

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2013

### **VICTORIAN MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION'S BEST EVER GALA DINNER**

The Premier's Gala Dinner has launched Cultural Diversity Week with a festive show of unity from Victoria's multicultural community.

The event, held on Saturday evening 16 March, at Crown Palladium, attracted a sell-out audience of almost 1500 people, representing the many multicultural communities of Victoria.

The Victorian Premier, the Hon. Dr. Denis Napthine MP, hosted his first Gala Dinner in the company of Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Nicholas Kotsiras. Numerous state politicians, the Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission Chin Tan, and members of the consular corps, business and community leaders were also present.

Mr Tan was effusive about the success of the evening, saying: "It was a spectacular opening for Cultural Diversity Week, and gratifying that so many communities were represented at the first formal multicultural event hosted by our new Premier."

"One of the things I love about my job is being able to see communities of different cultural backgrounds come together in celebration of Victoria's extraordinary diversity, and the 2013 Premier's Gala Dinner was a great example of this."

The audience at the dinner were treated to performances by dance troupes, choirs, stilt walkers, a unicyclist and a circus act.

The Dinner is one of two flagship events presented by the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) during Cultural Diversity Week.

To mark the end of the Week, tens of thousands of people will gather at Federation Square in Melbourne on Sunday 24 March for the spectacular Viva Victoria multicultural festival.

The festival will feature three stages of dance and music performances, cultural workshops, an arts and craft marketplace, more than 20 food stalls, sports clinics, free kids' activities, roving performers, short films and art exhibitions.

To find out more, visit [www.multicultural.vic.gov.au](http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au)

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