

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE

28 Nov 2017

South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission

2016/2017 Annual Report



**Government
of South Australia**

SAMEAC's VISION

To achieve an open, inclusive, cohesive and equitable multicultural society, where cultural, linguistic, religious and productive diversity is understood, valued and supported.

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CHAIR'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2016-17, the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission (SAMEAC) continued to strengthen its relationship with, and advocacy for, our state's ethnic communities.

South Australia continues to be an exemplar for the rest of Australia in regards to celebrating and promoting different cultures and faiths in a peaceful and harmonious environment. Indeed, the release of the 2016 Census data revealed the extent to which South Australia's diverse ethnic communities continue to be a positive and dynamic influence on the social, economic and cultural life of our great state.

Over the last decade the number of South Australian residents with at least one parent born overseas has grown from 592,000 in 2006, to 650,000 in 2011 and then to 702,000 in 2016. The current level represents about 42 percent of the South Australian population.

A key support for these communities is the extra grant funding announced in the 2015 and 2016 Budgets, which has provided several clubs and organisations with the opportunities to expand their events and celebrations, develop new programs and invest in their facilities and physical assets. This funding has substantially increased their capabilities and resources to better respond to the needs and goals of their communities.

The Commission welcomed the South Australian Government 2017 Budget announcement providing \$5 million for 2017-18 once-off grants to multicultural and community organisations for infrastructure and equipment.

Another key element of SAMEAC's work is engaging ethnic communities at the grass-roots level. In 2016-17, the Commission hosted four community engagement meetings, continuing its commitment to get out of the boardroom to gain a better understanding of ethnic communities regardless of whether they are established or recent arrivals.

In 2016-17 SAMEAC met with leaders and representatives of organisations from the Vietnamese, Polish and Sikh communities, as well as Multicultural Youth leaders. This public community engagement strategy provided an opportunity for the Commission to gain insights into the concerns, challenges and aspirations of these communities and where appropriate, offer support and referrals to other agencies for direct assistance. SAMEAC plans to hold similar meetings with other ethnic communities in 2017-18.

A key achievement for the Commission was presenting the Minister for Multicultural Affairs with reports on its Strategic Priorities: Ageing in CALD communities and Domestic Violence in CALD communities. The reports and their recommendations were developed after an extensive strategic engagement consultation process, in which the Commission sought advice from key federal and state government agencies, representatives of non-government organisations, service providers, academics and experts from relevant sectors.

The 2016-17 calendar was full of multicultural events and celebrations, large and small, which recognised the vast array of cultural festivals, traditions, anniversary milestones and days of religious observance that enrich our society.

These events presented all South Australian an opportunity to engage with and understand the different customs and traditions being practised by ethnic communities across the state.

Cultural groups continue to take advantage of promoting their celebrations and days of religious observance through the online calendar on the Multicultural SA website.

As in previous years, a highlight for the South Australia's culturally diverse communities was the Governor's Multicultural Awards, held in March 2017. Established in 2008, the awards recognise individuals and organisations that have made a significant contribution to foster an open, inclusive, cohesive and equitable multicultural society.

More than 70 nominations across 15 categories were received for the 2016 Multicultural Awards with 34 finalists considered for awards and 17 winners. The Governor's Multicultural Awards have seen a total of more than 900 nominations, resulting in more than 90 winners since their inception. On the advice of SAMEAC, this year's awards included three new categories: Aged Care, Economic Development and Family Safety.

The Interpreting and Translating Centre (ITC) had another busy year, providing 35,028 interpreting assignments in 95 of the 109 languages provided, down (2.3 per cent) from 35,853 in 2016-17. Seventy-one percent of all interpreting services occurred in the ten most requested languages. Translations experienced an increase in total documents translated; 1,959 up from 1,832 (6.5 per cent) in the previous year.

The Commission continued to strengthen its relationships with ethnic communities, particularly through attendance at community events, festivals and days of religious observance. SAMEAC's presence at these occasions not only showed a mark of respect and support for culturally diverse communities, but it also provides members with valuable opportunities to meet ethnic community members who work hard to see that cultures and languages are passed down to younger generations.

The increasing number of community cultural events, festivals and days of religious observance can be attributed to two factors; firstly, the ever-increasing diversity of South Australia's population as evidenced by the 2016 Census; and secondly, the significant increase in grant funding made available to cultural groups, clubs and organisations.

At the heart of these events are the ethnic communities, in particular the thousands of volunteers who selflessly dedicate hours of their time to help ensure that the cultural experience on offer is genuine, welcoming and inclusive for all South Australians to enjoy.

The following is a sample of these events:

- Anniversaries of historical events, including:
 - 350th Birthday Anniversary of the Guru Gobind Singh
 - 203rd anniversary of the Carabinieri Corps (Gala Dinner)
 - 196th Anniversary of Peru Independence Day
 - 99th Anniversary of the Declaration of Lithuanian Independence
 - 67th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China
- Anniversary or milestone celebrations for CALD organisations, including
 - 50th Anniversary of Indian Australian Association of South Australia
 - 35th Anniversary of the Overseas Chinese Association
 - 25th Anniversary Ball for the Santa Eufemia d'Aspromonte Association
- Religious ceremonies, including:
 - Eid Al-Adha Festival (2016)
 - Blessing of the Waters Ceremony (Feast of the Epiphany) – (2017)
- Philippine Festa (2016)
- Semaphore Greek Festival (2017)
- French 'Legion of Honour' Ceremony
- Annual Friendship Dinner – SA Zhu Lin Buddhist Association
- Italian Film Festival (2016)
- Consular Corps End of Year Reception (2016)
- Eid Al-Adha Festival (2016)
- Ramadan Dinner (2017)
- Pakistani Medical Association Annual Dinner
- Farewell Reception for Ms Heidi van Gerwen, Belgian Honorary Consul for Adelaide
- Gala Dinner to officially open 'Italian Week' (2016)
- Grand Opening of the new premises for *Pasti Italiani e Servizi per Anziani*
- Padre Giuseppe (Pino) Puglisi Awards Dinner: *Jus Vitae* Australia (2016)

- Unmasked African Festival (2016)
- Ukrainian Independence Day Concert
- Radio Italiana 531 Annual Ball
- Diwali and Annakut New Year
- Mass to celebrate the Canonisation of The Blessed Mother Teresa
- 'Bonjour Adelaide' French Christmas Markets
- Glendi Greek Festival (2016)
- Launch of Centre for Islamic Thought and Education
- Dimitria Greek Festival (2016)
- Cyprus Festival (2016)
- Migration Summit
- Bastille Day: French National Holiday Reception (2016)
- Carnevale Masked Ball
- 'Europe after the rain' Exhibition
- Governor's Launch of World Refugee Day & SA Refugee Week
- Al-Salam Peace Festival
- SANFL Iftar Dinner (2016)
- *Festa della Repubblica* (Italian National Day)
- Australia Day Council Australia Day Awards
- SA Zhu-Lin Buddhist Association Lunar New Year

2016-7 also saw a number of Commission members attend Citizenship Ceremonies in local government areas including: Campbelltown, Charles Sturt, Mount Barker, Prospect and West Torrens.

