



**AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UKRAINIAN ORGANISATIONS
STATEMENT ON MULTICULTURALISM
- OUR ROLE , OUR RESPONSIBILITY, OUR COMMITMENT -**

Ukrainian Australians and multiculturalism

The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO), the national umbrella body for the Ukrainian Australian community, strongly supports the principles of multiculturalism as enshrined in policy and legislation.

The AFUO believes that Australia's successful model of diversity is an example to the world of many faiths , cultures and languages contributing to Australia's national strength.

That success is founded on respect. We prosper and grow as a society when each different cultural, linguistic and religious community in Australia respects the unique ancestries of their fellow Australian citizens, workmates and neighbours, and actively upholds our shared values as Australians.

In their own migration, settlement and community development experience, Ukrainian Australians have strongly benefitted from our shared values, such as inclusiveness and equality of opportunity. The AFUO recognises its responsibility to further contribute to the maintenance of these values and the community harmony they bring.

To that end, the AFUO contributes to Australia's successful diversity and upholds the principles of multiculturalism by:

- Acknowledging and respecting Australia's unique history, social and cultural norms, the rule of law, democratic conventions, and pluralistic make-up;
- Respecting our shared values as Australian citizens at the same time that we preserve our Ukrainian heritage in an Australian context;
- Sharing Ukrainian religious, cultural traditions and language with our fellow Australians regardless of their race, religion, language, cultural background or political preference;
- Demonstrating strong respect for the cultural traditions that other ethnic communities contribute to the diversity of Australia;
- Extending the hand of Australian mateship to other culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse communities;
- Ensuring that Ukrainian community engagement with both government and non-government institutions that promote multiculturalism, such as Commissions, Ethnic Communities' Councils;
- Contributing to the further development of policy and legislation that is relevant to multiculturalism; and
- Providing guidance when requested to emerging culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse communities as they take part in the migration, settlement and community development experience.

March 2013