



NATIONAL WALK FOR VALUES MELBOURNE

Saturday, 12 April 2008 – Melbourne

Talk given by Elleni Bereded-Samuel

Chair, SBS Community Advisory Group

WELCOME

Guests and participants;
Ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning.

On behalf of the SBS, it's a pleasure to join you all for the 2008 National Walk for Values.

I welcome this opportunity to open the human values walk which helps raise awareness to living with human values. The five values, love, truth, peace, right conduct and non-violence we believe to be the foundation of living together in harmony and peace and therefore helping to create a more harmonious multicultural society.

I'd like to begin by firstly acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land and offer my respects to past and present Aboriginal elders...

For, to one degree or another - unless our origins are indigenous – our ancestry stems from another land and our presence here is the result of migration.

The only real difference between us is the means and timing of our arrival - and that's hardly much difference at all.

It is a historic fact that the Australian way of life that we all enjoy has been – and continues to be – shaped by the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of its population.

This event is an important celebration of the diversity that makes Victoria a great place to live, work and raise a family. It's a way of valuing our differences, celebrating the things we have in common, and embracing our diverse multi-faith and multicultural society.

National Walk for Values draws together the diverse community in Melbourne and in other states of Australia.

Allow me to name few of the Sathya Sai Organisation Service activities: Service activities are conducted in almost all countries throughout the world. There are large scale operations to supplying food and clothing to the poor and disadvantaged particularly in times of crisis, providing clean drinking water to cities and villages and sanitation in poorer countries.

In Melbourne they conduct daily breakfast programs in disadvantaged schools and regularly feed the homeless on the streets of Melbourne, St. Kilda, Footscray and Dandenong.

Two large Hospitals have been built in India, Bangalore and Puttaparthi. All operations and medical care are free and medical help is given by doctors, nurses and specialists from all over the world. Sai medical camps are also conducted in many countries to support the disadvantaged in either their own countries or overseas.

Interfaith programs are held throughout the world to help unite people from all faiths. They focus on the human values which are common to all.

In Melbourne they are actively working towards supporting the Parliament of World Religions event in December 2009.

The organisation is inter- denominational and welcomes people from all faiths.

We should support and encourage the wide-ranging community activities of the organisations such as the National Walk for Values.

Clearly, multiculturalism works best through a combination of good governance, the good will of our culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and the general realisation by the broader Victorian community that multicultural policies underpin a healthy democracy.

And as advocates of multiculturalism - as community and faith leaders - and as fellow Victorians, we have a moral obligation to do all that we can to encourage

open and honest dialogue and facilitate genuine participation by each and every ethnic, English and non-English speaking and religious community group.

Through the principled leadership of honest community, religious and political figures, and with the combination of genuine dialogue and a commitment to human rights and the dignity of each and every individual, we can secure the future of this growing multicultural nation.

In concluding I'd like to thank and congratulate the organisers of the National Walk for Values. You've done a fantastic job.

The learning we take from today's walk is :

"Love All Serve All" " Help Ever Hurt Never".