On behalf of my SAMEAC colleagues, I would like to thank the Honourable Zoe Bettison MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs for her energetic support of the Commission's work and regular presence at its meetings.

I would also like to recognise the inspirational work of the hundreds of CALD associations, clubs and organisations in South Australia, which are not only committed to preserving and promoting their own culture, but have graciously shared their rich and diverse cultures and traditions with the wider community. Their passion to support multiculturalism in South Australia is greatly appreciated.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the dedicated staff at Multicultural SA for their commitment and professionalism to support me and the work of the Commission.

Looking ahead, the next year will be a period of building on the foundation laid by the Commission in regards to its strategic priorities. This will include finding new opportunities to create a more inclusive and safe communities for migrants and refugees to ensure they can continue to contribute to multiculturalism in South Australia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Grace Portolesi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Hon Grace Portolesi
Chair

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Hon Grace Portolesi (Chair)

Hon Grace Portolesi is the first woman to hold the position of Chair of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, assuming the role on 1 September 2014.

Ms Portolesi served in the South Australian Parliament from 2006 – 2014 representing the electorate of Hartley in Adelaide's North-eastern suburbs. In 2009, she was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

The following year, Ms Portolesi was appointed Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Multicultural Affairs, Youth and Volunteers. She later held the Education and Childhood Development portfolio before moving on to become Minister for Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

Mr Norman Schueler OAM (Deputy Chair)

Mr Norman Schueler was born in the United Kingdom. He migrated to Australia in 1966 and joined Hines Metals. In 1984 he founded Normetals, a scrap metal, steel sales and marine equipment business. Mr Schueler has travelled extensively, including regular trips to China to establish an import/export business.

Actively involved in the Jewish community, Mr Schueler is a past President of the South Australian Jewish Youth Council, the B'nai B'rith Youth Organisation, and the Jewish Community Council SA. He has also been Vice President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

Mr Schueler is currently a Board Member of the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce and Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, as well as being a Director of Pipes International (Qld), S & D Chemicals, Darwin Steel & Pipes Supplies and several other companies.

Ms Teresa Nowak

Ms Teresa Nowak is a Polish multilingual woman, Teresa has a background in economics and counselling. She gained a Graduate Diploma in Counselling in 1985, and is currently employed as a Coordinator with Uniting Care Wesley Community Services in Whyalla. Ms Nowak has been a dedicated community worker for more than three decades, and was a Justice of the Peace for 32 years.

Ms Nowak is heavily involved in the Whyalla community, specifically in supporting migrant women and bridging the interface with other special needs and opportunities. She is involved with the Filipino Cultural Association, the Pastoral Council of the Catholic Parish of Whyalla, St Vincent De Paul Society's Whyalla Conference and SAMEAC's Women's Advisory Committee.

Ms Nowak was awarded Whyalla Citizen of the Year in 2002, and in 2005 was awarded the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia (FECCA) Award, celebrating 25 years of service for commitment and contribution to Australian multiculturalism. Ms Nowak is a Member of the Migrant Women's Lobby Group SA, and twice received this group's Irene Krastev Award (2004 and 2011) for ongoing leadership, commitment, dedication and passion and community spirit in regional Australia.

Ms Nowak was previously the Deputy Chair of SAMEAC and the Convenor of the SAMEAC Northern Region Advisory Committee.

Mr Peter Ppiros

Mr Peter Ppiros has been a member of the Commission since January 2003, and held the role of Deputy Chairman from 2006 to December 2011. Mr Ppiros is a strong advocate for regional South Australia and multiculturalism. Originally a refugee from Cyprus, Mr Ppiros lives in Renmark and is the founder and editor of the *Greek Community Tribune*, a national Greek/English newspaper, established in 1993.

Mr Ppiros has had extensive experience in delivering and managing a wide variety of services directly to immigrants and refugees over the years. In 2004 he was elected Chairman of the Riverland Multicultural Forum, an organisation that represents the region's multicultural community and provides settlement services to new migrants. He is also the founder of the Riverland Greek Festival, which was acknowledged with the 2000 SA Great Regional Award for the Arts for its contribution towards multiculturalism and reconciliation with the Indigenous community. Mr Ppiros is a recipient of the Centenary Medal for service to the community through the advancement of multiculturalism.

Mr Ppiros was previously the Convenor of the SAMEAC Riverland Region Advisory Committee.

Ms Sumeja Skaka

Ms Sumeja Skaka was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She is an active member of the Muslim community, conducting cross cultural workshops in schools about Islam, through the Muslim Women's Association of South Australia, as well as organising various educational programs about Islam with a youth-run organisation, Ayn Academy. She has also initiated an interfaith program entitled 'Building Bridges', in collaboration with the Catholic youth group, Magis, which conducts Soup Kitchen events for the homeless four times a year.

In 2006, Ms Skaka was named as Youth of the Year in the Australian Muslim Achievement Awards and in 2008 she was named Bosnian Youth of the Year by the Australian Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina Organisations. Ms Skaka was previously the Convenor of the SAMEAC Youth Advisory Committee.

Ms Miriam Silva

Ms Miriam Silva came to South Australia from England as a six year old with her family who heralded from Guyana in South America. She has more than 20 years' experience across multiple industries including pharmaceuticals, banking and agribusiness, managing large and geographically diverse teams.

In September 2014 Ms Silva was appointed as acting chief executive of TAFE SA. She had previously been the Chief Operating Officer for FleetPartners, a leading leasing and fleet management organisation across Australia and New Zealand. Prior to this, Ms Silva was General Manager, Commercial Operations, at Elders Ltd, responsible for national operations. She has previously held a number of roles with ANZ Banking Group, including Chief Operating Officer for the Pacific, a role which involved looking after operations across a number of Pacific Island countries.

Ms Silva is a member of a number of boards including TAFE SA and University of SA Council. She volunteers with a number of organisations including the Muslim Women's Association of SA, International Women's Day Committee (SA) and Rotary. She is a Member of the South Australian Women's Honour Roll for 2011 and in 2012 was named as one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence in the Financial Review and Westpac Awards. Ms Silva is a founding mentor for the Financial Review BOSS Emerging Leaders Program.

