

# NATIONAL WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

PO BOX 1252 CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601 TELEPHONE 46 7211

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DECEMBER 1979

LENA GUSTIN (Mamma Lena)

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES SINCE THE N.W.A.C. MEETING HELD IN CANBERRA  
FEBRUARY 21-23 1979

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I am in receipt of the various reports and the final Draft of the Council's Annual Report. I have no comments on the amendments to the Final Draft and any information requested from time to time has been transmitted telephonically to the secretaries. I had it in mind to send this report long time ago, but, 1979 has been an extremely busy year for me.

This report is the summary of the work I have done on behalf of the N.W.A.C. and other associated bodies. Unfortunately its humanly impossible for me to remember all functions, contacts, letters and phone calls which are part and parcel of my daily activities.

The various copies of May 1979 "Response" which I received, were distributed to the ethnic groups in accordance with the language used.

MARCH 8: Took part in the opening of the Photographic Exhibition at the MLC Centre organized by SWAC. Present was also NSW Premier Mr. Neville Wran and many other State and Federal personalities. The discussions centered around the work that women can do.

APRIL 20-21-22: Conference at the Yoogaly Club of Griffith with the attendance of nearly 80 persons followed by a visit and function at Leeton hosted by the M.I.A. I feel this visit was very successful as I am still receiving

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letters from people wanting another conference as well as asking assistance with various problems.

Family planning enquiries which arose were given Wendy McCarty's name and address. I have also suggested to her that she organize another meeting in Griffith just on this issue.

- MAY 2: Meeting with Mr. Paolo Totaro, Chairman Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW. Discussed with him the problem of interpreters and other problems faced by migrants who cannot speak English.
- MAY 5: Special Mothers' Evening at the Civic Centre of Blacktown.
- MAY 20: Attended the official opening of the new extension of the Scalabrini Village at Austral. Present were the Minister Mr. McKellar and other personalities.
- JUNE 10: Attended the official opening of the new extension of the Club "Fogolar Furlan" at Lansvale. Mr. Baume and other personalities also attended.
- AUGUST 17: Special afternoon function at the APIA Club to introduce Prime Minister Fraser to the Italian Community.
- SEPTEMBER 20: Meeting with the East Timor community to aid with their fund-raising activities.
- OCTOBER 7: (Sunday) Together with Mr. Baume, representing

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the Minister Margaret Guilfoyle, we layed the foundation stone of the Sorrella Radio Welfare Fund Child Care Centre. Together with the many State and Federal Government personalities were also Wendy McCarty and Margaret Rosenthal. As you will see from the attached photoes, the building is now well on its way which means I have to raise more funds to finish it and much more work on my part. With my expert assistant being overseas, I'm really in a mess!

Since JUNE I have been very busy attending meetings for the SEBAC and as a member of the Steering Committee for the Mid Decade Convention, (established Saturday Dec. 1st) we have been meeting almost every Monday.

On top of everything, My husband and I were kept extremely busy for about 9 months (from April to December) in preparation of the Multinational Minifestival held in conclusion to the International Year of the Child. Nearly 300 children from 25 countries participated making this one of the most successful functions of the year.

## DAILY:

Reading, translating and broadcasting information of general interest from all Government Departments. I read and diffuse items from Social Security, Aboriginal Affairs, Employment and Youth Affairs, Adult Migrant Education Service, TAPE NSW. Regularly I receive summaries of Government Announcements and information of interest to Australia's Ethnic Communities as issued by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. Assist people with the application of Australian Citizenship.