

## Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the 2016-17 PAEC Budget Estimates Hearings

### Multicultural Affairs Portfolio

1. In relation to the LGBTI grants program, please provide further information on how many applications have been received and if applications are closed.:

*(Page 4 of the Multicultural Affairs portfolio transcript)*

#### Response

Applications for the LGBTI Grants Program closed 28 May 2016. 23 applications were received and are currently under assessment.

2. Regarding the Victorian Multicultural Commission, please provide examples on what has been funded through the grants processes.

*(Page 6 of the Multicultural Affairs portfolio transcript)*

#### Response

The following organisations have received funding from the Community Support Fund:

Name of Organisation	Event / Activity
Bendigo Chinese Association	Chinese New Year Festival
Dharma Drum Mountain Bhuddist Association	Youth Empowerment Workshop
Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry	HACCI Annual Excellence Awards and Gala 2015
Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV)	Ramadan Iftar at ICV Mosque
AMES	Heartlands Art Prize
Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry	International Women's Day forum 2016
Resilient Aspiring Women (RAW)	International Women's Day 2016
Speak Greek in March Inc	Speak Greek in March
African Day Australia Inc	African Australian Cultural Diversity Youth Showcase
Afghan Australia Philanthropic Association	Youth engagement program
Organisation of Korea Festival Inc	Korea Week Festival 2016
Japan Club of Victoria	Japan Festival 2016
Africa Day Australia inc	Africa's Got talent 2016

African Australian Welfare Bureau	Mental health first aid for African communities in Victoria
Banda Musicale Italiana	45th anniversary community concert "Sinfonia Italiana"
South Sudanese Australian Basketball Association	National classic basketball tournament
Netherlands Chamber of Commerce Australia	2016 TEDxBinnenhof Viewing Party
The Central Pontian Association of Melbourne and Victoria "Pontiaki Estia"	40th anniversary celebrations

3. Please provide further information on why there has been a decrease in consultations with culturally and linguistically diverse communities from 2014-15 to 2015-16 despite population growth and increased funding.

*(Page 7 of the Multicultural Affairs portfolio transcript)*

### **Response**

The Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) holds Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meetings as well as targeted community consultations each year, as per the *Multicultural Victoria Act 2011*.

Each year, 24 RAC meetings are held across Victoria, including 15 in rural and remote localities. Currently the VMC is holding the final round of RAC meetings for FY2015-16, with all 24 scheduled for completion by 16 June 2016.

With the appointment of the new Chairperson, Ms Helen Kapalos, in August 2015 the VMC has shifted its consultation model from open fora to smaller scale, targeted roundtables or group discussions. This has resulted in an increase in the level of engagement of community members who have not previously spoken through the open fora model, due to cultural and religious constraints.

In the current financial year, the VMC has hosted 10 roundtables and fora for previously unreached individuals, including African youth, Muslim youth and South Sudanese women. Additionally, the VMC has participated in extensive consultations hosted by key stakeholders to discuss whole-of-community issues. These included multiple consultations in regional areas, for example in Bendigo, and community-specific discussions, for example discussions with Turkish Muslim community leaders.

It should also be noted that the number of consultations recorded through this measure does not include the extensive number of individual meetings with specific organisations and leaders from Victoria's culturally diverse communities undertaken by the Chairperson and Commissioner.

4. Please provide further details on the programs funded through the 'Settlement and Asylum Seeker Support' initiative.

*(Page 8 of the Multicultural Affairs portfolio transcript)*

#### **Response**

The \$4.5 million per annum over four years allocated to the Multicultural Affairs portfolio in the 2016-17 budget will support a coordinated, integrated and early intervention approach to the settlement of refugees and asylum seekers across Victoria. The funds will:

- Enhance refugee and asylum seeker capacity, strengthen participation, support youth engagement and improve settlement outcomes through additional funding for the Capacity Building and Participation Program;
- Engage Strategic Coordinators across Victoria to better plan and coordinate place based settlement and support services for refugee and asylum seeker communities; and
- Implement new strategic initiatives to improve services and support for refugees and asylum seekers in a range of areas including: early childhood and participation in grass roots sports, arts and culture.

5. Please provide further information about how culturally diverse communities in regional Victoria can thrive as a consequence of the multilateral grants program.

*(Pages 9-10 of the Multicultural Affairs portfolio transcript)*

#### **Response**

During 2015-16 fifteen grants programs have been consolidated and streamlined into four new programs for allocation from 2016-17:

- Capacity Building and Participation;
- Community Harmony;
- Multicultural Festivals and Events; and
- Community Infrastructure and Cultural Precincts.

The guidelines for each of the new grants programs specifically prioritised regional communities as well as women, young people, LGBTI communities and new and emerging communities including refugees and asylum seekers. In some cases multi-year funding to organisations will be allocated, providing more certainty for organisations in regional areas.