

## **NSW CHARTER OF PRINCIPLES FOR A CULTURALLY DIVERSE SOCIETY AND NSW PUBLIC AGENCIES**

### *The Charter of Principles for a Culturally Diverse Society*

Ethnic affairs policies and programs in the NSW public sector are based on the *Charter of Principles for a Culturally Diverse Society*.

#### **The Charter contains four principles:**

1. All individuals in NSW should have the greatest possible opportunity to contribute to and participate in, all levels of public life.
2. All individuals and public institutions should respect and accommodate the culture, language and religion of others within an Australian legal and institutional framework where English is the primary language.
3. All individuals should have the greatest possible opportunity to make use of and participate in relevant activities and programs provided and or administered by NSW government institutions.
4. All NSW public institutions should recognise the linguistic and cultural assets in the NSW population as a valuable resource and utilise and promote this resource to maximise the development of the state.

These principles form the basis for the NSW Government policy on ethnic affairs as well as programs and services in NSW public agencies.

The principles are based on a number of ideals, such as:

- ❑ the right and obligation of individuals to contribute to the development of the State, and the obligation on institutions to provide avenues for this right to be exercised;
- ❑ a society where differences of culture and language enhance the lives of all, with the English language providing a powerful unifying factor within Australian political and legal structures;
- ❑ equity of access to government programs; and
- ❑ recognition of the linguistic, cultural and religious diversity of the community as an asset in the development of the State.