

MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Written Questions on Notice provided by Richard Riordan MP

BP3 PG 295

1. In the 2018/19 Budget BP3 PG299, \$84.6 million was allocated for “Multicultural affairs policy and programs”. In the 2019/20 Budget BP3 PG295, this is shown as \$77.7 million, decreasing to \$59.2 million in 2019/20.

Why has the multicultural affairs budget been cut by \$25.4million or 30%?

RESPONSE

The 2019/20 Budget allocates \$28 million of funding to the Multicultural Affairs portfolio, bringing the total 2019/20 output cost to \$59.2 million. This is an increase in budget allocation for the portfolio of \$34.8 million since 2014/15.

The variation in the portfolio’s output target between 2018/19 and 2019/20 is attributable to a range of factors, including: (i) a one-off funding increase to the Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund in 2018-19; (ii) estimated carry-over from 2017-18 that was not required; (iii) the reallocation of some output funding to the correct output class; (iv) variations in program funding year-on-year; and (v) a machinery of government change that resulted in the transfer of the Community Resilience Unit and associated budget for countering violent extremism to the Department of Justice and Community Safety from 1 January 2019.

BP3 PG 308

2. BP3 PG308 shows that despite the target for the performance measure for “Attendance at Cultural Diversity Week flagship event, Victoria’s Multicultural Festival” being 50,000 attendees, the 2017/18 actual figures show only 35,000 attendees.

Given the 2019/20 target is 55,000 attendees, how do you plan to get a 57 per cent increase in attendees (with an overall reduction in funding)?

RESPONSE

In 2018, Victoria’s Multicultural Festival took place at Federation Square on Saturday 24 March and was attended by an estimated 35,000 people. The attendance rate was likely impacted by heavy rainfall, with 13mm of rainfall recorded in the Melbourne metropolitan area on that day.

The attendance target for 2019/20 of 55,000 builds on the 2019 attendance of 50,000 and acknowledges the potential to further increase attendance at the event.

3. Can you please outline the level of funding provided to the Victorian Multicultural Commission for the 2019/20 year? How does this compare from the previous year?

RESPONSE

The 2019/20 budget for the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) is being developed and will be finalised following the appointment of the Chairperson, expected to occur August 2019.

The 2019/20 budget will consider the funds needed to enable the VMC to perform its statutory functions and to continue to deliver state significant events such as Cultural Diversity Week (CDW). In 2018/19, funds were made available to the VMC by DPC to perform its functions and deliver events such as CDW.