



20-22 NOVEMBER 2017 / www.advancingcommunitycohesionconference.com.au

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



2nd NATIONAL ADVANCING COMMUNITY COHESION CONFERENCE

20-22 NOVEMBER 2017

FINAL REPORT

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1.0 Introduction and Rationale

Introduction

- 1.1 The 2nd National Advancing Community Cohesion Conference – *Today's Challenges and Solutions*, was held at Western Sydney University, Parramatta Campus, from 20-22 November 2017. Over 280 participants attended the Conference which was convened by Dr Sev Ozdowski AM, Director of Equity and Diversity at the University.
- 1.2 The Conference was a follow-up to the successful 1st National Advancing Community Cohesion Conference – *Towards a National Compact*, which the University convened in July 2015 and which was attended by over 250 participants.

Rationale

- 1.3 Australia is one of the most – if not the most – multicultural nations in the world. In June 2017, the Australian Bureau of Status released the findings of the 2016 Australian National Census. A key finding from the Census was that Australia is more culturally and linguistically diverse than ever in its history.
- 1.4 The seamless integration of migrants and refugees over many generations and the extension of the concept of 'fair go' to them are one of Australia's greatest achievements. Despite existence of vestiges of racism and discrimination sometimes resulting in a lack of equitable access to opportunities for some, Australia has a strong commitment to the principle of equal participation of diverse groups, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. But more can be done, and it is important to provide opportunities for the Australian community to engage on how to ensure continuing respect and opportunities for all.



Dr Sev Ozdowski AM – Conference Convenor and Director of Equity and Diversity, Western Sydney University, Aunty Pearl Wymarra – Aboriginal Elder, Western Sydney University, Professor Barney Glover – Vice Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University, and Dr Geoff Lee – Member of Parliament for Parramatta and Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Western Sydney and Multiculturalism, at the Conference Opening

2.0 Objective, Themes and Outcomes

Objective

- 2.1 The Conference considered contemporary challenges to social cohesion in diverse, multicultural communities, and ways to more effectively address them. The event brought together politicians, decision-makers, thought leaders, and practitioners from government departments and agencies, academia and think-tanks, civil society organisations, schools, and the private sector, for this purpose.

Themes

- 2.2 While multiculturalism was the cross-cutting theme of the Conference, the challenges to social cohesion and potential answers to them, were considered from several perspectives including social, economic, political, cultural, legal, religious, and sexual/gender identity, perspectives.
- 2.3 The following broad themes were developed to inform the papers (presentations) and workshops which were delivered at the Conference:
- Review of global trends in social cohesion;
 - Concept of cohesion in a diverse society;
 - Key obstacles to social cohesion;
 - Nourishing social cohesion and advance tolerance, respect and intercultural understanding;
 - Key national initiatives to advance social cohesion; and
 - Dealing with social conflict.

See Annex 1 for a more detailed articulation of the themes and related issues.

Outcomes

- 2.4 The Conference provided an opportunity for participants to:
- learn about the latest research, practices and trends in the social cohesion space for application to their ongoing work;
 - strengthen their practical knowledge and skills; and
 - foster contacts and networks to facilitate partnerships and collaboration.

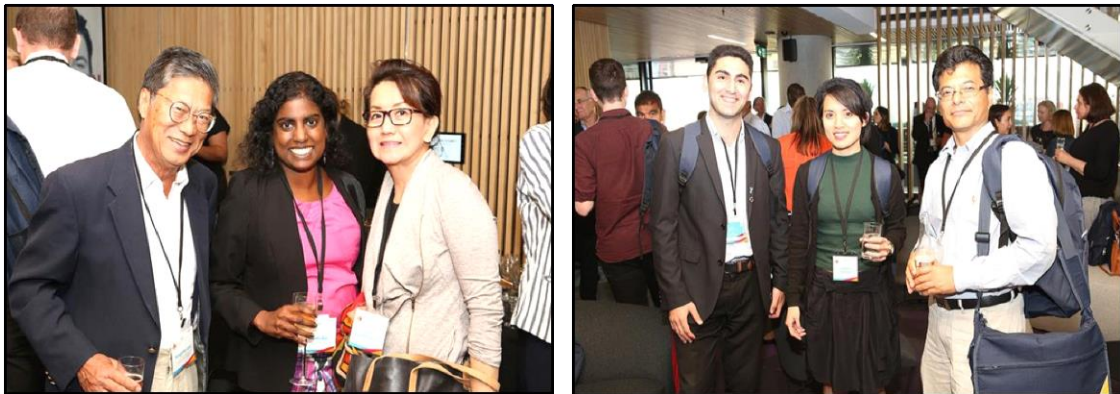


Conference delegates at a plenary session

3.0 Conference Program

- 3.1 The Conference format comprised three types of sessions – plenary sessions, concurrent presentation sessions, and workshops. Some of the plenary and presentation sessions took the form of a panel discussion.
- 3.2 A half-day program of parallel workshops was held on 20 November. The workshops were designed to strengthen knowledge and skills in good, innovative practice (activities, methodologies and tools) in the social cohesion space.
- 3.3 Days 2 and 3 (21 and 22 November) of the Conference focused on the presentation of papers in plenary and concurrently-held presentation sessions. Each session included an opportunity for questions and comments from the floor. In total, there were six plenary and 12 concurrently-held presentation sessions. Some of the sessions focused on specific subject matter while others were more general in nature, covering a range of inter-related issues. There was a mixture of academic and practice presentations.
- 3.4 The subject-specific sessions covered on social cohesion and religion, sport, international perspectives, media and the arts, regional Australia, humanitarian migrants, youth, the workplace, the police, and towns and cities. The session dedicated to social cohesion and youth included a presentation on behalf of a group of 12 youth from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who reside in regional Australia.
- 3.5 The Conference dinner on 21 November was the primary event for participants to foster contacts and networks and to explore potential partnerships and collaboration. Professor Peter Shergold AC, Chancellor of Western Sydney University, addressed the participants who attended the dinner.

