

HARMONY
IN
ACTION



Advancing Community Cohesion
University of Western Sydney
17 July 2015

Hakan Harman
Chief Executive Officer

Overview

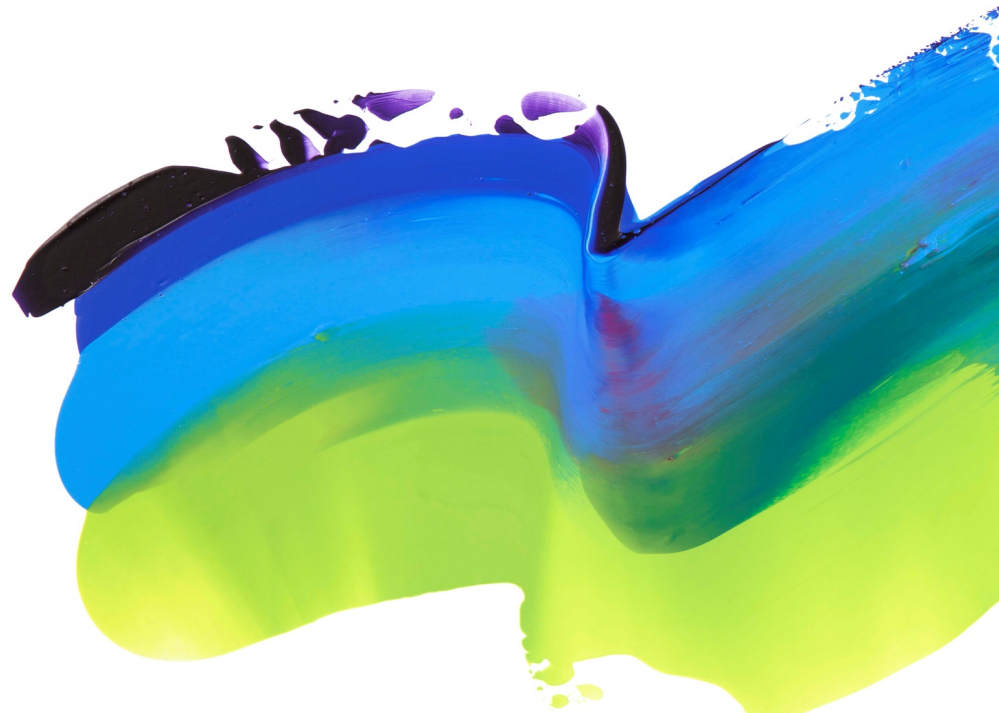
1. Introduction to Multicultural NSW
Harmony-In-Action 2014-2017
2. Addressing the Impacts of Overseas
Conflicts on Community Harmony



1

HARMONY IN ACTION

STRATEGIC
PLAN
2014 –17



MULTICULTURAL
NSW

44.7%

With at least
one parent
born overseas

Born overseas

25.7%

NSW population

6.9
million

WE ARE DIVERSE

New South Wales

- 225 overseas birthplaces
- 245 ancestries
- 215 languages
- 22.5% of the population speaks another language at home
- 125 religions represented



OUR PURPOSE

TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN A COHESIVE AND HARMONIOUS MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY THAT ENRICHES THE LIVES OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN NSW.

OUR VISION

A STRONGER NSW: SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY THROUGH CULTURAL DIVERSITY



MULTICULTURAL
NSW



OUR PRINCIPLES FOR ACTION

ENGAGE WITH ALL SECTIONS OF SOCIETY AND BREAK DOWN BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

ENABLE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

ENRICH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CAPACITY THROUGH CULTURAL DIVERSITY AS AN ASSET OF OUR STATE





OUR FUTURE FOCUS

- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- POLICY AND RESEARCH
- INNOVATION, LANGUAGE SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION
- SUSTAINABILITY



