

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 21 April 2017

VMC seeks voices from across the state to join its Regional Advisory Councils

A unique opportunity to represent the voices of multicultural communities and promote Victoria's diversity opens today.

The Victorian Multicultural Commission is seeking expressions of interest from community members, business, service providers and local government to become members of its Regional Advisory Councils.

Regional Advisory Councils are integral to how we, as an independent Commission, continue to act as a primary conduit to government with, for and on behalf of our multicultural communities across Victoria. Members are not only strong advocates for their communities, but can directly inform the Commission on matters of multicultural affairs, settlement, service delivery and citizenship issues, and assist in promoting the benefits of diversity in their local areas.

The Commission is committed to ensuring a comprehensive and balanced representation of service providers, business, local government and community leaders so that we can more effectively capture both the great work that is already taking place, and better address barriers to inclusion and participation.

The valuable input received from the Regional Advisory Councils informs the development of the Commission's advice to government on how we can build on the successes and opportunities that our cultural diversity provides, as well as on systemic issues that may undermine access, equity and inclusion.

The Commission will also build on its community engagement and presence by hosting Commission meetings and, jointly with RAC members, broader public consultations that will be open to the local community.

Three Regional Advisory Councils are based in Metropolitan Melbourne – Eastern, Southern and North West, and five are based in rural and regional Victoria – Barwon South West, Hume, Loddon Mallee, Gippsland and Grampians.

We strongly encourage people from diverse backgrounds including refugees and asylum seekers, and people over the age of 16 to apply for the 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019 term.

More information and application forms are available at <http://multicultural.vic.gov.au/regional-advisory-councils/about-rac>

Victorian Multicultural Commission Chairperson, Ms Helen Kapalos said:

- > "As well as recruiting established and experienced advocates in the multicultural sector, we are also seeking innovative thinking and new voices, as well as supporting community initiatives which are already leading to positive outcomes for our migrant and refugee communities."

- > “Multiculturalism is now everybody’s business, everybody’s story, and we want you to be part of this important new evolution in how we influence government policy, programs and funding.”

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