See Annex 2 for the full Conference program.



Conference delegates at the Opening Reception

4.0 Conference Speakers and Workshop Facilitators

Selection of Papers and Workshops

- 4.1 A number of organisations and individuals were directly invited to present papers at the Conference, based on their standing, influence, recent work, and/or field of expertise, in the social cohesion space. The Conference also placed an open call for abstracts of papers and workshop proposals.

- 4.2 An Advisory Committee comprising academics and practitioners in the social cohesion space reviewed and made recommendations to the Conference on the papers (abstracts) and workshop proposals received – see Annex 3 for details of the Advisory Committee members.
- 4.3 In addition to academic excellence and relevance, factors which informed the selection of speakers and workshop facilitators included the need to ensure gender and cultural diversity as well as a diversity of views and subject matter.

Speakers and Workshop Facilitators

- 4.4 A diverse range of speakers and workshop facilitators contributed to the Conference. They included politicians, decision-makers, thought leaders, and practitioners from government departments and agencies, academia and think-tanks, civil society, and the private sector. There was also a relatively balanced gender mix and cultural diversity of speakers and workshop facilitators.



(Left) Senator the Hon Zed Seselja – Federal Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs, and (right) Ms Yenny Wahid – Director, The Wahid Institute, Indonesia, addressing the Conference

- 4.5 Key Australian speakers included (in alphabetical order):
- Dr Anne Aly MP, Member of the Australian Parliament for Cowan;
 - Ms Lisa Annese, Chief Executive Officer, Diversity Council Australia;
 - Hon Tony Burke MP, Shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Australia;
 - Senator Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Australian Greens Party;
 - Professor Kevin Dunn, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University;
 - His Excellency Governor of New South Wales, Hon David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd);
 - Mr Steve Killelea AM, Founder and Executive Chair, Institute for Economics and Peace;
 - Professor Andrew Markus, Pratt Foundation Chair of Jewish Civilization, Monash University;

- Dr Kay Patterson AO, Age Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission;
- Mr Edward Santow, Human Rights Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission;
- Ms Catherine Scarth, Chief Executive Officer, AMES Australia;
- Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Federal Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs; and
- Dr Tim Soutphommasane, Race Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission.



(Left) Hon Tony Burke MP – Shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Australia, Dr Anne Aly MP – Member of the Australian Parliament for Cowan, and Professor Andrew Markus – Pratt Foundation Chair of Jewish Civilization, Monash University, addressing the Conference, and (right) Senator Richard Di Natale – Leader of the Australian Greens Party, and Dr Sev Ozdowski AM – Conference Convenor and Director of Equity and Diversity, Western Sydney University, addressing the Conference

- 4.6 The international speakers were:
- Professor Ted Cante CBE, Founder, Interculturalism and Community Cohesion Foundation, United Kingdom;
 - Associate Professor Leszek Korporowicz and Dr Elżbieta Wiącek from the Institute of Intercultural Studies, Jagiellonian University, Poland, Dr Marta Dębska from the Society for Social Development and Intercultural Dialogue “Cooperantis”, Poland, and Dr Sylwia Jaskuła from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, The Lomza State University of Applied Sciences, Poland; and
 - Ms Yenny Wahid, Director, The Wahid Institute, Indonesia.
- 4.7 In total, 64 speakers and 10 workshop facilitators representing 56 organisations participated in the Conference:
- 41 male (55%) and 33 female (45%);
 - Type of organisation:
 - 6 political;
 - 8 government department or agency (Federal, State and Local);
 - 16 academia and think-tanks;
 - 1 religious/faith-based;
 - 2 media and arts;
 - 1 sporting;
 - 11 multicultural or migrant services or similar;
 - 2 refugee advocacy and/or services or similar;
 - 3 community and education or similar;
 - 2 peace building; and
 - 4 private sector.



His Excellency Governor the Hon David Hurley, Mrs Hurley, Dr Sev Ozdowski, and Conference delegates

- 4.8 The biographies of the speakers and facilitators are included in the Conference handbook which is available through the Conference website – click [here](#) to access the biographies as set out in the Conference handbook.

Highlights

- 4.9 While there were many Conference highlights, special mention is made of the following:
- Hon David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales, presented on 'Bringing New South Wales Together', discussing immigration "as a means of effecting a great moral reformation in [Australia]". Governor Hurley said managing cultural change in New South Wales will continue for many years, noting that the state is expected to grow by 2.2 million (including more than 1.5 million migrants) to 9.9 million people over the next 20 years. His challenge was for the state to not close off the possibilities associated with immigration.
 - The Conference was supported by the Australian Federal Government, the Australian Labor Party, and the Australian Greens Party.

