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Associate Professor Andrew Stranieri is the Deputy Director of the Centre for Informatics and Applied Optimisation in the School of Science, Information Technology & Engineering at Federation University Australia. He adapted his training in psychology and counselling experience to inform his research into cognitive models of argumentation and artificial intelligence. This research was instrumental in modelling decision making in refugee law, copyright law, eligibility for legal aid, sentencing and research ethics developed by spin-out company he managed. His research in health informatics spans data mining in health, complementary and alternative medicine informatics, telemedicine and intelligent decision support systems. He is the author of over 80 peer reviewed journal and conference articles and has published two books.

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## The Role of Intercultural Couples for Facilitating Social Cohesion in the Australian Multicultural Context

In recent years, various governments have adopted multicultural strategies and policies, for the purpose of integrating people from vastly different backgrounds creating greater social cohesion. At the same time, intercultural marriages have become increasingly more common in Australia. Policies to support intercultural marriages could provide a good foundation for social cohesion and springboard for unity within the broader community. Tensions within intercultural marriages have been found to lead to higher rates of conflict and divorce than those found in culturally homogenous marriages. Few studies have examined the differences in values held by spouses of an intercultural marriage. In addition, little is known about how intercultural couples effectively negotiate major decisions known to be potential triggers of conflict, such as those related to child rearing and connection with extended family. This mixed methods study investigates the way in which intercultural couples make important decisions. A Grounded Theory approach will be utilised for coding and analysis to explore patterns of decision making within intercultural marriages. The Schwartz Values Survey will be used to solicit individual's values. Findings are expected to inform new policies to enhance social cohesion by supporting these marriages.

