



**Department of Immigration, Local Government  
& Ethnic Affairs**

New South Wales State Headquarters  
Level 7, 190 George Street,  
Sydney, N.S.W. 2000

Dear Friends,

Earlier this year, the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, Mr Gerry Hand, decided to hold nationwide consultations on the settlement and welfare of migrants and refugees. The Minister's consultations have given us an opportunity to reflect on the results of changes in the Department's role in the settlement of migrants and refugees and to look at ways of improving services and programs within the constraints of available resources.

The consultations would not have worked without community participation in the preparation, running and recording of meetings. It was this involvement which from the outset encouraged broad participation and constructive discussion and will help ensure valuable outcomes from the consultations.

I know that many of you wished to take part in the meeting on community grants and funding arrangements and priorities scheduled for 24 May 1991. That meeting, as you may be aware, was overtaken by certain events and had to be abandoned. The meeting has therefore been re-scheduled for 1.30 pm - 4.00 pm on Tuesday 30 July, at the Acacia Room in the Bankstown Civic Centre, The Mall, Bankstown (RSVP by 26 July 1991, phone 256 3566). The Minister is expected to attend from 2.30 pm - 4.00 pm. It is recommended that participants arrive at 1.30 pm to allow for preparatory discussion. The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

To assist you to take part, we are enclosing a summary of the issues already raised in the NSW settlement consultations relating to funding priorities and community grants which I hope will be useful. If you need more information about the meeting or if you want to discuss any other requirements like interpreters or child care arrangements, please call Elektra Spathopoulos by 24 July on (02) 256 3566, and we may be able to make appropriate arrangements.

It is my hope that you and others with similar interests will be able to participate in this meeting. I urge you to pass on the information in this letter to any of your colleagues and friends who may be interested in attending.

Yours sincerely

JOHN FORSTER  
STATE DIRECTOR

16 July 1991