

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR REFUGEE RECOGNITION RECORD

Monday 22 April 2013

Mr Chin Tan, Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission, has today called for nominations for the Victorian Refugee Recognition Record (VRRR).

The VRRR celebrates and documents the diverse contributions that people of refugee background have made to their own communities and to the State of Victoria. Since its inception in 2004, over 170 individuals have been inducted to the VRRR.

“Through the VRRR, the Victorian Government is able to officially recognise the considerable contributions that people of refugee background are making within our community,” said Mr Tan. “By acknowledging their achievements, we are also encouraging respect and harmony within our society.”

Previous VRRR recipients have represented many different cultures and age groups, and often dedicate many hours to voluntary work. A lot of them have taken on leadership roles within their communities, and provide support to others who are marginalised or disadvantaged. All of them hold a common commitment to bettering the lives of themselves and those around them, often despite having suffered extreme hardship and trauma.

Previous recipients have included: An 89-year old guide and educator at the Jewish Holocaust Centre & Museum; a volunteer maternal and child health services officer, working with Sudanese mothers; a year 11 student who is also a patrolling member of Edithvale Lifesaving Club (and Australia’s only known Afghani lifesaver); a successful musician who released a CD for children in the African community addressing issues of drug-use.

To be eligible, the nominee is required to be: a refugee, former refugee or humanitarian entrant; a current resident of Victoria; and recognised as having made an outstanding contribution to their own ethnic community as well as to the Victorian community as a whole.

Nomination forms are available online now at www.multicultural.vic.gov.au or for more information contact the Victorian Multicultural Commission on (03) 9651 0638.

Nominations close on Friday 17 May 2013.