Ms Malgorzata (Gosia) Skalban OAM

Ms Gosia Skalban was born in Poland and came to Australia in 1968. Prior to her current employment with Domiciliary Care SA as Multicultural Consultant, Ms Skalban set up linkage and advocacy services across Adelaide, Whyalla and the Riverland. She has also worked with refugees and victims of domestic violence. Ms Skalban has a Bachelor of Arts (Spanish and Italian major), a Bachelor of Social Administration and a Masters of Business Administration.

Ms Skalban has been involved in various community and departmental committees responsible for the initiation of ethno-specific services. She is President of the Polish Women's Association in Adelaide, and a Member of advisory groups including the National Cross Cultural Dementia Network, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Consumer Advisory Council, the International Women's Day Committee of South Australia, the Migrant Women's Lobby Group and the Polish Hill River Church Museum Committee.

In December 2000 Ms Skalban was awarded the Gold Cross for services to the Polish community by the Polish Government. In June 2005 she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the community, particularly through multicultural and aged care organisations. In 2009 she was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for services to the Polish community.

Dr Joseph Masika OAM

Dr Joseph Masika is a Team Leader in the Statewide Services Directorate of Families SA. He has a Doctor of Medicine degree, a Masters of Public Health, and Certificates in Australian Migration Law, Management and Leadership, and Environmental Health.

Dr Masika has 28 years of experience in the health and community service industries in a range of clinical, administrative, research, service co-ordination and delivery, service evaluation and managerial positions. Dr Masika has also given 28 years of voluntary service to the community including 16 years of actively volunteering in Australia and 12 years overseas.

Dr Masika was the Chairperson of the African Communities Council of SA from 2007 until 2014. He is also a Board Member of Health Consumers Alliance, Associate Board Member of Migrant Resource Centre of SA, Vice Chairperson of Australian-African Services Foundation, and Board Member of Multicultural Aged Care. He also provides expertise in multiculturalism in his involvement with a range of projects and organisations that address mental health and stigma across South Australia.

Dr Masika is a White Ribbon Ambassador, and was the Finalist of the National White Ribbon Ambassadors Awards in 2011. He is the Winner of the Australian-African Man of the Year Awards 2011 and Winner of African-Australian Living Legend Awards 2012. In February 2013, Dr Masika was awarded the Governor's Multicultural Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement.

Ms Swee Ming (Michelle) Dieu

Ms Michelle Dieu is of Chinese Malaysian background. She migrated to South Australia in 1992 as a skilled migrant, joining her parents who had migrated four years earlier. She speaks Mandarin, Bahasa Malaysia and the dialects Fuzhou and Fujian.

A qualified teacher with a Bachelor of Education from Flinders University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta (Canada), Ms Dieu worked as an educator and migrant settlement volunteer in the Chinese community for the Chinese Welfare Services after arrival. She then worked for more than ten years for the Overseas Chinese Association of South Australia coordinating the Community Settlement Services Scheme and managing the Settlement Grants Program, Joblink Services and Coaching for Multicultural Taxi Driver Training for Chinese and humanitarian entrants. Ms Dieu is currently employed at the Migrant Resource Centre of SA.

In 2003 Ms Dieu was appointed an Ombudsman Referral Delegate under the Justice Access Referral Program by the State Ombudsman's Office. She is a registered migration agent, and a Member of the Migration Institute of Australia.

Major-General Vikram Madan, VSM (Retd.)

Major-General Vikram Madan, VSM (Retd.) served as an Infantry Officer with the elite Gurkha Regiment for 37 years, following four years of training as an officer cadet. He was twice decorated by the President of India receiving the Vishist Seva Medal in 2000 and 2006 for services of distinguished order. His company, battalion, brigade and divisional commands have been in operational areas bordering China and Pakistan.

In the latter part of his service (2003-2006) he was Deputy Master-General of Ordnance, responsible for the project management and maintenance of Indian Army material. Upon retirement from the Army, he assumed a role as Vice President Corporate Affairs and Business Development with a multinational company, before moving to Adelaide in 2007. Major General Madan also owns a strategic defence consultancy company in the sub-continent and the gulf region, and is a Senior Advisor to an Adelaide-based international counter terrorism consultation and training company.

Major-General Madan has a post-graduate degree in Defence & Strategic Studies, a post-graduate degree in Management and Master of Philosophy in International Relations and Strategic Studies. He speaks English, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and Nepalese fluently. He is a former President of the Indian Australian Association of South Australia and currently sits on the Passenger Transport Standards Committee of the SA Government and the International Humanitarian Law Committee of the Red Cross SA Chapter.

***Dottore* Angelo-Raffaele Fantasia**

Mr Angelo Fantasia has a long association with various Italian-based clubs and organisations in South Australia. He is the current President of the Co-ordinating Italian Committee (CIC) and the Carnevale Italian festival. Mr Fantasia has extensive knowledge and experience in the aged care sector brings significant skills to his role as a board member of CO.AS.IT (Italian Assistance Association SA Inc. He is also a board member of COM.IT.ES, a representative body for Italian communities, directly elected by Italians resident in countries outside Italy.

Mr Fantasia is also involved in religious festivals for the Italian community at the Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Payneham, and is the current President of the Saint Anthony of Padua Committee. His other community involvement is with the Metropolitan Musical Theatre Company (SA) Inc, an Amateur theatre company that produces two musicals every year.

Ms Yu Chen

Ms Yu Chen is a PhD candidate at the University of Adelaide. Her research interests and specialties are in the discipline of Entrepreneurship, particularly in Chinese immigrant entrepreneurship. Yu's research is also interested in exploring the transnational linkages that entrepreneurs developed between China and Australia.

As an academic, Yu is a passionate and patient teacher and mentor for the bachelor and research honors students at the University of Adelaide. From 2012, Yu has been tutoring at the University of Adelaide. Her teaching subjects include International Business, Introduction to Management, International Management, and Organisational Behaviour. Meanwhile, she is an education consultant for international students to choose their education path in Australia.

Ms Chen is a reliable adviser who has compassion for students and she is able to diagnose students' needs professionally. Being an international student and migrated to Australia few years ago, Yu has developed a strong understanding of both Chinese and Australian cultures, social norms and the education systems. The overseas study and migration experience helps her to be a role model for many students who have an international background and use English as the second language for their academic study.

Ms Chen is also highly involved in the Chinese community based in South Australia. As a result, Yu is able to provide suggestions to students for various issues, such as time management, stress and financial issues, study, work and life balance; and how to integrate into the workforce and focus on personal self-development.

