



Victorian Multicultural Commission

Annual Report
2021-22

Strengthening our community

VICTORIAN
multicultural
commission
strengthening our community





Contents

Acknowledgment of Country

The Victorian Multicultural Commission acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Owners of the land now known as Victoria and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their ongoing spiritual, cultural and material connection to land, water, skies and resources.

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Message from the Chairperson

I am pleased to present the Victorian Multicultural Commission's 2021–22 Annual Report. It captures just a summary of what was both a remarkable and challenging time for the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) and our state's culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse communities.

As always, my sentiment that the efforts made by communities is outstanding and relentless continues without question. This is especially true when speaking of the COVID-19 pandemic. Support for those who need it most was made easier, had broader reach, and was more in-depth thanks to the community, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing's Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities Taskforce and a range of support and resources from the Department of Health. I am immensely proud of our community and allies, and grateful to them for working with government.

In 2021-22 the VMC progressed work on its **four strategic priorities** (promotion and advocacy, investigation and reporting, community leadership and COVID-19 response and recovery) and its **three focus areas** (mental health, employment and family violence). More specifically, we focussed on:

- ▶ **Building community capacity and capability**
- ▶ **Advocating on behalf of and supporting the community**
- ▶ **Amplifying community's contributions**
- ▶ **Celebrating our multicultural diversity**

Of particular importance to me were the Multicultural Communities Leadership In Action Program, which supported hundreds of community leaders, and our multicultural communities' database. Both of these practical initiatives have tangible outcomes for the community and the VMC's proactive engagement.

Throughout 2021-22, we provided practical and direct feedback through representation on 23 governmental, Ministerial or Commissioner-led committees, ensuring that community's voice was heard by those across government.

The voice of multicultural Victoria was also heard through many sector-wide committees, for example Victoria's NDIS Community Advisory Council, Generation V Strategic Partnerships Advisory Committee and Greater Shepparton's Cultural Inclusion Roundtable.

I also want to draw attention to the extensive consultations undertaken with multicultural and multifaith groups to develop the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021, Summary Offences Amendment (Nazi Symbol Prohibition) Bill 2022 and to advise the Victorian Government's Sexual Offences Reform.

I was especially pleased with our Commissioners' involvement in consulting on the development of Victoria's next Gender Equality Strategy, and their participation in research on achieving greater equality for culturally diverse Women in Victoria's Public Sector.

For supporting the VMC through another momentous 12 months, I thank our outgoing and incoming Commissioners, VMC staff, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs The Hon. Ros Spence MP, Regional Advisory Councils, the Multifaith Advisory Group, sponsors, and the literally hundreds of other people who make our work possible.



Vivienne Nguyen AM
Chairperson, Victorian
Multicultural Commission

About the Victorian Multicultural Commission

The Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) plays a critical role in strengthening cultural diversity in Victoria through consultation, advocacy, celebration and promotion.

Established in 1983 and constituted under the *Multicultural Victoria Act 2011*, the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) is a statutory body dedicated to

- ▶ promoting cultural diversity across all areas of society
- ▶ advocating on behalf of multicultural communities to all levels of government
- ▶ full participation by all Victorians regardless of their cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds.

Acting as a vital conduit between the state's culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse communities and the Victorian Government, the VMC fosters social cohesion in Victoria and promotes cultural diversity through a strengths-based approach and by empowering community-based solutions.

We connect multicultural communities with government (and government with community) by engaging directly with people to understand issues. We work together to identify and recommend potential solutions to government, policy makers and community organisations to make public services more inclusive and accessible for culturally diverse Victorians.

In doing this work, we promote the cultural, social and economic benefits of multiculturalism and advocate for tangible, systemic change within government departments, such as workforce diversity, data collation and measurable outcomes.

Our primary stakeholders are:

- ▶ multicultural and multifaith communities (organisations, service providers, peak bodies, faith groups, businesses and individuals)
- ▶ the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Victorian government departments, agencies, statutory bodies and other Commissions.

Mission statement

We strengthen our community through support, celebrations and advocacy for culturally and linguistically diverse Victorians.

Multicultural Victoria in 2021

As of 2021, Victoria's cultural diversity has continued to increase, despite pandemic related border restrictions.

Below are some highlights from the 2021 ABS Census. 30 per cent of Victorians and 35 per cent of those in Greater Melbourne were born overseas.

52.2% per cent of Victorians have at least one overseas born parent. That's over 3.4 million people!



Almost 30 per cent of Victorians and 34 per cent of those in Greater Melbourne speak a language other than English at home.

Collectively, Victorians:

- ▶ Have 314 ancestries
- ▶ Were born in over 200 countries
- ▶ Speak 290 languages (24 more than in 2016)



2021 Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence attendee

The VMC in 2021/2022

A snapshot of VMC activity by numbers.

Celebrate

- ▶ **2,000** people in total attended **5** flagship events
- ▶ **66** multicultural artists and performers showcased
- ▶ **99** people or organisations formally recognised for their contributions to multicultural Victoria across **3** awards programs
- ▶ **37** key cultural and religious dates marked on social media
- ▶ **443** community events attended by Commissioners



Support

- ▶ **21** projects funded through grants
- ▶ **212** Regional Advisory Council members attended **32** meetings
- ▶ **32** COVID-19 community forums and roundtables
- ▶ **31** Multifaith Advisory Group members
- ▶ **476** registered Multicultural Communities Leadership in Action Program participants
- ▶ **700+** members of the online community platform VMConnect
- ▶ **23,600** VMC social media followers (**15%** more than 2020-21)
- ▶ **15** VMC staff members



Advocate

- ▶ **6** submissions made to govt
- ▶ **24** interdepartmental committees / taskforces / working groups with VMC representation
- ▶ **13** government agencies regularly engaged
- ▶ **12** active VMC Commissioners
- ▶ **10** VMC Commissioner meetings



VMC commissioners

The VMC is led by 12 Commissioners with a range of cultural, faith and professional backgrounds and a clear mandate to support Victorians of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to participate in all aspects of society.

As community leaders themselves, our Commissioners work at a grassroots level to thoroughly understand issues facing multicultural communities. They work alongside community and faith groups to foster greater collaboration and unity.

Our Commissioners meet monthly and attend, speak at and support many various community-led events and initiatives. They work together to elevate the voices of multicultural and multifaith communities and advocate on their behalf across government.

Outgoing Commissioners

In August 2021, we farewelled the following Commissioners, and thank them for their staunch and committed work.

- ▶ Walter Rapoport
- ▶ Rosaria Zarro
- ▶ Tina Hosseini
- ▶ Khayshie Tilak Ramesh
- ▶ Mohammed Yassin

Current Commissioners

Vivienne (Viv) Nguyen AM, Chairperson

Current term: 24 August 2019 to 23 August 2023

First appointed: 24 August 2019



Viv Nguyen's greatest talent is continuing what she started soon after arriving in Australia as a 12-year-old refugee: being a passionate advocate for genuine community engagement and cultural diversity.

For over 25 years Viv has been a leader in corporate, community and government settings, applying her business knowledge and technical expertise to work with community organisations to advance their social objectives. She held executive roles at AustChoice Financial Services, AMP Asset Management and ANZ Banking Group, where she led their global diversity strategy. She was also President of the Vietnamese Community in Australia Victoria Chapter from 2016-2019.

In 2002, Viv was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll for advocating for women's leadership and supporting young Vietnamese people. In 2003, she was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal and in 2021 was awarded the Australian Order in the AM division for advancing multicultural Victoria.

Bwe Thay, Deputy Chairperson

Current term: September 2021 to September 2025

First appointed: September 2019



Bwe is a spirited advocate for a multicultural Australia. He works to develop the capacity of multicultural communities, with a focus on leadership development, education and employment

outcomes. His involvement extends from working with individual communities to advocacy at the highest levels. His work informs the direction and policy of service providers, businesses and all levels of government.

Bwe has held many leadership roles within Victoria's multicultural sector and is an Attaché for the Mental Health Foundation of Australia. He has been widely recognised for his advocacy, community service and professional achievements, including the Whitehorse City Council's 2022 Citizen of the Year Award. With his strong commitment to promoting harmony by engaging and bringing communities together to build a vibrant society, Bwe's practical, hands-on approach is well recognised within multicultural communities.

Abiola (Abi) Akinbiyi, Community Representative Commissioner

Current term: September 2021 to September 2023

First appointed: September 2021



Abiola is a community leader, advocate and diversity and inclusion champion with over 19 years' experience working with different multicultural communities and non-profit organisations in the health

sector. She is a registered nurse, clinical nurse educator, former IT professional and an award-winning entrepreneur, with a great passion for community development and social justice. She has contributed significantly to educating, training and empowering people with multicultural backgrounds with a focus on aged care, nursing, young people, women and mental health.

As a member of the board of directors at the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, Abiola chairs the New and Emerging Communities Policy Advocacy committee. An alumna of Leadership Victoria, she founded Changepreneur - a passion project through which she mentors young multicultural women to thrive. She is the Africa Day Gala Dinner Coordinator, an interfaith network member and volunteers with

many community and non-profit organisations. She is the winner of the Spirit of Victoria University Alumni Award 2021 (People's Choice Award).

Lunorphare (Luna) Folly, Youth Commissioner

Current term: September 2021 to September 2023

First appointed: September 2021



Luna came to Australia from a Togolese-based refugee camp and has been living in regional Ballarat ever since. He has represented the multicultural community in various roles including Youth Officer for the

Ballarat African Association, the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council, and is a diversity leader in the Ballarat community. Luna uses his passion for sport as a platform to advocate for people who are disadvantaged, drawing upon his own background and how he was supported by his own community.

