



www.coasit.org.au

Celebrating 40 years
1968-2008

MEDIA RELEASE

23 November 2009

Italian-Australians speak up for their future

Co.As.It.'s recent community consultation sessions in Burwood and Bossley Park, which were held on 21, 22 and 28 October, engaged 450 members of the **Italian-Australian community**. These focus groups were part of Co.As.It.'s large-scale community consultation project that was held in 14 locations around Sydney during September and October involving the staff, volunteers and seniors groups of this not-for-profit organisation.

Small group discussions were held in each venue, where participants shared their views and needs in the areas of:- aged care, carer issues, in-home support, family support, companionship and social networks.

Prominent Italian psychologist from the radio Charlie Pollicina gave a presentation on the changing needs of the Italian-Australian community before Lou Bacchiella, consultant to the community and local government sectors, conducted the focus groups.

A final session focussed on service providers earlier this month.

Feedback from these sessions will be collated to inform the growth and direction of Co.As.It.'s strategic plan in community services. A final report is planned for release early in 2010.

"We are extremely pleased with the community's involvement in this project," said Co.As.It.'s Community Services Manager Thomas Camporeale. "Their unprecedented level of participation increases our confidence in developing our services to meet their needs."

Co.As.It., which stands for Comitato Assistenza Italiani (Italian Association of Assistance) has been working for 41 years to enhance the quality of life of the Italian-Australian community in NSW, and to promote the Italian language and culture. The demand for support to this population has grown steadily over the years. In fact **in 2008, Co.As.It. recorded 9,721 contacts about its community services**, compared to 2,456 in 2002.

Co.As.It. would like to thank Barilla for their sponsorship of this project.

Media contact:-

Felicity Fedele

Marketing Coordinator

Ph: 02 9564 0744

Email: felicity.fedele@coasit.org.au

HEAD OFFICE

Casa d'Italia 67 Norton Street

Leichhardt NSW 2040

Tel (02) 9564 0744 Fax (02) 9569 6648

ITALIAN BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Tel (02) 9572 9077

MULTIMEDIA RESOURCE CENTRE

Tel (02) 9564 0755

WESTERN SYDNEY

108 Wigram Street

Harris Park NSW 2150

Tel (02) 9893 9222 Fax (02) 9893 9277