

Media Release  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2020

# New Chair at SydWest Announced!

## *Indigenous Leader to expand diversity and inclusion in multicultural organisation*

SydWest Multicultural Services is pleased to announce its new Board of Directors, appointed at the recent Annual General Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The new Board will be led by first-time **Chair, Tamara Giles**, an Aboriginal woman who is focused on improving relationships between the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and Indigenous communities of Western Sydney. She is particularly keen to see more education of the CALD community about the history of Australia and the impacts it has had on Indigenous people.

*"I am both excited and humbled to be leading SydWest Multicultural services into the new year and a new way of living"* said Tamara Giles, Chair of SydWest Multicultural Services.

For Tamara and SydWest, building understanding and linkages between new arrivals and the first peoples is particularly important because Western Sydney has a large population of Indigenous people and it is estimated that by 2030, 50% of the Blacktown LGA population will be CALD.

*"As Chair of SydWest Multicultural Services I hope to help bridge the gap between Australia's First Nations people and those who are part of the CALD community who have come here to start of new life."* she continued.

Tamara is a Communications and Community Development consultant who works predominantly with Indigenous people and communities on a national level. She has been working in these industries for the past 23 years. Coming from a media background, Tamara witnessed the impact that the media has on Indigenous people and started working in the Community Sector to try and help improve the perceptions of Indigenous people.

Tamara has spent many years living and working in remote parts of Australia and enjoys the task of helping to improve the lives of people living in challenging circumstances. Tamara is an Aboriginal woman and her family stem from the Yuin/Wonnurua people in NSW.

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*“As an Aboriginal woman I am proud to say that I come from a family of survivors and like many of our clients at SydWest there have been some challenging times for my people.”*

Tamara will be supported in her role as Chair by fellow Directors:

- Dr Chandrika Subramaniyan (Treasurer)
- Dr Karin Mckay (Secretary)
- Vish Viswanathan
- Naveen Jayavarapu

*“I congratulate my new Board of Directors and look forward to working with these remarkable people including our new Chair, Tamara Giles, who brings a wealth of expertise and sensitivity to SydWest”,* said Elfa Moraitakis, CEO of SydWest Multicultural Services.

A copy of the latest Annual Report for 2019-20 is now available at

<https://www.sydwestms.org.au/annual-reports/item/219-annual-report-2019-2020>

#### STATEMENT ENDS /

For further information or to arrange interviews, contact Vikki Hine, Public Affairs & Communications, SydWest Multicultural Services on [vikki.hine@sydwestms.org.au](mailto:vikki.hine@sydwestms.org.au) or 9621 6633.

**SydWest Multicultural Services** is a leading organisation for all cultural diversity issues responding to community needs and opportunities. Established more than 35 years ago, SydWest provides a range of services to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) individuals and communities services to assist with settling and living productive and independent lives in the community. We offer flexible and integrated service models across the life course of refugees and migrants, supporting the self-determination and empowerment of our diverse communities. SydWest is an innovative employer of choice, with passionate, qualified and experienced bilingual and bicultural staff who are sensitive to the languages and cultures of the communities we represent. With locations in Blacktown, Mt Druitt, Penrith and Rouse Hill, we cover all matters of cultural diversity in the region.

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