Victoria’s Multicultural Awards for Excellence 2009
Recognising Excellence

Our community is one that is built on multicultural foundations. We have a strong appreciation and respect for our cultural diversity and value the contributions that people from around the world have made to our state.

Victoria’s Multicultural Awards for Excellence provides an excellent opportunity to honour those outstanding individuals and organisations who have dedicated their time and efforts in promoting unity, reducing disadvantages and creating opportunities for their own community and for the benefit of all Victorians.

I commend this year’s recipients who have demonstrated unselfish passion and commitment to promoting cultural diversity and harmony through their chosen fields.

The Hon. John Brumby
Premier of Victoria
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
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Meritorious Service to the Community Award
Recognising the outstanding achievements of a community group or an individual who has had a minimum of 10 years voluntary service at a governance level.

Premier’s Award for Community Harmony
Recognising the outstanding achievement of an individual or organisation that has developed programs, strategies or activities, which furthered cross-cultural and cross-religious harmony in Victoria.

Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria Award
Recognising excellence in the specific portfolios of aged care, arts, community services, education, emergency services, employment, health, local government, planning, regional development and tourism.

VMC Ambassador Award
Recognising achievements in multicultural affairs by an organisation, an individual (or a family) or a young person (under 25) who have shown an exemplary demonstration of leadership in the promotion of Victoria’s cultural diversity.

Media Award
Recognise excellence in the reporting of multicultural affairs and acknowledge outstanding efforts by those in the media to highlight issues of social importance and contribute to increasing awareness about Victoria’s diversity.

Local Government Award
Recognising major improvements made, or initiatives developed, by a local municipal council that promotes and strengthens multiculturalism and meets the identified needs of that municipality’s culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Victorian Multicultural Education Award
Recognising outstanding practices in education that raise awareness and support implementation of multicultural initiatives.

Police & Community Multicultural Advisory Committee Award (PACMAC)
Acknowledging police members who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to the development and enhancement of harmonious relations between police and Victoria’s culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Business Corporate Award
Recognising inclusive practices or initiatives by a business or corporation that utilises and promotes Victoria’s multicultural advantage.
Meritorious Service to the Community Award

Recognising the outstanding achievements of a community group or an individual who has had a minimum of 10 years voluntary service at a governance level.
Meritorious Service to the Community Award
Individuals

Mr Albert Abarquez For his outstanding voluntary contribution to young people in southern metropolitan region of Melbourne.

Mr Sam Afra JP For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the multicultural community of Victoria.

Mr Apostolos Alexiadis For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Pontian community of Melbourne.

Ms Catherine Alexopoulos For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek-Australian community of Victoria.

Mr Alfonso Aloe For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Shepparton and districts.

Mr John Artavilla For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Cobram and districts.

Mr Vince Ballerini For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Cobram.

Ms Maria Bevacqua For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Wangaratta and districts.

Miss Olga M. Black For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Melbourne.

Mrs Olga Bogovic For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Slovenian community of Victoria.

Mr Edwin Edward Bonello For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the multicultural community of Victoria.

Mr Vincenzo Bonnicci For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Melbourne.

Mr Giuseppe Bordonaro For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Gippsland.

Fr Ciril A. Bozic OFM For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Slovenian and multicultural community of Victoria.

Mr Barry Buckle For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Filipino and multicultural community of Geelong.

Mr Vincent Camilleri For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Maltese community in the western suburbs of Melbourne.

Mr Roland Henry Carmody For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Slovenian community of Victoria.

