

## **MEDIA RELEASE – 29 MAY 2012**

### **INAUGURAL MEETING LODDON MALLEE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The first meeting of the Victorian Multicultural Commission's (VMC) Loddon Mallee Regional Advisory Council (RAC) will take place in Bendigo on Wednesday 30 May 2012.

The Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras MLA, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship and Mr Chin Tan, Chairperson of the VMC will speak at the launch. Speeches commence at **12.30pm sharp**.

The Minister and Mr Tan will be available for interviews and photo opportunities from **12.45pm onwards**.

The RAC will advise the VMC on local multicultural, settlement and citizenship issues. It will also advocate on behalf of diverse communities, assist the VMC to promote the benefits of diversity and boost direct links with local multicultural communities.

The Chair of the Loddon Mallee RAC is VMC Commissioner Mr Phillip Bain. Mr Bain has a long history in management within the health care sector and involvement in governance in vocation education, settlement services and refugee health.

Mr Bain said he was delighted to be part of the new RAC. He said: "It is a privilege and a pleasure to be a part of the new Loddon Mallee RAC and I am very much looking forward to the inaugural meeting. The new Council provides an important forum for discussing local issues facing our region's diverse communities and an opportunity to champion the region's multicultural interests."

Highlighting the significance of the RACs, the Chairperson of the VMC, Mr Chin Tan, said "The inaugural Loddon Mallee RAC meeting is an important milestone for the region. The members who have generously volunteered their time can now proceed with the important work of advising the VMC on local multicultural issues."

Mr Peter Byrne, a community representative on the Loddon Mallee RAC, said he is pleased to be a part of the new RAC. He said: "Mildura today is a hugely culturally diverse provincial city. The new RAC will help give all our CALD communities in the north west of Victoria an important platform to voice their opinions."

The Loddon Mallee RAC members are: Peter Byrne, Noemi Cummins, Susan Denny, Mark Edwards, Dolly Gerges, Mary Ruane-St.Clair, Sudesh Tiwari, Nicola Cavallo and Barbara Dalloway.

RAC members are volunteers and have been selected for their understanding of multicultural issues, in addition to their experience and commitment to their local multicultural communities.

The Loddon Mallee region contains nine municipalities and approximately 307,000 residents.

For further information on the Regional Advisory Councils:

Visit <http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/regional-advisory-councils>

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Local media are invited to attend the meeting for photos and interviews.

Media enquires: Call Kathleen Manson at the VMC on **9651 0621**.

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