



Islamic feast helps those in need

Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, Mr Hieu Van Le, will today join the Muslim and Greek communities at the Hutt Street Centre to have lunch with Adelaide's homeless and hungry.

The Muslim community is celebrating today's 'Eid ul-Adha' by providing the lamb which will be cooked by participating members of the Greek community.

Together with Mr Le, these diverse communities will sit down and share a meal with homeless members of our community.

"It is wonderful to see how members of such different cultural and religious communities can find commonality in working towards such a worthwhile cause," Mr Le said.

"Eid ul-Adha brings an Islamic tradition of providing food to the homeless to the vulnerable residents of inner-city Adelaide.

"The day is actively supported by the Islamic community to help those in our society who are in need, while also promoting better understanding between people of different cultures and religions.

"The spirit of Eid – the spirit of peace, sharing and of giving thanks – is very much in tune with the ideal of multicultural Australia.

"The opportunity to learn about multicultural societies has positive spin-offs for individuals, communities and nations," Mr Le said.

Marking the end of the Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Makkah (Mecca), Saudi Arabia, Eid ul-Adha is a significant day on the Islamic calendar in which food is traditionally given to the poor.

In remembrance of Prophet Abraham's act of worship, all Muslims around the world, who can afford to do so, sacrifice an animal as a symbol of the willingness to part with what is precious to them and as a sign of their devotion to God.

The meat is then shared amongst family, friends, neighbours and in particular, the poor and hungry.

"South Australia enjoys a rich and culturally diverse way of life. Today's lunch is evidence of the strength of multiculturalism," said Mr Le.