

**Joint Standing Committee on Migration****Chair: Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP****Deputy Chair: Mrs Louise Markus MP**

Celebrating diversity in Sydney's west

Parramatta is the economic centre of multicultural Western Sydney. Bounded by Blacktown to the north, Bankstown in the east, Fairfield and Liverpool to the south, and Penrith to the west, the Parramatta Holroyd region is one of the most culturally diverse in Australia with over 130 cultures represented.

On **Monday 24 October 2011**, the Joint Standing Committee on Migration will visit Parramatta to hear about multiculturalism and productive diversity in Sydney's west.

The Committee Chair Ms Maria Vamvakinou stated: "Parramatta is the capital of New South Wales' vibrant and productive Indian community. The city is known for its annual South East Asian Arts **Parramasala Festival** and for its famous 'Eat Street' of international cuisines, a host location to this year's *Crave Sydney International Food Festival*."

"Parramatta is less well known for its **Diversity Health Institute**, a national forum and centre for NSW's unique multicultural mental health services model," Ms Vamvakinou said. "The Committee looks forward to hearing from the Institute director and centre managers, who are experts in transcultural mental health and problem gambling."

Parramatta City Council will open the public hearing program, to include representations from adjoining **Fairfield City**, which has a high percentage of Iraqi refugees. Other community associations and service providers appearing will be the:

- **United India Association**
- **New South Wales Spanish and Latin American Association**
- **Kfarsaroun Charity Association**
- **Hills Holroyd Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre**
- **Angels of Mercy Welfare Services Inc.**

The Committee's public hearing will be held at:

**The Seminar Room, Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre,
346A Church Street, Parramatta, commencing at 10.15am.**

Proceedings will be audio broadcast on <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

The full program and other information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website www.aph.gov.au/mig or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Media comment: Committee Chair Ms Maria Vamvakinou (03) 9309 3655 or mobile 0417 541 465 (Basem Abdo)

Background: Inquiry secretary, migration mobile 0413 086 521