

**SUBMISSION TO PRESENT AT THE ISANA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION 19<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: 2-5 December 2008**

**Non-refereed Paper –Connecting Students into the Community**

**Presentation Title:** "Promoting participation and engagement in city life - City of Melbourne Welcome to International Students"

**Presenters:** Cherry Grimwade, Young People and Education Policy Officer,  
City of Melbourne  
Melbourne

**Presentation:**

Melbourne has one of the highest proportion of international students of any municipal area in the world. The City of Melbourne recognises and values the presence and contribution that international students make to the social and cultural life of Melbourne. In 2006, there were over 21,000 international students who were living and/or studying in the municipality and this figure has continued to grow. The increasing presence of international students in the city has contributed to a resurgence of city living and council works closely in partnership with tertiary institutes, peak bodies and international students themselves to ensure that their health and well-being needs are met, and they have opportunities to participate and engage in the social and cultural life of the city.

In 2008, the City of Melbourne held three forums with representatives from state and local government, peak bodies, educational institutions and residents groups. These forums identified the key issues for international students in the municipality in relation to social inclusion, safety and accommodation, and provided an opportunity to discuss future partnership strategies and initiatives. This presentation will outline the key findings from these forums. Social isolation and difficulties integrating into Australian life are two key issues that are commonly identified by international students and key stakeholder groups. The City of Melbourne Welcome to International Students held in April 2008 will be highlighted as an example of how council has attempted to address this issue in collaboration with those involved in international education. A short film about the event will be screened as part of the presentation.

**Biography of Presenter:**

*Cherry Grimwade* is the Young People and Education Policy Officer at the City of Melbourne. Cherry provides policy advice across council on the needs of young people in the municipality which includes international students. Cherry works closely with tertiary institutes, peak bodies, private institutions, youth organisations and service providers and young people themselves to ensure that all young people in the municipality have the opportunity to participate and engage in the social and cultural life of the city, and to ensure their health and well-being needs are met.

Contact: 9658 9915

Email: [chegri@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:chegri@melbourne.vic.gov.au)