

# SCHEDULE

08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:05	Mihi Whakatau by Te Taumata Tapu o Ngai Tuahuriri
09:05-09:20	Welcome by the Hosts Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities Mervin Singham Chief Executive, Ministry for Ethnic Communities Tyla Harrison-Hunt City Councillor, Christchurch City Council
09:20-09:50	Keynote Speaker Abbas Nazari, Author <i>After the Tampa</i> Future Proofing NZ's Ethnic Advantage
09:55-10:25	Morning Tea
10:30-11:30	Plenary 1: For Health's Sake
11:30-11:35	Cultural Performance
11:40-12:25	Breakout Session 1: Home & Away Breakout Session 2: Being Culturally Competent in Bi-Cultural Aotearoa
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:35-14:35	Plenary 2: The Cultural Quotient
14:35-14:55	Stand-Up Comedy Pax Assadi
15:00-15:45	Breakout Session 3: Rainbow Voices Breakout Session 4: Funding Tips & Tricks Breakout Session 5: Coming of Age
15:50-15:55	Race Unity Speech Awards Joint National Champion Sheryl Chand
16:00-16:05	Cultural Performance
16:05-16:10	Closing Remarks Mervin Singham Chief Executive, Ministry for Ethnic Communities
16:10-16:15	Mihi Whakakapi, Closing Karakia by Te Taumata Tapu o Ngai Tuahuriri

Thank you for joining our Christchurch Ethnic Advantage Conference!



**Julian Wilcox**  
Ngāpuhi, Te Arawa  
Emcee

Julian Wilcox first hit the New Zealand airwaves in 2004 with Māori Television, and was one of the most prominent faces and voices of the channel for its first decade. Throughout his career he has presented and produced a range of shows, including the highly-praised Māori TV ANZAC Day coverage and award-winning current affairs show, Native Affairs. Julian has hosted several National events, including the Christchurch Earthquake memorial events and the National Remembrance for the March 15 Mosque Attacks in 2019 and 2021.



**Matthew Nichols**  
Director, Strategic Engagement  
and Partnerships at Ministry for  
Ethnic Communities

Matthew is based in Ōtautahi Christchurch. Matt and his team engage and partner with ethnic communities across the South Island and Greater Wellington. Matt's former roles span central and local government, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Defence and Christchurch City Council.



**Matthew Farry**  
Executive Director, Courageous  
Conversation South Pacific Institute

Matthew has worked as a leader, educator and researcher in migration, settlement, intercultural relations, anti-racism, equity and inclusion in organisational development. South Pacific Institute offers personal, professional, and organisational development in racial equity, anti-racism and cultural responsiveness.



**Sakhr Munassar**  
Project Manager, Kaiwhakahaere  
Kaupapa at Hui E! Community  
Aotearoa

Sakhr has worked in youth engagement for five+ years specialising in research, project management, education, and advocacy. Currently, he works at Hui E! Community Aotearoa, a peak body champion for a fair and just Aotearoa. Sakhr supports communities in navigating funding systems.



**Shawn Dellon Wimlaratne**  
Trustee, Adhikaar Aotearoa

Shawn (he/they) is a non-binary queer person whose roots lie in the tropical island of Sri Lanka. They are a trustee of Adhikaar Aotearoa working on media and strategy matters.



**Shreejana Chhetri**  
Community Engagement Advisor,  
Electoral Commission

Shreejana was born in Nepal. She has contributed to New Zealand through civic participation, serving in various advisory committees including being a Deputy Chair for the Multicultural Advisory Board to the City Council. She enjoys organising events that enhance social cohesion and challenging the status quo whilst promoting inclusion.



**Sidney Gig-Jan Wong**  
Chair, Ethnic Rainbow Alliance and  
Qtopia

Sidney (he/any) is Cantonese-tauivi based in Ōtautahi. He is a community advocate and researcher. His goal is to centre the perspectives of Ethnic Rainbow communities through his own lived experience.



**Yee Yang 'Square' Lee**  
Partner, SquareSums&Co

Square is a Tāmaki Makaurau-based Artist Manager and Chartered Secretary of Malaysian-Hakka-Chinese heritage. He is a co-founder of Pan-Asian-Kiwi performing arts/music platforms ORYZA and Where The Asians At (Aotearoa), and a board member for Governance New Zealand, Q Theatre and the Music Producers Guild of NZ.



**Shirley Wright**  
Manager, Christchurch Resettlement  
Services

Shirley Wright is a Registered Social Worker and the Manager of Christchurch Resettlement Services supporting people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

**SATURDAY**  
**03DEC2022**

# ETHNIC ADVANTAGE CONFERENCE

Brought to you by  
Ministry for Ethnic Communities  
Te Tari Mātāwaka

**ŌTAUTAHI  
CHRISTCHURCH**

# ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Ministry for Ethnic Communities welcomes you to its new flagship conferences series, "The Ethnic Advantage Conferences"

This series reflects the type of relationships the Ministry continues to grow and expand on. On the one hand, how New Zealand's government and people are looking at ethnic diversity as an advantage to our society. And on the other, how the ethnic communities see themselves as a great asset and the value they bring to our country.

