

Victorian Budget 2020-21

Strengthening Our Diverse Community

The Hon. Ros Spence MP

Minister for Multicultural Affairs

3 December 2020



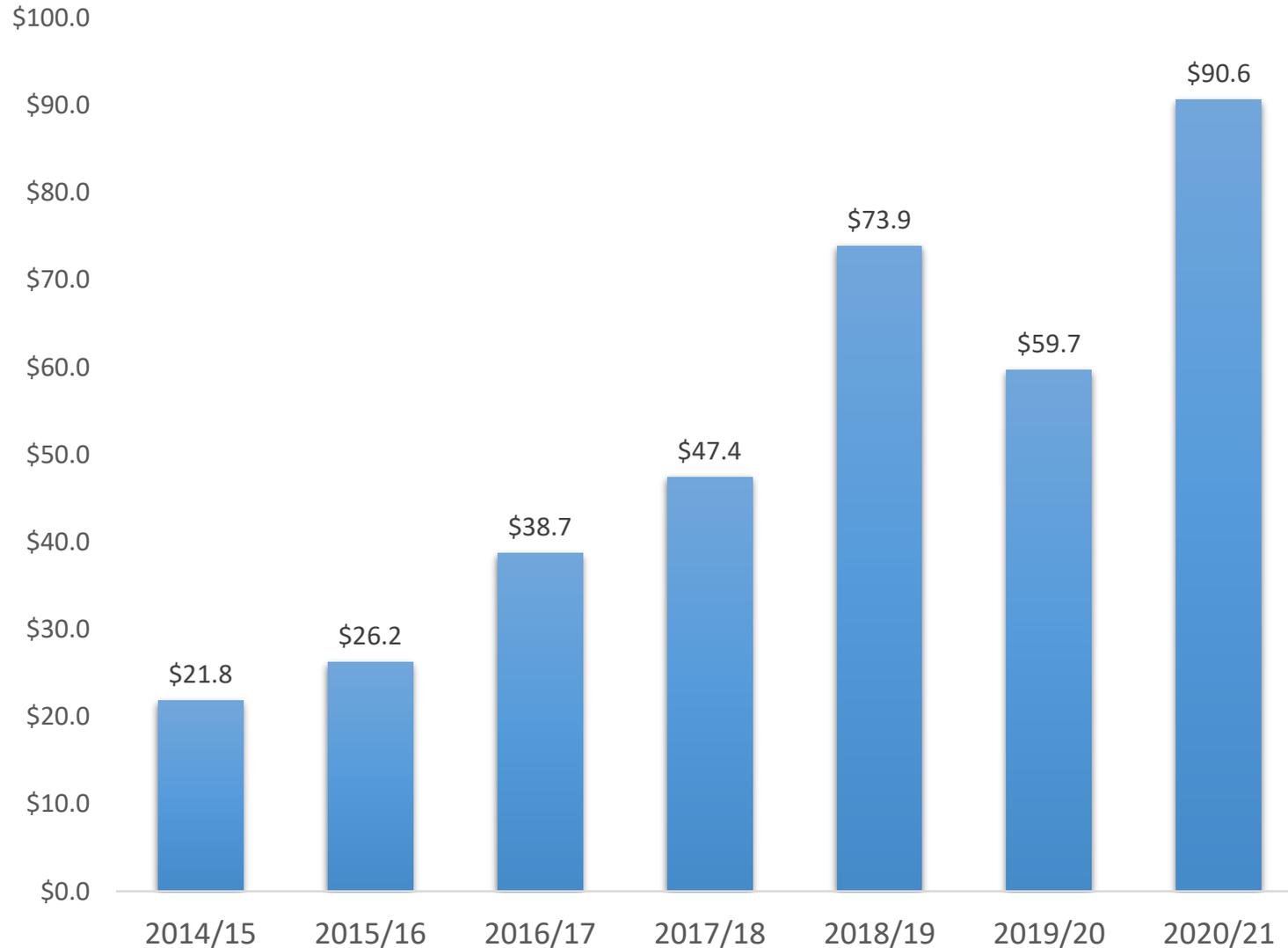
The Multicultural Affairs portfolio



- Building inclusive communities and promoting social cohesion
- Addressing racism and discrimination
- Promoting positive settlement for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
- Improving access to government services
- Ensuring government programs, services and policies are inclusive of all Victorians
- Providing grants to celebrate culture and faith and to support multicultural community organisations



Multicultural Affairs Investment (\$millions)



The Victorian Government is committed to investing in our culturally and linguistically diverse communities

2019/20 highlights



Enabling Victoria's diverse communities

Supporting **Victorian African Communities Action Plan** initiatives including homework clubs, School Community Liaison Officers, the African Communities Board and Governance Program and the Community Innovation grant program.

Supporting asylum seekers, refugees and established culturally diverse communities via the Strategic Partnerships Program.

Committing **\$1.96 million to combat racism and strengthen social cohesion.**

Victorian Multicultural Commission supports and engages with multicultural communities. **Vivienne Nguyen** appointed as Chair in September 2019.

Multicultural Awards for Excellence held at Government House to recognise the important contributions of community leaders and organisations.

\$2.2 million to more than 850 festivals and events through the **Multicultural Festivals and Events program**, including significant **celebrations** for the Sikh and Hindu faith communities.

\$3.5 million to upgrade 36 community facilities through community infrastructure grants.

Supporting Victoria's multicultural communities during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

\$25.6 million over two years to **support multicultural communities** through the establishment of a **CALD Communities Taskforce**.

Since August 2020, key achievements of the Taskforce include:

- **\$5.4 million** to **162 multicultural organisations** to support their communities during the pandemic through emergency relief to **63,488 individuals and/or 8,201 families** or households
- delivering targeted communications to the **1.5 million Victorians** who speak a language other than English
- financial support and Public Liability Insurance to nearly **900 multicultural seniors' organisations**.

Bendigo Foodshare, funded by the CALD Communities Taskforce, delivers culturally appropriate food relief for vulnerable and at-risk people and families during the pandemic.

Since the project commenced, more than 15,600 kg of food delivered to more than 250 vulnerable families; of which more than 500 kg was distributed to CALD families supported by Taskforce funding.

In one instance, Bendigo Foodshare received a call for help from a group of Indonesian workers. Partnering with the Salvation Army, Bendigo Foodshare delivered fresh fruit and vegetables and dry goods to the workers that afternoon and linked them to local agencies for further support.



2020/21 State Budget

The Multicultural Affairs Budget for 2020/21 is **\$90.6 million**.

- **\$34.22 million** over two years to **support greater economic participation by Victoria's multicultural communities**, and recovery from the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
 - **\$21 million** for specific **multicultural infrastructure projects**
 - **\$8.27 million** to support people to access employment through the **Community Employment Connectors program**
 - **\$1.24 million** for **economic and commercial supports for Victoria's African communities**, including grants to support emerging innovation and enterprise
- **\$20.4 million** to the Multicultural Affairs COVID-19 Response Package.
- **\$3 million** to economic stimulus to **multicultural media organisations**.
- **\$2.22 million** to support **improved settlement outcomes**.
- **\$1.44 million** to establish an **Anti-Racism Taskforce and Strategy**.
- **\$1.421 million** to support the continued operation of the **Migrant Workers Centre**, and the **Multicultural Safety Ambassadors Program**





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