The Federal Departments of Social Services, and Immigration and Border Protection, provided sponsorship, while presentations were made by:

- Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs, on behalf of the Government;
- Hon Tony Burke MP, Shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Australia, and Dr Anne Aly MP, Member of the Australian Parliament for Cowan, on behalf of the Australian Labor Party; and
- Senator Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Australian Greens Party.

Senator Seselja, Mr Burke and Senator Di Natale spoke on government and their respective parties' policies and strategies on multiculturalism and immigration, incorporating related issues such as refugees and asylum seekers. Dr Aly spoke on countering violent extremism including her work in this area.

- The international speakers contributed interesting and unique perspectives which were informed by their national (and international) experiences.

Professor Ted Cantle CBE spoke the concept of 'interculturalism' which he advocated as a replacement for prevailing multicultural paradigms in light of a world now defined by globalisation and super-diversity. Professor Cantle is considered the 'father of community cohesion' in the United Kingdom, given his influence in shaping government policy on race and community relations following race-related riots in the country in 2001.

- Ms Yenny Wahid discussed the challenges of maintaining social cohesion in Indonesia and some of the lessons for Australia. Ms Wahid is considered a 'woman to watch' and earmarked as a future political leader in Indonesia. She is a well-known and well regarded advocate for pluralism in her country, the daughter of the late Indonesia President Abdurrahman Wahid, and influential within the largest Muslim organisation in Indonesia with around 80 million followers.
- Associate Professor Leszek Korporowicz and his colleagues from Poland facilitated a workshop on building social cohesion through cultural understanding. The workshop provided a Polish perspective on understanding heritage as a system of 'core values' to recognize motives for behaviours in any endeavours to enhance social cohesion.
- Youth from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who reside in regional New South Wales and Queensland presented on community cohesion issues which are relevant to them and ways to more effectively address them. Their presentations highlighted the commitment of regional youth to strengthen social cohesion within their communities, as well as the need to hear more from them and to take their views more seriously.
- Compelling presentations were delivered by not-for-profit organisations. The focus of their presentations was on sharing best practices and innovative work at the coal-face to help new migrants (including refugees and asylum seekers) integrate into Australian communities. One of the more compelling presentations was from the Australian Migrant Resource Centre. The simplicity of the presentation only served to accentuate the Centre's effective work of integrating new migrant into the small (population 2,500) agricultural and pastoral regional town of Bordertown, South Australia, and elicited a highly emotional response from the audience. The presenter's (Ms Tracey Grosser) plea to not underestimate the willingness and ability of small country towns to successfully integrate new migrants (including refugees and asylum seekers) from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, left an indelible impression on the audience.
- The Australian Human Rights Commission provided significant support to the Conference through presentations by three of its Commissioners:
 - Dr Kay Patterson AO, Age Discrimination Commissioner, discussed how age discrimination impacts older Australians, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. She suggested that the Australian Public Service lead by example as a model employer of older Australians and stressed

the critical need for education and training around age inclusion and diversity in the workplace.

- Mr Edward Santow, Human Rights Commissioner, spoke on the sometimes difficult relationship between freedom of religion and other human rights, especially the right to equality or non-discrimination. The Commissioner also considered opportunities for faith to underpin efforts to protect human rights.
 - Dr Tim Soutphommasane, Race Discrimination Commissioner, addressed the rise of racial intolerance fuelled by populist far-right nationalism, the relationship between racism and other forms of discrimination, and the denials and deflections which are frequently invoked in debates about race. The Commissioner concluded with a call for society to be actively anti-racist as opposed to being merely non-racist.
- Professor Kevin Dunn from Western Sydney University addressed the Conference on an Australia-wide survey undertaken in 2015 and 2016 which he argues reveals worsening levels of Islamophobia in the country. He advocated for localised anti-Islamophobic politics based on a set of values which generate community and a desirable social identity.
 - Professor Andrew Markus from Monash University discussed the findings of the Scanlon Foundation surveys, conducted at the national and local level since 2007, and focus groups and interviews conducted in 2015-17, on Australian views on immigration and multiculturalism. The general conclusion from the research is that the majority of the Australian community supports immigration and multiculturalism. Some of the more specific findings discussed include that: the majority (56%) of those surveyed in 2017 indicated that Australia's immigration intake was 'about right' while probability-based surveys conducted in 2016-2017 showed that support for a reduction in the intake was between 35-42%; in 2017, 63% of those surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that 'accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger' and between 74-80% disagreed with the statement that 'it should be possible' to reject immigrants 'purely on the basis of their race or ethnicity'; in 2017, 75% of those surveyed agreed that 'multiculturalism has been good for Australia'; and there is a relatively high (41%) level of negative feeling towards Muslim in part fed by the view that segments of the Muslim population rejects Australia's secular democratic values and institutions.

5.0 Conference Participants and Feedback

Participants

- 5.1 The Conference recorded 289 registered participants. This number does not include many speakers and workshop facilitators who did not register but nonetheless attended the Conference in part or whole.
- 5.2 The participants were drawn from government departments or agencies, academia, think-tanks, schools, civil society including sporting, religious, migrant support, and refugee support organisations, and the private sector. This reflected the broad appeal of the Conference.



Conference delegates at a plenary session

Scholarships for Regional Youth

5.3 Through Conference partner, the Ethnic Communities Council of New South Wales, a \$20,000 grant was received from the New South Wales Government through the Premier’s Social Cohesion Fund. The grant was used to provide 12 regional youth from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds with scholarships to attend the Conference. The youths presented at the Conference on social cohesion issues relevant to them in their regional centres and how they could be addressed.





