



2012–13

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
2012–13 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

WEDNESDAY 16 MAY 2012
3.30 - 4.30PM

MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS AND CITIZENSHIP

Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship

DEPARTMENT OF
PREMIER AND CABINET





Victoria's Multicultural Diversity

- One of Victoria's defining features & greatest strengths
 - Nearly 25% of Victorians are born overseas
 - originating from more than 200 countries
 - Approximately 45% of Victorians were either born overseas or have one parent who was born overseas
 - 20% of Victorians speak a language other than English at home
 - more than 200 languages and dialects
 - Victorians follow more than 120 faiths
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The Government's Commitment to Multicultural Affairs

- Ongoing commitment to the success of multiculturalism & promoting social cohesion
 - Strengthening the independence and powers of the VMC
 - Enshrining citizenship in the *Multicultural Victoria Act 2011*
 - Supporting a whole-of-government approach to multicultural affairs
 - Delivering more programs and community initiatives
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Whole-of-Government Approach

- Our approach & vision:
 - promotes unity through diversity;
 - raises awareness of individual rights and responsibilities among Victorians;
 - provides the community with world-class services in a culturally sensitive and appropriate manner; and
 - capitalises on the economic opportunities and benefits associated with our multicultural diversity.
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Citizenship

- Citizenship is the foundation of a cohesive society that is:
 - strong
 - unified
 - inclusive
 - harmonious
 - Productive

 - Citizenship is based on the equal rights and responsibilities of all Victorians and is composed of:
 - shared values
 - civic participation
 - social cohesion
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Achievements in 2011-12

- **The *Multicultural Victoria Act 2011***
 - Came into effect on 1 September 2011
 - **Strengthening VMC independence**
 - Appointment of new VMC Commissioners
 - Establishment of 8 Regional Advisory Councils across Victoria
 - **Establishment of the Settlement Coordination Unit**
 - Coordination across whole of Victorian government and liaison with Commonwealth
 - Rights & Responsibilities seminar program for newly arrived refugees and migrants
 - African Community Leadership Program
 - **Unity Through Partnerships grants program**
 - Supporting communities coming together
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Achievements in 2011-12 cont.

- **Cultural Precincts and Community Infrastructure**
 - Securing longevity of important cultural community assets
 - South Asian Building Fund
 - Antipodes Centre for Greek Culture, Heritage and Language - \$2 million
 - **Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence**
 - New categories to honour community's contribution
 - Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll
 - Victorian Multicultural Business Award
 - **Multicultural Language Services Program**
 - Strategies to improve delivery of language services and increase accredited interpreters - \$2 million
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Achievements in 2011-12 cont.

- Community Grants Program - \$5.6m per annum
 - Supporting and strengthening local communities
 - Enhancing Cultural Precincts and Community Infrastructure - \$3m per annum
 - Promoting Multifaith and Multicultural Harmony- \$2m per annum
 - Cultural Diversity Week
 - Multifaith / Interfaith Initiatives
 - Promoting whole-of-government programs and initiatives
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2012-13 Budget Initiatives

- Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Portfolio
 - increased to \$21.4 million in 2012-13
 - Refugee Support Program – \$5.2million over 4 years
 - VMC - additional \$400,000 over 4 years
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