

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Celebrating our cultural diversity**

The celebration of Harmony Day fosters and promotes the benefits of cultural diversity in the Australian community.

ACL Group Managing Director Helen Zimmerman said it was an opportunity to promote the benefits of cultural diversity and social inclusion through the Federal Government's Living in Harmony program and, in particular, on Harmony Day each year.

"Harmony Day is an opportunity of bringing Australians from all backgrounds together in a positive, productive way," Ms Zimmerman said.

ACL, the largest provider of high quality English language education in Australia, will celebrate Harmony Day today (Thursday 20 March 2008) at its colleges across Sydney.

ACL has been working since 1998 to educate and settle newly arrived migrants and refugees as part of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) and since 2005 has been a provider of settlement services to refugees under the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS).

As the only language program of its kind in the world, the AMEP is hailed internationally for its contribution towards the successful settlement of migrants and refugees in Australia.

Ms Zimmerman said many migrants and refugees who come to Australia learn the English language and are helped to settle in and make a success in the community through the services of ACL.

"Not only do these migrants and refugees learn the English language, they also learn to integrate into Australian society and contribute to the economy," Ms Zimmerman said.

"ACL is very honoured to work with migrants and refugees who are making Australia their home. Their determination to provide a new life for themselves and their families contributes to the richness of Australian society and our future prosperity as a nation."

ACL colleges will celebrate Harmony Day in various colourful ways including student performances in song and dance, fashion parades and face painting for the children who attend college child care centres as well as classroom lessons in cultural diversity and living in harmony.

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