



**Newsletter 03
2005**

ETHNIC VOICE NEW ZEALAND INC.

The Presidents Voice

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody involved in the Political Forum and those who attended. It was a great success. A special thank you goes out to all the politicians who spoke, to Gordon McLauchlan who facilitated the forum. Forums like these are important for the community to find out first hand what their politicians are doing for them. Every person's vote is important and counts.

New members are most welcome to join our organization which will act as a peak umbrella organization involved essentially on policy issues affecting Ethnic Sector and work towards successful settlement to build a cohesive NZ society.

Dr Rasalingam

Election Time – Your vote Counts!

The Political Forum for Ethnic Communities hosted by EVNZ was successful and more than 80 people attended to listen to Hon Chris Carter, Kenneth Wang, Hon Tariana Turia, Pansy Wong, Dail Jones, Hon Matt Robson, Keith Locke, and Bernie Ogilvy. Special thanks to them all for speaking to the communities. What were they saying:

National – Equal opportunity, not special preferences, one standard of citizenship, strong families, safe communities.

Labour – For Ethnic NZ: settlement strategy, learning on the job, better work conditions, better health, safer communities

Greens – promote tolerance and value ethnic diversity, recognise responsibility towards refugees and asylum seekers

United Future – lower the taxes to help families

Many questions were asked and an interesting afternoon was had by all. A special thanks to Gordon McLauchlan for facilitating the forum. Your vote counts for information on voting phone **0800 36 76 56** or go to

http://www.elections.org.nz/voting/information_voters_disabilities.html

Where's your career taking you?

Mental Health & Alcohol and Drug Studies at the School of Population Health, University of Auckland UoA offers Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma courses in Health Sciences, specialising in Mental Health or Alcohol and Drug Studies, and Masters and Doctorate level studies in these fields. There is a wide range of courses offered covering Mental Health Promotion, Addiction of Drugs, Gambling and Lifestyle management. For those who are interested in doing only specific courses relevant to their work, these could be taken up individually for a Certificate of Proficiency. This certificate is open to professionals in the field, who may not have a formal undergraduate degree. Post graduate certificate and diploma courses are taught over 4 full days a semester plus self directed learning. This format allows for people working and wanting to gain further knowledge For further information on these Programmes and courses please www.health.auckland.ac.nz/population-health/social-community

New Zealand definition of "Asian" use of the term

The above workshop was well attended by 57 participants who have gathered to discuss the term "Asian" and its implications for areas of research, community engagement and policy development. The workshop had provided a platform for people from various sectors of the government departments, community agencies and academic researchers to come together to discuss how the term "Asian" can be defined. This is especially important as at present the term implies some ethnic groups for one sector but has a different inclusion for another.

Keynote speakers included Ms. Joanne Allan, a representative from Statistics New Zealand who explained their definition of the term, Mrs. Elsie Ho from the University of Waikato and Kumanan Rasanathan who shared from his PhD. research paper. We are in the process of preparing the 'position /discussion paper' which will be in print when it is finalised. For more information contact Nelly Choy – n.choy@auckland.ac.nz

Human Rights in New Zealand Today: Summary of conclusions

Following are some of the findings from the Human Rights Commission report which examined a selection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights identifying where New Zealand is already meeting and even surpassing international standards and where we need to do better. More information can be found at www.hrc.co.nz

The 'migrant worker'

- The rights of migrant workers & their families are generally respected in NZ. The current Immigration Act review provides an opportunity to strengthen human rights provisions.
- There are a number of national and local initiatives (including settlement plans) to support migrants, however these settlement programmes need to be strengthened.
- Recent changes to immigration policy relating to increased English language competency may be establishing barriers to otherwise suitable applicants from non-English speaking countries, and there are barriers to the full uptake of Pacific migrant quotas.
- There is evidence that many new migrants experience racial discrimination, racial harassment and abuse.

Race relations

- New Zealanders place a high value on harmonious race relations and, while there are points of friction and disagreement, there is a strong tradition of resolving such issues in a peaceful manner.
- There are channels to address complaints about discrimination. The effectiveness of these may be compromised by a lack of public knowledge, inadequate accessibility for vulnerable groups and a lack of confidence in their effectiveness.
- Despite some indications of improvement, significant racial inequalities continue to exist in health, housing, employment, education, social services and justice (including a highly disproportionate rate of imprisonment of Maori).
- Although such programmes are provided for by the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, there has been considerable public debate about some programmes targeted to particular groups.
- The need to develop an inclusive national identity recognising both the Treaty of Waitangi and cultural diversity was a persistent theme in the consultations

PHO's cont.

How will PHOs work together to benefit their communities?



PHOs have to work with each other and their communities on key initiatives and priority areas. PHOs will also share information about things like the number of Diabetes or Flu cases they are seeing. This will help them plan for local healthcare requirements more effectively.

What are the difference between an Access PHO and an Interim PHO?