Ms Antonietta Carrafa For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community in the north western suburbs of Melbourne.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Thalia Carydias</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Oakleigh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr George Catsourakis</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Huaide Chen</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Chinese community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Raja Chetty</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Mauritian community of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr William Constantine</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Arabic-speaking community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Helen Constas</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Frankston and Peninsula.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Rodney Crooks</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Slovenian Community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Maria Thelma Davies</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Filipino and multicultural of Gippsland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Peter De Maio</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Cobram and districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Xanthi Dellis</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Oakleigh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Farzaneh Denghan</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the multicultural community of Whittlesea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Graham Detrick</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the multicultural community of Gippsland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr John Diplaris</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Malvern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Kazim Donma</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Turkish community of Broadmeadows.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Constantine Efthymiadias</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Joseph Michael Ellul</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Maltese community in the western suburbs of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Sam Tuanbin Feng</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Chinese community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Silvana Ferraro</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Fawkner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Jerzy Wieslaw Fiedler</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Polish community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Meritorious Service to the Community Award

### Individuals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contribution Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Joe Gagliardi</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the multicultural community of Tatura.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Giuseppina Galiano</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Springvale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Mary Gatt</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Maltese community of St Albans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Dennis Gaylard</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Lithuanian community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Sebastiano (Nello)</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Tatura.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giansiracusa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Francesca Giombanco</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Coburg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Jose Gonzalez</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Latin American community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Likyelesh Gossa</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Oromo community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ian Green</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Buddhist community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Mei Gu Guan</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Chinese community of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Mohammed Fahmi Haniffa</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Sri Lankan Muslim community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Maria Hartel</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Dutch community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Tom (Trieu Thong) Huynh</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Chinese community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cav. Dr Francesco Incani</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Theodoula Ioannou</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Cypriot community of the southern suburbs of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monsignor Peter Jeffrey</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the multicultural community of the Goulburn Valley region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ilija Jacevski</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Macedonian community in the western suburbs of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Mohammed Haroon Khosti</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Afghan community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Anna Kontekakii</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Oakleigh.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr Harish Kumar
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Indian community of Victoria.

Dr Santosh Kumar
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Indian community of Victoria.

Saw Ananias Ganemy Kunoo
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Karen community of Victoria.

Mr Prasanna Namal Kurukularatne
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Sri Lankan community of Victoria.

Mr Ioannis Lambrianidis
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Melbourne.

Mrs Kim Le
For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Chinese community of Prahran.

Ms Katina Lerias
For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Maribyrnong.

Mrs Haydee Luporini
For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Spanish-speaking community in the north eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Mr VL Ly
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Chinese community of Victoria.

Ms Angela Maisano
For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the multicultural community of Victoria.

Mr Joseph Mamone
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Victoria.

Ms Melba Marginson
For her outstanding voluntary contribution to immigrant and refugee women of Victoria.

Mr Luigi Mastromauro
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Melbourne.

Mr Paul Mavroudis
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Victoria.

Mr George McNaughton
For his outstanding voluntary contributions to the Scottish community of Victoria.

Mr Eddie Micallef
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the multicultural community of Victoria.

Mr George Micallef
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Maltese community of Victoria.

Mr Joe Michels
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Dutch community of Geelong.

Ms Rosa Monte Leone
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Shepparton.

Mr Lorenzo Nardella
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Melbourne.
## Meritorious Service to the Community Award
### Individuals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Irene Nomicos</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Lalor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Michael North-Coombes</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Mauritian community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Gabby Ocampo</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Filipino Community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Aliki Pandis</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Springvale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Antonis Papazoglou</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Broadmeadows and districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Jamie Pardes</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Afghan community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Andrew Pavlou</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Anthony Petsis</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Oakleigh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Niki Pezaros</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Niki Pezaros</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Oakleigh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Carmelo Piedimonte</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Dimitrios Potamidis</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Oakleigh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ivan Stanley Prosenak</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Slovenian community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr (Mrs) Rama Rao</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Hindu community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Helen Rapassanis</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Oakleigh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Werner Remnik</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Slovenian community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Demetria Reyes</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Filipino community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Eusebio “Sam” Riego</td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the multicultural youth in the western suburbs of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Laura Riego</td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the multicultural youth in the western suburbs of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 Victoria’s Multicultural Awards for Excellence
Mr Vasilios Rouvalis  
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek Community of Oakleigh.