MULTICULTURAL
NSW

HISTORY OF COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY HARMONY



2014: WATERSHED YEAR

- New Vision through Strategic Plan *Harmony in Action*
- Name Change to simply **Multicultural NSW**
- Amended legislation *Multicultural NSW Act 2000*
- New corporate and governance structure
- Revised and simplified Grants program
- New Community Engagement Strategy & RAC structure
- Performance Dashboard to demonstrate accountability
- Many new partnerships and process of reform of Agency



AN INDEPENDENT BODY THAT
DRAWS ON THE CULTURAL
DIVERSITY, SKILLS AND
EXPERIENCE OF ITS MEMBERS TO
MAINTAIN AND BUILD OUR
MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

OUR ADVISORY BOARD

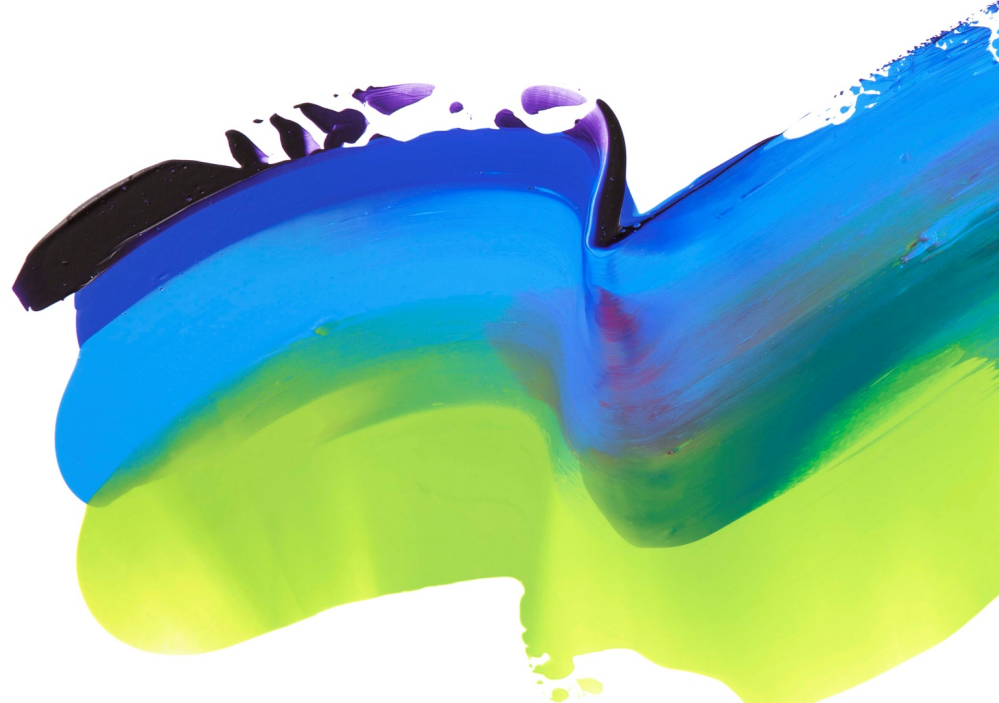
- Part-time members and Chair
- Expert advisory board
- Enhance our capacity to advise NSW government on cultural diversity
- Chair regional advisory councils
- Participate in setting agency directions
- Setting and monitoring priorities
- Play a key role in our community engagement strategy



MULTICULTURAL
NSW

2

Addressing the Impacts of Overseas Conflicts on Community Harmony



THE ENVIRONMENT – CVE & RADICALISATION

- We exist to promote social cohesion and address issues impacting on community harmony
- Active since 9/11 and Bali 2002
- Policy and Program development in CVE
- Post London 7/7 in 2005 development of NAP
- Inaugural Roundtable on CVE 2008
- CVE Sub Committee of ANZCTC and National Framework to CVE