Luna focuses on raising issues that affect people aged under 25 years old, such as unemployment and discrimination in society and workplaces, and on connecting regional and metropolitan multicultural communities. Luna enjoys running educational and training programs and wants to be a voice for voiceless communities and to help make Victoria the best state for diversity and inclusion.

Tarang Chawla

Current term: September 2021 to September 2025

First appointed: September 2021



Tarang is an Indian-born Australian writer, lawyer, campaigner and activist. He is the co-founder of Not One More Niki, one of Australia's largest campaigns to end violence against women and children,

named in honour of his younger sister Nikita who was murdered in 2015. A sessional academic at Monash University and on the Board of the Australian Republic Movement, Tarang's work has appeared across Australian television, print and online media outlets and internationally on the BBC, Times of India and Hindustan Times.

Tarang has received multiple honours for his work, including Young Australian of the Year Finalist, Young Community Achiever of the Year, one of the Top 25 Most Influential People Working for Social Change and one of Australia's Top 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians.

Jennifer Huppert

Current term: September 2021 to September 2025

First appointed: September 2021



Jennifer is a lawyer with over 30 years' experience, practising largely in the area of government and commercial property law, and is currently a special counsel at Maddocks Lawyers. She has a history

of public service in Victoria. Jennifer was a member of the board of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission from 2016 until 2021, a member of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Victoria representing the Southern Metropolitan Region during 2009 and 2010, and prior to that was a director of the Emergency Services State Superannuation Fund.

Jennifer is the immediate past President of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) and served on the boards of a number of not for profit organisations, including the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia Ltd, the B'nei B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission, the Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence, and Youth Connect. Jennifer is currently a councillor of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts from Monash University, and a Masters of Urban Planning from the University of Melbourne.

Shankar Kasynathan

Current term: September 2019 to September 2023

First appointed: September 2019



Shankar came to Australia with his family as refugees. Over the past 15 years he has worked closely with refugee and migrant communities in Victoria, the Northern Territory and

the ACT. A skilled communications and public policy specialist, Shankar has degrees in Economics and Public Policy.

He is an active supporter of community organisations that help to build partnerships and social cohesion in regional areas. Shankar is an ambassador for the Migrant Workers Centre and since December 2017, has been a national campaign manager with Amnesty International Australia. He lives in Geelong where he is the Chair of the Barwon Regional Advisory Council.

Nyangak (Lizzy) Kuoth

Current term: September 2021 to September 2025

First appointed: September 2021



Whimsical, wise and courageous, Lizzy is a woman to watch and at 30 years of age, has already lived a very full life. As a child, Lizzy fled war-torn South Sudan with her grandmother and three younger

brothers, spending four years in Egypt before arriving in Melbourne in 2005.

Fast-forward 16 years, and Lizzy is carving out her own niche at the intersection of economics (which she is currently studying), youth development, diversity and inclusion. As a Commissioner, Lizzy brings an important voice, cross-cultural wisdom and powerful stories to inspire others. When she isn't at work, Lizzy is either out for a hike or grabbing a coffee with a mate.

Mohamed Mohideen OAM JP

Current term: September 2021 to September 2025

First appointed: September 2021



Mohamed is a microbiologist by profession with over 30 years' experience in the field. He is a Professional Member of the Australian Society for Microbiology, was an academic in Monash University's

Department of Microbiology for over 20 years, and from March 2021 - June 2022, was Head of Priority Communities and Engagement, COVID-19 Vaccination Response at the Department of Health. Mohamed is interested in multifaith and multicultural communities and working with community to address mental health, refugee rights and interaction between multicultural and Indigenous communities. He is a strong advocate against family violence and was appointed a White Ribbon Ambassador in 2016.

Mohamed is Deputy Chair of the Faith Communities Council of Victoria, former Chairperson of the Monash Interfaith Gathering and is on Monash City Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee. He is Vice President of the Islamic Council of Victoria and its immediate Past President, and former President of the United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia. Monash City Council awarded Mohamed the 2015 Sir John Monash Multicultural Champion and the 2018 Sir John Monash Volunteer of the Year. He received the 2016 Victorian Premier's Volunteer Champion Award for Leadership, and in 2013 was awarded an Order of Australia Medal. Mohamed is also a current Victorian Justice of the Peace.

Bill Papastergiadis OAM

Current term: September 2021 to September 2025

First appointed: September 2021



Bill is a highly accomplished Australian construction lawyer and leads the Melbourne office of preeminent national law firm, Moray and Agnew. He has a long history of involvement in multicultural affairs, gained

through his role as Director of the Hellenic Initiative and his elected position as President of the Greek Community of Melbourne and Victoria, which he's held since 2008. In this role, Bill has devoted much of the last 14 years to the promotion and welfare of Victoria's Greek community.

Being passionate about community work, Bill is involved in many multicultural programs, even as he fulfills roles such as Chairman of South Melbourne Football Club, former Chair and longstanding board member of Alphington Grammar School, and board member of Melbourne University's Humanities Foundation. In 2019, Bill was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for service to the Greek Community.

Silvia Renda

Current term: September 2021 to September 2025

First appointed: September 2021



Silvia is a passionate advocate for multiculturalism and bringing communities together through meaningful engagement. A community leader for over 25 years, she draws on professional skills

and lived-experience as a migrant to support Portuguese-speaking communities. Silvia founded, and was for seven years, President of the Portuguese Speaking Communities of Victoria. In 2018 she founded, and currently chairs, the Portuguese Australian Women's Association, who build a network of support for Portuguese-speaking women and advocate for women's leadership.

Silvia is a Portuguese Community Council member, a global body of elected representatives who advise the Portuguese government on issues facing expatriated communities. She is also a Portuguese Social and Economic Council member, a constitutional body who advises the Portuguese government on relevant policies. As Chief Advisor and Head of Government Relations at the Australian Financial Complaints Authority, Silvia brings her

experience in conflict resolution, strategy and policy and record of work with government, international consulates, boards and senior executives. She holds Bachelor of Legal Studies and a Masters in Conflict Resolution.

Dr Judy Tang

Current term: September 2019 to September 2023

First appointed: September 2019



Judy is a strong advocate for multiculturalism and LGBTIQ+ communities with expertise in psychology, ageing, research and mental health. With extensive relationships across government and community,

Judy has volunteered for more than 10 years to promote and advocate for multiculturalism and equality for migrants.

She is a former VMC Multicultural Champion and President of the Australian GLBTIQ Multicultural Council, a national body that advocates for the rights of multicultural and multifaith LGBTIQ+ people and communities. Judy has a doctorate in neuropsychology and is a practicing Clinical Neuropsychologist.

In memoriam

Professor Gary Bouma AM

19 August 2021



Gary was UNESCO Chair in Intercultural and Interreligious Relations – Asia Pacific; Emeritus Professor of Sociology; Director of the Global Terrorism Research Centre at Monash University;

and Associate Priest at St John's Anglican Church, East Malvern.

For the VMC and its Multifaith Advisory Group (MAG), it was Gary's efforts toward the integrity of religious diversity and a genuine and flourishing multifaith Australia that we will always hold dear.

As a critically important contributor to the establishment of the VMC's MAG and to Victoria's interfaith dialogue, Gary's penetrating intellect and sociological imagination gave insight to those with ears to hear.

MAG members remember his long-running work to support and encourage diverse religious people to find their place with dignity and equality. Beneath the strong and decisive way that Gary conveyed scholarly insights, was a motivation to protect people from prejudice.

Image supplied by Monash University. <https://www.monash.edu/vale/home/articles/vale-emeritus-professor-gary-bouma-am>

VMC Strategic Priorities and Focus Areas

Over 2021-22, the VMC had four strategic priorities:

1. promotion and advocacy
2. investigation and reporting
3. community leadership
4. COVID-19 response and recovery

Across these priorities, we had three focus areas:

1. Mental health
2. Employment
3. Family violence

More specifically, our efforts concentrated on:

- ▶ **Building community's capacity** to engage, participate and be represented in all areas of society and in decisions that impact them and their loved ones.
- ▶ **Advocating on behalf of the community** to State and Federal government and their departmental and ministerial committees, ensuring that the voice of communities is heard and represented. Along the way, we connected community organisations and service providers directly with government staff so that systemic issues could be addressed and create precedents for real life case studies.
- ▶ **Amplifying** the contributions made by Victoria's multicultural communities by using our platform to increase the visibility of community members and organisations through delivering and celebrating three awards programs.
- ▶ **Celebrating** Victoria's multiculturalism through events, creative initiatives and leading the State's Cultural Diversity Week.
- ▶ **Supporting** community through various new and ongoing issues, in particular the COVID-19 pandemic.

Looking ahead

The past year has been challenging for all Victorians, as we remain affected by the pandemic. While supporting each other and being vigilant is still important, the recovery phase has commenced. What remains critically important for the VMC, and for all of us, is that the lessons learned through the pandemic are not lost. Genuine community engagement, ongoing communication, inclusion and implementing co-designed policies, programs and services must be embedded into government's ways of working.

The VMC will continue to capitalise on its consultative networks and provide strategic advice and guidance to government. In particular, we will advocate for systemic issues within the public sector to be addressed, ranging from workforce diversity, representation on boards and committees, improved data collection and practical diversity and inclusion plans. We will keep our focus on the priorities being identified by multicultural communities, such as mental health and wellbeing, racism and discrimination, employment and economic participation, education and training, family violence and community capacity building.

In alignment with our statutory objectives, the VMC will also continue to celebrate and promote Victoria's cultural diversity through its annual events and programs including Cultural Diversity Week, the Multicultural Film Festival and awards that recognise the incredible and often unheralded achievements of individuals and organisations.

In 2022-23 and beyond, the VMC is committed to strengthening our community, raising its profile and together with community, enhancing the already strong social, cultural and economic benefits that our cultural diversity provides for all Victorians.



