

**Speech delivered by Ashneet Kaur Sethi (Year 10 St Ives High School)  
2007 Regional Senior Winner**

I think Harmony Day on 21 March each year provides an opportunity for all Australians to celebrate our many successes as a diverse and harmonious multicultural society. It starts with you, upholding your culture and traditional heritage while embracing respect for and appreciation of other cultures. This understanding is what really inspired me to create a poster for Harmony Day. There is so much you can say in one image and I included a lot of ideas that I feel strongly about.

My poster illustrates a society that promotes acceptance and understanding between different cultural and ethnic groups. In Australia we respect language, culture and religion, recognise and embrace diversity. There are also symbolic elements interpreted in my painting such as white doves and white figures that represent peace, orange to represent harmony figures standing on their own national flags with hands joined showing acceptance and friendship. The black and white joining hands around the globe are a symbol of hope that harmony can exist all around the world.

I see Harmony Day as a celebration of our differences and it reaffirms our commitment to say 'no' to racism and 'yes' to Australian values of justice, equality, fairness and mateship so we can all live in harmony.

Harmony Day is not a one-day a year celebration; we can say 'no' to racism 365 days a year.