THE ENVIRONMENT – CVE & RADICALISATION

- Active Member of the CVE Sub Committee of ANZCTC
- Since 2010 funded for a number of initiatives
- Late 2014 developed proposal for an early intervention program
- Minister for Multiculturalism currently leading the consultation phase which will enable us to develop programs
 - Whole of Society Approach
 - Meets local community needs



THE ENVIRONMENT – CVE & RADICALISATION

- Literature review about CVE, terrorism and Radicalisation
- Global concern
- ICCT Research Paper identified two Major Gaps
 - First – Lack of willingness to look more critically at the role of Media and the internet (this may be changing)
 - Second – lack of the formulation of an effective counter narrative to the single narrative being pursued by Terrorist organisations that Islam is under attack



THE ENVIRONMENT – CVE & RADICALISATION

- ICCT Research Paper Recommendations include:
 - Strengthen public resilience
 - Enhance social cohesion
 - Prevent and counter hate speech, extremist propaganda and ill founded conspiracy theories
 - Propagate and demonstrate good governance and develop inclusive institutions to provide peaceful, gradual, reformist social and political flexibility and change.



OVERSEAS CONFLICTS *and their impacts on NSW Communities*



MULTICULTURAL
NSW

Multicultural NSW Symposium (August 2014)



2014 SYMPOSIUM

Over 300 delegates addressed the themes:

- refugee contributions to Australian life and Australian humanitarian efforts abroad;
- local peace building initiatives and conflict resolution strategies;
- positive activism in the mainstream and social media;
- women's views on peace building; and
- intergenerational perspectives on overseas conflicts.



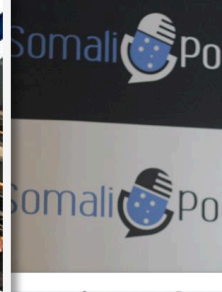
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





'Impact of international conflict on crime and community relations in Australia'





writes Dr Yusuf Sheikh Omar of La Trobe University:

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/somalia-must-not-take-heat-for-extremists-20130926-2zugsd.html#bzz2gMCCWcgZ>



Somalia must not take heat for extremists
www.smh.com.au

For the past week there has been huge media coverage and many distressing images of the raid on Westgate mall in

Like · Comment · Share 2

75 people saw this post

Boost Post

Somali Podcast shared a link.
September 24, 2013

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/all-hostages-freed-from-nairobi-shopping-mall-seized-by-al-shabab-rebels/story-e6frg6so-1226725661889>



All hostages freed from Nairobi shopping mall seized by al-Shabab rebels
www.theaustralian.com.au

KENYAN troops are "in control" of Nairobi's Westgate shopping mall, the Kenyan interior ministry says, with all the hostages trapped by Islamist gunmen believed to have been freed.

Like · Comment · Share

64 people saw this post

Boost Post

"Somalis are having a crisis with their religion," says artist Nalifa Faragaab in today's edition of The Australian - See more at: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/madrassa-lessons-worry-somalis/story-e6frg6nf-1226725553794#sthash.6X877JLu.dpuf>



Madrassa lessons worry Somalis
www.theaustralian.com.au

SOMALI community leaders warned yesterday that education authorities had ignored calls to regulate madrassas, or religious schools, which were free to teach radical religious doctrines to young people and could be a fertile ground for recruiting jihadists in Australia for terrorist groups such

Like · Comment · Share 23

1,034 people saw this post

Boost Post

Somali Podcast shared a link.
September 23, 2013

Former Somali PM calls for Somali Australians to become 'viable' members of the local community

<http://www.thepointmagazine.com.au/post.php?s=2013-09-20-building-bridges-with-somalia>