Conference participants

Feedback

5.4 At the conclusion of the Conference, participants invited to provide feedback – key findings and learnings from the feedback include:

- In terms of the utility (usefulness, benefit or value) of the Conference:
 - 87.5% of participants rated the Conference as having ‘Very High’ (56.25%) or ‘High’ (31.25%) utility;
 - 12.5% of participants rated the Conference as having ‘Moderate or Low’ utility;
 - No participant rated the Conference as having ‘Very Low or No’ utility.

- Those who rated the Conference as having ‘Moderate or Low’ utility focused on two points – the need for more presentations from new migrants (including refugees and asylum seekers) and the need for consideration of more ‘provocative’ or ‘challenging’ issues. For example, one participant called for a lesser number of presentations from ‘politicians’. Another said there is a need to discuss more provocative or challenging issues such as ‘CALD – is the term useless?’, ‘Ethnic associations – just random unelected men?’, ‘Identity politics – more harm than good?’, ‘Getting beyond race – deep diversity’.
- Any future conference would benefit from a statement or declaration against which participants could measure their work post-conference.
- The Conference would have been better served if it had been held at one venue¹.
- Overall, the feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Examples of specific comments include one participant (from a university) saying that he/she would now change the way he/she conducts research as a result of the learnings from the Conference. Another university staff member said the Conference was one the best he/she had attended. One participant said the Conference had inspired him/her to become a volunteer member of a migrant services organisation. Two participants from civil society organisations commented positively on the large number of youth at the Conference. Several participants commented positively on the breadth of issues covered and the quality of the presentations. The overwhelmingly positive feedback is consistent with 93% of participants saying they would attend another community cohesion conference. No participant said he/she would not attend. The 7% who responded ‘Maybe’ said their attendance at a future conference was subject to there being more presentations from new migrants (including refugees and asylum seekers) and the need for consideration of more ‘provocative’ or ‘challenging’ issues.

6.0 Media

6.1 The Conference generated media interest:

- 15 November, Ibu Yenny Wahid was interviewed on the Religion and Ethics Report, ABC Radio National, on religious pluralism and social cohesion in Indonesia – <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/religionandethicsreport/will-indonesias-religious-tolerance-survive-extremism/9153986>.
- 16 November, Dr Sev Ozdowski spoke with ABC Radio’s Wendy Harmer on the issue of unifying Australia – the interview is from 1:42:23 via the following link: <http://www.abc.net.au/radio/sydney/programs/mornings/mornings/9136454>.
- 17 November, the Parramatta Sun newspaper ran a story on the Conference – see <http://www.parramattasun.com.au/story/5063362/national-leaders-to-focus-on-unifying-australia/?cs=993>.
- 17 November, Dr Ozdowski spoke with Sky News Live on social cohesion in Australia.
- 21 November, Dr Ozdowski spoke with SBS Radio – the interview can be heard via the following link: <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/audiotrack/conference-examines-barriers-social-cohesion-australia>.
- 21 November, SBS World News Radio ran a story on the Conference which included extracts of Conference speeches by Senator Zed Seselja, Dr Richard Di Natale, and

¹ The Conference opening was held at the Western Sydney University Parramatta City Campus and the balance of the program was held at the Parramatta South Campus.

Dr Ozdowski – see <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/audiotrack/multiculturalism-conference-aims-social-cohesion-amid-far-right-rise>.

- 21 November, an opinion piece by Professor Ted Cattle on extremism was published in Open Forum – see <http://www.openforum.com.au/the-rise-of-extremism/>.
- Express Australijski, the Australian Polish newspaper, ran a story on the Conference in its December 2018 edition – see <https://ewpl.com.au/kolejny-sukces-dr-seweryna-ozdowskiego/>.

7.0 What Next

- 7.1 Australia is a truly multicultural and multi-ethnic country. The 2016 National Census confirmed that it is more multicultural and multi-ethnic than ever in its history. The major political parties have indicated that immigration will continue to be a key component of their policies and strategies moving forward. The way in which multicultural and multi-ethnic communities co-exist will therefore continue to be a key factor in the social cohesion of the country into the foreseeable future. Western Sydney University is one of the – if not the – most culturally and linguistically diverse universities in Australia in terms of students and staff. The University is located in Greater Western Sydney, one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse regions in Australia, and draws about 75% of its students from the area. The University actively promotes its cultural diversity as a point of difference. These are reasons for the University to consider convening at regular intervals, a conference to deliberate key issues concerning social cohesion in multicultural Australia.
- 7.2 The interest in the 2nd *National Community Cohesion Conference*, as evidenced by the number of participants, sponsoring organisations and the positive feedback, suggests there will be an appetite for another community cohesion conference in the foreseeable future, with 2019 being a possibility.

8.0 Acknowledgments

Sponsors

- 8.1 The University acknowledges the following organisations which sponsored the Conference:
- Platinum:
 - Federal Department of Social Services;
 - Gold:
 - Federal Department of Immigration and Border Protection;
 - Insurance Australian Group Limited;
 - Multicultural New South Wales;
 - Silver:
 - The Scanlon Foundation;
 - Access Community Services;
 - Liverpool City Council;
 - Bronze:
 - Multicultural Communities Council South Australia;
 - Australian Multicultural Foundation;
 - Australian Migrant Resource Centre;
 - Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia;
 - Settlement Services International;
 - Navitas;

- Settlement Council of Australia;
- o Dinner:
 - National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters.