While both Access and Interim PHOs receive funding for their enrolled population, Access PHOs get extra so they can lower the fee charged directly to patients. To become an Access PHO, at least 50% of the PHOs population must be Maori, Pacific Island or from the most deprived 20% of New Zealand. HealthWEST is an Interim PHO; Waiora Amataga is an Access PHO.

What happens if I want to go to a doctor in another PHO for some aspect of my healthcare?

That's fine – you have the right to choose. You can only be enrolled with one PHO but there may be times when you need a second opinion, require emergency after hours care, or you might sometimes visit a doctor near where you work rather than where you live. Because the PHO you are enrolled with gets funded for looking after you, your usual PHO will pay the other GP you visited for your visit. The reason for your visit will not be disclosed. The aim of a PHO is to maintain as well as restore your health and that is best done though consistently visiting your usual practice, but it's not compulsory.

Who will notice an immediate difference under the PHO system?

Improving the health of the New Zealand population means focusing on people with poorer health – those that are less well off, as well as Maori and Pacific Island populations. These groups will find they receive more thorough and regular care under a PHO as well as lower charges.

How do I enroll with a PHO?

If you have been to see a GP recently you will be automatically registered with the PHO that your GP practice belongs to. Next time you visit your GP you may be asked to sign a form or give your consent to be enrolled at that PHO. AT that time you should also be given information about what that means. You can also enroll any of your children provided they are less than 16 years of age.

Strong attendance at forum a boost for cultural diversity

The attendance by more than 400 people from around New Zealand at the national diversity forum yesterday has given renewed impetus to further harnessing the benefits of diversity and increasing intercultural understanding and links, says Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bres. The outcomes of the forum, which was held at Te Papa, included:

- Renewed efforts will take place to address the issue of a national languages policy to strengthen the use of te reo Maori, Pacific languages and other community languages.
- Following a session at the forum led by prominent media representatives and the Journalism Training Organisation, the JTO has undertaken to make additional efforts in partnership with the media industry to address issues of recruitment and training of Maori, Pacific and journalists from other cultures, and to look at new ways of reflecting the diversity of their communities.
- The further development of a national interfaith network was also supported with leaders from seven faiths present, emphasizing the importance of interfaith cooperation and dialogue. An immediate focus will be on the international Week of Prayer for World Peace on 16–23 October.

DIWALI 2005

The 2005 Diwali Festival brought to by the Asia New Zealand Foundation, Auckland City and Wellington City Council now has two new supporters bringing you this highly successful annual event to both centres. Radio Tarana and TV3 are for the first time official sponsors of the most celebrated Indian festival of the year – the Festival of Lights.

The festival will take place in Wellington on October 23 with the Bollywood dance competition being held the night before on October 22. Then the action will move to Auckland when both the festival and the Bollywood dance competition will happen on October 30. Entries for the competitions in both centres close on September 9.

There are still places for local performers and dancers who want to participate in both centres. Details are available on the Asia:NZ website – www.asianz.org.nz. For further information, contact: John Saunders, Director, Communications

Telephone: 64 4 470 8706; Mobile: 027 247 9905; Email: jrsaunders@asianz.org.nz

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONGRATULATIONS

To the NZ Rugby Union for the new Kapa o Pango haka. The All Blacks took the nation by surprise on 27 August when they performed a new haka at the Tri-Nations test against the Springboks. The team has learned the new haka over the last year in an effort to expand the All Blacks' tradition of haka and make a contribution to the team's heritage. "We have a lot of players from a lot of different cultures and haka is one of the things that bring us together," captain Tana Umaga said. The new haka, Kapa o Pango (the Black Team), was written for the team by Derek Lardelli of Ngati Porou. Its words and actions celebrate the land of New Zealand, the silver fern and its 'warriors in black.' Kapa o Pango is designed to be a second haka for the team, alongside the traditional Ka Mate. All Black senior player Aaron Mauger said the team had talked a lot in the last year about what it means to represent New Zealand and the idea for a new haka was one result. The new haka received a warm public reception, which says something about how we see our national identity as well as our national rugby team. The text and translation of the new haka is on www.allblacks.com. (Human Rights Commission, Positive Contributions, Aug 2005)

COMING EVENTS 2005

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| Sept | Election 2005 – Which Policy is for You? 3rd September , 3:00–5:00pm, Mt Roskill War Memorial Hall. Forum hosted by Consortium of Tamil Association in NZ |
| Sept | National Foundation for the Deaf – Foundations for the Future. Dates: 24 – 25 September 2005, Auckland. More information: http://www.nfd.org.nz . |
| Oct | Ethnic Youth Voice conference – October 15, Orakei Marae, Auckland. For more information or registration email contact@ethnicvoice.co.nz |
| Oct | Pan Pacific Regional HIV/AIDS Conference |
| 2006 | Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, 14–16 Feb, Wellington. For more information accan@avenues.co.nz , Ph: (04) 437 8044 |

Let us know what's happening in your community – contact@ethnicvoice.co.nz

If you see somebody without a SMILE – give them one of YOURS!