

## ETHNIC COMMUNITIES 'HOME WATER ACTION'

The Home Water Action Project is training 18 bilingual educators to deliver Home Water Action planning workshops and events, and recruit water ambassadors within the Arabic, Cantonese, Greek, Italian, Korean, Mandarin, Macedonian, Spanish and Vietnamese communities.

This project is building on the water education component of the Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project, which delivers culturally appropriate education for sustainability within the eight largest ethnic community groups in the Greater Sydney area.

This project is a partnership between the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW, the NSW Department of Water and Energy, the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change and Sydney Water.

### Project Activities

The 18 bilingual educators are delivering Home Water Action workshops and training sessions in appropriate community languages, to more than a thousand residents within their community groups.

The workshops are based on the Home Water Action Educator Kit and focus on home water action planning and ways to conserve water within the home. The educators encourage and demonstrate behavioural changes that can result in a reduction in the consumption of potable water within the home.

Bilingual participants are also invited to take on a voluntary role as a "water ambassador".

To date 45 water ambassadors are assisting to deliver the program to a wider audience to encourage water savings within their communities.

An educator's resource kit is also being developed and will be made available for other community educators to encourage adaptation and implementation of the project.

Project activities include:

- ◆ The development of culturally appropriate resources
- ◆ Training for bilingual educators
- ◆ Recruitment and training for voluntary water ambassadors
- ◆ Raising awareness via ethno-specific publications and radio
- ◆ Home Water Action workshops in community languages
- ◆ Home Water Action Educators Guide

## Outcomes and Successes

Outcomes of the program to date include:

- ◆ A measurable reduction in household water consumption
- ◆ Increased awareness, knowledge and understanding of how to conserve water
- ◆ 37 workshops delivered to community groups with over 1000 participants
- ◆ 45 water ambassadors recruited
- ◆ Water conservation resources for ethnic communities and educators

## Resources and Tools

Planned resources from this project include an educator's resource kit to be developed and disseminated in mid 2007.

## How to get involved and find out more

Contact the Water Education Coordinator at the Ethnic Communities' Council on:  
02-9319 0288 or via email [environment@eccnsw.org.au](mailto:environment@eccnsw.org.au).

### Project Partner



The Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW (ECC) is a non-government peak body representing many organisations and people from the multicultural community in NSW.

Members of the ECC comprise of representatives from a wide range of community organisations and individuals that are the stakeholders in the ECC. The ECC's primary roles are advocacy, education and community development. The Council is involved in developing strategies regarding the most important issues to touch ethnic communities - and these include housing, employment, education, health and the environment.

**This project is supported by the NSW Government's Water for Life Education Program.**