Partners

- 8.2 The University acknowledges the following organisations which provided non-financial assistance to the Conference:
- o Special Broadcasting Service;
 - o Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia;
 - o Ethnic Communities Council of New South Wales;
 - o United Nations Association of Australia;
 - o United Nations Association of Australia;
 - o Australian Council for Human Rights Education;
 - o Gandhi Creations.

Conference Organising Team

- 8.3 The Conference organising team comprised the following:
- o Dr Sev Ozdowski, Director of the Equity and Diversity Unit, Western Sydney University (Conference Convenor);
 - o Miles Young, Senior Project Officer, Equity and Diversity Unit;
 - o Teneille Rousianos, Project Support Officer, Equity and Diversity Unit;
 - o Melinda Blackmore, Executive Assistant to the Director, Equity and Diversity Unit;
 - o Michelle Falconer, Senior Coordinator, Equity and Diversity Unit.

The organising team was ably supported by Conference Online.



Members of the Organising Team

Annex 1 – Conference Themes

1. Review of Global Trends in Social Cohesion
 - Social cohesion in diverse societies.
 - Best practice examples of an effective balance between universalism and cultural and religious specificity.
 - Do identity politics threaten social cohesion?
 - What defines a well-functioning multicultural society?
 - Populism, racism and the threat to social cohesion.
2. The Concept of Cohesion in a Diverse Society
 - What are the unifying standards or mechanisms for a modern society?
 - What are the key pillars of a cohesive society?
 - Universal values, cultural specificity and safe spaces for disagreement.
 - The linkages between social cohesion, citizenship and economic opportunities.
3. Key Obstacles to Social Cohesion
 - To what extent is economic and social equality important to social cohesion?
 - What are the unique challenges to social cohesion posed by religious pluralism?
 - Are there other issues of special relevance to cohesion, such as homophobia, or lack of freedom of expression, or other specific groups experiencing exclusion?
 - Key sources of structural and systemic racism and how to address them?
 - Challenging the denial of racism and confronting cultural privilege.
4. Nourishing Social Cohesion and Advancing Tolerance, Respect and Intercultural Understanding
 - What can governments do to advance social cohesion and intercultural dialogue?
 - What can education institutions do to advance social cohesion and intercultural dialogue?
 - The role and/or impact of social media and the sharing economy on social cohesion.
 - The role of civil society and citizenship in advancing social cohesion.
 - What are the potential and limits of multicultural drift?
 - How to make inter cultural contact work positively within micro publics?
 - (Re)Territorialisation and the role of transversal enablers.
 - Human rights approach and human rights education for advancing social cohesion.
5. Key National Initiatives to Advance Social Cohesion
 - Prime Minister's Multicultural Statement of March 2017
 - The merits of a Multiculturalism Act or other legislation.
 - Advancing economic and social equality and upward mobility for CALD Australians.
 - Refugee and humanitarian intake, initial settlement and integration.
 - Eliminating racism, the development of anti-racism policy.
 - At what scale (institutional, regional, local) and perspective (targets, bystanders, perpetrators) should anti-racism be set?
 - Promoting respect for and tolerance of others, challenging stereotypes.
 - Promoting positive intercultural and interfaith understanding.
 - Building positive cross cultural networks and leadership.
 - Which initiatives work the best – comparative analysis?
 - How to evaluate cohesion programs?
 - Best practice research methods on the state of social cohesion.
 - Research for multicultural policy development and practice.
6. Dealing with Social Conflict
 - Human rights training for those dealing with conflict (example, military, police and humanitarian workers).
 - Safe spaces for dissent and disagreement.
 - The application of human rights in disaster contexts.
 - Peace building and long term solutions to social cohesion.

Annex 2 – Conference Program



ACCC2017

Advancing Community Cohesion Conference

Today's Challenges and Solutions



20-22 NOVEMBER 2017 / Parramatta South Campus, Western Sydney University
www.advancingcommunitycohesionconference.com.au

FINAL PROGRAM

Monday, 20 November 2017 Peter Shergold Building, Parramatta City Campus, Western Sydney University 169 Macquarie Street, Parramatta	
14.00 – 18.00	Conference Registration (Level 9)
15.00 – 17.00	Workshop 1 (Level 4, Room 23) <i>Youth and Integration: Diverse Youths' Perspectives on Social Cohesion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Dor Akech Achiek, Youth Projects Coordinator, Settlement Services International
15.00 – 17.00	Workshop 2 (Level 4, Room 33) <i>High Resolves: A Theory of Change for Developing Global Citizens and Leaders</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Steve Moore, New South Wales Program Director, High Resolves
15.00 – 17.00	Workshop 3 (Level 4, Room 55) <i>Safe Schools Anti-Bullying Initiative in South Australia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Suzanne Grunwald, Senior Adviser, South Australian Department for Education and Child Development • Ms Kelly Treloar, Safe Schools Anti-Bullying Initiative, SHINE SA
15.00 – 17.00	Workshop 4 (Level 4, Room 68) <i>How to Promote Community Cohesion in a Multicultural Society: Key Insights from Social Psychology</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Heather Gridley, Community and Counselling Psychologist and Manager, Australian Psychological Society • Associate Professor Winnifred Louis, School of Psychology, University of Queensland • Professor Kate Reynolds, Research School of Psychology, Australian National University
15.00 – 17.00	Workshop 5 (Level 9, Room 1) <i>Building Social Cohesion by Cultural Heritage Understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate Professor Leszek Korporowicz, Institute of Intercultural Studies, Jagiellonian University, Poland • Dr Elżbieta Wiącek, Institute of Intercultural Studies, Jagiellonian University, Poland • Dr Marta Dębska, Society for Social Development and Intercultural Dialogue “Cooperantis”, Poland • Dr Sylwia Jaskuła, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, The Lomza State University of Applied Sciences, Poland
18.00 – 19.00	Conference Opening Ceremony (Level 9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Ceremonies – Dr Sev Ozdowski AM, Director, Equity and Diversity, Western Sydney University (Conference Convenor) • Uncle Greg Simms, Aboriginal Community Elder on Campus and Gadigal Elder – <i>Welcome to Country</i> • Professor Barney Glover, Vice Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University – <i>Welcome to Western Sydney University</i> • Dr Geoffrey Lee MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Western Sydney and Multiculturalism – <i>Opening Address</i>
19.00 – 20.30	Reception (Level 9)

