

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY

New cultural burial grounds and free office space for community groups

A re-elected Keneally Labor Government will release 90 new hectares of cultural burial grounds and provide free office space for multicultural community groups – as part of the Celebrating Our Diversity package.

This follows last week's announcement that a re-elected Labor Government will build a \$17 million Museum of Immigration and Multiculturalism to promote cultural diversity and solidarity.

A re-elected Keneally Labor Government will:

- Release 90 hectares of cultural burial grounds to allow families to observe their cultural and religious beliefs;
- Provide free shared office space at Parramatta for community groups with no regular working or meeting place; and
- Continue \$1.7 million funding each year for the Community Relations Commission, community organisations and events.

The new and expanded burial grounds will be located at Castlereagh, Appin, Rookwood Cemetery, Kemps Creek and Mona Vale cemetery.

“A re-elected Keneally Labor Government will release 90 hectares of land across Sydney to ensure suitable burial grounds are available to people of all faiths when a loved one passes away,” Ms Keneally said.

“This will allow families to observe their religious and cultural beliefs during the difficult time of the passing of a loved one.”

In addition, a re-elected Keneally Government will provide free shared office space in Parramatta for community groups with no regular working or meeting place.

“Labor understands that community organisations, especially those that rely on volunteers and fundraising, experience difficulties with the cost of office rent and maintenance,” Ms Keneally said.

“If re-elected, we will provide more than 170 square me-



tres of shared community office space in Parramatta for community groups to use – so they can provide even better services to the communities they represent.”

Celebrating Our Diversity builds on the Keneally Government initiatives to support culturally diverse communities, including:

- Doubling the funding for Community Language Schools by \$8.1 million – to help children retain the language of their parents and grandparents;

- Increasing the number of migrants nominated to live and work in NSW each year, attracting the world's best and brightest;

- Increasing the number of Commissioners on the Community Relations Commission, giving more communities a voice in Government;

- Funding and supporting key community groups, festivals and events so multicultural communities can celebrate their culture and heritage; and
- Supporting the Federal

Ethnic Communities Council of Australia's “Reclaim Multiculturalism” campaign.

“The Keneally Labor Government believes NSW is a more prosperous and a more successful society because of our diversity,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“Labor was one of the first political parties in Australia to refuse preferences to One Nation in 1998 and we will continue that principled stand and refuse to give preferences or do a deal in the upper house with Pauline Hanson.

“On the other hand, Barry O'Farrell has pre-selected former One Nation member Chris Spence as the Liberal candidate for The Entrance.

“It is shameful Barry O'Farrell has welcomed Mr Spence into the Liberal party.

“The NSW Labor Government has a proud history of working with and supporting the culturally diverse communities in NSW – a Liberal Government will put all of this excellent work at risk.”



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