Ms Eleni Sakellaridis  
For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Rye and Mornington Peninsula.

Mr Vincenzo Salemi  
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Victoria.

Mr Simeon Sarres  
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Whittlesea.

Mrs Coetta Savaeskia  
For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Macedonian community of Hillside.

Mr Francesco Scarcella  
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Shepparton.

Mrs Thekla Scarcella  
For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Hellenic community of Victoria.

Ms Maria Selga  
For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Filipino community of Victoria.

Mr Apoloniuz Semkowski  
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Polish community of Prahran.

Mr Arvind Shrivastava  
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Hindu community of Victoria.

Mrs Roma Stiachos  
For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Pontian community of Victoria.

Mr Satnam Singh  
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Sikh community of Victoria.

Ms Bunnary Soch  
For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Cambodian community of Victoria.

Mr Mehmet Sadik Sozer  
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Turkish community in the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

Mr Idilio Suero  
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Uruguayan community of Melbourne.

Mr John Jung Liang Tai  
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Taiwanese community of Melbourne.

Ms Josephine Taliana  
For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the multicultural community of Brimbank.

Mr Anastasios Theodrelos  
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Oakleigh.

Mr Costas Tolongos  
For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Cypriot community in the southern suburbs of Melbourne.
### Meritorious Service to the Community Award
#### Individuals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contribution Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Anthony Torsello</strong></td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Italian community of Oakleigh and districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ms. Cecilia Tse</strong></td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Chinese community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Anestis Tousis</strong></td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Frankston and Peninsula.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Gregory Vaisman</strong></td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Russian community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mrs. Fotini Vassos</strong></td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Oakleigh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Ramaprasad Vemula</strong></td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Hindu community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Aris Vlalogorgos</strong></td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the elderly Greek community of Moreland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Peter Vlahos</strong></td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Greek community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Charles Walker</strong></td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Tamil community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mrs. Mary Catherine Walsh</strong></td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the multicultural community in Kyneton and surrounding districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Zuo Xin Wang</strong></td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Chinese community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ms. Jie Xiao</strong></td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Chinese community of Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mrs. Sevinc Yurtsever</strong></td>
<td>For her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Turkish community of Whittlesea and districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Charles Zammit</strong></td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Maltese community of the Latrobe Valley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. David Zhou</strong></td>
<td>For his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Chinese community of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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10 Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alay Kapwa Association Inc</strong></td>
<td>The Alay Kapwa (We Care) Association Inc, established in 1991, is a Filipino-Australian non-profit organisation run by volunteers. As well as providing a support network to all its members, the Association promotes and shares the Filipino culture with the wider Australian community through various community initiatives and activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Filipino/Australian Association of Ballarat</strong></td>
<td>After providing outstanding services to the community in the Central Highlands, Grampians and Hepburn Shire, the Filipino/Australian Association of Ballarat Inc was established in 1992. The Association provides cultural awareness to schools, health services, churches and community centres, as well as raising funds for various missions and causes, including the Victorian Bushfire Appeal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hindu Foundation</strong></td>
<td>The Hindu Foundation was established in 1996 with the objective of promoting and engaging in the delivery of welfare services in the Hindu community throughout Victoria. Since its inception, the Foundation has delivered services most needed in the community via a volunteer group of chaplains, councillors, home helpers, cultural educators and youth leaders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indonesian Club</strong></td>
<td>The Indonesian Club promotes inter-cultural and inter-religious activities within the Indonesian community and beyond. The Club works in partnership with the Indonesian Consulate General in Melbourne, Indonesian churches and Islamic organisations to organise interfaith forums, dinners and cultural activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>North Eastern Melbourne Chinese Association</strong></td>
<td>The North Eastern Melbourne Chinese Association (NEMCA), established in 1994, is a community based non-profit organisation. The Association undertakes activities which meet the social, cultural, educational, recreational and other needs of the local Chinese community. It also facilitates the involvement of the Chinese community in local and regional activities. NEMCA promotes better community relations and understanding of Chinese culture in the north-east suburbs of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pancretan Association of Melbourne</strong></td>
<td>The Pancretan Association of Melbourne was established in 1977 with the objective of uniting the Hellenes of Cretan descent that had arrived in Australia as migrants, and to assist them in their settlement. Furthermore, the Association aims to promote and educate subsequent generations of the Cretan culture by organising educational, philanthropic, recreational, social and cultural activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Richmond Chinese Elderly Welfare Association Inc</strong></td>
<td>The Richmond Chinese Elderly Welfare Association was established in 1994. Through the organisation of activities such as excursions, information sessions and exercise classes the Association encourages the elderly Chinese community in the Richmond area to actively participate in the community, thereby reducing social isolation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sicilia Nostra Senior Citizens Club</strong></td>
<td>Formed in 1999, Sicilia Nostra Senior Citizens Club is a voluntary organisation aimed at providing an enjoyable and active outlet for its senior members. Key activities include dinner dances and folkloric music performances, as well as a nursing home visitation program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence 11
### Meritorious Service to the Community Award

