

A bi-monthly newsletter providing up-to-date news on Darebin City Council's progress in relation to the Memorandum of Understanding with Darebin Ethnic Communities Council

DOES THE RRT ACT PROTECT OR STIFLE OUR FREEDOMS?

Issue 4
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On the 22nd of November the City of Darebin hosted a public forum on the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act. Speakers included, Dr Helen Szoke; CEO of the Equal Opportunity Commission, Malcolm Thomas; President of the Islamic Council of Victoria, Peter Stokes; Executive Officer; Saltshakers, Brian Walters; President Liberty Victoria and Cr Rob Wilson; from the City of Casey. The forum attracted more

than 70 participants who heard five different perspectives on the Act and the case for and against it. The RRT Act is well intentioned and is meant to provide protection for vulnerable groups in society who find themselves victims of racial and religious vilification. The forum highlighted the need for more education and information on the Act and how it is implemented and used. Dr Helen Szoke reiterated the fact that the Act only applies to extreme cases of vilification and serious incitement to hatred and violence. While Dr Walters pointed out that in practice, the Act is divisive and stifles debate as people become worried about expressing negative views related to religion. What makes a view offensive and vilifying? The forum marked the start of a dialogue on this subject which requires further opportunities for exploration in the future.



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Top: Dalal Smiley, Maria Dimopoulos, Michael Ulbrick, Brian Walters.

Right: Dr Helen Szoke and other panel speakers.

Below: Religious Leaders at Summit II

INTERFAITH SUMMIT II



The 2nd Interfaith Summit was held at the Darebin City Council on the 28th of September 2005. It was attended by a number of religious leaders with the support of the Darebin Council and facilitated by Cr Mendo Kundevski. The summit coincided with the beginning of the month of Ramadan for the Muslim community and during the first part of the meeting, Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam delivered a presentation on fasting during Ramadan and the special meaning it has for the Muslim community. This was followed by a series of presentations from representative from each religious group on the practice and meaning of fasting for their communities. During the second part of the meeting participants were asked to form small groups to have a general discussion regarding dietary requirements of different religious groups and implications for hospitality as well as a discussion about the Terms of Reference for the Darebin Interfaith Council. Cr Mendo Kundevski was appointed as interim Chair until such time when the Interfaith Council decides on alternative governance structure. For more information call Dalal Smiley on 8470 8411.

EID EL FITR FESTIVAL 5 – 6 NOVEMBER 2005



Festival Scene

The Eid el Fitr Festival was held on the 5th and 6th of November at Zwar Reserve in Preston. This festival which marks the end of Ramadan was very successful and well organised. More than 10,000 Muslim and non Muslim families had the opportunity to share a day full of activities which included rides, multicultural food, information and service stalls, displays by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, SES, fireworks, an animal farm and the Ramadan All Nations Soccer Cup which was won this year by The Vicpol Soccer team. The festival was officially opened by Sheikh Fehmi, and Mr Martin Ferguson local federal MP. The speakers emphasized the importance of this event as a community's expression of commitment to work together as Australians to foster harmony and understanding. The festival was supported by the City of Darebin and the Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE.

Sheikh Fehmi

IFTAR DINNER – 11 OCTOBER 2005



Darebin City Council held its first Iftar multi-faith dinner on 11 October at Preston Shire Hall. It was a most successful event which attracted 110 people of many faiths. Cr Mendo Kundevski, who attended the dinner, said: "I was delighted that the Darebin CEO, the Mayor, the Indonesian Consul-General and Muslim and non-Muslim religious leaders could join me at the Iftar dinner. In Arabic, 'Iftar' means 'breaking of the fast.'" The dinner brought Muslims of different ethnic backgrounds and from various denominations together in a friendly, constructive and enjoyable atmosphere. The Iftar dinner made a wonderful contribution towards addressing the current international situation which has made life difficult for many Muslims in our community and it would help to rebuild a spirit of solidarity with and support for Darebin's Muslim community.



Commissioner Yasser Soliman

SUDANESE COMMUNITY PROFILE

On the 9th of November 2005, the Darebin City Council with the assistance of the Northern Migrant Resource Centre organised a presentation on the Sudanese community. It was attended by over 70 people including Council staff, and local service providers. The presentation touched on key aspects of the Sudanese community: history, customs, communication and settlement issues. The participants had the opportunity to enjoy some Sudanese traditional dishes for lunch. The presentation scored 8.8 out of 10 and 9.2 for the catering. These are some of the comments gathered from participants:

"It was a well prepared presentation – Thanks!"