Tuesday, 21 November 2017

Sir Ian & Nancy Turbott Auditorium, Parramatta South Campus, Western Sydney University
Corner of Victoria Road and James Ruse Drive, Rydalmere

08.00 – 09.00	Conference Registration (Foyer)
09.00 – 10.30	Plenary Session 1: Advancing Multicultural Australia (Auditorium) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair – Professor Linda Briskman, School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University• Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs – <i>Multicultural Australia: United, Strong, Successful</i>• Senator Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Australian Greens Party – <i>Strong Leadership Embraces our Differences</i>• Dr Sev Ozdowski AM, Chair, Australian Multicultural Council and Conference Convenor – <i>Australian Multiculturalism – its Foundations, Policy and Practice in a Shifting Landscape</i>
10.30 – 10.50	Break (Foyer)
10.50 – 12.30	Concurrent Session 1: Community Cohesion and Humanitarian Migrants (Auditorium) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair – Ms Pera Wells, Deputy President, Australian Council for Human Rights Education• Ms Anne Hollonds, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Institute of Family Studies – <i>Settlement Experiences of Recently Arrived Humanitarian Migrants</i>• Ms Catherine Scarth, Chief Executive Officer, AMES Australia – <i>Community Cohesion in Rural Victoria: Meeting the Challenges of Resettling Refugees</i>• Mr Paul Power, Chief Executive Officer, Refugee Council of Australia, and Mr Om Dhungel, Member, Refugee Communities Advocacy Network NSW – <i>Strengthening the Role of Refugee Communities in Policy Development</i>• Ms Annabel Brown, Program Manager, Centre for Policy Development – <i>Settling Better: Reforming Refugee Employment and Settlement Services</i>
10.50 – 12.30	Concurrent Session 2: Community Cohesion, Gender, Countering Violent Extremism and Bias Motivated Crime (Room 36) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair – Associate Professor Nina Burridge, Co-Director, Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre, University of Technology Sydney• Dr Ghena Krayem, Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney – <i>Muslim Women’s Dress: Everyone’s Business and What This Means for Social Cohesion in Australia</i>• Dr Sonja Hood, Chief Executive Officer, Community Hubs Australia – <i>Engaging Women to Support Socially Cohesive Communities</i>• Ms Reem Sweid, Researcher and PhD Candidate, Deakin University – <i>The Challenges of Language and Narrative in Countering Violent Extremism Policy</i>• Mr Geoffrey Steer, Director, Invisible Men Consulting Group – <i>Social Cohesion: Possibility or Pipe Dream? An Exploration through a Bias Motivated Crime Lens</i>
10.50 – 12.30	Concurrent Session 3: Panel Discussion on Community Cohesion and Sport (Room 02) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair and Commentator – Dr Paul Oliver, Director, Oliver & Thompson Consultancy• Ms Tanya Hosch, General Manager Inclusion and Social Policy, Australian Football League• Dr Sean Gorman, Senior Research Fellow, Curtin University• Ms Charlee-Sue Frail, Indigenous Programs Manager, Australian Football League NSW / ACT
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch (Foyer)
13.30 – 15.00	Plenary Session 2: International Perspectives (Auditorium) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair – Professor Kevin Dunn, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University• Ms Yenny Wahid, Director, The Wahid Institute, Indonesia• Professor Ted Cante CBE, Founder and Director, Interculturalism and Community Cohesion Foundation, United Kingdom• Mr Steve Killelea AM, Executive Chairman and Founder, Institute for Economics and Peace – <i>A Positive Peace: A Chance for Change</i>