2022 Multicultural Gala Dinner attendees

Collaboration with Government

The VMC supported Federal and State government consultations, information sessions, information dissemination, submissions, legislative reform and other matters concerning Victorian multicultural communities. These efforts bring home the fact that community voices are the core of our work.

The VMC believes that multicultural voices should be embedded across the work of all government departments and agencies and therefore sought out opportunities to engage with government to ensure that the community can be directly consulted, informed, and participate in decisions that impact them.

The VMC actively collaborates with, influences and promotes the role and services of Government agencies, in particular:

- ▶ Department of Families Fairness and Housing
- ▶ Department of Health
- ▶ Department of Home Affairs (Federal government)
- ▶ Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions
- ▶ Department of Justice and Community Safety
- ▶ Family Safety Victoria
- ▶ Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission
- ▶ Small Business Ombudsman (Federal government)
- ▶ Tenants Victoria
- ▶ Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission
- ▶ Victorian Ombudsman
- ▶ Victorian Small Business Commission
- ▶ Victoria Police

Representation on government committees

In 2021-22 the VMC represented multicultural communities on a variety of Interdepartmental Committees across Victorian Government, including:

- ▶ Community Outbreaks: Communications and Engagement Working Group
- ▶ COVID-19 and Youth Engagement and Communications Working Group
- ▶ COVID-19 State Emergency Management Team
- ▶ Department of Education and Training's Multicultural Learning Partnership
- ▶ Department of Health and Murdoch Children's Research Institute Generation V Strategic Partnerships Advisory Committee
- ▶ Department of Families, Fairness and Housing's High Risk Accommodation Working Group
- ▶ Department of Home Affairs' Senior Officials Settlement Outcomes Group
- ▶ Family Safety Victoria's Project Steering Committee
- ▶ Victorian African Communities Action Plan Implementation Committee
- ▶ Victoria Police Multicultural Portfolio Reference Group
- ▶ Victoria Police and VMC Joint Community of Practice
- ▶ Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission Quarterly Meetings
- ▶ Victorian National Disability Insurance Scheme Community Advisory Council
- ▶ Victorian Trades Hall Council Job Readiness Pathways Steering Committee

Representation on Ministerial and Commissioner committees

In 2021-22 the VMC represented multicultural communities on several committees led by different Ministers and Commissioners.

- ▶ COVID-19 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Taskforce
- ▶ Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Health Advisory Group
- ▶ Independent Pandemic Management Advisory Committee
- ▶ Mental Health Ministerial Advisory Committee
- ▶ Multicultural Communities Family Violence Working Group
- ▶ South Asian Communities Ministerial Advisory Council
- ▶ Victorian Government Anti-Racism Taskforce
- ▶ Victorian Government Food Relief Taskforce
- ▶ Victoria Police Chief Commissioner's Human Rights Strategic Advisory Committee

Advising grant assessment panels

VMC Commissioners shared their knowledge of Victoria's multicultural communities to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to support their delivery of the:

- ▶ Community Infrastructure Grants Program
- ▶ Multicultural Festival and Events Grants Program
- ▶ Multicultural Media Grants Program
- ▶ Paving the Way Forward Grants Program
- ▶ Priority Response Multicultural Community COVID-19 Grants Program



VMC end-of-year stakeholder event alongside key partners and Commissioners from across the Victorian Government

Key submissions, research and advocacy

The VMC is proud to advocate for the needs of multicultural communities and takes this role seriously. In 2021-22, we produced a range of submissions and responses on matters affecting Victoria's multicultural communities. To inform these and formulate evidence-based recommendations, we drew from feedback and advice generously shared by our Regional Advisory Councils and community consultation participants.

Submissions

In 2021-22, the VMC made submissions informing the development of these important pieces of legislation and governmental inquiries:

- ▶ Federal Social Services Legislation Amendment (Consistent Waiting Periods for New Migrants) Bill 2021
- ▶ Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- ▶ Inquiry into Economic Equity for Victorian Women
- ▶ Inquiry into Victoria's Criminal Justice System
- ▶ Inquiry into Support for Older Victorians from Migrant and Refugee Backgrounds
- ▶ Victorian Mental Health Wellbeing Act

Research and Advocacy

The VMC worked closely with the agencies reviewing their work under the Whole of Victorian Government reform. The reform will see legislative changes, amendments and possible royal commissions across many areas impacting multicultural communities.

Employment

Supporting the employment of multicultural Victorians was a particular priority for the VMC during the COVID-19 recovery period. We partnered with agencies to co-host sessions on employment related initiatives and grant programs, supported Jobs Victoria initiatives and shared information directly with multicultural communities.

For those wanting to diversify their workforce or who already have a culturally diverse workforce, we provided advice on issues and opportunities for attracting and retaining employees with a multicultural background. For example, the VMC worked closely with the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions' Agricultural Victoria to help improve working conditions for seasonal workers.

CASE STUDY:

Support for Older Victorians from Migrant and Refugee Backgrounds

- ▶ In February 2022, the VMC participated in a public hearing before the Victorian Parliament's Legal and Social Issues Committee on the Inquiry into Support for Older Victorians from Migrant and Refugee Backgrounds. Key to our advocacy, was sharing some of the many systemic barriers and issues faced by older multicultural Victorians.
- ▶ In August 2022, a Final Report was released containing 76 recommendations to Government that the VMC hopes will improve access to services and quality of life for culturally diverse older people. The report makes a range of references to the advice the VMC shared with the Committee.

Mental health

The VMC advocated for greater access to culturally appropriate mental health services for multicultural Victorians and monitored progress of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System. We played an active role alongside the Department of Health's Mental Health and Wellbeing Division and provided advice to the formation of a new Mental Health Expert Roundtable.

Family Violence

The VMC monitored progress of family violence reforms and sat on subcommittees responsible for overseeing multicultural family violence grants and reviews. Since 2021 we co-chaired the Multicultural Family Violence Working Group with Family Safety Victoria. Membership includes community organisations funded through the Victoria's Multicultural COVID-19 Family Violence Program. The group provides a voice for multicultural and faith communities, which was especially critical during the pandemic.

Gender Equality

In 2021 the VMC was funded by the Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector to undertake time-limited research on *"How defined entities can achieve gender equality for Culturally Diverse Women in the Victorian Public Sector"*. We partnered with diversity and inclusion experts MindTribes and will deliver a final report in 2022.

We also supported the new Victorian Government Gender Equality Strategy with the Office for Women. We ran four consultation sessions with multicultural interest groups on safety, leadership and representation, health and economic participation.

Settlement

Each month, the VMC met with senior executives at the Federal Government's Department of Home Affairs to discuss issues impacting multicultural Victorians. For example, those relating to visas and the settlement of those who arrived as refugees or asylum seekers. The VMC was also represented on the Department's Senior Officials Settlement Outcomes Group.

CASE STUDY:

Afghan Community Migration Information Session

- ▶ In October 2021, the VMC co-hosted an Afghan Community Migration Information Session with Refugee Legal to support the increased demand for legal advice from Afghan communities in Australia looking reunite with their families following the Afghan refugee crisis. We provided an interpreter and worked with the Adult Migrant English Service to support the transition of refugees from hotel quarantine to culturally appropriate housing, including material and social supports.

Affordable and safe housing

Affordable and safe housing and in particular rental and social housing, is an ongoing concern for many multicultural Victorians. In July 2021 the VMC contributed to Victoria's Social Housing Regulation Review's Interim Report, released in December 2021 Together with Tenants Victoria, from March to May 2022 we co-hosted two, online Multicultural Rental Rights Forums on tenant's rights, attended by 115 people.

Anti-Racism

One of the ways that the VMC advocated for the elimination of racism was by being an active member of Victoria's Anti-Racism Taskforce. Established in June 2021, it is convened by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

The Taskforce works to ensure that Victoria's first Anti-Racism Strategy sets out a clear and targeted roadmap to reducing racism in Victoria and that community voices are heard in its design. Part of the VMC's contributions were to co-host six roundtable sessions with the Department of Family Fairness and Housing and those representing Muslim, Jewish, South Asian, African, Asian and multicultural women's groups.

The VMC also co-hosted anti-racism awareness sessions with the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.

CASE STUDY:

Greater Shepparton Cultural Inclusion Roundtable

- ▶ Shepparton is one of regional Victoria's most culturally diverse communities. In 2021, the Victorian Government committed to establish the Greater Shepparton Cultural Inclusion Roundtable to consider actions and strategies that would address racism and strengthen cultural inclusion across Shepparton. Co-chaired by the VMC Chairperson and local community leader Betul Tuna, the Roundtable has brought together representatives from local multicultural and Aboriginal communities, Greater Shepparton City Council, Greater Shepparton Secondary College and a range of key local organisations and Victorian Government departments and agencies. Key areas of focus have included youth engagement both within the Secondary College and the broader community and planning a celebratory and educative event.

CASE STUDY:

Community Safety Forum

- ▶ In September 2021, in partnership with the Department of Justice and Community Safety, Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch, the VMC co-hosted a Community Safety Forum on improving how safe and connected people feel in their communities. It gave the community an opportunity to share their concerns and learnings in a safe, confidential, and inclusive setting. Their voices informed the Department's program and campaign design and marked the beginning of engagement across diverse networks and organisations.

Justice System

The VMC worked closely with the Department of Justice and Community Safety to co-host forums and provide advice. We were an active member of their Sexual Offences Reform Working Group which supports victim-survivors and aims to improve people's experience of the justice system. We met monthly with their Community Prevention Team on crime prevention among multicultural communities and on delivery of their Crime Prevention Grants Program, in particular the youth stream.

Our strong relationship with Victoria Police continued, for example through the Police category in the Multicultural Awards for Excellence, consultations, working groups and a Joint Community of Practice between the VMC and Victoria Police.