These conferences aim to create another two-way communication channel with our communities, strengthen our relationships with them, celebrate their successes, grow their knowledge and ensure that their concerns are well-considered in government policies and actions.

This will be an annual conference where we all meet to **connect, inform and grow** together.

The conferences will be organised with an overarching nationwide vision to discuss the issues on the ethnic communities' agenda on the national level. However, to acknowledge the local distinctiveness of each region, some sessions will be regionally tailored.

 @ethniccommunities.govt.nz

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 conferences@ethniccommunities.govt.nz

# SPEAKERS & GUESTS



**Mervin Singham**  
Chief Executive, Ministry for Ethnic Communities

Mervin is a vastly experienced public servant and previously led the Office of Ethnic Affairs. Prior to becoming the new ministry's first chief executive, he was the executive director at the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions.



**Abbe Anderson**  
National Director Commissioning, Te Whatu Ora | Health New Zealand

Abbe Anderson, National Director Commissioning for Te Whatu Ora, brings her experience from working within the health system of three countries to the reforms of Aotearoa.



**Aroha Metcalf**  
Raukawa ki Wharepūhanga, Ngāti Maniapoto  
General Manager, Te Aka Whai Ora | Māori Health Authority

Aroha has been appointed to the role of General Manager Oranga Hinengaro, within the Service Development and Relations directorate of Te Aka Whai Ora Māori Health Authority.



**Tyla Harrison-Hunt**  
Councillor, Christchurch City Council

Tyla is a city councillor for the Riccarton Ward. He currently has portfolios in youth and multiculturalism and has a strong background in business, cultural relations and youth activation.



**Abbas Nazari**  
Author, Fulbright Scholar

Abbas Nazari is a former refugee, a Fulbright scholar, a qualified forklift operator, owns and manages a gym, and is the author of the #1 bestseller, *After The Tampa*.



**Pax Assadi**  
Comedian

Pax is regarded as one of the most exciting young acts in New Zealand by his peers and audiences alike. Born and raised in New Zealand and the son of immigrant parents, Pax brings a unique perspective that resonates with people of every background. His blend of personal stories and insightful observations will have you pondering life whilst simultaneously curled over with laughter.



**Sheryl Chand**  
Joint National Champion, Race Unity Speech Awards

Born in Fiji, Sheryl moved to New Zealand in 2009. She is a year 12 student at Solway College in Masterton. Sheryl is the 2022 Joint National Champion of the Race Unity Speech Awards.



**Afiqah Ramizi**  
Former National President, New Zealand International Students' Association

Afiqah is a recent medical graduate, soon to start her role as a Junior Doctor at Whanganui Hospital. She is no stranger to the realm of international education and advocacy for our international students. Her involvement transcended Aotearoa when she was appointed to represent NZ/Malaysia as a Youth Speaker at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Voices of the Future conference last year.



**Ange Hassan-Sharp**  
Divisional Manager, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade

Ange leads the United Nations and Human Rights teams in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where she has worked, both on and offshore, for over 20 years.



**Anton Matthews**  
Managing Director, Hustle Group

Anton's whakapapa is back to Te Rarawa, and he links to the far north in Ahipara. He owns and operates Hustle Group, which aims to develop its people, share Māori culture and language with the community and establish intergenerational wealth. Hustle Group is comprised of Hustle Hospitality, and Hustle Education.



**Dr Mengping Cheng**  
Lecturer, University of Canterbury

Mengping is a lecturer at the University of Canterbury. She came to New Zealand from China in 2016. She was the president of the UC Global Society in 2021 and is a committee member for the New Zealand China Friendship Society (Christchurch Branch) and Future Dragonz Christchurch.



**Gary Watson**  
Manager Community Partnerships and Planning Team, Christchurch City Council

Currently Gary runs the Partnership Team which includes the Community Funding Team that administers around \$12.5m of community grant funding per annum and a range of portfolios including Multicultural, Youth, Disability and central safety.



**Janneth Gil**  
Socially Engaged Photographer & Artist, Janneth Gil - Art & Photography

Colombian-born New Zealander Engineer and Photographer with a Master of Fine Arts. Gil uses a broad range of artistic processes as a tool for positive social change and wellbeing, including art, photography, collaborative practices, and community engagement.



**Nigel Ho**  
Partner, Loan Market Agile

For over 15 years, Nigel has been working closely with diverse ethnic groups in the business sector, with extensive experience on funding process by sitting on various advisory boards or being a panellist for government funds.