

MEDIA RELEASE

13 MARCH 2015

CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK AND VIVA VICTORIA MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL ARE BACK!

Cultural Diversity Week is Victoria's biggest and best multicultural event. The week is held annually to coincide with the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In 2015 the week will run from 14 to 22 March. Cultural Diversity Week is presented by the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) and has been taking place since 2003.

VMC Chairperson, Mr Chin Tan said that during the week hundreds of events and activities will take place across the State to celebrate Victoria's cultural, linguistic and religious diversity.

"Cultural Diversity Week is a fantastic celebration of Victoria's cultural diversity and an opportunity to promote harmony and unity. The types of activities held include festivals, dinners, multicultural lunches, debates, exhibitions, excursions, displays, fundraisers and many more.

"I encourage you to be part of this important annual celebration and host your own event," said Mr Tan.

Cultural Diversity Week commences with the Premier's Gala Dinner on Saturday 14 March and will culminate in the Viva Victoria Multicultural Festival at Federation Square on Sunday 22 March, from 12pm to 6pm.

The Viva Victoria Multicultural Festival features a unique program of food, free music and cultural performances, market stalls, sporting activities, kids' activities, a stage dedicated to youth performances, and language workshops.

Some of the acts this year include the X Factor's Jason Heerah and the Chosen Ones, Nicky Bomba and Bustamento, Infinity Dance and Uke 4 Kids Family Orchestra. There is something for everyone at this family-friendly festival.

"In Victoria, more than 46 per cent of our population was born overseas or has at least one parent born overseas. We speak more than 200 languages and dialects and follow more than 135 faiths.

"Our cultural diversity strengthens our community. Cultural Diversity Week and Viva Victoria Multicultural Festival are opportunities for all Victorians to celebrate our diversity and learn more about cultures, faiths and beliefs that are different to their own," said Mr Tan.

For more information go to the VMC's website: www.multicultural.vic.gov.au

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