

**MEDIA RELEASE – 7 MAY 2012**

**INAUGURAL MEETING OF EASTERN METROPOLITAN  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The first meeting of the Victorian Multicultural Commission's (VMC) Eastern Metropolitan Regional Advisory Council (RAC) will take place in Glen Waverly on Tuesday 8 May.

The Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras MLA, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship and Mr Chin Tan, Chairperson of the VMC will speak at the launch. Speeches commence at **5.30pm sharp**.

The Minister and Mr Tan will be available for interviews and photo opportunities from **5.45pm onwards**.

The RAC will advise the VMC on local multicultural, settlement and citizenship issues. It will also advocate on behalf of diverse communities, assist the VMC to promote the benefits of diversity and boost direct links with local multicultural communities.

The Chair of the Eastern Metropolitan RAC is VMC Commissioner Huss Mustafa. Mr Mustafa is a Senior Executive in the financial services industry, as well as an active supporter of community-based initiatives in Australia.

Mr Mustafa said he was excited to be part of this new initiative. He said: "It is a privilege to be a part of the new RAC and I am very much looking forward to the inaugural meeting. The new Council provides a good opportunity for community members to discuss local issues facing diverse communities and champion the region's multicultural interests."

Highlighting the significance of the RACs, the Chairperson of the VMC, Mr Chin Tan, said "The inaugural Eastern Metropolitan RAC meeting is an important milestone for the region. The members who have generously volunteered their time can now proceed with the important work of advising the VMC on local multicultural issues."

Mr Umit Ugur a community representative on the Eastern Metropolitan RAC and an active member of various culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) organisations, said he is excited to be a part of the new RAC. He said: "I am delighted to be part of the RAC which will provide an opportunity to work closely with members of the local community, and a forum to discuss issues and help support multicultural values within our region."

The Eastern Metropolitan RAC members are: Huss Mustafa, Tony Chen, Emanuele Cicchiello, Albert Fatileh, Oliver Maboreke, Abhishek Prasad, Tina Stathopoulos, Umit Ugur, Theo Zographos, Chandani Kuruppu, Joe Cossari, Celia Haddock and Nicholas Tragas.

RAC members are volunteers and have been selected for their understanding of multicultural issues, in addition to their experience and commitment to their local multicultural communities.

The Eastern Metropolitan region includes seven municipalities and around 956,000 people, representing about 19.6 per cent of Victoria's total population.

For further information on the Regional Advisory Councils:

Visit <http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/regional-advisory-councils>

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Local media are invited to attend the meeting for photos and interviews.

Media enquires: Call Kathleen Manson at the VMC on **9651 0621**.

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