



AUSTRALIANS SHARING A NEW STORY

Finding who we are ...and can be

SydWest
Multicultural Services

 Initiatives of Change
Australia

A weekend forum in the City of Blacktown, 3-5 May 2019, on the theme:

Australians sharing a new story

All of Blacktown's diverse residents are invited to a series of events at Bowman Hall and other venues over the weekend of 3-5 May 2019 to start a process of story-sharing focussing on two questions: What is the connection you and your family have with the Blacktown area? Is there one significant experience you would like to share that has made a particular impact on who you are?

Everyone's story matters. Everyone can be a listener. As we share our stories, we can find a new story of what we could become – a story of our shared humanity.

Too often the various narratives of who we are and where we've come from become a cause of confusion, even tension and conflict.

Together we can discover who we really are, and can be, as a three-story nation:

- the oldest living culture in the world, written into our landscape and heritage
- a British system of law and governance, institutions and democratic traditions
- and a rich cultural mix of people and cultures from all over the world.

Through hearing and valuing the narratives of people from each community, the stories of struggle and achievement, of breaking through barriers of fear and grievance, we can help challenge the some of the current narratives that dominate the headlines.

Australians sharing a new story is an invitation for all of us to know ourselves at a deeper level.

Blacktown's First Nations residents will help us understand and value the history of the original 'Black's Town'. Long-term residents and new arrivals... all can be involved. It will be a celebration of examples of transformation and trust-building in action.

The program will open in Bowman Hall on **Friday 3 May** with a panel of local and nationally-recognised personalities sharing their stories, a keynote speaker to set the national/global context, and an interactive process for everyone to engage with each other.

Saturday 4 May will feature a range of workshops and documentaries, showcasing initiatives that break barriers and build community – from within Blacktown and beyond.

Sunday 5 May will start with story-sharing circles where anyone can contribute the experiences that matter to them. The Forum will conclude with inspiring speakers, bringing together feedback, laying out challenges and framing future initiatives for Blacktown.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE OR FIND OUT MORE:

- Register on-line for the Forum at www.sharinganewstory.com
- Contact the Project Coordinator: on 0475 636 032 / daniel.gobena@iofc.org
- Involve organisations you are part of, spread the word, set up a story-sharing circle.
- Volunteer to help with the Forum. Contact daniel.gobena@iofc.org