Mr Hiep Nguyen

Mr Hiep Nguyen was born in Vietnam in 1956 and is married with two adult children. He holds a Masters of Business Administration degree and also has computer sciences and electrical engineering qualification from the University of Adelaide. He was previously a recipient of Colombo Plan Scholarship for university study in Australia from 1974 to 1977. Professionally, Mr Nguyen has 37 years of experience in engineering and information technology. He also operates his own consulting business to provide professional services in Engineering, Information Technology, Telecommunications and Management. Mr Nguyen has a long history working with the Vietnamese community. For the past nine years he has been the current Principal of the Dac-Lo Vietnamese Ethnic School which has more than thousand students and more than fifty staff members. Mr Nguyen also served as the President and Chairman of the Pastoral Council of the Vietnamese Catholic Community in South Australia for nine years. He founded the Vietnamese Australian Benevolence Foundation which aims to establish special aged care facilities in South Australia.

Mr Mabok Deng Marial

Mr Mabok Deng Marial Mabok arrived in Australia over a decade ago as a refugee and has since worked tirelessly within the Sudanese Community and with other African communities. Mr Mabok Deng Mabok Marial has a degree in Bachelor of Science from Nagpur University in India and a Master of Environmental Management from Flinders University. His work history includes Accommodation Officer for Anglicare SA, Client Services Officer for Centrelink and currently he is part of the Multicultural Unit in Centrelink.

- Former President of the Sudanese Community Association in Australia (SA Branch)
- Former Secretary General of the Sudanese Community Association in Australia SA Branch
- Former Public Officer of the SPLM Chapter Secretariat in South Australia
- Former Chairperson of Rumbek Community Welfare Association of South Australia, one of the founders of the African Communities Council of South Australia (ACCSA)
- Former Vice Chairperson of African Communities Council of South Australia (ACCSA)
- Chairperson of the African Communities Council of SA (ACCSA)
- Co-patron of South Sudan Human Right development Organisation in Australia
- He has been on the Migrant Resource Centre of SA Board for the past six years
- Divisional Board member of Australian Red Cross in South Australia.

ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

SAMEAC is a Statutory Authority, which was established under the *South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Act 1980*. Members, whose collective skills assist the work of SAMEAC, are representative of a number of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

SAMEAC is required to:

- advise the Minister for Multicultural Affairs on matters relating to multicultural and ethnic affairs by facilitating communication between the Government and CALD communities;
- promote multiculturalism as an integral part of the State's social and economic policies, and work towards an inclusive society;
- endeavour to increase the awareness of the services available to people from CALD backgrounds;
- promote social harmony amongst CALD communities and the wider community;
- foster and support community development activities by CALD communities; and
- lead and manage multicultural initiatives in partnership with other organisations and the community.

The functions of SAMEAC are detailed in full at Appendix 1.

Meetings of the Commission

In 2016-17 the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Commission met on the following dates:

- Ordinary Meeting – 18 August 2016
- Ordinary Meeting – 15 September 2016
- Ordinary Meeting – 27 October 2016
- Ordinary Meeting – 1 December 2016
- Ordinary Meeting – 2 February 2017
- Ordinary Meeting – 6 April 2017
- Ordinary Meeting – 11 May 2017
- Ordinary Meeting – 15 June 2017

Attendance at South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission meetings in 2016/17

Commission Member	Meetings	Attended
Hon Grace Portolesi (Chair)	8	8
Mr Norman Schueler OAM (Deputy Chair)	8	6
Ms Gosia Skalban OAM	8	8
Mr Peter Ppiros	8	8
Major-General Vikram Madan (Retd.) VSM	8	7
Ms Yu Chen	8	2
Ms Michelle Dieu	8	8
Mr Hiep Nguyen	8	8
Mr Mabok Deng Marial	8	6
Dr Joseph Masika OAM	8	3
Ms Teresa Nowak	8	7
Ms Sumeja Skaka	8	0
Ms Miriam Silva	8	2
Dott Angela Fantasia	8	7

External Boards and Committees

Members represent the Commission on various boards and committees (see Appendix 2).

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Multicultural Grants Program

For many years, funding has been provided under the Multicultural Grants program to multicultural and ethnic community organisations to:

- increase understanding of the culturally diverse community in which we live;
- celebrate and value cultural diversity;
- improve equality and acceptance in society; and
- increase participation by South Australians of all backgrounds in society.

Community organisations apply for funding to develop and strengthen multicultural communities in South Australia. Projects aim to support an open, inclusive, cohesive and equitable multicultural society, where cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity is understood, valued and supported.

The Multicultural Grants program is administered by the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion with input from SAMEAC members during the assessment process.

Information regarding the community clubs, associations and organisations which received funding in 2016-17 through the Multicultural Grants program can be found on the Multicultural SA website: <http://multicultural.sa.gov.au/>

Grants

The Grants SA program, a single grant scheme in which all applications are assessed, came into effect in 2015-16, and continued to provide funding for ethnic groups and organisations in 2016-17 in the following three streams of grant funding:

- Major Grants (\$20,001 - \$50,000)
- Medium Grants (\$5,001 - \$20,000)
- Minor Grants (Up to \$5,000)

Major grant rounds of \$20,001 - \$50,000 were open twice a year, medium grants of \$5,001 - \$20,000 four times a year and minor grants of up to \$5,000 were open all year round and assessed at the end of each month.

SAMEAC's representation on the Grant Assessment Panels is as follows:

Major/medium Grants Assessment Panel

- Mr Peter Ppiros
- Major-General Vikram Madan, VSM (Retd.)
- Dott. Angelo Fantasia

Minor Grants Assessment Panel.

- Ms Sumeja Skaka
- Mr Hiep Nguyen

Grants SA aligns with the South Australian Government's commitment to reduce red tape, simplify grant processes and improve accessibility to grants for community groups through a simplified single application process, less restrictive guidelines and streamlined reporting requirements.

In 2017-18, Grants SA will again provide \$3 million in grants to improve community participation, wellbeing and quality of life for South Australians.

In addition, in the 2017 Budget, the South Australian Government announced \$5 million for 2017-18 once-off grants to multicultural and community organisations for infrastructure and equipment.