Tuesday, 21 November 2017 continued	
	Break
15.00 – 15.30	Plenary Session 3: Bringing New South Wales Together (Auditorium) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair – Hon Philip Ruddock, Lord Mayor of Hornsby Shire His Excellency General the Hon David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales – <i>Bringing New South Wales Together</i>
15.30 – 16.00	Break (Foyer)
16.00 – 17.30	Concurrent Session 4: Nourishing Social Cohesion, Initiatives and Obstacles to Social Cohesion (Auditorium) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair – Ms Mary Patetsos, Chair, Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia Dr Astrid Perry, Manager Strategic Policy, Settlement Services International – <i>A Case for Stronger Investment in Building Social Capital</i> Mr Evan Lewis, Group Manager, Australian Department of Social Services – <i>Community Cohesion and Government Policy: Through the Lens of the Australian Department of Social Services</i> Mr Khanh Hoang, Associate Lecturer, Australian National University, and Dr Sangeetha Pillai, Senior Research Associate, University of New South Wales – <i>Citizenship, Migration and the Production of the Australian Community</i> Dr Jioji Ravulo, Senior Lecturer, Western Sydney University – <i>Creating Positive Pathways to Tertiary Education and Completion for Pacific Communities in Australia</i>
16.00 – 17.30	Concurrent Session 5: Community Cohesion, Workplaces and Leadership (Room 36) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair – Mr Lee Heycox, Executive General Manager People and Culture, Insurance Australia Group Limited Ms Lisa Annese, Chief Executive Officer, Diversity Council Australia – <i>Advancing Cohesion through Challenging Leadership Models</i> Mr Peter Doukas, Deputy Chair, Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia – <i>Changing the Media Landscape: Mentorship at its Best</i> Ms Malini Raj, Head of Strategy for Multicultural Community Banking, Commonwealth Bank of Australia – <i>CBA's Approach to Creating an Inclusive and Supportive Environment for Multicultural and CALD Communities</i> Ms Megs Lamb, Program Manager, Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia – <i>Successful Communities: Building Positive Leadership</i>
16.00 – 17.30	Concurrent Session 6: Community Cohesion, the Police, the Internet (Room 02) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair – Ms Helena Kyriazopoulos, Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia Ms Aimee Griffin, Community Portfolio Manager, Victoria Police – <i>Victoria Police Social Cohesion Partnership Project</i> Mr Khaled Almedyab, Challenging Racism Project, Western Sydney University – <i>Do Police Cultural Awareness Programs Narrow the Gap between the Government and the Muslim Community?</i> Dr Andre Oboler, Chief Executive Officer, Online Hate Prevention Institute – <i>Building Resilience and Social Cohesion by Tackling the Toxic Online Environment</i> Mr Parsu Sharma-Luitl JP, Liaison Officer, Victoria Police – <i>Police and Grassroots Community Engagement</i>
18.30 – 22.00	Conference Dinner: Novotel Hotel (350 Church Street, Parramatta) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-dinner drinks from 18.30 with guests seated for dinner from 19.00 Dinner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Janice Peterson, Special Broadcasting Service – <i>MC</i> Professor Peter Shergold AC, Chancellor, Western Sydney University – <i>After Dinner Speaker</i> Entertainment

Wednesday, 22 November 2017

Sir Ian & Nancy Turbott Auditorium, Parramatta South Campus, Western Sydney University
Corner of Victoria Road and James Ruse Drive, Rydalmere

08.00 – 08.30	Conference Registration (Foyer)
08.30 – 10.00	Plenary Session 4: Advancing Multicultural Australia (Auditorium) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair – Ms Mary Patetsos, Chairperson, Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia• Hon Tony Burke MP, Shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Australia• Dr Anne Aly MP, Member of the Australian Parliament for Cowan – <i>Social Marginalisation and Violent Extremism</i>• Professor Andrew Markus, Pratt Foundation Chair of Jewish Civilization, Monash University – <i>Australians and Cultural Diversity: An Analysis of Australians' Views on the Matter</i>
10.00 – 10.20	Break (Foyer)
10.20 – 12.00	Concurrent Session 7: Community Cohesion, Media and the Arts (Auditorium) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair – Dr B Hass Dellal AO, Director and Chair, Special Broadcasting Service, and Executive Director, Australian Multicultural Foundation• Ms Clare O'Neil, Director, Special Broadcasting Service• Mr Frank Panucci, Executive Director, Australian Council for the Arts – <i>Arts and Culture in Community Cohesion: Embedding Diversity, Embracing Complexity</i>• Ms Georgie McClean, Head of Strategy and Governance, Australian Film, Television and Radio School – <i>Whose Stories? Australian Diversity on Screen</i>• Ms Rocio Perri, Director, Australian Department of Human Services – <i>Multiculturalism: Our Stories – Using Storytelling to Change Hearts and Minds</i>
10.20 – 12.00	Concurrent Session 8: Community Cohesion, Our Towns and Cities, Role of Government (Room 36) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair – Mr Keysar Trad, Founder, Islamic Friendship Association of Australia Inc• Mr Aleem Ali, Manager, Welcoming Cities Initiative – <i>The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities</i>• Dr Hazel Easthope, Senior Research Fellow, University of New South Wales – <i>The Decline of Advantageous Disadvantage: Why Newly Arrived Migrants Can No Longer Afford to Live in 'Gateway' Suburbs and What to Do About It</i>• Associate Professor Jim Forrest, Senior Research Fellow, Macquarie University – <i>Intergroup Prejudice in Multicultural and Mono-Cultural Settings in Sydney</i>• Dr Eddie Jackson, Director, Liverpool City Council – <i>Dealing with Social Conflict? Defining the Role of Government</i>• Ms Phillipa Bellemore, PhD Candidate, Macquarie University – <i>Lessons from the Good Neighbour Council Informing Intercultural Volunteer Contact</i>
10.20 – 12.00	Concurrent Session 9: Nourishing Social Cohesion, Initiatives and Obstacles to Social Cohesion (Room 02) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair – Mr Houssam Abiad, Board Member, Australian Migrant Resource Centre• Dr Clarke Jones, Research Fellow, Australian National University, and Mr Mohamed Mohideen, President, Islamic Council of Victoria – <i>Improving the Health and Welfare of Young People and Communities through Grassroots Approaches</i>• Dr Jan Ali, Senior Lecturer, Western Sydney University – <i>Australian Muslim Community and a Move towards a Balanced Social Divergence</i>• Ms Alexia Derbas, Challenging Racism Project, Western Sydney University – <i>The Securitisation of Young Muslims: How 'Countering Violent Extremism' Threatens Young Muslims' Ability to Access Safe Spaces</i>• Regional Youth from CALD Backgrounds – <i>Our Issues and How to Address Them</i>
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch (Foyer)

