

MEDIA RELEASE

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ORGANISATIONS GET THE PARTY STARTED WITH GRANTS

More than \$700,000 in grants will be shared by 277 community groups for festivals and events that celebrate Victoria's cultural diversity.

Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) Chairperson Chin Tan said the grants would go toward a range of activities, from a Dutch singing troupe who entertain people in aged care homes, to the 10th anniversary of the Federation of Indian Women's Association of Australia's two-day celebration, to the Africa Day festivities in Ballarat.

"The first round of the VMC's Multicultural Festivals and Events grants for 2013-14 will ensure that people have opportunities to celebrate the different cultures and faiths that make Victoria such a great place," Mr Tan said.

"Having an opportunity to share your culture with others through a festival or community event helps you maintain identity and connections, as well as giving others the opportunity to get to know more about your beliefs, traditions and customs.

"The 277 organisations receiving funding through the latest round of grants aim to build understanding and respect between people of all cultures so that Victoria can continue to be a harmonious multicultural society," he said.

Mr Tan said the Multicultural Festivals and Events grants were incredibly popular, with more than \$2 million in applications received.

"We have now opened the next round of grants for events being held in the first half of 2014," Mr Tan said.

"The next round of Multicultural Festivals and Events grants will focus on festivals and events that complement the Cultural Diversity Week celebrations happening around Victoria from 15 to 23 March next year.

"I encourage any community or school group that is thinking of hosting a festival or event that will help build diverse and harmonious communities to consider making an application," he said.

For more information about grants available from VMC, please visit www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/grants

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