Grant Information Sessions

The increase in the amount of funding for Multicultural Grants continues to generate significant interest from cultural clubs and associations. To ensure that as many ethnic communities are informed about the availability of grants and the application process, the following Grant Information Sessions were held:

- 15 July 2016 – South Australian Council of Social Services, Unley
- 29 August 2016 – Southern Volunteering (SA) Inc – City of Onkaparinga
- 1 September 2016 – Australian Migrant Resource Centre, Adelaide
- 26 September 2016 - GP Plus, Port Pirie
- 27 September 2016 – Regional Development Australia, Whyalla Norrie
- 31 October 2016, Gawler Sports and Community Centre, Gawler
- 12 January 2017 – Australian Migrant Resource Centre, Adelaide
- 24 February 2017 – Murray Bridge
- 11 April 2017 – Leigh Street, Adelaide
- 20 April 2017 – Regional Development Australia, Whyalla Norrie
- 8 May 2017 – Leigh Street, 28 Leigh Street,, Adelaide
- 28 June 2017, City of Charles Sturt Council (The Warehouse), Woodville

PROMOTING MULTICULTURALISM

SAMEAC places an emphasis on increasing the participation of CALD communities in major public events. This serves dual purposes of facilitating participation and inclusion of members from these communities, and showcasing the richness and uniqueness of South Australia's cultural diversity.

The Commission supports diverse community organisations' involvement in many activities, and particularly the opportunity to share cultural activities, performances, displays and festivals, with the wider South Australian community. In 2016-17 SAMEAC's Showcasing Multiculturalism Program supported the participation of CALD communities in iconic South Australian events including the Christmas Pageant, the Australia Day Parade and the ANZAC Commemorations.

Culturally Diverse communities have benefited from the additional funding made available through the Multicultural Grants Program to be invested into their communities. As a result of this increased funding, new programs such as the *Stronger Families, Stronger Communities* funding program and the Multicultural Infrastructure Grants have supported a number of community development projects ranging from services and programs to new and improved facilities and festivals.

Christmas Pageant

On Saturday, 12 November 2016 the vibrant colour and diversity of South Australia's multicultural community was on full display for the Credit Union Christmas Pageant. For the 13th consecutive year, the multicultural float themed: 'Christmas around the World' entertained the young and young at heart in an atmosphere of peace, harmony and inclusion.

Dressed in cultural costume, six community groups representing 14 different cultures, walked, danced and sang along the Pageant route entertaining the massive crowd of 330,000 people who lined the streets of Adelaide's CBD.

The 2016 Pageant was the first time that Norway, Sweden, Finland, Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, and Venezuela were represented, bringing the number of different cultural groups to have participated in the event to almost 80.

The following CALD communities participate in the Pageant:

- Finland, Norway and Sweden (Scandinavian Association of SA)
- Liberia (Liberian Community)
- Argentina, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela (Spanish Speaking Communities Network of South Australia)
- India (Indian Community)
- Indonesia (Indonesian-Australian Association Inc.)
- Iran (Iranian Women Organisation SA)

Australia Day Community Parade

The Australia Day Community Parade in Adelaide celebrates multiculturalism and the diversity of people who call South Australia home. In 2017 the Commission helped the Australia Day Council to organise the participation of 96 community groups, including nearly 80 ethnic groups in the Australia Day Community Parade on 26 January. In total, more than 4,000 people from culturally diverse backgrounds participated in the Parade. Approximately 15,000 people lined King William Street, Adelaide as the Parade made its way from Victoria Square to Elder Park for the Australia Day Concert.

Prize money and certificates were awarded to the following groups and individuals: Mr Tom Benney, Honorary Town Crier in South Australia (Judge's Choice), Overseas Chinese Association (Best Music), Mei's Dance Company (Most Creative) and Sri Lankan Community (Best Costumes).

Diplomatic and Official Visits

During 2016-17 the Chair had the pleasure of receiving several members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, including:

- Mrs Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta
- Her Excellency, Mrs Ekaterini Xagorari, Ambassador for Greece
- Mr Xiaowei Wang, Consul for China
- Ms Juliette Hince, High Commissioner-designate for Australia to Malta.

ANZAC Day Eve Youth Vigil and ANZAC - Multicultural School Visits

Each year, young people from culturally diverse backgrounds participate in the ANZAC Day Eve Youth Vigil at the War Memorial on North Terrace, Adelaide. As part of the Vigil, young people lay books about the ANZACS instead of wreaths as tributes to the fallen. The gesture, staged by the Returned and Services League (RSL), is designed to provide an opportunity for culturally diverse youth to recognise those who gave their lives in the service of the country. The young people wear national dress reflecting their cultural background and are encouraged to wear their ancestors' medals.

The 2017 ANZAC Day Youth Vigil was attended by young people representing the following cultural organisations:

- Irish Australian Association
- Polish Folklore Ensemble Tatry
- Yevshan Ukrainian Arts
- Greek Lyceum of South Australia
- Vietnamese Community in Australia/SA Chapter Inc
- Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia
- Filipino Settlement Coordinating Council of SA Incorporated
- The Indian Australian Association of South Australia
- African Communities Council (South Sudanese Community Association in South Australia)

Multicultural SA has made arrangements for a SAMEAC Member and a representative from the Loxton RSL to visit Loxton High School to speak to students as part of the annual ANZAC – Multiculturalism school visit program. It is expected that two students from Loxton High School, both of whom were among the recipients of the 2017 Premier’s ANZAC Spirit School Prize, will make a presentation about their trip to Vietnam.

Governor’s Multicultural Awards

SAMEAC once again supported and promoted the 2016 Governor’s Multicultural Awards. These annual Awards are open to everyone in the community, and aim to honour outstanding contributions by individuals and organisations to promoting social harmony and inclusivity and the positive influence of cultural diversity in the community.

The 2016 Awards also saw the inclusion of three new categories (Individual and Organisation); Ageing, Family Safety and Economic Development. An independent panel of nine judges, chaired by His Honour Judge Rauf Soulio was assembled to assess 76 applications and determine the winners of the Governor’s Multicultural Awards.

The applications received were of a particularly high calibre. A total of 17 winners from 17 Individual and 19 Organisational finalists were selected across eleven (11) categories. On 21 March 2017, His Excellency Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia presented the 2016 awards on the grounds of Government House.

The award winners are listed below.

Award	Recipient
Outstanding Individual Achievement	Mr Ly Luan Le
Arts and Culture - Individual	Mr Peter Drew
Arts and Culture - Organisation	Graham F Smith Peace Foundation Inc
Community Sector- Individual	Ms Cynthia Caird
Community Sector- Organisation	Islamic Society of South Australia
Media Award	Mr Siddique Bah
Public Sector Award	Community Health and Wellbeing Division - City of Salisbury
Private Sector Award	Peregrine Corporation Pty Ltd
Volunteer Award	Ms Ann Pick
Senior Volunteer Award	Mr Michael Popowicz
Youth – Individual	Mr Ziang Lia
Youth- Organisation	Afghan Youth of South Australia
Ageing - Individual	Ms Mahjabeen Ahmad
Ageing - Organisation	Multicultural Aged Care Inc and Ethnic Link Services
Family Safety - Individual	Ms Tamara Stewart-Jones
Economic Development	Plastic Recyclers National

The Premier of South Australia, the Honourable Jay Weatherill MP gave an address to the 400 guests highlighting the Government's commitment to multiculturalism and its support for intercultural understanding and respect.