Wednesday, 22 November 2017 continued	
13.00 – 14.40	<p>Concurrent Session 10: Community Cohesion and Religion (Auditorium)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – Mr Hakan Harman, Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural New South Wales • Mr Edward Santow, Human Rights Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission – <i>Religious Freedom and Community Cohesion: A Human Rights Perspective</i> • Professor Adam Possamai, Director, Research and High Degree Research, Western Sydney University – <i>Muslim Students' Religious and Cultural Experiences in the Micro-Publics of University Campuses in New South Wales</i> • Dr Helen Light and Mr Ghaith Krayem, President and Vice-President, Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia, and Rev Ian Smith, Executive Officer, Victorian Council of Churches – <i>Abrahamic Faiths Working Together for Community Harmony</i> • Ms Rebekah Brown, PhD Candidate, University of Tasmania – <i>Social Cohesion in Religious Civic Spaces: The Case of a Multicultural Church</i>
13.00 – 14.40	<p>Concurrent Session 11: Combatting Discrimination and Promoting Cohesion (Room 36)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – Ms Faiza Rehman, Council Member, Australian Multicultural Council • Dr Kay Patterson AO, Age Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission • Ms Ljubica Petrov, Manager, Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing – <i>Ageing in Australia: A Time of Exclusion for Many</i> • Mr Atem Atem, Multicultural Officer, Fairfield City Council – <i>The Role of Local Councils in Settlement and Promoting Community Cohesion</i> • Mr Nick Tebbey, Chief Executive Officer, Settlement Council of Australia – <i>The Role of Australia's Settlement Sector in Promoting Social Cohesion</i>
13.00 – 14.40	<p>Concurrent Session 12: Community Cohesion and Regional Australia (Room 02)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – Ms Priscilla Brice-Weller, Managing Director, All Together Now • Dr Nancy Spencer, Director, Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet – <i>Social Cohesion and Related Strategies in Queensland</i> • Dr Mary Asic-Kobe, Director Social Services, Access Community Services – <i>Regional Resettlement in Queensland: Enhancing Social Capital</i> • Ms Danielle Wood, Fellow, Grattan Institute – <i>Regional Politics, Migrants and Social Cohesion</i> • Ms Tracey Grosser, Manager, Australian Migrant Resource Centre – <i>Facilitating Inclusion for Recent Arrivals in Regional Australia</i>
14.40 – 15.00	Break (Foyer)
15.00 – 16.30	<p>Plenary Session 5: Discrimination in a Multicultural Society (Auditorium)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – Dr Stepan Kerkyasharian AO, former President, Anti-Discrimination Board of New South Wales and former Chair, Multicultural New South Wales • Mr Michael Pezzullo, Secretary, Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection • Dr Tim Soutphommasane, Race Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission • Professor Kevin Dunn, Western Sydney University – <i>Islamophobia: An Appropriate Concept for Understanding the Racialisation of Religion</i>
Break	
16.30 – 17.00	<p>Plenary Session 6: Where to From Here? (Auditorium)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – Dr Sev Ozdowski AM, Director, Equity and Diversity, Western Sydney University (Conference Convenor) • Professor Ted Cantle CBE, Interculturalism and Community Cohesion Foundation, United Kingdom • Ms Yenny Wahid, The Wahid Institute, Indonesia • Professor Kevin Dunn, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University • Ms Danielle Wood, Fellow, Grattan Institute

Annex 3 – Conference Advisory Committee

Conference Advisory Committee Chair

- Professor Kevin Dunn, Dean of the School of Social Science and Psychology and Professor in Human Geography and Urban Studies, Western Sydney University

Deputy Chair

- Mr Joseph Caputo OAM JP, Chair, Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia

Members

- Ms Priscilla Brice-Weller, Managing Director, All Together Now
- Dr B Hass Dellal AO, Chair, Special Broadcasting Commission and Executive Director, Australian Multicultural Foundation
- Professor Jock Collins, Professor of Social Economics, Management Discipline Group Core Member, CBSI - Centre for Business and Social Innovation, University of Technology Sydney
- Associate Professor Farida Fozdar, Anthropology and Sociology, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Western Australia
- Dr Nahib Afrose Kabir, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, School of Education, University of South Australia
- Professor Andrew Markus, Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and the Pratt Foundation Chair of Jewish Civilization, Monash University
- Professor Yin Paradies, Alfred Deakin Professor and Chair in Race Relations, , Faculty of Arts and Education, Deakin University
- Professor Adam Possamai, Director, Research and Higher Degree Research,, Western Sydney University
- Ms Pru McPherson, Director, Community Cohesion Section, Department of Social Services

Ex-Officio

- Dr Sev Ozdowski AM, Director of Equity and Diversity, Western Sydney University