...een a documentary
Mogadishu, borne
... there and still hold its passport with no other
...-shabaab has brought nothing but death, grief a
...m! They have killed innocent people, destroyed
... families and ruled the country in their interest but
... is "Sharia law". The only time Sharia law came close
... was during the Islamic Court! Do not get me wrong
... st sharia law. Am just disgusted by how Alshabaab
... is video vis-a-vis the horrendous continual acts th
... ed against fellow muslims. I have hard evidence
... em destroying orphan homes, hospitals and schoo
... w muslim Somalis were working! They have not
... positive progress at all to any Somali individual or
... whole. They have destroyed our young youth, give
... shoot at anyone and in the process what do we
... boys smoking, chewing mira/kad gallivanting in th
... id of being in Madrassa and other schools. The vid
... zing such as the madrassa to paint Alshabaab th
... zing pro-Islam party. When, in reality, I couldnt
... ecious religion to anyone who is an Alshabaab
... te how the Qur'an is cited with their barbaric actio
... iness was much better prior early 2000 before
... asion. There is no one city that has 85% access to
... here, its the utmost lies I have ever heard! FYI: Al-
... ned any sport activities whether boys or girls. I wa
... ave banned TV. What part in Shari'a is forbidden to
... what part in Shairi'a bans girls to go to school othe
... sa? These are not claims, i was there! They have ki

Sahra Mohamed, Malik and Nawal. It was definitely an inspiring weekend with other like minded individuals.

May 20 at 9:53pm · Like · 🍀 2

Max Dini Flo Well done to everyone involved, an amazing and inspirational group of ppl, may Allah reward you handsomely for ur dedication to your communit and peers.

To Nawal and Abdimalik I wish there was can carry the touch u have passed on to us with deep commitment and passionate to better out community!!

Thank you and god bless!!

May 20 at 9:59pm · Like · 🍀 9

Lulu Quruxley Giirre Y'all rock, job well done & stay in touch 😊

May 20 at 10:23pm · Like · 🍀 4

Madaale Za Man #SomaliPodcast is a great initiative, a project worthy of our support and participation.

The Summit was a milestone and a start of great things to come in shaa Allaah.

Thanks you Nawal Ali and Abdi Malik Osman for the selfless work you do for all of us, may Allah reward you and those who participated and put their time and effort for the betterment of their community.

May 20 at 11:27pm · Edited · Like · 🍀 9

Ahmed Abou-Zaid Looks good

May 20 at 11:59pm · Like

Madaale Za Man The precision, planing and co-ordination of this Summit was exceptional.



Mohammed Abdullah Artan Look forward to the footage sxb

May 20 at 7:48pm · Like · 🍀 2

Deeq M Afrika waaaayyyyyy ahead of the rest!

May 20 at 7:55pm · Like · 🍀 4

Mohammed Abdullah Artan Deeq we need to have a red carpet scene for these peeps when they decide to show up at our island.

May 20 at 7:57pm · Like · 🍀 4

Deeq M Afrika The only group who are further thn them are the Somalis who have reach the moon and mars...as in really just further interms of destination 😊

But you are right wallaahi we should all bring out the red carpet and some should





Responding to the Egypt Crisis

'The only side we have taken is to support humanity'

In a Q & A with *The Point Magazine's* Tasnuva Bindi, [two young Egyptian Australians](#) discuss the local impact of the ongoing conflict in Egypt.

...utbreak of violence. Egypt was plunged into a political crisis after the ... of the country. At times parts of the country have resembled a war ... of people killed or injured in clashes and churches burned to the ground ...

...old software developer from the Islamic Egyptian Society of NSW, is ... ety's role has been misunderstood.

...the Islamic Egyptian Society of taking a side and associating ourselves ... ip or organisation, or even worse, claiming that we support terrorism."

...ince all forms of terrorism and any acts of violence

...we have condemned any group or political body ... this stance, it has given some in our community the ... fact the only side we have taken is to support ... have the right to free will and free opinion."

'Australia is my inspiration for helping others'

Leena Mourad, a 22-year-old from Sydney, is currently working with a humanitarian organisation in Egypt to help improve the lives of locals as they face major political and social upheaval. She credits her life in Australia with setting her on a path to helping others. This is Leena's story about her experiences in Egypt.