The cultural performance at the Awards ceremony was Yevshan Ukrainian Arts who performed traditional Ukrainian folk dances.

Mr George Megalogenis, journalist and political commentator, delivered the Keynote Address: 'Australia's Lesson for the world', in which he reflected on Australia's immigration history.

The Governor's Multicultural Awards have now seen a total of more than 900 nominations submitted, resulting in more than 100 winners over nine years.

Nominations for the 2017 Governor's Multicultural Awards will open on 28 August and close on 6 October 2017.

SAMEAC Multicultural Reception

The Dom Polski Centre in Angas Street, Adelaide was the venue for the second SAMEAC Multicultural Reception. The Reception was attended by almost 400 community leaders and representatives from diverse cultural groups, clubs and associations across South Australia. Premier Weatherill, Minister Bettison and the Chair all addressed the gathering and thanked them for their contribution to promoting multiculturalism in South Australia.

The Reception provided a valuable opportunity for interaction across South Australia's diverse communities.

Refugee Week

Each year, the Commission supports Refugee Week in South Australia. Refugee Week is held across Australia each year to coincide with World Refugee Day on 20 June. Local events were held across the state as part of Refugee Week, including movie screenings, exhibitions, excursions, public lectures, lunches, teas, and a soccer tournament.

The Chair attended the following Refugee Week events:

- Youth Poster Exhibition & Awards, Migrant Resource Centre - 19 June 2016
- Governor's Launch of World Refugee Day and SA Refugee Week Reception at Government House – 20 June 2016

Multicultural Events Calendar

In 2016-17, a Multicultural Events Calendar was published online at www.multicultural.sa.gov.au/events. The online Multicultural Events Calendar contains information about days of cultural and religious significance, festivals and other multicultural events in South Australia.

Multicultural SA and SAMEAC website

The Multicultural website includes a wide range of information about services available to migrants settling in South Australia, and information about the State's diverse communities as well as a new and improved online events calendar. Communities are encouraged to submit details of their upcoming celebrations and days of significance online at www.multicultural.sa.gov.au

Community Consultation and Community Engagement

In 2016-17 SAMEAC continued its Community Engagement Strategy adopted by the Commission in early 2015, by hosting community engagement meetings with different cultural groups. The objective of the Community Engagement Strategy is for SAMEAC to take every second meeting into the community by inviting specific migrant groups to inform and educate it about their ongoing needs and aspirations. This information informs the Commission's advice to Government.

Details of the four Community Engagement Meetings held in 2016-17 are:

Vietnamese Community

On 18 August 2016 the Commission met with and heard from members of the Vietnamese community at the Vietnamese Community Centre, Athol Park. Issues highlighted by the Vietnamese community included

- Ageing-related issues (e.g. chronic disease, loss and grief, low and fixed incomes, access to services)
- Domestic violence (language barriers to reporting)
- Youth issues (substance abuse, homelessness, transience, gambling addiction, lack of resilience, relationships with older Vietnamese)
- Vietnamese language schools

Polish Community

Polish leaders made presentations to the Commission at the Community Engagement meeting in the Dom Polski Centre, Adelaide on 27 October 2016. The key issues raised during the presentations were:

- Polish Aged Care programs
- Polish Folk Ensemble (Tatry) dancers performances at cultural events
- Dozynki Festival (sponsorship, funding and volunteers)
- Polish Hill River Church Museum
- Dom Polski Centre (future needs and aspirations)

Sikh Community

The Klemzig Community Centre was the venue for the Commission's meeting with the Sikh community on 2 February 2017. Nearly 50 Sikh leaders and representatives from different clubs and organisations attended the meeting. Sikh community leaders raised the following issues:

- Confusion in the broader community between Muslims and Sikhs
- Concerns of Sikh tax-drivers and bus drivers
- Opportunities for cultural awareness about Sikhs in the Education and Medical sectors
- School uniform exemptions regarding the five 'K's' of the Sikhism (articles of faith)
- Aged care facilities for older Sikhs
- Exemptions for Sikh construction workers to remove the turban for safety helmets

Multicultural Youth

On 11 May 2017 the Commission met with almost 30 Multicultural Youth leaders at the Pilgrim Hall, Adelaide. Commission members heard from Multicultural Youth leaders on the following issues:

- Generational differences in regards to culture and language
- Suggestions for support for projects and initiatives within established cultural clubs and organisations
- Suggestions to raise awareness and interest among young people about their language and cultural background
- Opportunities for young people to engage with and understand the cultures of other young people to promote inclusivity and interculturalism
- Suggestions to raise awareness and provide information about settlement services for young people who are new arrivals

The Commission aims to hold community engagement meeting with the Iranian community in July 2017 and Spanish-Speaking communities in October 2017.

Parliamentary Receptions

In 2016-17 the Honourable Jay Weatherill MP, Premier of South Australia hosted several Receptions at Parliament House and the Old Chamber, which were attended by the Chair and other SAMEAC members.

These receptions included:

- Launch of the Dimitria Festival (2016)
- 160th Anniversary of Polish Settlement in South Australia (2016)
- Reception for Singapore - 10th Anniversary of OzAsia
- State visit by the President of Malta, Mrs Marie Louise Coleiro Preca

- Nowruz
- Multicultural Youth
- Jewish Community
- Eid Al-Fitr (2016 and 2017)
- Diwali (2016)

Policing for a Multicultural Society Awards

The Policing for a Multicultural Society Award, initiated by SAMEAC, moved into its seventh year, after being initiated in 2009. In 2016-17 SAMEAC members presented the *Policing for a Multicultural Society Award*, which is given to a police cadet in each graduating recruit course. The award is given to the cadet from each course who shows the highest level of appreciation and understanding of migrant, refugee and cultural diversity issues relating to policing.

Recipients of the *Policing for a Multicultural Society Award* in 2016-17 were:

- Lauren McMillan
- Kerry Edwards
- Bradley Breeding
- Grant Archer
- Natasha Healy
- Stephen Milkin
- Ryan Weisell

Partnership with SA Police

2016-17 has seen a continuation of the strong working relationship between SAMEAC and SA Police. Regular liaison meetings of the Strategic Multicultural Interface Group (SMIG) are held between Senior SA Police officers, the Chair, SAMEAC and Multicultural SA officers. The purpose of the meetings is to share information and discuss existing and emerging issues affecting South Australia's CALD communities.

