

Media Release
3 March 2021

Celebrating International Women's Day

SydWest asks every woman to #choose to challenge

SydWest Multicultural Services is pleased to announce its celebration of International Women's Day which will be on Friday 5th March 2021 at Lily's Restaurant in Seven Hills from 5.30pm.

International Women's Day highlights the role we can all play in helping to create an inclusive world. This annual event is an opportunity for women of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds to come together and be inspired towards leadership and gender equality in their community. It is also a great chance for women to reflect on their own empowerment and choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality.

This year, SydWest Multicultural Services is pleased to advise that our inspirational guest speakers include:

- Her Excellency the Honourable **Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales**
- **Effie**, renowned entertainer and comedian, presented by Mary Coustas. A Logie award winning performer, Effie has been in the hearts and homes of Australians for the last three decades.
- **Clr Sera Yilmaz**, an inspirational youth leader and Councillor at Fairfield City Council. Sera will share her lived experience and insights, as faced by multicultural women in leadership: she is young, of Turkish background, a Muslim and active in the Labour party in Fairfield.

Our event's MC is **Sirine Demackie**, ABC Radio Sydney presenter and author of bilingual children's books, who has worked locally and internationally for 10 years. Sirine is also on the Executive Committee for Media Diversity Australia, a nationwide not-for-profit organisation working to make our news media more reflective of all Australians.

SydWest wishes to acknowledge and thank ABC Radio Sydney for their support of our event.

I am so excited by this year's event for International Women's Day, which aims to entertain and inspire our local women.... After a year of being covid-safe and our communities coming together online, we are pleased to be hosting this in-person event featuring strong, culturally diverse women to showcase what is possible when women #choose to challenge, said Elfa Moraitakis, CEO of SydWest Multicultural Services.

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STATEMENT ENDS /

For further information or to arrange interviews, contact Vikki Hine, Public Affairs & Communications, SydWest Multicultural Services on 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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