

All of Us re-affirms the Victorian Government's commitment to multiculturalism and sets out how we can make the most of the opportunities it brings to advance our society as a whole.

Ministers' Message



Hon John Brumby MP
Premier of Victoria,
Minister for Multicultural Affairs



James Merlino MP
Minister Assisting the Premier
on Multicultural Affairs

Victoria is a multicultural success story – a grand success story that defines all of us!

With people from more than 200 nations, speaking more than 200 languages and dialects and following more than 120 faiths, we are one of the world's great multicultural societies.

We acknowledge Indigenous Victorians as the first Australians and their unique and irreplaceable contribution to the identity and wellbeing of our state. We also acknowledge that successive waves of immigrants and refugees have enriched us socially, underpinned our economic development and established our reputation as one of the most welcoming places in the world.

This well-earned reputation is a credit to all Victorians, past and present, who have embraced and celebrated the benefits arising from our diversity from the arts to business, science to agriculture, and academia to public service.

As a government, we have worked to build on our proud history as a successful multicultural state.

- We have passed legislation and implemented policies that engender community respect and cohesion as well as offering protection from discrimination and vilification.
- We have made supporting our successful multiculturalism a priority, committing resources to ensure that each and every one of us has the opportunity to attain our full potential as well as constructively contributing to our community.

While respecting our differences is necessary in an open, inclusive and vibrant society, it is also vital to acknowledge that we have much in common. We have much to gain, individually and collectively, by working together to build a positive and progressive future that enhances our state as a great place in which to live, work, invest and raise a family.

As a state, we will all gain by ensuring that each individual is able to access opportunities and participate in social, cultural, economic and political life.

At the same time, every individual must recognise that we all have a responsibility to abide by Victoria's laws and respect the democratic processes under which those laws are made.

The Victorian Government's landmark *Multicultural Victoria Act 2004* describes Victoria as a 'united community with shared laws, values, aspirations and responsibilities' in which people have the freedom to 'preserve and express their cultural heritage'.

Our approach to multiculturalism is also underpinned by our commitment to the universal application of human rights, as demonstrated by the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

All of Us re-affirms the Victorian Government's commitment to multiculturalism and sets out how we can make the most of the opportunities it brings to advance our society as a whole.

The policy was developed after extensive community consultation and is built on a strong foundation of partnerships, harmonious community relations, advocacy and supportive programs.

All of Us demonstrates the ways in which we can achieve a socially progressive society that reaps the real social, cultural and economic benefits that are inherent within our multicultural Victoria.

On behalf of the Victorian Government, we commend this policy to all Victorians and re-iterate our commitment to support cultural, linguistic and religious diversity in this great state of ours.

Hon John Brumby MP
Premier of Victoria, Minister for Multicultural Affairs

James Merlino MP
Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs



Channa Cheng, Cambodia