



The Child Support Agency and changes from 1 July 08

The Child Support Agency (CSA) is an Australian Government agency that helps parents work out how their children will be looked after financially, following separation.

For those parents who can't come to their own arrangements, CSA works out how much money a parent should pay to the other parent to help raise the children, and can also make sure this money is paid. These payments are called 'child support'.

From July 2008, CSA will start using a new, more balanced way of working out child support payments. The new changes will affect all CSA customers – both paying and receiving parents.

CSA is working hard to ensure customers from multicultural backgrounds are well informed about the new Child Support Scheme. Customers can access information fact sheets in Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese from May 2008 at www.csa.gov.au

For fact sheets, brochures, news and updates about the changes to the Scheme go to the CSA website www.csa.gov.au. Free call 1800 040 972 for free copies of our support publications for separated parents (charges apply to mobile and public phones).

International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is the story of ordinary and extraordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to shape a society that increases opportunities and widens choices by working together.

IWD draws women together in unity and friendship to commemorate past achievements and highlight current social, economic and political issues. It also provides the opportunity to develop networks and facilitate partnerships between women, organisations and the broader community.



(L-R): Luchi Santer, Karyn Jessop, Bebelyn Cabunsol, Somsong Albert and Surya Silva

In Darwin, the International Women's Day dinner has been organised by the Multicultural Council of the NT (MCNT) for the past twelve years. This year MCNT formed a partnership with the Anti-Discrimination Commission (ADC) and co hosted the event to celebrate and acknowledge women's achievements and contributions to society.

The dinner was held at the Italian Club on Saturday 8th March. It drew a crowd of over 300 and was represented by different ethnic and community groups in Darwin including some supportive men. The women were very glamorous wearing their respective traditional costumes from Africa, Burma, Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines and more.

The event was a huge success, with everyone enjoying the cultural performances, inspiring speeches, good company and delicious food.



Women from Liberia and Sudan enjoying the dinner.

Multiculturalism *Matters*

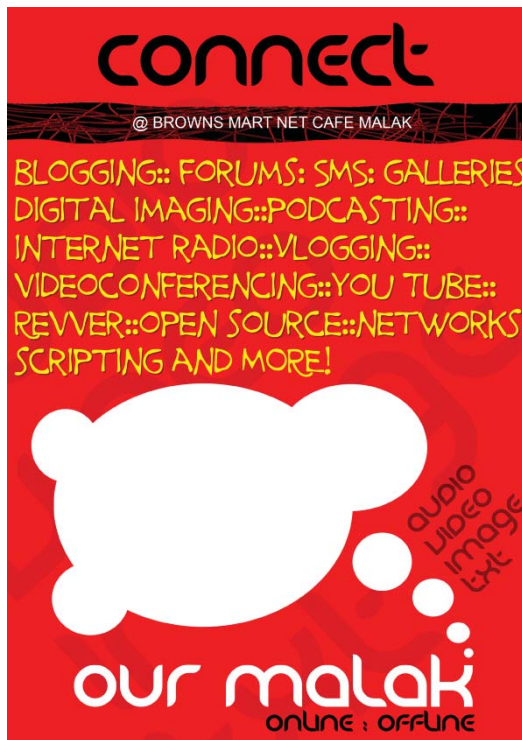
Community Venture at Malak

Spaces at Malak Shopping Centre (Chambers Crescent Theatre and Malak Telecentro) were set up in mid 2007 for community activities as an initiative of Brown's Mart Community Arts in collaboration with Henry Yap, owner of Malak Shopping Centre, Melaleuca Refugee Centre and the MCNT.

Chambers Crescent Theatre can be used for performances, workshops, classes and functions. It is available for bookings now.

The Malak Telecentro (Internet Centre) was also set up late last year with twelve computers to provide facilities for community use. It is currently open in the afternoon Monday to Friday.

To make a booking or for more information, please contact Brown's Mart on 8981 5522 or email eo@brownsmart.com.au



Learn How to Connect

Connect

Audio, Video, Photography, Text and more

Every Wednesday at the Telecentro

From 3:00 to 7:00pm

Andy 8981 5522 or Nic 8985 3311

Driver Training

Learning to drive and need help with the theory?

The Telecentro has acquired some interactive driving CD's to practice your driving theory skills and prepare for the Learners test. There are 3 computers available to use every Thursday from 2.00 – 5.00 pm free of charge.

For more information ring Melanie at MCNT on 8945 9122.

The Telecentro is located in the Malak Shopping Centre – Chambers Crescent, Malak

This is an initiative of the Multicultural Council of the NT and is supported by Brown's Mart Community Arts and the Melaleuca Refugee Centre.

Coming soon!!

Top End Women's Legal Service (TEWLS) will soon be providing a free outreach service for culturally and linguistically diverse women at the Multicultural Council in Malak one week a month.

For more information call Fiona on 8982 3000.

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WANTED

Remember the simple foods and drinks that your mother prepared when you were a child (often when you were sick)?

Do you (or did your grandparents) eat a breakfast food that is different from Australian people?