Honorary Consuls

The Australian Government has a long tradition of accepting Honorary Consuls, and more than half of the many consular posts established in Australian State and Territory capital cities are headed by Honorary Consular Officers. SAMEAC recognises that Honorary Consuls can make a substantial contribution to the conduct of individual bilateral relationships, especially in cases where the sending country does not maintain resident diplomatic representation in Australia. SAMEAC maintains relationships with the many Honorary Consuls based in South Australia.

Women's Leadership Course

The Women's Leadership Course for women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds was initiated by SAMEAC in 2002 and has had more than 210 graduates from the program. Participants participate in a ten-month program from February to November each calendar year and graduate with a Certificate IV in Leadership and Management.

In 2016-17 the course was coordinated through TAFESA, Multicultural SA and SAMEAC. The 2016 Women's Leadership Course graduation ceremony was held on 26 April 2017.

To date, 11 Women's Leadership Courses have been conducted. SAMEAC members are invited to attend the graduation ceremonies. Applications for the 2017 closed on 20 January with 19 women being accepted into the 2017 course.

In January 2017, the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion nominated TAFE SA for a Migration Council of Australian Migration and Settlement Award in the 'Empowering Women' category, for delivery of the Women's Leadership Course. The nomination was selected as one of the finalists for the awards ceremony held 22 March 2017 in Canberra.

ACCESS AND EQUITY

SAMEAC is involved in many activities that aim to ensure that no person living in South Australia faces barriers to accessing information and services because of their CALD background. The Commission is also pro-active in addressing issues of real or perceived prejudice and discrimination when they arise in the local community. Some of these initiatives are listed below.

Access and Equity Strategy

The *Access and Equity Guidelines for a Multicultural South Australia* have been developed jointly by Multicultural SA and SAMEAC.

The intent of the Guidelines is to ensure that Government agencies provide services which:

- are accessible to all people who are eligible;
- are designed and delivered in a manner which is responsive to people from CALD communities; and
- result in equitable outcomes for all.

The Guidelines contain strategies which constitute best practice in supporting access and equity in the areas of communication, program and service delivery, policy, accountability, human resources and leadership.

SAMEAC continued to liaise with the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment regarding workforce diversity and the information gathered through the annual 'State of the Sector Survey'. The Report of the 2016 State of the Sector Survey highlighted some areas where service can be improved, such as access to interpreting and translating services.

In this context the Commission welcomed the continued progress of the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion with both a whole of government interpreting and translating policy and the development of a cultural awareness training program to be made available across government agencies.

INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATING SERVICES

The Interpreting and Translating Centre (ITC) provides interpreting and translating services to a wide range of private, corporate and government clients. Through 2016-17 ITC's administration and service delivery sections remained relatively stable in staffing numbers, with nine full-time administrative staff, 297 casual interpreters and translators and two casual customer service consultants.

Services offered by ITC include face-to-face interpreting sessions, interpreting over the phone, interpreting for business meetings, document translations and multilingual typesetting.

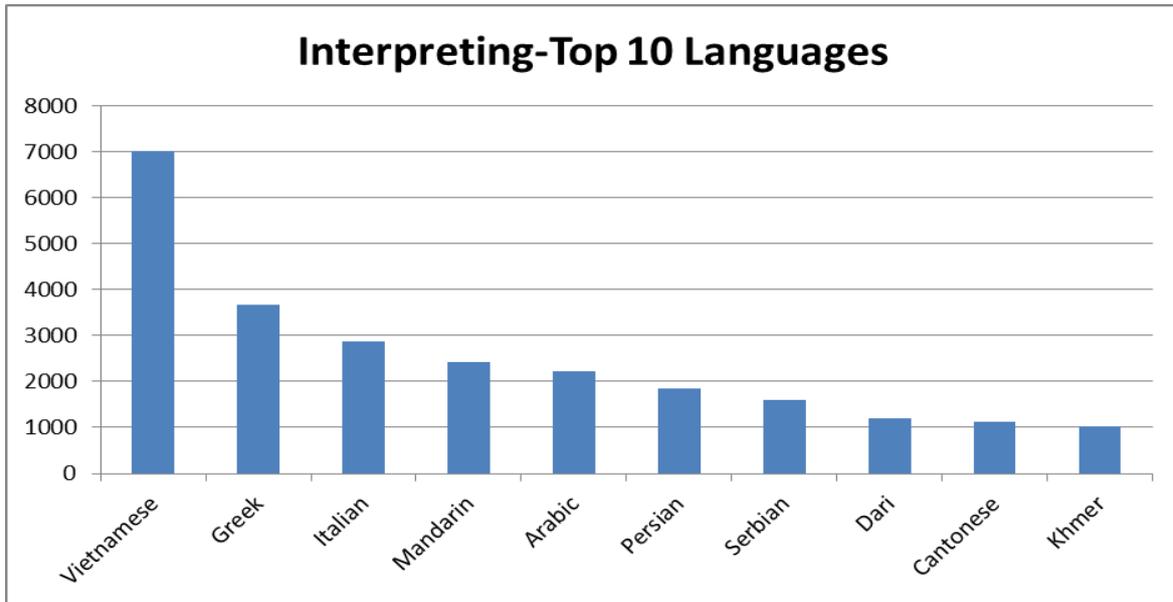
Interpreting and translating assignments

Overall activity for ITC's interpreting section remained steady through 2016-17 with 35,028 assignments completed. The number of assignments was comparable to last year after a slow start while working through the roll out of the Electronic Patient Administration System (EPAS) system in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The translation section experienced increased demand with total documents translated of 1,959 up from 1,872 the previous year and total number of words translated increased to 783,000 from 611,000 (28% increase).

In 2016-17, ITC offered interpreting services in 109 languages consistent with ITC's service provision in previous years. Translation service provision remained steady with 59 languages on offer. The ten most popular languages of either category appear in the tables below. Interpreting includes face-to-face interpreting, telephone interpreting and business interpreting, as well as special assignments, while translation includes a wide variety and size of documents translated to or from the designated language.

