

MEDIA RELEASE

TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 2013

NOMINATE VICTORIA'S MULTICULTURAL CHAMPIONS

Nominations are now open for Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence.

Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence recognise the achievements of people, communities, innovative businesses and media that promote multiculturalism and community harmony.

Administered by the Victorian Multicultural Commission, the awards consist of 11 categories. Nominations for the awards are open from now until 13 September 2013.

Chairperson of Victorian Multicultural Commission, Mr Chin Tan said the awards recognise and acknowledge the good will and remarkable efforts of those who ensure that diversity is attained, respected and recognised.

"Recognising diversity is an example to others of how languages, cultures and faiths contribute to our strong community and economy.

"I encourage everyone to use these awards and nominate innovative people or businesses worthy of recognition and look forward to hearing about the many positive achievements that make this state so great," he said.

The annual awards promote the Victorian Government's commitment to, and benefits of, a culturally diverse community.

To download the guidelines and a nomination form please visit the Victorian Multicultural Commission website

www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/projects-and-initiatives/promoting-harmony

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Award categories over page.

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VICTORIA'S MULTICULTURAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE CATEGORIES

Victorian Multicultural Business Awards

- **Corporate Innovation Award** - To recognise inclusive practices or initiatives by a business or corporation that utilises and promotes Victoria's multicultural advantage.
- **Victorian Multicultural Marketing Award**
To acknowledge and reward businesses which have used a multilingual workforce (employment and diversity) and strategies to engage multicultural audiences.

Media Award

To recognise excellence in the reporting of multicultural affairs and acknowledge outstanding efforts by those in the media that highlight issues of social importance and/or contribute to an increasing level of awareness about Victoria's diversity.

Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll

To recognise newly arrived migrants and refugees who have played an outstanding leadership and volunteering role contributing to Victoria as a harmonious and diverse community. Achievements of recipients will be featured permanently at a place of significance. The recipient could also be eligible to receive a \$3,000 grant towards a project/program nominated by the recipient and approved by the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

Premier's Award for Community Harmony

To recognise the outstanding achievement of an individual or organisation that has developed programs, strategies or activities, which furthered cross-cultural and cross-religious harmony in Victoria.

Award for Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria

To recognise excellence in a specific area of service such as aged care, arts, community services, education, emergency services, employment, health, local government, planning, regional development and tourism.

Ambassador Award

To recognise achievements of exemplary leadership in the promotion of Victoria's cultural diversity. Awards could be given to;

- an individual or family,
- an organisation,
- or a young person under 25.

Education Award

To recognise outstanding practices in education that raise awareness and support the implementation of global and multicultural citizenship.

Local Government Award

To recognise major improvements made, or initiatives developed, by a local municipal council that promotes and strengthens multiculturalism and meets the identified needs of that municipality's culturally, linguistically and/or religiously diverse communities.

Award for Meritorious Service to the Community

To recognise the outstanding achievements of a community group or an individual who has had a minimum of 10 years voluntary service at a governance level.

Police & Community Multicultural Advisory Committee Award

To acknowledge police members who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to the development and enhancement of harmonious relations between police and Victoria's culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse communities.