

MEDIA RELEASE

28 JULY 2016

Strengthening the Voice of our Multicultural Communities

The Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) welcomes the announcement of the newly formed Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division in the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The changes, which bring together under one division three existing areas of focus; Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, the Community Resilience Unit and the Office of the Victorian Multicultural Commission will bring the structural stability needed to produce meaningful collaboration across government and deliver equitable results to our stakeholders, service delivery providers and across the whole of community.

Importantly, the VMC's independence as a statutory authority, through the Chairperson and Commissioners, will be retained in the new structure and the alignment and access to additional resources means we are better equipped to strengthen the voice of multicultural communities to be at the heart of government decision making and policy development.

Over the past 12 months, the VMC has entered a more strategic direction, establishing more targeted community engagement models with disadvantaged youth and implementing cultural specific responses in response to Victoria's Royal Commission into Family Violence. Additionally, our other key area of focus centres around significantly improving settlement outcomes for existing refugee communities, including our newly arrived refugees and those under new humanitarian provisions from Syria and Iraq.

We commend the Victorian Government on the new structure which will support better collaboration and streamline the work across the portfolio as we address multiculturalism and social cohesion in these challenging times.

Quotes attributable to the Chairperson:

"I commend the Victorian Government in streamlining the structure and providing the Commission access to a greater range of resources which will only strengthen the work of the VMC."

Media enquiries:

Ann Clark, Victorian Multicultural Commission, 0417 118 146 or
ann.clark@vmc.vic.gov.au