"The presentation was excellent. I did not previously have much knowledge of Sudan. This helped me gain a much better understanding of the Sudanese people."

"I hope this presentation will occur next year as well. I will continue to attend any Community Profiles – Thank you!"

AFGHANI WOMEN'S PLIGHT HIGHLIGHTED BY RAWA'S VISIT



Audience at Session

Amina Shams, addressed a gathering of over 70 people at the Darebin City Council's on the 6th of October 2005. The topic centred around the political climate in Afghanistan and the continuing oppression of Afghan women under the current regime. Amina, who is a member of RAWA (Revolutionary Afghan Women Association) explained how she could not use her real name while campaigning due to fear from persecution by the Afghan authorities. The audience asked many questions regarding the changes to Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban. Amina explained that very little has changed and the country is run by war lords who continue oppressive practices. RAWA is very active in raising international community awareness as well as raising funds to build schools and orphanages in Afghanistan. The session was rated 8/10 by the attendees, one of whom wrote on the evaluation form: "I stand in awe of such a courageous woman".

"On the Record" is a newsletter which is a joint initiative of the Darebin City Council and the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council. It is published on the internet and contains news and articles related to multicultural activities, projects and services provided by the Council. If you would like to find out about the content of the newsletter in your language, please call the Council's Multilingual Telephone Line on 8470 8470 and ask to be connected to David Diaz or Dalal Smiley.

Arabic

"في السجل" (On the record) نشرة أخبارية عبارة عن مبادرة مشتركة بين مجلس مدينة داربين ومجلس داربين للجاليات الإثنية. النشرة تصدر إلكترونياً على الإنترنت وتتناول أخباراً ومقالات عن الأنشطة والمشاريع المتعددة ثقافياً والخدمات التي يقدمها المجلس. إذا أردت معرفة المزيد عن محتويات النشرة بلغتك فالرجاء الإتصال بخط المجلس متعدد اللغات على الرقم 8470 8470 والطلب منهم إيصالك إما بدافيد دياز أو دلال سمايلي.

Bosnian

"On the record" je naziv biltena koji predstavlja zajedničku inicijativu Gradske općine Darebin i Vijeća etničkih zajednica u Darebinu. Izdaje se na Internetu i sadrži vijesti i članke vezane za multikulturalne aktivnosti, projekte i usluge koje pruža Općina. Ako želite da saznate o sadržaju ovog biltena na vašem jeziku, molimo nazovite općinsku višejezičnu telefonsku službu na telefon 8470 8470 i tražite da vas spoje sa Davidom Diazom ili Dalal Smiley.

Chinese

"進程記錄" (On the record) 是戴瑞賓市議會與戴瑞賓民族社區委員會聯合創辦的新聞通信。它將在互聯網上發佈，其中將包含與多元文化活動相關的新聞和文章，以及與市議會所提供的項目及服務相關的報導和介紹。如果您希望透過自己的母語瞭解有關新聞通信的內容，請致電市議會多語種專線 8470 8470，與 David Diaz 先生 或 Dalal Smiley 女士聯絡。

Croatian

"On the record" je novinska brošura pripremljena zajedničkom inicijativnom Općine Darebin i Vijeća etničkih zajednica Darebin. Objavljuje se na internetu i sadrži vijesti i članke vezane za multikulturalne aktivnosti, projekte i usluge koje pruža Općina. Ako želite više saznati o sadržaju ovog novinskog biltena na svom jeziku, molimo nazovite općinsku višejezičnu telefonsku liniju na 8470 8470 i zamolite da vam se javi David Diaz ili Dalal Smiley.

