

MEDIA RELEASE – 3 APRIL 2012

INAUGURAL MEETING OF HUME REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The inaugural meeting of the Victorian Multicultural Commission's (VMC) Hume Regional Advisory Council (RAC) will take place in Shepparton on Wednesday 4 April 2012.

The Hume 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 Chairperson of the Hume RAC is VMC Commissioner Mr Chidambaram Srinivasan (Srini), who has over 25 years experience working in community multicultural affairs and serving the needs of Victoria's diverse communities.

Welcoming the Members of the Hume RAC to the first meeting, Mr Srinivasan said "It is a privilege and pleasure to be part of the Hume Regional Advisory Council, which will provide the first opportunity for local community members to meet on a regular basis to discuss local issues and champion the region's multicultural interests."

Highlighting the significance of the RACs, the Chairperson of the VMC, Mr Chin Tan, said "The inaugural Hume RAC meeting is an important milestone for this region and means the members who have generously volunteered for this role, can now do the important work of providing meaningful advice to the VMC on local multicultural issues."

Julie Salomon, a local government representative from Greater Shepparton City Council, thanked the VMC for establishing the RAC, saying: "I am delighted to be part of the Hume Regional Advisory Council, which provides a wonderful opportunity for a community member such as myself to discuss local issues and support our culturally and linguistically diverse communities."

The Hume RAC members are: Chidambaram Srinivasan (Chair), Jolene Barnes, Barbara Brown, Bernadette McCann, Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe, Rosetta Pariotto, Charles Halter, Julie Salomon and Lisa Mahood.

RAC members are volunteers and were selected based on their understanding of multicultural issues, and their experience and commitment to their local multicultural communities.

The Hume RAC, which covers north eastern Victoria and the Goulburn Valley areas, contains twelve local government areas and will meet three times per year.

For further information on the Regional Advisory Councils:

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

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

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