**Organisations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Asia Times</td>
<td>South Asia Times was established in 1993 to inform Indian subcontinent migrants about news and events both here in Australia and in South Asia with the aim of enhancing social, cultural and trade links between Australia and South Asia. It is available in both paper form and via a website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka German Technical Training Institute Old Boys Association</td>
<td>Sri Lanka German Technical Training Institute Old Boys Association (SRGTIOBA) serves the Sri Lankan community in Melbourne, as well as nationally and internationally. The Association was established in 1992 by a small group of volunteers. Over the years SRGTIOBA has arranged many events for the benefit of its members as well as the wider community, such as the Sri Lankan New Year Festival which is attended by over 7,000 people each year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mauritian Silver Edge Club</td>
<td>The Mauritian Silver Edge Club was formed in 1995 by a small group of seniors. Since its inception, the club has grown to include approximately 200 registered members. The main aims of the club are to foster friendship amongst the Mauritian senior citizens in the City of Casey and neighbouring districts, provide support to the Mauritian community, and inform and educate members in all aspects of healthy ageing, social welfare and socially interactive programs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Premier’s Award for Community Harmony

Recognising the outstanding achievement of an individual or organisation that has developed programs, strategies or activities, which furthered cross-cultural and cross-religious harmony in Victoria.
Premier’s Award for Community Harmony
Organisations

Parliament of the World’s Religions

The Parliament of the World’s Religions (PWR) in December 2009 will be the largest interfaith gathering in the world. It is a week-long event revolving around sharing faith and spiritual journeys and understanding across cultures, countries and people.

In the lead-up to the event, the PWR Melbourne Board of Management has already made a significant and inspiring contribution to Victoria’s community harmony. The Board, its patrons, staff and volunteers have led the way by engaging people of all faiths and cultures to work together to deliver a cohesive and illuminating program of events.

Pre-parliament events have inspired the community and encouraged dialogue to promote the Parliament’s major theme, Healing our Earth, cultivating awareness of our global interconnectedness and our complex relationship with the environment.

The Parliament focuses on extending intercultural and interfaith understanding, allowing for all Victorians to contribute and connect to an international community of faith and spirituality. It has created a unique platform for Victoria to showcase to the international community its rich human diversity and resilient community harmony.

