

State and Federal support for Major ethnic initiatives

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The first National Conference of Ethnic Communities’ Council is to take place in Sydney on July 6, 7, and 8 1979.

Delegates and observers from Ethnic Communities’ Councils in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and the Australian Capital Territory, will meet in order to discuss the formation of a national body which will promote the interests of the ethnic communities in the federal sphere.

The proposed National Council will be the proper forum for the co-ordination of the various functions of the State Councils, and it will actively support the formation of new ones.

It will co-ordinate and facilitate communications and interaction between the community at large and the ethnic communities, in order to achieve a truly multicultural society in which no individual or group is denied the opportunity of making a worthwhile contribution.

NSW chairman, Ald W Jegorow, MBE, has stated:

“It will be a meeting of historical importance, a real step forward for the whole of the Australian community. NSW has been the first state to have an Ethnic Communities’ Council which has had the support of the Premier, Mr Wran, the NSW State Government, and Opposition, and the Federal Government and Opposition.”

A national body will provide independent and expert advice on matters affecting ethnic communities, and will be a proper forum for

expressing opinions and exchanging ideas to promote unity in the Australian community whilst preserving the tremendously rich cultural heritages of the various ethnic groups.

The Premier, Mr Wran, will officially open the Conference at the State Office Block Theatre at 6pm on Friday sixth July, and the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Federal Opposition, and the Leader of the State Opposition, have been invited to give addresses on that occasion.