



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Citizenship
Minister for Regulatory Reform

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MINISTER PRAISES COMMUNITY SERVICE OF CHINESE AUSTRALIANS

NSW Minister for Citizenship John Hatzistergos today acknowledged the enormous contribution made by the Chinese Australian community to enriching the culture, economy and social fabric of NSW.

“The Chinese community in New South Wales is an incredibly vibrant and active community which continues to make a valuable contribution to society after more than 160 years,” the Minister said.

“This State is proud of its large and respected Chinese community, with Cantonese and Mandarin now the most commonly spoken languages after English in Sydney.

On behalf of the Premier Kristina Keneally at the 2010 Chinese New Year Banquet to welcome the Year of the Tiger, the Minister praised the Australian Chinese Community Association of NSW (ACCA) for more than three decades of dedicated community service.

“The Chinese were one of the earliest communities to settle in NSW in 1850s and have played a key role in the professional, philanthropic, business and cultural life of NSW.”

“It’s true to say that the Chinese community are the pioneers of multicultural Australia.”

“Members of the community have been making voluntary sacrifices since the early days of the State, and that effort has steadily built the high reputation for civic engagement, dynamism and generosity that the community enjoys today.”

“In particular, I would like to congratulate the Australian Chinese Community Association for serving the community with great dignity and dedication for more than three decades.”

Mr Hatzistergos said the work of organisations like the Australian Chinese Community Association is vital to the continued development and growth of the community.

The Australian Chinese Community Association of NSW, based in Surry Hills, was established in 1974, registered as a charitable organisation three years later, and incorporated in 1993. The Association provides a wide range of services to the Chinese Australian community including assistance with settlement services, aged services, meal services, volunteer activities, women’s services, youth services and Chinese school.

The Minister acknowledged the esteemed service of ACCA’s senior office bearers: Acting President Rong Mu Dong, Vice Presidents Simon Chan and Shirley Chan, Honourary Treasurer Raymond Cheung, and Honourary Secretary Daphne Lowe.

Mr Hatzistergos also praised the recent winners of the 2010 Premier’s Chinese Community Service Awards, presented by the Premier earlier this month, who were acknowledged for their many acts of generosity and philanthropy.

“The winners of the 2010 Premier’s Chinese Community Service Award - William Chiu, Wee Teck Teo, Anthony Pun and Mimi Zou - have devoted a great deal of time and energy over the past year to make New South Wales a better place to live,” the Minister said.