Business

The VMC attended quarterly joint Small Business Victoria meetings and advised the Small Business Ombudsman on engaging multicultural small business. We regularly supported Jobs Victoria initiatives and shared information with culturally diverse business owners. This was especially important during the pandemic and its recovery, when we partnered with the Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions and the Victorian Small Business Commission to co-host sessions on business related initiatives and grant programs.

Diversity and Inclusion Across the Victorian Public Service

Several agencies sought the VMC's advice on best-practice for matters such as supporting multicultural staff, culturally inclusive recruitment practices, data collection and setting bold targets to enable inclusive practices within the VPS for multicultural communities. We advised the Department of Health, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissions, Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector and Victorian Public Sector Commission.

We advocated for cultural diversity in leadership across the Victorian Public Service and on Victorian Government boards and informed the Department of Families Fairness and Housing's new Diversity and Inclusion Framework.

COVID-19

We continued to see devastating impacts of the pandemic on multicultural communities across Victoria and to fill our role as a trusted body between culturally diverse communities and government. We relayed information through our channels, ran community forums with government representatives, supported the distribution Rapid Antigen Tests and vaccination of seasonal workers and worked with Channel 31 to invite faith leaders to encourage community on vaccination.

The VMC delivered a program building the capability of grass-roots community leaders to engage government and mobilise their communities, and sat on numerous committees, consultations and working groups detailed throughout this report.

We also worked with COVID-19 Quarantine Victoria on facilities and support for newly arrived refugees from Afghanistan, and with the Department of Families Fairness and Housing on food relief, housing and local partnerships supporting multicultural communities.

CASE STUDY:

Placed-based cultural responsiveness during times of crisis

- ▶ In response to growing needs in the Greater Shepparton region to contain COVID-19, the VMC set up fortnightly dedicated roundtable meetings with over 14 local organisations such as the Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District, Goulburn Valley African Australian Organisation, St Paul's African House, Point of Difference and Greater Shepparton Foundations. The meetings provided critical support to multicultural community members and facilitated a platform for decision makers to consult with community representatives directly impacted by lockdowns and outbreaks. It also supported the distribution of food and Rapid Antigen Tests to those most in need.



Online COVID-19 briefing to multicultural communities

Community engagement and support

To proactively support Victoria's multicultural communities and meet their changing needs, the VMC delivered the below three very practical initiatives.

Community Support Fund

In 2021-22, the VMC allocated \$150,000 to fund 21 projects through its Community Support Fund. Designed to respond to urgent needs and promote participation and social cohesion, these grants of up to \$10,000 supported the delivery of community activities that fell outside the remit of existing Victorian Government grants programs.

We funded community initiatives and projects that addressed the recovery of micro-businesses, full participation of multicultural Victorians in civic life, established leadership and employment pathways for young people and emerging issues or community concerns where a swift, localised response was most appropriate. A detailed list of Community Support Fund recipients is provided in Appendix 3.

Multicultural Communities Database

The VMC developed a new Multicultural Communities Database to more effectively and efficiently engage with multicultural communities. Funded by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, the database will reassure community members and organisations that the VMC know who they are, and how to reach them when the need arises. For example, to discuss urgent or emerging issues in specific communities, participate in consultations, or simply be made aware of VMC initiatives.





Southern Metropolitan Regional Advisory Council meeting

Multicultural Communities Leadership in Action Program

From November 2021 to June 2022, the VMC delivered the first Multicultural Communities Leadership in Action Program, funded by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. Coming as a direct result of the government's recognition of the critical role played by grass roots multicultural community leaders in reaching people throughout the pandemic, this innovative program built people's capability to see results from government.

Delivered across Women's, Youth and Generalist streams, tools and information were provided across two full-day sessions that covered topics such as governance, applying for grants and building collaborative relationships with government and stakeholders. Of the 476 registered participants, 317 completed the sessions, reporting that they felt more confident to engage effectively with government and mobilise their own communities, which is especially important in times of crisis and emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemics.

Participants celebrated with government stakeholders at a networking and celebratory event in June 2022 at Melbourne's Town Hall with approximately 150 attendees.

Participation in community-led groups

The VMC is represented on the following groups, where it both shares and receives information from community, about community.

- ▶ Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria's State-wide Disability Network
- ▶ Practitioners working group on Tackling Hate facilitated by the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation

Formal Community Consultation

In 2021-22 the VMC held regular, ongoing consultations with its five key established groups. Each were pivotal to the VMC's role as the voice between Victoria's multicultural communities and the State Government, and we thank them for their time and contributions.

Regional Advisory Councils

The VMC is advised by eight Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) covering the whole of Victoria and representing a range of cultures and faiths. Chaired by our Commissioners, the RACs meet four times a year and are pivotal to the VMC's ability to identify and prioritise issues facing different metropolitan and regional communities.

In total, there are 214 RAC members who provide us with on-the-ground insights into issues such as migrant and refugee settlement services, employment, education, housing, citizenship and connection to culture. The RACs help the VMC identify potential solutions and strategies for achieving change, influence and shape policy and legislation and improve government and community services.

A list of RAC members is at Appendix 1.

CASE STUDY:

Perspectives from a Regional Advisory Council (RAC) member

"I have been part of the VMC's RAC for a number of years now. As a passionate advocate for international students and the wider CALD community, RAC meetings have allowed me to receive important updates on key issues, and in turn, members get to share, discuss and provide ideas and insights which help inform government policies and programs. Being part of RAC has also enabled me to expand my connections to a wonderful group of leaders, which empowers me both professionally and personally as we collectively serve our community."

Gary Lee, North West Metropolitan Region RAC member, Australia Day Council 'New Australian of the Year 2016' and International Education Project Coordinator and Deputy Municipal Recovery Manager, City of Melbourne.

CASE STUDY:

Multifaith Advisory Group advises ban on the Hakenkreuz

In October 2021, Multifaith Advisory Group (MAG) members together with additional community and faith leaders across Victoria participated in a roundtable on the State's then proposed Summary Offences Amendment (Nazi Symbol Prohibition) Bill 2022, involving the ban of public display of the Nazi symbol (hakenkreuz). Participants shared their insights and concerns directly with the co-hosts, the Victorian Attorney-General, Department of Justice and Community Safety and the VMC. The MAG was also closely consulted in development of the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021.

Multifaith Advisory Group

The Multifaith Advisory Group (MAG) advises the VMC on matters impacting faith communities and ensures that it supports people belonging to a diversity of faiths, religions and spiritualities. Established in 2008, the MAG is convened by the VMC and chaired by its Chairperson. It consists of 31 senior representatives from various Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist and Baha'i communities.

So that the MAG reflects Victoria's faith diversity while remaining manageable in size, its membership is not intended to comprehensively represent Victoria's full faith diversity, but its largest communities and general breadth.

The MAG aims to bring Victoria's faith leaders together in ongoing dialogue with the Victorian Government and assist the Government to understand and appropriately respond to faith-related issues and situations arising in Victoria's diverse faith communities.

A list of MAG members is at Appendix 2.

Multicultural Chambers of Commerce Group

The VMC began work to relaunch the Multicultural Chambers of Commerce Group in 2022-23. In the last year, its members engaged in consultations on how the pandemic impacted businesses and received information on relief grants and opportunities.

Multicultural Youth Network

Formerly known as the Multicultural Multifaith Youth Network, in early 2022 the VMC began work to launch a Multicultural Youth Network. This new network will consist of 15-20 young people aged 16 to 25 from multicultural communities and give them a platform to provide advice to government on issues facing multicultural youth in Victoria.

COVID-19 Information Sessions

In 2021-22 the VMC hosted 32 information sessions with the Department of Health for multicultural community members and media outlets. They delivered critical and timely information to participants and offered an accessible platform to ask questions and raise concerns. Held afterhours via Zoom, the sessions saw over 100 different community groups represented from across Victoria.

2022 Cultural Diversity Week

The VMC is proud to take the lead on the State's Cultural Diversity Week (CDW), occurring annually in March to celebrate the contributions made by multicultural Victorians across all areas of our society. From 19-27 March 2022, the VMC invited Victorians to reconnect, share and express themselves through the theme, *'Connecting Through Culture'*.

Sharing through food, music and conversation is a cherished pastime for Victorians. Even with the challenges presented by the pandemic, celebrations were adapted to ensure our health and safety.

We also invited Victorians to reflect on the origins of Cultural Diversity Week, the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March. This reminds us that while celebrating multiculturalism is vital, so too support and advocacy to address racism.

2022 Victorian Multicultural Gala Dinner

CDW 2022 launched on 19 March with the Victorian Multicultural Gala Dinner. Held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, the return of this flagship event following a two-year pandemic related hiatus was greatly anticipated (and COVID-safe).

1,400 multicultural and multifaith Victorians and community and government representatives came together for an evening of fine dining, music, cultural entertainment, and networking. It was an unforgettable celebration of Victoria's vibrant multicultural community, and we are excited to have already begun plans for 2023.



The 2022 Multicultural Gala Dinner held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

CDW Teacher's Resource Kit

Together with the Department of Education and Training, the VMC distributed a CDW Teacher's Resource Kit to spark conversations between students at primary and secondary schools across Victoria. It contained resources, activities, discussion topics and statistics to inspire and assist teachers to acknowledge and celebrate cultural diversity in the classroom.

Schools play a critical role in strengthening cultural inclusion in our community. They provide an environment where acceptance of diversity, knowing other cultures and understanding global and local issues is developed and part of everyday life. By providing safe, inclusive and welcoming classrooms, teachers help students develop a sense of belonging and connection to their school, their community and to Victoria.

Commissioners Out and About

While our Commissioners were unable to visit schools as in previous years to due COVID-19 precautions, they were certainly active. In just eight days, our Commissioners collectively attended 33 CDW community events across Victoria and gave 20 speeches.

