

# cultural diversity week



## Teachers' Resource Kit



## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Children set an example for all of us in the way they embrace life without fear and with limitless imagination.

With more than one million children in Victoria, they are not only an important part of our community, they are the guardians of our future.

Cultural diversity is second nature to children – they eat, learn and play in one of the most successful multicultural societies in the world. And we all have a collective responsibility to harness their potential and encourage them to help build and support a society in which everyone feels they belong.

With this in mind, I am very pleased to present the Victorian Multicultural Commission's Teachers' Resource Kit for Cultural Diversity Week 2016.

In this kit you will find information about Cultural Diversity Week - Victoria's premier multicultural celebration - facts and figures about our diversity and information about this year's exciting Primary School Art Competition.

The art competition is designed to engage young Victorians and help them understand and embrace our cultural, linguistic and religious diversity.

The theme for this year's competition is 'Harmonies from around the world' which reflects the wonderful mix of cultures found in our collective heritage and how this is expressed through music.

I hope you find the Teachers' Resource Kit to be a useful educational tool and a source of inspiration for bringing Victoria's amazing diversity to life in the classroom.

Helen Kapalos  
Chairperson  
Victorian Multicultural Commission



Almost half of all Victorians were either born overseas or have at least one parent who was born overseas.

We speak more than 260 languages and dialects and follow around 135 faiths and religions.

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK

Victoria is home to many different people who each bring something special to the rich, cultural tapestry that makes our state a vibrant and cosmopolitan place to live.

Cultural Diversity Week brings together Victorians from all walks of life to celebrate our cultural heritage and promote social harmony.

Held annually in March to coincide with the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March, the week provides an opportunity for Victorians of all ages to participate in and acknowledge the benefits that our social, religious and linguistic diversity brings to our state.

In 2016, the week will run from 12-20 March, with hundreds of events across the state including Victoria's Multicultural Festival at Federation Square on Sunday 20 March.

This year's theme celebrates music under the phrase 'Together we stand in harmony', embracing the many cultures that contribute to the sounds of cultural harmony.

There are many ways that schools, teachers and students can get involved in this year's celebrations.

This kit is designed to be a useful source inspiration to help plan lessons and activities which explore Victoria's unique multiculturalism and provide learning opportunities to discuss why our diversity is one of our greatest assets.

For more information about ways to bring diversity into the classroom, visit the Harmony Day website [www.harmony.gov.au/schools/](http://www.harmony.gov.au/schools/)



## Together we stand in harmony

### THEME FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK 2016

Music is a universal form of expression shared by cultures across the globe.

This year, the Victorian Multicultural Commission has chosen 'Together we stand in harmony' as the theme for Cultural Diversity Week to celebrate the mesmerising sounds of music from around the world and reflect the way music can transcend differences and promote harmony across our society.

Music brings people together, and is a simple way to share one's culture with others.

We encourage all Victorians to appreciate and enjoy the many wonderful sounds, instruments, costumes and dances representative of the various cultures found in our state.

### Classroom resources

There are multiple resources available for use in incorporating music into your classroom activities including:

- [www.amuse.vic.edu.au/](http://www.amuse.vic.edu.au/)
- [www.australianmusiccentre.com.au/guides/teachers](http://www.australianmusiccentre.com.au/guides/teachers)
- [www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/primary/creativearts/music/links/index.htm](http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/primary/creativearts/music/links/index.htm)
- [culturalinfusion.org.au/](http://culturalinfusion.org.au/)
- [www.globalkidsoz.com.au/multicultural\\_music.php](http://www.globalkidsoz.com.au/multicultural_music.php)
- [www.noteable.com.au/](http://www.noteable.com.au/)
- [www.songsforteaching.com/diversitymulticulturalism.htm](http://www.songsforteaching.com/diversitymulticulturalism.htm)
- [www.teachervision.com/multiculturalism/resource/8388.html](http://www.teachervision.com/multiculturalism/resource/8388.html)
- [global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/umbrella/globalmusic/](http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/umbrella/globalmusic/)



## Activities to do in the classroom

Music can easily be included in your learnings about cultural diversity.

Below is a list of ideas and activities for you to consider.

- Invite a musician or dancer from Victoria's multicultural community to perform or speak at your school. Learn about different dance rituals and styles by holding dance classes either with an instructor from a community organisation, a culturally diverse artist, a teacher or a parent.
- Plan a dance performance or concert where your students can showcase their talent through a variety of dances and music.
- Create a program to include information about different dances from around the world, including its meaning, purpose, costumes and tradition.
- Teach your students to sing some songs from another culture or another language. Parents with different cultural backgrounds may be able to help with this activity or give you ideas.
- Ask students to write and perform a rap, song, chant, jingle or rhyme of cultural significance to them or celebrating diversity. Students could perform at school assemblies, multicultural concerts, or family twilight activities.
- Search the Victorian Multicultural Commission's Community Directory to find community contacts in your local area:  
[www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/resources/community-directory](http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/resources/community-directory)
- Contact Multicultural Arts Victoria who provide a brokerage service for multicultural artists and performers Tel: +61 3 9188 3681 Web: [www.multiculturalarts.com.au](http://www.multiculturalarts.com.au)



## INFORMATION ABOUT CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN VICTORIA

Victoria is one of the most multicultural places in the world.

- At the 2011 Census, the total population of Victoria was 5,354,042 persons. Of these 5.3 million people, 26.2 per cent were born overseas in more than 200 countries.<sup>1</sup>
- Nearly half of all Victorians, 46.8 per cent, were born overseas or had at least one parent who was born overseas.<sup>2</sup>
- 23.1 per cent of Victorians indicated they spoke one of 260 languages other than English at home.<sup>3</sup>
- And 67.7 per cent followed a total of 135 faiths.<sup>4</sup>
- Between the 2006 and the 2011 Census, the Victorian population has grown by more than 420,000 people, of which approximately 60 per cent was gained through net overseas migration.<sup>5</sup>
- Migrants, whether they have come by choice or necessity make a significant contribution to Victoria's economic, social and cultural fabric.<sup>6</sup>
- Since World War II, over 7.5 million people have made Australia their home.<sup>7</sup>
- Of these, over 800,000 have been refugees and humanitarian entrants from a diverse range of countries.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011, '2011 Census QuickStats: Victoria', viewed 20 Jan 2016, [http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/2?opendocument&navpos=220](http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/2?opendocument&navpos=220)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> *Cultural Diversity: the benefits of business*, Scanlon Foundation Factsheet 2013

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.border.gov.au/about/corporate/information/fact-sheets/02key> accessed 20 Jan 2015

<sup>8</sup> Ibid



## CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK PRIMARY SCHOOL ART COMPETITION

The Victorian Multicultural Commission will once again hold the Primary School Art Competition. The theme for this year is 'Harmonies from around the world' to tie in with the overarching music theme: 'Together we stand in harmony'.

The Primary School Art Competition is designed to engage the younger members of Victoria's community with our cultural, linguistic and religious diversity.

Entry is open to children residing and attending a primary school in Victoria. A maximum of one entry per student can be submitted for consideration.

Ideas for incorporating the competition into your teaching include:

- Talking about types of instruments
- Listening to different musical styles
- Asking students to bring in a song that represents their culture
- Learning dances from around the world

For more information about the Primary School Art Competition, see our [Art Competition booklet](#).