

MEDIA RELEASE

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MOOROOPNA FAMILY BUSINESS REAPS REWARDS FOR CULTURAL INCLUSIVITY

Gouge Linen and Garment Services (Gouge) led the way last night as winner of the Corporate Innovation Award at the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) 2013 Multicultural Awards for Excellence.

Gouge has been run by the Priestly family for 25 years, and their innovative business practices and community values contribute to making Victoria a harmonious, multicultural state.

VMC Chairperson, Mr Chin Tan said that through the annual awards, the VMC recognised more than 70 people and 23 organisations who bring together Victorians from more than 200 backgrounds and 135 faiths.

“Gouge set an example to other regional businesses, and show how easy and beneficial it is to employ Victorians with migrant and refugee backgrounds,” Mr Tan said.

“Local residents who were born in Afghanistan, the Congo, Iraqi and Sudan represent a third of employees at Gouge, and work in a range of roles.

”By speaking about their experiences at events and forums and consulting the Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District, Gouge go above and beyond to make a difference for Victoria’s multicultural communities.

“Gouge believe that their cultural diversity is an asset to the company’s harmonious nature, and the ongoing employment of new arrivals is a key part of their business planning,” he said.

Mr Tan said the prestigious awards attracted more than 200 nominations, showing the breadth of work and support of people who make Victoria a great place to live.

“The annual Awards for Excellence confirm the Victorian Government’s commitment to promoting Victoria as a multicultural place, with His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria and the Premier of Victoria, the Honourable Denis Naphine presenting awards,” he said.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Nicholas Kotsiras presented Gouge with one of two Business Awards at Government House last night. The other award, for Multicultural Marketing, was presented to Camberwell based business Language Partner, trading as eTranslate.

Awards were also presented by the Minister for Local Government Jeanette Powell, Minister for Education Martin Dixon, and Chief Commissioner of Police Ken Lay.

For a complete list of winners in this and previous years, please visit:

www.multicultural.vic.gov.au

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