I WAS born and raised in Australia and my background is Egyptian - so I would classify myself as an Egyptian Australian.

I have travelled to Egypt every year for the past seven years to spend my three-month summer holiday in Egypt.

In July, I travelled to India to undertake humanitarian work and after an amazing experience I decided that it would make perfect sense to take my passion for human rights and put it to good use in Egypt.

I am currently working with a reputable organisation in Egypt and enjoying the work immensely.

I have always felt safe in Egypt, no matter the circumstances; it may be a little naive of me but I carry a constant faith in the Egyptian people.

Travelling around Cairo, where I live at the moment, is not an issue. Luckily, however, the



March 2014

Trouble in Egypt unites young Christians and Muslims

In a Q & A with *The Point Magazine's* Tasnuva Bindi, [two young Egyptian Australians](#) discuss the local impact of the ongoing conflict in Egypt.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Leena Mourad

Leena Mourad, 22, from Sydney, recently completed a Masters in International Law and International Relations at the University of New South Wales.

'We completely denounce all forms of terrorism and any acts of violence against innocent people.'

- Adel Helal, from the Islamic Egyptian Society of NSW



Adel Helal, Islamic Egyptian Society

March 2013

TOPICS COVERED
War, Media, People, Religion, Business, Community, Education, Culture, Conflict, Youth



FEATURED ARTICLE
Reformed fighters can smash ISIS lies

February 2013

TOPICS COVERED
People, Government, War, Community, Business, Youth, Education, Conflict, Culture, Religion, Technology, Science, Media, Health



FEATURED ARTICLE
ASIO to access health records

December 2014

TOPICS COVERED
Community, Conflict, Technology, Youth, Media, Culture, Education, Religion, People, Business, War



FEATURED ARTICLE
Sydney unites after siege

October 2014

TOPICS COVERED
People, Religion, War, Government, Community, Education, Youth, Culture, Health, Media



FEATURED ARTICLE
'Master message' counters IS

September 2014

TOPICS COVERED
Government, War, Conflict, Community, Culture, Business, People, Youth, Entertainment, Media, Religion



FEATURED ARTICLE
On the ground in Syria

August 2014

TOPICS COVERED
Technology, Government, War, Media, Community, People, Youth, Education, Culture



September 2014

TOPICS COVERED
Government, War, Conflict, Community, Culture, Business, People, Youth, Entertainment, Media, Religion



FEATURED ARTICLE
On the ground in Syria

Home > Latest > July, 2013

Australians fighting in Syria: What's their future?

Australians who travel to Syria to fight in the conflict may pose a risk to Australia, a leading academic has warned.

Andrew Zammit, from Monash University's Global Terrorism Research Centre, says Australians returning from fighting in Syria could pose a security risk, though a "careful, non-blanket approach" is needed when dealing with returned fighters.

"If some of the Australians fighting adopted in Syria al-Qaeda's worldview ... they may become involved in attempted terrorist attacks against Australia, and have gained deadly skills from their experience," Mr Zammit said.

At least four Australians have been killed in Syria since the beginning of the civil war, and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) has threatened "serious criminal penalties" for all Australians, including dual citizens, who provide any kind of support to any armed group in Syria.

The Federal Government says it acknowledges the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces as the "legitimate representative" of the Syrian people.

However, the Government this month listed the Al-Nusra Front, which is also fighting against the Syrian regime, as a terrorist organisation following concerns over the group's



Home > Latest > December, 2014

Tackling the online hate of right-wing extremism

A new online hate reporting tool will be shared with government departments, police and non-government organisations to help locate and tackle the online racism fuelling right-wing extremism in Australia.

The user-based reporting software, [Fight Against Hate](#), has been developed by Dr Andre Oboler, chief executive of the Online Hate Prevention Institute (OHPI) and allows registered users to report cyber-based bigotry and bullying. This information is then collated by a "back-end tool" that could advise on counter strategies.

