MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW TO REAP THE BENEFITS OF DIVERSITY

NSW is in an ideal position to reap the benefits of its cultural diversity, with analysis of yesterday’s Census results revealing rapid growth in the local Chinese and Indian communities, Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello said today.

“It is very welcome - and quite phenomenal - that since 2006, the number of China-born people in NSW has grown by 37 per cent and the number of India-born people in NSW has grown by 67 per cent,” Mr Dominello said.

“According to the latest figures, 2 per cent of all NSW residents were born in India, while 3.4 per cent were born in China.

“This makes the Chinese and Indian communities our largest non-English speaking communities in the State.

“This rapid growth is good news for NSW, as China and India are among our fastest-growing partners for trade and investment.

“In the tourism sector, China and India are our fastest growing sources of visits – and international visitors are worth more than $6 billion a year to our economy.

“Through the Multicultural Business Advisory Panel, the NSW Government is working to see how these thousands of NSW residents can help our economy as ‘human highways’ for business between NSW and China and India.

“Through the development of a multicultural tourism initiative, the Government is working to get overseas visitors to stay longer in NSW to sample our cultural diversity.

“If just 10 per cent of visitors stayed one more night, it would result in around $30 million extra for our economy,” Mr Dominello said.

Mr Dominello said the 2011 Census results confirm that Sydney is Australia’s most diverse capital city.

“The Census shows that Sydney is the multicultural leader of Australia not only in name but in number, with 40 per cent of our community born overseas,” Mr Dominello said.

“In a globalised world, Sydney is a fully global and exceptionally diverse city which puts us in a great position in terms of trade and investment.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government sees our cultural diversity as a social and economic asset and has been acting to grow that asset for the benefit of all our citizens.

“These Census figures show the value of that strategy which we will continue to deliver on,” Mr Dominello said.