Commissioner Interviews

Each day of CDW, the VMC shared social media articles about its diverse Commissioners as they reflected on the theme and their roles as Regional Advisory Council Chairs.

Online resources and ways to get involved

Ahead of and during CDW, the VMC promoted and made available a range of resources available on its website. Community, government and non-profit organisations, business and workplaces were encouraged to hold their own COVID Safe events, use CDW digital design assets and branding, share pictures on social media using various hashtags, and utilise the Teacher's Resource Kit.

Acknowledging the many initiatives run by local government, links to all 79 Victorian council websites were available so that people could search for local events and activities. CDW was also an opportunity to invite community to submit nominations for the Victorian Refugee Awards, photographs to the Capturing Culture competition, and films to the Multicultural Film Festival.



Chairperson Viv Nguyen and Deputy Chairperson Bwe Thay with 2022 Multicultural Gala Dinner attendees



Awards programs

To formally recognise and showcase the achievements of multicultural Victorians, the VMC runs three separate, annual awards programs. A list of the recipients for all programs and categories is at Appendices 4-6.

2021 Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence

The Multicultural Awards for Excellence formally recognise outstanding people and organisations who make Victoria a more inclusive and welcoming place for multicultural communities.

After hosting the ceremony virtually in 2020, we were delighted to celebrate the Award's 20th year in-person, with the 2021 award recipients. 160 people attended the ceremony in December 2021 at Government House, hosted by The Governor, The Honourable Linda Dessau AC.

52 outstanding Victorians were recognised across 15 categories for their achievements in strengthening multiculturalism through professional and volunteer service, including COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. In their fields, they foster cross-cultural understanding, build social cohesion and support people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to participate in all aspects of life.

The VMC thanks the Department of Education and Training, Emergency Services Victoria and Victoria Police for partnering with us to recognise achievement in their categories.

Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll

The Multicultural Honour Roll recognises outstanding people and organisations who go above and beyond for Victoria's multicultural communities. Its inductees are the unsung heroes at the grass-roots level who epitomise the role that cultural diversity plays in forming Victoria's identity, character, and way of life.

In May 2022, the first 29 inductees were celebrated at an in-person event at the Arts Centre Melbourne attended by 160 people. They represent trailblazers, emerging leaders, and passionate people from 19 cultures who support and amplify multicultural or multifaith communities, often voluntarily and without formal position.

They demonstrate grit, resilience and a generosity of spirit of which Victoria can be proud. Often overcoming significant barriers to create positive and lasting impacts for their communities, the contributions of the 2022 inductees were especially significant, due to the vital role that many inductees played in keeping communities safe and connected throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



2022 Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll attendees



VMC Chairperson Viv Nguyen and Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner Dan Stubbs with 2022 Victorian Refugee Award attendees

Victorian Refugee Awards

Now in its second year, the Victorian Refugee Awards recognise and promote the accomplishments of Victorians who arrived in Australia as refugees or asylum seekers who excel through study, work, entrepreneurship or volunteering.

The 14 recipients of the 2022 Awards were honoured before 140 people at the State Library of Victoria in June 2022, to coincide with World Refugee Week. Awards were presented across four categories:

Young Leader, Achievement, Leadership and Business. Each one showcases the talent, resilience and aspirational nature of these Victorians, and the many important ways that they contribute to our State.

Since 2021 recipients were unable to be celebrated in person due to the pandemic, this year's event was cause for even greater cheer as recipients of both year's awards came together at the event to celebrate with friends, family and representatives across government and community.

Supporting the Arts

2021 Multicultural Film Festival and Schools Competition

In partnership with Swinburne University, the VMC presented its third Multicultural Film Festival, an initiative exploring cultural diversity through short-film and showcasing the creative and technical talents of emerging and established filmmakers. Film has a unique capacity to connect audiences to other perspectives, points of view and lived-experiences.

In 2021, we sought creative, original, non-formulaic short films about cultural diversity received 121 strong submissions featuring personal stories of the filmmaker, their friends, family or community members. We were equally impressed with participation from Victorian schools and their films on the difference and distinction inherent in Victoria's cultural diversity. The resilience of all filmmakers was to be commended, given the challenge of producing films during lockdowns.

Five award winning films and five receiving an honorary-mention were celebrated at an online event (due to COVID-19) in August 2021 attended virtually by 142 people. All ten films were screened at Federation Square, on SBS OnDemand, the VMC's YouTube channel and at an online screening event in September 2021 by the City of Casey's Bunjil Place.

A list of all recipients and categories is at Appendix 7.



Still from 'Amar (Moon)', Best Short Fiction film at the 2021 Multicultural Film Festival

Capturing Culture: Multicultural Victoria in Focus

The VMC was proud to showcase multicultural photographers through a photography competition and exhibition supported by the Department of Families Fairness and Housing. The competition attracted 120 submissions and captured the resilience and experiences of multicultural communities. 24 photographs were shortlisted for exhibition at the Immigration Museum for six weeks from June 2022.

Six award winners were announced at the exhibition launch where they received prizes to support their creative endeavours. Their photographs represent the best of entries submitted in four categories, Days of Significance and Cultural Celebration, Faces, Daily Life, and Resilience, as well as Minister's Choice and People's Choice awards.

The photographs contributed to a diverse and representative visual record of a unique time in Victoria's history, including the COVID-19 pandemic. So much so, that ten artists are being invited by Museums Victoria to have their works form part of Victoria's permanent State heritage collection.

A list of all recipients and categories is at Appendix 8.



Capturing Culture Photography Competition exhibition at the Immigration Museum in Melbourne



Winning photo of the 'Faces' category
in the Capturing Culture Photography
Competition, entitled *Dorcas* by
photographer Deshani Berhardt

Online engagement

Conversations with Commissioners Podcast Series

This podcast series brought together VMC and other Victorian commissioners. Three episodes were released for International Women's Day, Youth Week and International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT). Commissioners discussed intersectionality, the strength of advocacy, lived-experiences, perceptions and ways to forward on issues facing both communities.

The project also served as a spin-off of 2021's 'Curious Conversation's lecture series, packaged as an on-demand digital product accessible to listeners at their convenience.

VMConnect

VMConnect is an online engagement platform used by both community and government representatives as a virtual community noticeboard where they can share updates on their programs, events, grants and services, discuss topics and share insights into local activities, challenges, concerns and opportunities.

VMConnect is undergoing a relaunch for 2022-23, to engage more organisations, individuals and government representatives and facilitate greater sharing.

Website

The VMC's website continued to be our central and most comprehensive method of sharing online information about the VMC and its longer-term initiatives, consultative groups, programs and events.

Social Media

The VMC's website continued to be our central and most comprehensive method of sharing online information about the VMC and its longer-term initiatives, consultative groups, programs and events.

The VMC's social media platforms continued to grow in followers and the frequency and quality of material. As at June 2022, we had 23,600 followers across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, 15% more than last year. Our use of these platforms was key to keeping our audience informed and engaged in real-time. We shared important information about health matters, events, award programs, consultation sessions, forums and dates of cultural and religious significance.

The VMC evolved its visual and digital identity, with a more consistent method for informing community, resulting in more engagement across all four platforms. For awards and events, social media was a critical way for us to continue to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our communities. Our posts sharing event photos and videos were always among our most popular.

Weekly Community Updates

The VMC sent weekly community update emails to over 5,000 subscribers, mainly community members and organisations. Subscribers were kept up to date on grant programs, opportunities for committees and boards, consultations and the latest news from the VMC and other government agencies. These continue to be valuable, especially for those not using social media.

Monthly Reflections from the Chairperson

At the end of each month, the VMC Chairperson Viv Nguyen wrote a Monthly Reflection sent to Community Update subscribers. It offered her personal reflections on issues facing multicultural Victoria that month, her activities and often a selection of photographs from community events.

Our Sponsors

The VMC thanks our sponsors in 2021-2022 for their ongoing support for the VMC and its communities.

Major partners

- ▶ Commonwealth Bank
- ▶ Jobs Victoria

Supporting Partners

- ▶ SBS
- ▶ Victorian Electoral Commission
- ▶ AFL Victoria
- ▶ Segmento Italian Magazine

Event partners

- ▶ Parks Victoria
- ▶ Department of Transport
- ▶ Foot Solutions
- ▶ Environmental Protection Authority
- ▶ Australian Multicultural Foundation
- ▶ Intersect Global Partners





Appendix 1

Regional Advisory Council members

Barwon South West

Chair

- ▶ Shankar Kasynathan

Members

- ▶ Carly Jordan
- ▶ Casey O'Brien
- ▶ Catherine Jonathan
- ▶ Danielle Parker
- ▶ Fiona Greig
- ▶ Gyanendra Upreti
- ▶ Joy Leggo
- ▶ Lena Talihmanidis
- ▶ Matin Ghayour Minaie
- ▶ Mukhles Habash
- ▶ Niraj Karanjeet
- ▶ Pirooz Jafari
- ▶ Santosh Raj Pandey
- ▶ Usbi Taujale
- ▶ Wei-Lin Mai
- ▶ Yai Marach

Past Members (2019 – Oct 2021)

- ▶ Emmanuel Akinpelu
- ▶ Moo Thay Wyar Blue
- ▶ Bakulikira Byakweli
- ▶ Prehashini Jeevaretnam
- ▶ Patricia Kimtia
- ▶ Michael Martinez
- ▶ Nelson
- ▶ Mutheinchri Ra
- ▶ Habiba Zafari
- ▶ Helen Nicholls-Stary
- ▶ Moshtagh Heidari

Grampians

Chair

- ▶ Silvia Renda

Members

- ▶ Cecilia Lynn Vence
- ▶ Elangovan Shanmugam
- ▶ Frances Salenga
- ▶ Harisankar Parippaayillam
- ▶ Jessica Trijsburg
- ▶ Karissa Cribbes
- ▶ Meeta Narsi
- ▶ Michael Akindeju
- ▶ Monsour Obadina
- ▶ Parminder Kaur Gugal
- ▶ Sanjay Sharma