The software's launch, which took place on Tuesday December 9 in Sydney, comes in the wake of the federal government introducing the Enhancing Online Safety For Children Bill to parliament. Geared towards protecting youth from online hate, it instigates a review by a Children's e-safety Commissioner who could then instruct the removal of offensive material and issue fines to perpetrators and social media companies.

"A lot of the focus of CVE (countering violent extremism) has been aimed at the Muslim community - there's a lack of balance."

— Professor Anna Ala, of Curtin University

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Sam Caldwell

Sam lives in Sydney and is a second year journalism student at the University of Technology, Sydney. He is involved in university and schools debating, and will spend time in Ghana this year as part of a



April 2014

TOPICS COVERED
Community, Government, War, Conflict, Religion, People, Youth, Culture, Education



FEATURED ARTICLE
Prayer for peace in Ukraine

March 2014

TOPICS COVERED
Community, Health, Conflict, People, Government, Culture, Religion, War, History, Education



FEATURED ARTICLE
Donating to Syria's victims of war

February 2014

TOPICS COVERED
Government, Culture, Business, Community, Religion, Youth, Conflict, War



FEATURED ARTICLE
The politics of dual citizenship

January 2014

TOPICS COVERED
Community, Government, Youth, Culture, Education, Technology, Religion, War, Conflict, Health



FEATURED ARTICLE
Syrian conflict 'no place' for Australians

November 2013

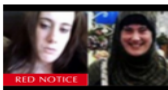
TOPICS COVERED
Government, Conflict, Community, People, Culture, Education, Youth, Entertainment, Media



FEATURED ARTICLE
Overseas conflicts leave their mark

October 2013

TOPICS COVERED
Government, Education, War, Conflict, Religion, Media, Community, Technology, History



FEATURED ARTICLE
Women more extreme online

September 2013

TOPICS COVERED
Community, Religion, Government, War, Conflict, Technology, Media, Education, Youth, History



FEATURED ARTICLE
Dark side of 'terror' images

August 2013



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Home > Latest > February, 2015

Our forgotten Afghan War heroes

They are Afghan War veterans: Interpreters who risked their lives alongside Aussie diggers in Uruzgan. Some were killed in the line of duty and their families have been targeted by the Taliban.

PUBLISHED
February 2015

TOPICS COVERED

IN THIS ISSUE
FEBRUARY 2015

Our forgotten Afghan War heroes

Respite for refugees on the way

Home > Latest > March, 2015

A+ A-

Young solution to sectarianism for Australian Iraqis

Australian Iraqi community leaders are calling for grassroots interaction with youth amid fears of rising sectarian tensions stemming from the Iraqi conflict.

PUBLISHED
March 2015

TOPICS COVERED
[Community](#) [Religion](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Many in the community weren't shocked by the arrests of Australian Iraqi Omar Al- Kutibi, 24, and recent Iraqi-Kuwaiti immigrant, Mohammad Kiad, 25, for allegedly planning an imminent ISIS-inspired attack.

A machete, a hunting knife, a flag associated with ISIS and a video of a man discussing the attack were seized in the raids on their Fairfield home, police allege.

Samir Younis, president of the Children's National Congress in Australia, said: "We urge





NOTE

- Community Profiles Tool
- Repeat the stats wherever you go
- Recruitment of Senior Executive Team to Multicultural NSW
- 2014 Symposium Report on our Website
- Cultural Diversity is one of our most important assets
- Support the Harmony Dinner, AMMAs and other activities including our Grants – Celebration now open



An abstract graphic featuring vibrant, overlapping brushstrokes in shades of blue, green, and purple. The strokes are thick and textured, creating a sense of movement and depth. The colors blend into each other, with the blue and green forming the main body of the shape, and purple accents at the top. The overall effect is dynamic and celebratory.

THANK YOU