

# media release



## Celebrating Harmony

Thursday, 17 March 2011

Preparations have commenced to celebrate Harmony Day with special events to be held in Mount Gambier and Renmark next week.

As part of the international celebrations the CFS and Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) will be hosting BBQ's in both towns to enhance relationships between fire fighters and the local community by promoting fire safety messages.

Harmony Day is traditionally held on 21 March to coincide with the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination but celebrations will also take place on 23 March as a day that will be dedicated to cultural diversity.

Mount Gambier has an established local Burmese community which will be invited to a BBQ lunch from 11.30am at the MFS station. Similarly, at the Renmark MFS station there will be a BBQ from 6.30pm for the local Afghan community. A local Halal butcher will be providing the produce and everyone is welcome to attend.

CFS Fire Prevention Manager Leigh Miller said the CFS has worked closely with the local councils, migrant resource centres and the MFS to help celebrate this day.

"Harmony Day is all about working together, promoting equality and celebrating our diversity," Mr Miller said.

"While a fire fighter is someone often associated with trust and safety in our culture it is often easy to forget that in other countries a uniform is a symbol of fear and that's why we are working to build links with local minority groups to deliver our safety messages and instil trust and understanding about the service we provide.

"We are here to serve the needs of the community, regardless of race, age, religion, gender, sexuality or disability and as part of our commitment we are increasing our diversity awareness by working to further translate our public information and build links with local groups."

MFS Regional Manager, George Rodis said that the MFS has been very proactive in the work it does with new and emerging communities in Mt Gambier.

"Our home fire safety presentations to the Burmese and Congolese communities in Mt Gambier have been well received. It is a pleasure to meet with the communities again in a more relaxed setting where we can further cement relationships."

To view [CFS](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) brochures currently available in nine different languages, or to listen to them in audio visit [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au). The MFS also has brochures available in various languages at [www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au) To find out more about Harmony Day visit [www.harmony.gov.au](http://www.harmony.gov.au)

For media enquiries telephone the

CFS Media Line on (08) 8212 9849 or the MFS Media Line (08) 8204 3770.

**Further information:** Contact the Bushfire Information Hotline **1300 362 361**

Or visit [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) and [www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au)



Government  
of South Australia

**PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**

**BUSHFIRE  
READY**