Past Members (2019 – Oct 2021)

- ▶ Angela Bijimba
- ▶ Mona Hatwal
- ▶ Irene Hughes
- ▶ Manzoor Mian
- ▶ John Millington
- ▶ Sid Tegal

Loddon Mallee

Chair

- ▶ Nyangak (Lizzy) Kuoth

Members

- ▶ Abhishek Awasthi
- ▶ Akesa Kei
- ▶ Andrea Wolf
- ▶ Ernest Antoine
- ▶ Ginny Tan
- ▶ Kate Steenvoorden
- ▶ Luz Restrepo

- ▶ Miriam Casas
- ▶ Posao (Nido) Taveesupmai
- ▶ Shivali Chatley
- ▶ Joelle Brown
- ▶ Sonia Di Mezza

Past Members (2019 – Oct 2021)

- ▶ Steven Abbott
- ▶ Moustafa Al-Rawi
- ▶ Nay Chee Aung
- ▶ Zahir Azimi
- ▶ Kaye Graves
- ▶ Jemima Lotika
- ▶ Pacifique Ndayisaba
- ▶ Aisha Neelam
- ▶ Joby Sebastian
- ▶ Rosita Vincent
- ▶ Dean Wickham

Hume

Chair

- ▶ Dr Judy Tang

Members

- ▶ Ali Al Battaat
- ▶ Emmanuel Katenda
- ▶ Judgebir Singh
- ▶ Lorna Gillespie
- ▶ Neha Samar
- ▶ Rabia Ali
- ▶ Sabine Smyth
- ▶ Sam Atukorala
- ▶ Seema Abdullah
- ▶ Ugur Avci
- ▶ Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe
- ▶ Haroun Kafi

Past Members (2019 – Oct 2021)

- ▶ Liaqat Ahmadi
- ▶ Fayyaz Akhtar
- ▶ Rhonda Chrisanthou
- ▶ Tony Hardham
- ▶ Paul Irungu
- ▶ Rupinder Kaur
- ▶ Omeni Ndlovu
- ▶ Sara Noori
- ▶ Charles Oguntade
- ▶ Penelope Vine
- ▶ Sarmed Yassin

Gippsland

Chair

- ▶ Dr Mohamed
Mohideen OAM JP

Members

- ▶ Christine Lee
- ▶ Derya Deniz Deminol
- ▶ J Murray Lobley
- ▶ Oluremi Yusuf
- ▶ Tania Ryan
- ▶ Yumna Ahmed
- ▶ Julia Rovey

Past Members (2019 – Oct 2021)

- ▶ Nurul Bhuiyan
- ▶ Farhat Firdous
- ▶ Jenny Horner
- ▶ Soula Kanellopoulos
- ▶ Amina Khatun
- ▶ Jason Lee
- ▶ Remi Nurudeen Ogunsina
- ▶ Ami Pathak
- ▶ Mohammed Shareef

North West Metropolitan

Chair

- ▶ Tarang Chawla

Members

- ▶ Amrita Gurung
- ▶ Ananya Chandel
- ▶ Andy Chan
- ▶ Angelos Kenos
- ▶ Anoushka Jeronimus

- ▶ Aradhna Sharma
- ▶ Ayesha Ali
- ▶ Baker Dawas
- ▶ Beng Hean Loh
- ▶ Bir Bharti
- ▶ Brwa Mohamed
- ▶ Carlisle Richardson
- ▶ Charmaine Hunzwi
- ▶ Dalal Samaan
- ▶ Dalal Sleiman
- ▶ Deng Malith
- ▶ Dhanushan (Dhanu)
Giritharan
- ▶ Donny Doughty
- ▶ Emmanuel Kinara
- ▶ Eylul Top
- ▶ Fabiola Campbell
- ▶ Florence Dato
- ▶ Gary Lee
- ▶ Gurdev Singh Rattan
- ▶ Hang Nguyen
- ▶ Iqbal Hossain
- ▶ Ivan Chan
- ▶ James Bae
- ▶ Jasleen Kaur
- ▶ Jenny Katis
- ▶ Karolina Salanoa
- ▶ Liaqat Ahmadi
- ▶ Linda Liwewe
- ▶ Loudeen Fualautoalasi-Lam
- ▶ Mahadi Reshid
- ▶ Margaret Giudice
- ▶ Marleine Raffoul
- ▶ Molina Asthana
- ▶ Monica Raizada
- ▶ Nayana Bhandari
- ▶ Nelson Pervaz
- ▶ Niru Tripathi
- ▶ Nolwazi Dladla
- ▶ Nusrat Islam
- ▶ Paul Seidl
- ▶ Ponniah
Anandajayasekeram
- ▶ Puneet Gulati
- ▶ Rishi Bhattarai
- ▶ Robert Gruhn
- ▶ Robiel Abraham
- ▶ Roomanna Abdulrahman
- ▶ Ruhee Meghani
- ▶ Sahana Ramesh
- ▶ Sanjay Sethi

- ▶ Sean Ryan
- ▶ Shanthi Antony
- ▶ Shyama Sasidharan
- ▶ Simon Ho
- ▶ Sivaram Ravi
- ▶ Smiley Sandhu
- ▶ Sumit Kane
- ▶ Sunil Abbott
- ▶ Tahira Sheikh
- ▶ TaraGaire
- ▶ Tarekegn Chimdi
- ▶ Teresa De Fazio
- ▶ Thu Thuy Thi Nguyen
- ▶ Tila Guragai
- ▶ Tin Nguyen
- ▶ Upul Hetti Kankanamge
- ▶ Wael Abuelmagd
- ▶ Ram Parsad Gurung
- ▶ Mohammad Nurul Islam
Khan
- ▶ Deepak Pooja Punjabi
- ▶ Varsha Devi Balakrishnan
- ▶ Denis Kinkufi Kayenge
- ▶ Tianyue Sun
- ▶ Geetanjali Gaba

Past Members (2019 – Oct 2021)

- ▶ Mohammad Abdullah
- ▶ Robert Aduer
- ▶ Muhammad Nabeel Akhlaq
- ▶ Doaah Albatat
- ▶ Faten Alhelow
- ▶ Michael Apout
- ▶ Loretta Asquini
- ▶ Ajmal Awan
- ▶ Pullareddy Baddam
- ▶ Aroshi Bandarawatte
- ▶ Ross Barnett
- ▶ Bethel Belay
- ▶ Miguel Belmar
- ▶ Biong
- ▶ Upul Chandana
- ▶ Ritesh Chugh
- ▶ Sherrine Clark
- ▶ Preeti Daga
- ▶ Teresa De Fazio
- ▶ Hamza Dhedhy
- ▶ Laura Di Pasquale
- ▶ Jack Djoric
- ▶ Nikki Efremidis



North West Metropolitan Regional Advisory Council meeting

- ▶ Vinea Fuimaono
- ▶ Tara Gaire
- ▶ Orlando Gibson
- ▶ Batul Fatima Gulani
- ▶ Amer Hagos
- ▶ Hanad Hersi
- ▶ Zeeshan Humayun
- ▶ Louie Josef
- ▶ Salim Kazi
- ▶ Virendra Khatana
- ▶ Raj Khillan
- ▶ Neha Kolape
- ▶ Rohit Kumar
- ▶ Sylvie Lebe
- ▶ Abdul Liban
- ▶ Bol Machar Maduot
- ▶ Yasir Mahmud
- ▶ Dona Malaish
- ▶ Afshan Mantoo
- ▶ Abdullahi Mohamud Ali
- ▶ Peter Mousaferiadis
- ▶ Shiva Nehrir
- ▶ Frank Newah-Jarfoi
- ▶ Anh (Ann) Nguyen
- ▶ Mai Nguyen
- ▶ Jazeer Nijamudeen
- ▶ Diana Noor
- ▶ Deng Lual Nuun
- ▶ Kirsten O'Connor-Smith
- ▶ Abimbola Odetayo
- ▶ Osman Osman
- ▶ Omar Pervaiz
- ▶ David Prasad
- ▶ Fred Psaropoulos
- ▶ Seide Raffoul
- ▶ Monica Sharma Raizada
- ▶ Gurdev Rattan
- ▶ Silvia Renda
- ▶ Yadata Saba
- ▶ Najmo Said
- ▶ Dawood Sammour
- ▶ Charles Sesay
- ▶ Seyed Sherifdeen
- ▶ Muhammad Shuakat
- ▶ Amit Singh
- ▶ Gurninder Singh
- ▶ Olga Stojic
- ▶ Vonivate Tawase
- ▶ Tenenet Taye
- ▶ Kapil Thakkar
- ▶ Thu-Trang Maria Tran
- ▶ Gurpreet Verma
- ▶ Deepak Vinayak OAM
- ▶ Andrew Wang
- ▶ Janetta Ziino
- ▶ Valeska Zuniga-Chondo

Southern Metropolitan

Chair

- ▶ Jennifer Huppert

Members

- ▶ Adwin Town
- ▶ Alexander (Alex) Kats
- ▶ Andy Tran
- ▶ Angela Di Stella
- ▶ Aruna Sampath Hewagama
- ▶ Bassir Qadiri
- ▶ Brijal Parikh
- ▶ Cecilia Rebecca Mphande
- ▶ Daizy Maan
- ▶ Deborah Wiener
- ▶ Deepa Mani
- ▶ Devendra Singh
- ▶ Erdinc Ozyurek
- ▶ Fahim Farooq
- ▶ George Wan
- ▶ Grissel Walmaggia
- ▶ Hafiz Mayar
- ▶ Huiting (Yuki) Wei
- ▶ Ishita Mammen
- ▶ Jackie Blake
- ▶ Jamel Singh
- ▶ James Seow

