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DATES AMENDED:	CM 19/05/98 MN 176/98	DATE: 10/11/98

## **LOCAL ETHNIC AFFAIRS**

### **Preamble**

Ashfield Municipal Councils LEAPS embraces the NSW Charter of Principles for a Culturally Diverse Society as a guide to its activities. This Charter of Principles states:

“All individuals in NSW should have the greatest possible opportunity to contribute to , and participate in, all levels of public life.

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.

All individuals and 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.

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.”

### **Aims**

Ashfield Municipal Council's Local Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement (LEAPS) embraces principles for a culturally diverse society as a guide to its activities with the following aims:

- To recognise the richness of resources in a multicultural community and to encourage the full participation in Local Government;
- To enable equitable provision of services to all residents/ratepayers;
- To maintain and improve communication between Council and residents/ratepayers;
- To encourage creativity and lateral thinking amongst Council staff so that they may devise further initiatives to provide services to people of other cultures;
- To encourage people of all language backgrounds to voice their needs to Council;

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- To provide a document which will be constantly updated, changed and challenged so that the provision of equitable services to all members of the community will be seen as a priority amongst staff.

In accord with these aims and objectives the initiatives adopted by Council and for the next 12 months include:

- Continue the process of incorporating the provision of multilingual languages into all Council's publications and promotion campaigns;
- Promoting the use of the Haberfield Centre to the Italian community of Haberfield;
- Continue to provide free use of available facilities within Ashfield Civic Centre to the Chinese and Italian communities and to other ethno-specific groups on request;
- Continue to make use of the ethnic press when promoting Council projects.
- Investigate a joint venture demonstration model, with a community housing provider for ethnic older people comprising self-contained units with support services;
- Advertise Library Services in the Chinese and Italian Press;
- Improve Italian signage at Haberfield Library;
- Increase the number of ethnic CDs available;
- Continue to provide free meeting accommodation for the Ethnic Community Council of NSW;
- Display posters in community languages advertising the telephone interpreter service;
- Organise and widely promote the Carnival of Cultures.