



Senator the Hon Santo Santoro Minister for Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

8 March 2006

SS22/06

Guide equips SA to provide multicultural care

South Australian aged-care providers would be better equipped to care for older people from different cultural backgrounds with the release of *Working Cross Culturally – A Guide*, the Minister for Ageing, Senator Santo Santoro, said today.

“This is a positive initiative that will help to ensure that accessible and appropriate aged-care services are available to older Australians of all backgrounds,” Senator Santoro said when launching the guide in Adelaide.

The guide has been prepared by the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia (MCCSA) and funded by the Australian Government and the South Australian Government. It will help aged-care facilities and community-based service providers understand and respond to the needs of older people from different cultural backgrounds and help them provide appropriate care.

“I am proud of my Italian origins, which have given me a personal understanding of the needs of people from different communities, and a particular interest in improving culturally sensitive aged care for them,” Senator Santoro said.

Presently one in five older Australians was born in a non-English-speaking country. However, over the coming years, Australia’s older population will include proportionally more people from different cultural backgrounds.

“Between 1996 and 2011 the number of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds living in South Australia is projected to reach 52,200, or 20.6 per cent of the total older South Australian population,” Senator Santoro said.

“Many of these older people will require access to aged-care services and *Working Cross Culturally – A Guide* is an example of the sector responding to the changing landscape of aged care.”

Senator Santoro congratulated the MCCSA and the South Australian Partners in Culturally Appropriate Care Initiative for collaborating to develop the guide.

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