- ▶ Jeswynn Yogaratnam
- ▶ John Zeleznikow
- ▶ Khaled Taher
- ▶ Lan Diep
- ▶ Manir Zaman
- ▶ Marina Savron
- ▶ Mata Tuerei Mani
- ▶ Nada El-Masri
- ▶ Ngatuaine Hosking
- ▶ Paul Saluni
- ▶ Rakesh Auplish
- ▶ Solange Ardiles
- ▶ Sylvia Coombe
- ▶ Sukhvinder Duggal
- ▶ Theresa Sengaaga Ssali
- ▶ Virosh Perera
- ▶ VISHWA KUMAR
- ▶ Weda Mohseni
- ▶ Workineh Alamo
- ▶ Yakindra Prasad Timilsena
- ▶ Zahra Haydar Big
- ▶ Josephine Khoshaba

Past Members (2019 – Oct 2021)

- ▶ Komi Bana
- ▶ Manisha Beniwal
- ▶ Georgia Benjamin
- ▶ Eunhee Bernstein
- ▶ Roshan Bhandary
- ▶ Edith Maria Campbell
- ▶ Alba Chliakhtine
- ▶ Rumi Commons
- ▶ Cristina De Souza Taylor
- ▶ Puja Dhawan
- ▶ Dabessa Gemelal
- ▶ Selba Gondoza Luka
- ▶ Nizar Hajj
- ▶ Simon Ho
- ▶ Rashi Kapoor
- ▶ Alexander Kats
- ▶ Shashi Kochhar
- ▶ Deng Kor
- ▶ Marek Krol
- ▶ Vishwa Kumar
- ▶ Susan Levkovski
- ▶ Nancy Loomba
- ▶ Girish Madhavan Pillai
- ▶ Sugu Maran
- ▶ Nabila Marzouk
- ▶ Urvi Mehta

- ▶ Ana Lucia Mello
- ▶ Kasuni Mendis
- ▶ Aanchal Meshram
- ▶ Rebecca Mphande
- ▶ Phoebe Mwanza
- ▶ Suriakumarie Naidoo
- ▶ Marlo Newton
- ▶ Holger Nord
- ▶ Brian Oates
- ▶ Yogi Patel
- ▶ Qiujing Pu
- ▶ Angela Ristuccia-Cafarella
- ▶ Gangotri Roy
- ▶ Reasmey Sab
- ▶ Swathi Shanmukhasundaram
- ▶ Jamel Kaur Singh
- ▶ Anthony Siliato Sofe
- ▶ Suwarsih Nika
- ▶ Shaji Varghese
- ▶ Huiting Wei
- ▶ Debbie Wiener
- ▶ Helen Alexis
- ▶ Harriet Xavier
- ▶ Jasbir Singh Suropada

Eastern Metropolitan

Chair

- ▶ Bill Papastergiadis OAM

Members

- ▶ Adolph Yang
- ▶ Anuradha Krishnan
- ▶ Christine Teo
- ▶ Deepak Joshi
- ▶ Donna Askew
- ▶ Ebrahim Shayan
- ▶ Ensieh Anjedani
- ▶ Hong Kin (Ken) Pang
- ▶ Imptiaz Mohamed
- ▶ June Anderson
- ▶ Marie Gina Etienne
- ▶ Nadesan Sundarsen
- ▶ Odia Ukoko
- ▶ Oluwatoyin Jummy
- ▶ Philip Tan
- ▶ Qiujing Pu
- ▶ Raju Adhikari
- ▶ Ramaseshan [Bala] Balachandran

- ▶ Roger Mingjie Li
- ▶ Rufina Chan
- ▶ Saarah Ozeer
- ▶ Sabaratnam Sundaramoorthy
- ▶ Saleha Singh
- ▶ Santi Whiteside
- ▶ Sawm Suante
- ▶ Siva Sivagnanam
- ▶ Stephane Shepherd
- ▶ Stephen Chun Weng Yin
- ▶ Vahideh Eisaei
- ▶ Vikrant Kishore
- ▶ Wilfred Wang
- ▶ Xiaoyi Wang
- ▶ Yuqing Feng

Past Members (2019 – Oct 2021)

- ▶ Gergis Ayoub
- ▶ Bala Balachandran
- ▶ Suresh Bendone Ramachandaiah
- ▶ Michelle Brewty
- ▶ Rana Ebrahimi
- ▶ Helen Forbes-Mewett
- ▶ Cherie Fung
- ▶ Bernadette Goulding
- ▶ Mohit Gupta
- ▶ Cindy He
- ▶ Roger Li
- ▶ Mithun Nambiar
- ▶ Barry Nguyen
- ▶ Danny Ong
- ▶ Vicky Paradisis
- ▶ Eunjin Park
- ▶ Simon Sang Hre
- ▶ Kiran Shah
- ▶ Eva Simo
- ▶ Tina Stathopoulos
- ▶ Viji Tangirala
- ▶ James Thangman
- ▶ Adwin Town
- ▶ Pritida Vinod
- ▶ Jane Wonu Ogbah

Appendix 2

Multifaith Advisory Group members

- ▶ All Nations Presbyterian Church of Australia Mulgrave
- ▶ AMAFHH Federation - Shi'a Organisation
- ▶ Australian Intercultural Society
- ▶ Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights
- ▶ Anglican Diocese of Melbourne
- ▶ Baha'i Community of Victoria
- ▶ Board of Imams Victoria
- ▶ Buddhist Council of Victoria
- ▶ Catholic Social Services Victoria
- ▶ Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Melbourne
- ▶ Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria
- ▶ Faith Communities Council of Victoria
- ▶ Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia
- ▶ Hindu Council of Australia (Vic)
- ▶ Hindu Society of Victoria
- ▶ Islamic Council of Victoria
- ▶ Jewish Care
- ▶ Jewish Community Council of Victoria
- ▶ Jumbunna Episcopate Anglican Diocese of Melbourne
- ▶ Lutheran Church of Australia
- ▶ National Council of Churches in Australia
- ▶ Presbyterian Church of Victoria
- ▶ Rabbinical Council of Victoria
- ▶ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
- ▶ Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia, Australian and New Zealand Diocese
- ▶ Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria
- ▶ The Interfaith Centre of Melbourne
- ▶ The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
- ▶ Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
- ▶ Victorian Council of Churches
- ▶ Victorian Multicultural Commission



2021 Multifaith Advisory Group members

Appendix 3

Community Support Fund recipients

| Organisation | Project Name | Description | Funded Amount (Exc. GST) |
|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| Nepalese Association of Victoria | 25th Anniversary | Celebration of 25 years of their official incorporation - specifically the publication. | 10,000 |
| VietSpeak | VietSpeak and Goodstart Braybrook Preschool Vietnamese Bilingual Program | To start a preschool bilingual education program addressing the loss of Australia's only Vietnamese bilingual program at Footscray Primary School. | 10,000 |
| Nelson Mandela Day Commemorative Committee | Memorial Service for Desmond Tutu | A service for the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu. | 2,000 |
| Australian Women Centre for Human Rights | Intergenerational Women's Iftar | To celebrate at a women's only Iftar dinner. | 10,000 |
| Initiative for Change | Life Matters Workshop | The participation of four new and emerging community members at Initiatives of Change workshops on Identity, Creating Community and Changemaking. | 1,000 |
| Abiem Community in Victoria Inc | Supporting Children's Mental Health | Events to help parents and carers in the emerging Sudanese community support their children's mental health during a pandemic. | 8,000 |
| Victorian-Afghan Youth Association | Afghan-Australian Youth Support | Guiding Afghan Australian youth experiencing disengagement through activities that redirect and build their capacity towards education. | 10,000 |
| Burmese Welfare Association of Victoria | Community Welfare and Capacity Building | Building the capacity of this new, unique social services organisation that it brings together eight ethnic cultural groups within the broader Burmese community. | 8,000 |
| Migrant Women in Business | Migrant Women in Business in 2022 Maldon Winter Festival | Creating opportunities for 20 women who arrived as migrants or refugees and have micro businesses to display their work. They live in Melbourne's North and West suburbs, Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Castlemaine. | 6,000 |
| Centre of Advancing Women | Eid Al-Fitr, celebration of recovery | Supporting vulnerable East African and non-Muslim women in regional and metro Melbourne to celebrate Eid Al-Fitr after over a year of struggle and online COVID activities. For some, this was their first time in Melbourne. | 5,000 |
| Foster & District Historical Society | Multicultural Portrait Gallery. | Creating a permanent photographic portrait gallery in their history museum to reflect the area's rapidly increasing cultural diversity. | 5,000 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|------------------|
| Help Himalayan Youth Foundation | Faith and Youth: Understanding culture and faith connection | Supporting five to seven refugee youth groups through a leadership program. Three major activities led by refugee youth held within 15 days of Navaratri (Durga Puja) and Dashain. | 8,000 |
| Victorian Cultural Youth Association Inc | Strengthening Community - New Arrivals and Youth Support | Supporting new arrivals (under 20 years) focussing on blue collar workers who've lost jobs or find it difficult to find jobs. Providing specific information by culturally relevant means on topics such as COVID-19 and Australia's education system. | 7,000 |
| Melbourne Mizo Association | Melbourne Mizo Association Youth Capacity Building | Supporting greater diversity in youth representation from this smaller and newer ethnic group within the Burmese community, that may not be reflected in the ABS Census or national datasets. | 8,500 |
| Afghan Australian Initiative Inc. | Getting Ready for Your P | Helping 20 Afghan women/girls to get their P plates to start driving and get jobs in support of their employment and workforce shortage. | 6,000 |
| St Kilda Hebrew Congregation | Multicultural Shabbat and Kiddish | An intercultural effort to generate bridge building, religious dialogue and understanding by attending a special Shabbat (sabbath - Saturday) service and kiddish (post service brunch). | 1,500 |
| Not One More Niki, Inc | Family Violence Outreach Program | Advocating for awareness on the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on victim-survivors, community leadership and support of the State government's COVID-19 response and recovery. Providing adequate information, materials and direct support to victim-survivors to ensure they live safely and free from harm. | 10,000 |
| Refugee Communities Association of Australia Inc | Refugee Engagement Forum | Addresses problems created by the pandemic in refugee communities, delivered to three different Melbourne regions. Aims to attract 1000 people from over 10 different refugee communities. | 10,000 |
| Jieng Community Association of Victoria Inc | Community Social Recovery Event | Aims to bring back the community and social cohesion that was impeded by the pandemic. | 6,000 |
| Multicultural Women Victoria Inc | Ageing and Living Well Forum | The United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia seniors in partnership with Multicultural Women Victoria will organise an interactive Forum in the City of Monash for older residents and families. | 8,500 |
| ABRISA - Brazilian Association | Lifetime Connections and Wellbeing (Pilot) | In partnership with the Centro de Atendimento Psicológico Austrália and with a strong clinical governance, this project implements a pilot program addressing the isolation issues exacerbated by COVID-19 and the challenges of older adults in the Brazilian community. | 9,500 |
| Total | | | \$150,000 |