Greek

"On the record" (Στο αρχείο) είναι ένα ενημερωτικό δελτίο που είναι μια κοινή πρωτοβουλία του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου του Darebin και του Εθνικού Συμβουλίου Κοινοτήτων του Darebin. Δημοσιεύεται στο διαδίκτυο και περιέχει ειδήσεις και άρθρα που σχετίζονται με πολυπολιτισμικές δραστηριότητες, προγράμματα και υπηρεσίες που παρέχονται από το Συμβούλιο. Εάν θέλετε να μάθετε περισσότερα σχετικά με το περιεχόμενο του ενημερωτικού δελτίου στη γλώσσα σας, παρακαλούμε καλέστε την Πολύγλωσση Τηλεφωνική Γραμμή του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου στο 8470 8470 και ζητήστε να συνδεθείτε με το David Diaz ή Dalal Smiley

Italian

“On the record” è un nuovo bollettino nato dalla collaborazione tra il Comune di Darebin ed il Consiglio delle comunità etniche di Darebin (Darebin Ethnic Communities Council). Viene pubblicato su internet e contiene notizie ed articoli relativi alle attività, i progetti ed i servizi multiculturali forniti dal Comune. Chi fosse interessato a conoscere il contenuto del bollettino nella propria lingua può rivolgersi alla Linea telefonica multilingue del Comune al numero 8470 8470 e chiedere di essere messo in comunicazione con David Diaz o Dalai Smiley.

Macedonian

“On the record” е списание издадено од страна на Darebin City Council и Darebin Ethnic Communities Council. Се објавува на интернет и содржи новости и артикли во врска со мултикултурните активности, проекти и услуги кои се обезбедуваат од страна на Општината. Ако сакате да дознаете повеќе за содржината на списанието на ваш јазик, јавете се на повеќејазичната телефонска линија на Општината на 8470 8470 и побарајте да ве поврзат со David Diaz или Dalal Smiley.

Portuguese

“On the record” é um boletim informativo produzido em conjunto pelo Conselho da Cidade de Darebin e pelo Conselho das Comunidades Étnicas de Darebin. Ele é publicado na Internet e contém notícias e artigos relacionados a atividades multiculturais, projetos e serviços fornecidos pelo Conselho. Se você deseja conhecer o conteúdo do informativo em seu idioma, por favor telefone para a Council's Multilingual Telephone Line (Linha de Atendimento Multilíngüe) no número 8470 8470 e peça para entrar em contato com David Diaz ou Dalal Smiley.

Serbian

“On the record” је билтен који је заједничка иницијатива општине Darebin City и Већа етничких заједница у Darebin-у. Објављује се на Интернету и садржи вести и чланке који се тичу мултикултурних активности, пројеката и услуга које пружа општина. Ако желите да сазнате шта садржи билтен на вашем језику, молимо вас назовите општинску вишејезичку телефонску линију на 8470 8470 и замолиите да вас повежу са Давидом Дијазом (David Diaz) или Далалом Смајлијем (Dalal Smiley).

Somali

“On the record” waa warside ay soo wada saaraan Golaha Degmada Darebin iyo Golaha Jaalliyadaha Qawmiyadaha Darebin. Waxaa lagu daabacaa Internet-ka waxaana ku qoran akhbaar iyo maqaallo la xiriira xarakaadyada dadka dhaqamada kala duwan, mashruucyada iyo adeegyada goluhu bixiyo. Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd in afkaaga laguugu sheego waxa warsedaha ku qoran, fadlan wac Khadka Telefoonka Luqadaha Kala-duwan ee Golaha telefoonka: 8470 8470 weydiina in laguugu xiro David Diaz ama Dalal Smiley.

Spanish

“On the record” es un boletín que ha sido desarrollado como parte de una iniciativa conjunta entre el Concejo Municipal de Darebin y el Consejo de Comunidades Etnicas de Darebin. El boletín se publica en el Internet y contiene noticias y artículos acerca de actividades multiculturales, proyectos y servicios prestados por el Consejo Municipal. Si usted desea enterarse del contenido del boletín en su idioma sírvase ponerse en contacto con la Línea Telefónica Multilingüe del Consejo Municipal llamando al 8470 8470 y pida que le comuniquen con David Diaz o Dalal Smiley.

Vietnamese

“On the record” là bản tin do chương trình cộng tác của Hội đồng Thành phố Darebin và Hội đồng các Cộng đồng Sắc tộc Darebin phát hành và được phổ biến trên internet. Nội dung bản tin gồm có tin tức và các bài viết liên quan đến các hoạt động, đề án và dịch vụ đa văn hóa do Hội đồng Thành phố cung cấp. Nếu muốn biết thêm về nội dung bản tin bằng tiếng Việt, xin điện thoại cho Đường dây Điện thoại Đa ngôn ngữ của Hội đồng Thành phố qua số 8470 8470 và yêu cầu được nói chuyện với ông David Diaz hoặc bà Dalal Smiley.