The Martin Government has again demonstrated its commitment to the Northern Territory’s cultural and linguistic diversity with the launch of the first-ever multicultural policy – Building on the Territory’s Diversity.

After announcing he would seek the development of a Multicultural Policy in September 2002, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Kon Vatskalis, proudly released the new document this morning.

“We’re a Government for all Territorians, and we’re delivering on the promises we have made,” he said.

“Our rich cultural diversity is something all Territorians are proud of – it enriches our society and plays an important part in our great Territory lifestyle.

“Following extensive consultation with key stakeholders - including a Discussion Paper - we have created an important document that will be used by Government to help keep the Territory moving ahead.

“This Government wants an inclusive society where all Territorians have equal opportunities to contribute to our community, and share their unique cultural traditions.”

Mr Vatskalis said Building on the Territory’s Diversity will help guide the development of policies and programs through four core principles –

- Valuing Diversity – supporting overseas trained professionals, technical, trade and other skilled workers to participate in the Territory economy by assisting them obtain recognition of their qualification and skills;

- Fair Access – ensuring Government policies and programs are responsive to Territorians, taking into account the different needs of our culturally and linguistically diverse community;

- Encouraging Participation – pursuing public policies that are free of prejudice and discrimination based on the characteristics or perceived characteristics of people from diverse backgrounds;

- Mutual Respect – fostering a shared sense of responsibility to promote cohesion and harmony in the community.
“This is a document that will be worked into the way we run Government, and ultimately, help shape the Northern Territory into the future,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“Northern Territory Government agencies will report annually to the Department of the Chief Minister on agency initiatives that demonstrate progress against each of the principles.

“The information will be used to compile a report for release by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs that includes agency updates and an overview of key achievements, outcomes, and emerging issues that affect migrant and ethnic Territorians.”

Copies of *Building on the Territory’s Diversity* can be obtained from the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) or viewed on the internet at [www.ethnic.affairs.nt.gov.au](http://www.ethnic.affairs.nt.gov.au)

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*Moving the Territory Ahead*