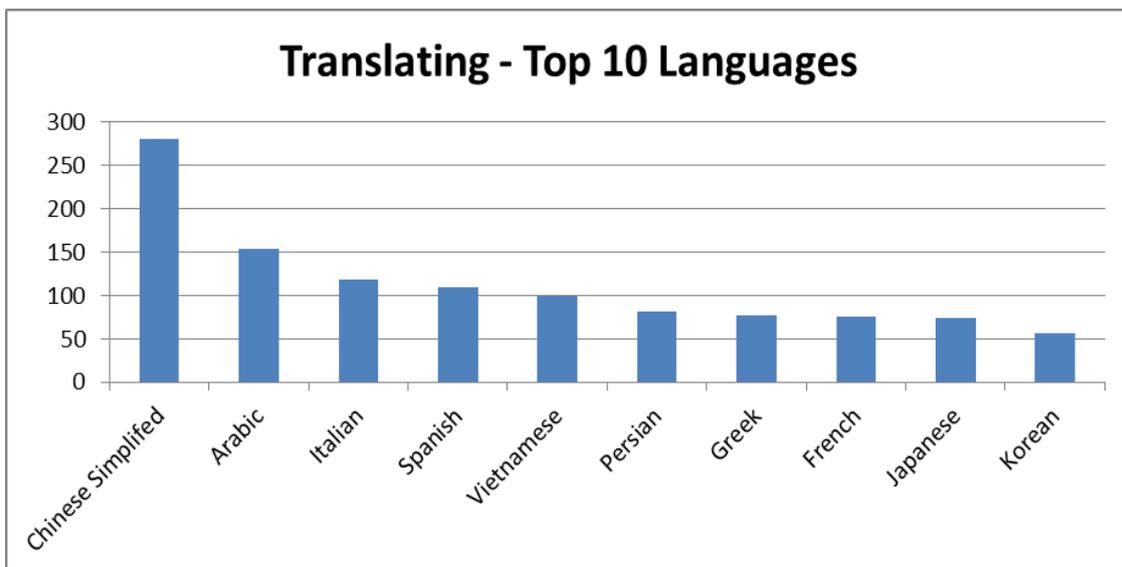
Interpreting assignments for 2016-2017 were requested in 95 of the 109 available languages and 71% of these assignments occurred in the ten most requested languages, shown in the table below. These languages have consistently been the most popular languages in recent years. Vietnamese remained the most demanded language for interpreting assignments, with over 7,000 assignments.

Ten most common languages for interpreting assignments in 2016-17



Translating assignments were provided in 59 languages and over half (57%) of these assignments were represented in the top ten languages, as shown in the table below. Chinese Simplified remained the most requested language for translation, with 281 assignments, followed by Arabic, 153 assignments. Italian and Spanish also experienced increases while the demand for Vietnamese decreased.

Ten most common languages for translating assignments in 2016-17



Training sessions

ITC continued with its delivery of training sessions on 'Working with Interpreters' in 2016-17 to a number of government and private clients mainly in the legal and health sectors. ITC delivered six sessions with the aim of providing an insight into the best practice interpreting to help client agencies communicate effectively when using interpreters with non-English speaking clients. ITC also conducted four quarterly induction and training sessions throughout the year for new interpreters and translators to familiarise them with working in the SA government and the particular work processes at ITC.

New interpreters and translators

During the year, 36 additional interpreters were recruited covering over 40 languages and 16 new translators and were recruited representing 17 languages. These languages included Arabic, Bangla, Bengali, Burmese, Cantonese, Chin, Dari, Dutch, Ethiopian, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Hakka Chin, Hakha, Hazaragi, Hindi, Italian, Karen, Khmer, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Korean, Kurdish dialects, Mandarin, Nepali, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Pushto, Shanghainese, Sinhalese, Somali, Spanish, Sudanese, Swahili, Tamil, Thai, Tigrigna, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

The 52 new staff replaced staff who had ceased employment during the year and also bolstered ITC's resources in languages of emerging demand.

APPENDIX 1: FUNCTIONS OF SAMEAC

The main functions of SAMEAC are defined in Section (12) of the *South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Act, 1980*. These primary functions are to:

- increase awareness and understanding of the ethnic diversity of the South Australian community and the implications of that diversity; and
- advise the Government and public authorities on, and assist them in, all matters relating to the advancement of multiculturalism and ethnic affairs.

The other functions are:

- to assist in the development of strategies designed to ensure that multicultural and language policies are incorporated as an integral part of wider social and economic development policies;
- to work with public authorities to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to the advancement of multiculturalism and ethnic affairs;
- to keep under review and advise the government and public authorities on the extent to which services and facilities are available to, and meet the needs of, minority CALD groups;
- to assist public authorities to devise effective methods for the evaluation and reporting of policies and programs for the advancement of multiculturalism and ethnic affairs;
- to develop, in conjunction with other public authorities, immigration and settlement strategies designed to support and complement the State's economic development plans and to realise the potential and meet the needs of individual immigrants;
- to advise, assist and promote cooperation between CALD groups and organisations concerned in CALD affairs;
- to inform and consult with CALD groups and other interested groups and organisations about the work of SAMEAC and issues relating to multiculturalism and CALD affairs;
- to provide or assist in the provision of interpreting, translating, information and other services and facilities for the benefit of CALD groups and others; and
- to publicise generally the work of SAMEAC.

APPENDIX 2: REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES AS THE COMMISSION'S NOMINEE AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

Courts Administration Authority Community Relations Committee	Ms Mabok Deng Marial
Australia Day Council	Mr Norman Schueler OAM

APPENDIX 3: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Freedom of Information Statement

In order to conform to the requirements of Section 9 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*, the following statement has been prepared and is presented as part of the Commission's Annual Report:

Functions

The main functions of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission are defined in Section (12) of the *South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Act 1980* and are detailed in Appendix 1.

Interaction with the Public

The Commission does not provide direct client services. The Commission, in fulfilling its statutory objectives, interacts with the public through consultations and forums. Information obtained in this way assists the Commission's strategic planning and forms the basis of policy advice to the Government on multicultural issues.

Constitution of Commission

The Commission consists of not more than 15 members appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister, of whom:

- a) one must be appointed to chair the Commission; and
- b) at least four must be men and four women.

Documents

A number of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission's documents (such as the Annual Report) may be viewed, free of charge, by arrangement with the Freedom of Information Officer.

Access

Requests relating to access to other documents should be carried out in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* and outlined on the State Records of South Australia website at <http://www.archives.sa.gov.au/foi>

Requests should be accompanied by the Freedom of Information Access Fee (if applicable) and directed in writing to:

Senior Freedom of Information Officer
Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
Riverside Building
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission

Level 14 (Wakefield House)
30 Wakefield Street
GPO Box 292
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Telephone (08) 7424 7315
Website <http://multicultural.sa.gov.au/>