What about the special occasion foods that you eat on birthdays or holy days?

Have you ever thought how important some everyday foods are to you and how you might feel if you cannot have them?

Please help by sharing your knowledge of the foods that are culturally important to you or your family.

Send your recipes, including information about the culture it comes from, when, where and how it is eaten, to either:

Elsa Gibson, Project Officer
Community Partners Project
Fax: 8948-5288
Email: elsa.gibbons@ntcarers.asn.au
CARERS NT
GPO Box 1861 Darwin NT 0801

Janet Brown, Project Officer
Partners In Culturally Appropriate
Aged Care
Fax: 8941 5011
Email janet.brown@cotant.org
COTA (NT)
GPO Box 852 Darwin NT 0801

Award to the Multicultural Youth Council of the NT

The Multicultural Youth Council of the NT (MYCNT) was presented with a Charles See Kee award at the Harmony Day event held at Parliament House on 19 March 2008.

The Charles See Kee Awards were established by the Northern Territory Government in 2004. The awards recognise and celebrate people, organisations and initiatives that have made a valuable contribution towards the advancement of multiculturalism in the Northern Territory.

MYCNT won the Community Organisation Award for outstanding contribution towards advancing multiculturalism and counteracting racism in the Northern Territory. The award was presented by the Honourable Matthew Bonson, on behalf of the Honourable Paul Henderson, Chief Minister and Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Kenneth Kadirgamar accepted the award on behalf of the MYCNT Steering Committee.

Since its inception in April 2007 the MYCNT has been involved in a variety of activities as part of the YouthBlast: Finding Common Ground Project. Events throughout the year have included Blue Light Dance Parties, a Christmas Ball and the Eracism Forum.

MYCNT has worked collaboratively with organisations such as the Danila Dilba Youth Services, Melaleuca Refugee Centre, Australian Red Cross, Mission Australia, Brown's Mart Community Arts, Office of Crime Prevention NT Police and the Blue Light Disco Association. Funding for these activities was mainly provided through the Office of Youth Affairs the Chief Minister's Department.



(L-R): Kenneth Kadirgamar with Minister Matthew Bonson

Multiculturalism *Matters*

Multicultural Mental Health Australia has a collection of new mental health resources for everyone:

Multicultural Mental Health Australia (MMHA) has released a number of new mental health resources with a couple of leading agencies. MMHA launched its "What Is..." series of mental health fact sheets in over 20 languages at the recent Diversity In Health Conference in Sydney. The 10 topics cover issues surrounding mental illness, anxiety, bipolar mood disorder, eating disorders, depression, personality disorders, schizophrenia, challenging behaviours and suicide. The fact sheets are available in Amharic, Arabic, Assyrian, Chinese, Croatian, Dari, Dinka, English, Farsi, Greek, Italian, Khmer, Korean, Krio, Macedonian, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swahili, Turkish and Vietnamese. The series has also been adapted for people who are visually challenged. MMHA and Australia's leading provider of blindness and low vision services, Vision Australia, have produced the series into braille, large print, electronic text for the internet and audio formats such as CD, cassette and DAISY for those with a print disability.

In addition to these new resources, MMHA has also released a new series of bilingual resources with beyondblue: the national depression initiative. The fact sheets which previously were only available in English have now been produced in Arabic, Assyrian, Bosnian, Khmer, Croatian, Dari, Farsi, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Macedonian, Polish, Punjabi, Russian, Serbian, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Somalian, Spanish, Tamil, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese. The resources include: The Depression Checklist, Understanding Depression, Living and Caring for a Person with Depression, How Can You Help Someone with Depression? Depression and antidepressant medication and Emotional Health During Pregnancy and Early Parenthood. These new resources are all free and can be ordered directly from the MMHA office - 02 9840 3333 or downloaded from www.mmha.org.au/mmha-products/fact-sheets

Office Bearers

Name	Position	Portfolio
Fergal Fleming	President	Disability, Seniors, Media and Health (joint)
Luchi Santer	Senior Vice President	Promotion and Marketing, Ethnic Schools (joint) and Health (joint), Women's Affairs (joint)
Jenny Medwell	Vice President	Immigration (joint), Settlement and Citizenship, Racism (joint), Family and Children Services
Joanna Albert	Secretary	Global Issues, Ethnic Schools (joint), Immigration (joint) and Racism (joint)
Sharin Qureshi	Treasurer	Human Rights and Equal Opportunity, Social Inclusion and Women's Affairs
Harry Spirou	Committee Member	Arts and Culture
Ferdous Mitchell	Committee Member	Family and Children Services
Tissa de Silva	Committee Member	Education, Employment and Training
Lea Aitken	Committee Member	Human Resources
Kevin Kadirgamar	Committee Member	Youth Affairs
Juan Romero	Committee Member	Health (joint)

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MCNT is sponsored by
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through the Office of Multicultural
Affairs.



Disclaimer

MCNT does not take responsibility for the accuracy of news items, nor are the opinions expressed herein the official position of the Council.

Opinions and contributions from MCNT members and supporters are always welcome.