on the new Multicultural Framework which was developed in consultation with the community, multicultural organisations and other stakeholders and will help shape future policy and enhance social cohesion.

“I also work closely with the Minister’s Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs (MACMA) which provides me with vital insights on key issues affecting our multicultural community.”
The Council supports the promotion of tolerance and respect for all Territorians regardless of cultural or religious backgrounds.

“As a member of the MACMA I am honoured to be a part of the conversation that seeks to celebrate our multicultural community as well as consider the challenges and possible solutions for the Territory,” said MACMA Member and Director of Melaleuca Refugee Centre Caz Coleman.

“With more than 100 nationalities represented in the Territory’s population we have a community of rich cultural, religious and social traditions to learn from and enjoy.”

For more information, guidelines and application forms for Harmony Grants and NT Government Multicultural Grants visit www.multicultural.nt.gov.au.

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