Appendix 4

2022 Victorian Refugee Award Recipients

Achievement Award

- ▶ Akuch Kuol Anyieth
- ▶ Andrew Gai
- ▶ Daniel Malbasa
- ▶ Sarmed Yassin

Leadership Award

- ▶ Anaab Roobie
- ▶ Gulghotai Bezhan
- ▶ Hang Vo
- ▶ Homaira Mershed

Business Award

- ▶ HOPE Co-Op
- ▶ SisterWorks
- ▶ Wellsprings for Women

Young Leader Award

- ▶ Altaf Hussein
- ▶ Hsa Blue Htoo Ko
- ▶ Ma Aye Paw



Appendix 5

2021 Multicultural Awards for Excellence Recipients

Acknowledgement of Service to the Victorian Multicultural Community (former Commissioners)

- ▶ Tina Hosseini
- ▶ Khayshie Tilak Ramesh
- ▶ Walter Rapoport
- ▶ Mohammed Yassin
- ▶ Rosaria Zarro
- ▶ David Nyuol Vincent

Community Response and Recovery Award

Winners

- ▶ Marwo Mohammed Salat
- ▶ AfriAus iLEAC INC & LUVPACKS partners
- ▶ West Welcome Wagon Inc

Highly Commended

- ▶ Moustafa Fahour OAM
- ▶ Tenants Victoria

Premier's Award for Community Harmony

- ▶ Sikh Volunteers Australia

Refugee Advocacy Award

Winner

- ▶ Natalija Nesvadba

Highly Commended

- ▶ Khalil Ali Khalil

Sports Award

Winner

- ▶ Chris Hatzoglou, Sunshine Heights Cricket Club

Highly Commended

- ▶ Sam Atukorala

Youth Leadership Award

- ▶ Shenei Meisi Penaia

Arts Award

Winner

- ▶ SalamFest Inc.

Highly Commended

- ▶ Cross Encounters
- ▶ Kimba Thompson Blak Dot Gallery

Business Award

Winners

- ▶ Liliana Bravo Quiroz – Casa Bonita Lifestyle
- ▶ Australian Multicultural Community Services

Highly Commended

- ▶ Think HQ
- ▶ AGAPI Care Inc.

Emergency Services Award

- ▶ Foodbank Victoria

Health Award

Winner

- ▶ Cabrini Outreach – Asylum Seeker and Refugee Health

Highly Commended

- ▶ The Harmony Study Team

Justice Award

Winner

- ▶ South-East Monash Legal Service

Highly Commended

- ▶ Sundeep Aulakh

Local Government Award

Winner

- ▶ Major Road Projects Victoria and Netflow

Highly Commended

- ▶ City of Whittlesea – International Student Wellbeing Hub Project

Community Innovation Award

Winners

- ▶ Latin Stories Australia
- ▶ Deakin Centre for Refugee Employment, Advocacy, Training and Education (CREATE)
- ▶ Western Bulldogs Community Foundation

Highly Commended

- ▶ AMES Australia/Parks Victoria
- ▶ African Focus, St Paul's African House

Media Award

Winner

- ▶ Channel 31 Melbourne

Highly Commended

- ▶ Neelima Choahan
- ▶ Radio Haanji

Education Awards

Winner – Early Childhood Education

- ▶ Bridge Road Kindergarten

Highly Commended – Early Childhood Education

- ▶ Foundation House - Kinder to School Transition Project

Winner – School Education

- ▶ Hampton Park Primary School

Highly Commended – School Education

- ▶ Victorian School of Languages – South-East

Winner – Pre-accredited community-based Education and Training

- ▶ Wellsprings for Women - Shipra Plander

Winner – Vocational Education and Training Accredited Education & Training

- ▶ Bendigo Kangan Institute

Highly Commended – Vocational Education and Training Accredited Education & Training

- ▶ RMIT & The Social Studio

Police Awards

Winners – Police Annual Multicultural Award

- ▶ Inspector Jason Forster
- ▶ Sergeant Mark Stephens

Winner – Multicultural Media Award

- ▶ Detective Senior Constable Kenny Lin

Winner – Police Community Exemplary Award

- ▶ Dandenong Primary School

Winners – Protective Service Officer Multicultural Award

- ▶ Senior Protective Service Officer Pasko Zupan
- ▶ Protective Service Officer Senior Sergeant Serge Ruoppolo

Appendix 6

2022 Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll Inductees

- ▶ Azadeh Doosti
- ▶ Prof. Bianca Brijnath
- ▶ Bosede Adetifa
- ▶ Christina Chia
- ▶ Dr. Christos Fifis
- ▶ Donald Betts
- ▶ Elias Diacolabrianos
- ▶ Emily Unity
- ▶ Fartun Farah
- ▶ Guosheng Yang Chen
- ▶ Dr. Harpreet Singh Kandra
- ▶ Hemant Ganesh Gokhale
- ▶ James Henry
- ▶ Jaya Manchikanti
- ▶ June Anderson
- ▶ Maha Htoo Sein
- ▶ May Red Zafra
- ▶ Melvin Mata
- ▶ Dr. Mohajer Hameed
- ▶ Myint Myint Wai
- ▶ Nasteha Mohamud
- ▶ Nurcihan Ozturk
- ▶ Paul Singh Khumra
- ▶ Rosita Vincent
- ▶ Ruel de Leon
- ▶ Sam Atukorala
- ▶ Savindhi Perera-Jainudeen
- ▶ Sherlita Teope Hart
- ▶ Tammy Iliou

Appendix 7

2021 Multicultural Film Festival Award Recipients

Best Short Non-Fiction Film

Winner

I want to make a film about women

- ▶ Submitted and produced by Richard James Allen
- ▶ Written and directed by Karen Pearlman

Honourable mention

My Dad Spiro

- ▶ Written by Diamando May and J.G Alexander
- ▶ Directed by Diamando May
- ▶ Produced by Paraskevas Mourikis

Honourable mention

No More Spectators

- ▶ Written and directed by Adam McKay
- ▶ Produced by Adam McKay, Aron Clarke and Renai Fejo

Honourable mention

Ruby

- ▶ Written, directed and produced by Sarah Menegan

Best Short Fiction Film

Winner

Amar (Moon)

- ▶ Submitted by Françoise Roemen
- ▶ Written and directed by Fatima Mawas
- ▶ Produced by Ade Djajamihardja, Leanne Tonkes, Mitu Bhowmick Lange, Kate Stephens, Leona Hameed

Honourable mention

Mother Tongue

- ▶ Written and directed by Jessica Li
- ▶ Produced by Samantha Kwan and Heshi Wijerathna

Best Open Category Film

Winner

Love & Revolution

- ▶ Written by Sara Saleh and Candy Royalle
- ▶ Directed and produced by Jacqui North.

Honourable mention

For Becky

- ▶ Directed and produced by Chido Mwat

Best Emerging Filmmaker

Winner

Delivery – the people, the story

- ▶ Submitted and directed by Xinze Tian
- ▶ Produced by Martin Potter

Honourable mention

Don't Forget Us

- ▶ Submitted and directed by Sarah Ghassali
- ▶ Written by Gaia Mitting
- ▶ Produced by Natasha Koutoufides
- ▶

Schools Competition winners:

Prep to Grade 3

My Family's Bosnian Heritage and Culture

- ▶ Selma Kojic, Grade 2
Al-Taqwa College
Truganina

Grade 4 to Grade 6

Double Double Culture

- ▶ Hope Class, Grade 5 and 6,
Sacred Heart Primary
School, Fitzroy

Year 7 to Year 10

The Feast

- ▶ Year 7 to 10 students, Hume
Central Secondary College
Broadmeadows

Appendix 8

Capturing Culture Photography Competition

Faces Category Award winner

'Dorcas' by Deshani Berhardt

Resilience Category Award winner

'Women of Panaruru Community Association in Victoria' by Nanchok Santino Chol

Days of significance and cultural celebration Category Award winner

'Buddha Festival', (Federation Square)
by Clement Chua

Daily Life Category Award winner

'Homage' by Ammar Yonis

Minister's Choice Award winner

'The Love You Give' by Alejandra Olavarria

People's Choice Category Award winner

'Kaitaki' by Irihipeti Waretini



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Annual report 2021–2022

The 2021–2022 Annual Report covers the core work of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) and its achievements within the context of its objectives and functions, as outlined in the *Multicultural Victoria Act 2011*.

The information provided in this report was accurate as of 30 June 2022.

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