

MEDIA RELEASE

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VMC GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

'Strengthening our community' is at the heart of the work done by the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), and this is reflected in the Annual Report 2012-13 tabled in the Victorian Parliament last week.

VMC Chairperson Chin Tan said that it was a year of considerable consolidation and growth, with more than 50,000 people engaged in VMC community events and initiatives.

"One of the things I love about my role is seeing communities of different cultural backgrounds come together in celebration of Victoria's extraordinary diversity," Mr Tan said.

"Victoria's diversity is an example to the world of how languages, cultures and faiths contribute to the strength of a nation.

"VMC's signature event, Cultural Diversity Week (CDW), was a spectacular success with close to 300 community groups, schools and workplaces holding their own CDW events, making it a genuinely statewide celebration.

"We placed a strong emphasis on connecting with younger generations, and for the first time, we produced a CDW Teachers' Resource Kit to explore themes around cultural diversity in a learning environment."

Mr Tan said the VMC advocated to governments on issues that were important to Victoria's diverse communities.

"We gathered valuable information about education, housing, employment, health and ways to combat racism and discrimination from the volunteer members of the eight Regional Advisory Councils, and hundreds of people who attended our public consultations," he said.

"We share this information with key decision-makers so that, together, we can improve the lives of all Victorians.

"We also gave about 2,400 grants, worth \$5.6 million, and more than \$100,000 in sponsorships to help the community organisations that support Victorians from all backgrounds.

"I'm proud of what the VMC achieved in 2012-13 and look forward to tackling even bigger challenges in the year ahead," he said.

To download a copy of the 2012-13 Victorian Multicultural Commission Annual Report, please visit www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/resources/publications/annual-report

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