

## Foreword

### The Brown Beauties of NSW: Indian Women in Australia Series *Issue No.1*



Today, Indian community is one of the fastest growing migrant communities in New South Wales (NSW) as well as the whole of Australia. According to the 2011 census, there were over 95, 000 people of Indian origin living in NSW of which nearly 50% were women.

It gives me immense pleasure to write this foreword for the report '*The Brown Beauties of NSW*'. **It is an opportunity to communicate with you and encourage you to harness your potential for a better future while having an even better understanding about the community.**

For many of you it is a new country, new culture, new environment where hope and apprehensions co-exist. I understand that social and economic integration is of utmost importance for the overall well-being and many of you might be thinking about the life and your old friends that you left behind. I ask, are you meeting new friends or are you shy because of the language or culture barrier. **One thing is for sure that Australia is a land of opportunities. So, sit no more- I encourage you to become involved in various activities within your local area.** To start with why not join voluntary activities/service clubs like Lion's club. They are always looking for lady members because we believe ladies enrich our clubs with their practical approach and suggestions for new and challenging projects.

**If you think there is any barrier that blocks your way- ponder for an alternative way. I can share from my experience that all my life I have always challenged any challenge that came on my way and disapproved my physical disability to be a barrier in achieving my goals.**

Ladies, by meeting new friends you may find one who has an answer for those who would like to resume their chosen profession. **Explore new skills that this country can provide you with, share your skills that will benefit the country you now call your home.** Together, that will help in creating an inclusive community that we all will benefit from.

**Welcome home!**

**Bill Bradley**

**Bill Bradley:** From being unconscious in an iron lung, struck down with polio at age 14 to being **the 2000 Olympic torch bearer** and **winning 2014 National Lesley Hall Award for Lifetime Achievement in Disability**, Bill has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to volunteer community work, whilst raising a family, working and living with significant disabilities himself. Bill wears many hat- a veteran member of the Lion's club, winner of 2013 Lions International Melvin Jones Award an advocate of social justice to list a few of his contributions. As a member of the Hornsby Homelessness Task Force he actively took part in the opening of The Hornsby Kuring-gai Women's Shelter that inform and empower women to make active decisions about their lives and encourage them to seek alternatives and options using a participative management approach.

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