

Tenth Anniversary of NSW Ethnic Communities' Council

From: Speech by -

**Neville Wran, Premier of New
South Wales**

**The Tenth Anniversary Ball of
the Ethnic Communities'
Council of New South Wales,
1985.**

Before Gough Whitlam became Prime Minister no Australian Government had ever taken the ethnic communities seriously. Since Gough Whitlam was Prime Minister no Government in Australia has dared to ignore them... It was the time when the crude and cruel policy of assimilation was replaced by the recognition that Australia is a product of many cultures, all of which help to give it strength and character. It was a time when Australians of non-English speaking background were first encouraged to speak up for themselves, rather than be spoken for by others.