The PWR Melbourne Board is to be congratulated for working so hard to host this world-class event and for promoting Victoria’s interfaith successes to a global audience.
Recognising excellence in the specific portfolios of aged care, arts, community services, education, emergency services, employment, health, local government, planning, regional development and tourism.
Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria Award

**Individuals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Shorsh Ali Ahmad</td>
<td>Community Services</td>
<td>Since arriving in Australia in 2004, Mr Shorsh Ali Ahmad studied English and Journalism and worked as a volunteer for the Kurdish media. His experience in the media sector in both Kurdistan and Australia has allowed him to serve the Kurdish community by publishing news translated from English, as well as publishing stories about Kurdish activities in and around Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Judie Bainbridge</td>
<td>Community Services</td>
<td>Ms Judie Bainbridge works in a voluntary capacity as the manager of the Sudanese Anglican Welfare Centre in Footscray. The Centre caters for persons of an African background, dealing with issues such as housing, health and family support. Judie has displayed passion and devotion in leading her team of volunteers to deliver a much needed service, providing guidance and support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Matija Barisic</td>
<td>Community Services</td>
<td>For almost 12 years Ms Matija Barisic has been deeply involved with the Red Cross Tracing &amp; Refugee Service in Victoria, both in voluntary and paid positions. Her focus has been on strengthening services aimed at restoring family links for people separated by war, conflict and disaster. In building strong service relationships in multicultural Victoria, Matija consistently shows great compassion, dedication, understanding and professionalism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Jennifer Barrera</td>
<td>Community Services</td>
<td>Ms Jennifer Barrera is actively involved in the Wyndham community in both paid and voluntary positions. She has a long history teaching ESL in community settings to adults as well as young people whose education has been disrupted due to war and displacement in their homelands. In 2006 Jennifer was appointed Chairperson of the Wyndham Humanitarian Network, a grouping of over 40 Federal, State, and Local Government service providers working together with community leaders and members in providing integrated settlement programs for new arrivals from refugee backgrounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Anne Bartley</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Ms Anne Bartley is a teacher at Wellsprings for Women Inc. In addition, for the past 3 years Anne has been working as the Migrant Support Educator for ‘Live the Dream’ — a project focused on reducing social isolation of women from the Sudan and Afghanistan, by providing a friendly environment where mother and child can learn together. Anne has a respect and appreciation for diversity, and this is well reflected in her role as teacher at Wellsprings for Women Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Jenny Better</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Whilst working for the Jewish Museum of Australia, Mrs Jenny Better has developed Harmony Day programs that have increased the dialogue between students from diverse backgrounds. As such, people who would normally never have the opportunity to meet were brought together, thus increasing understanding, promoting tolerance and breaking down stereotyping within schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Nuangwong Boonyanate</td>
<td>LOTE Education</td>
<td>Since moving to Australia in the mid-1980s, Ms Nuangwong Boonyanate has worked in the areas of English as a Second Language (ESL) and Multicultural Education within the Victorian education system. This position gave Nuangwong the opportunity to work closely with teachers by providing advice, presenting and facilitating statewide professional development in the areas of ESL, Multicultural Education and Human Rights Education. Her insightful and practical advice about culturally inclusive curriculum and teaching practices and anti racism education has been widely appreciated by teachers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr Ivan Chan  
LOTÉ Education

Mr Ivan Chan established the independently run Weekend Language School in Brookside, Caroline Springs. Brookside is a relatively new community where, prior to the Weekend Language School, no weekend language learning facilities were available to residents. The programme offers language and cultural studies and has had a very positive impact on the local community.

Mr Hussam Cheebo  
Community Services

Mr Hussam Cheebo joined SBS in 1976 as a presenter of the first news bulletin for the Arabic Program. Hussam was keen to ensure Arabic speakers were well catered for in the provision of information via radio, and the program was broadcast to Arabic speakers from more than 21 countries. Soon after, Hussam expanded the program by introducing new bilingual episodes and segments providing useful information about life in Australia to assist newly-arrived migrants in the settlement process.

Ms Giovanna Citta  
Community Services

Ms Giovanna Citta was a groundbreaking advocate for fundamental service change in cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) service infrastructure development in the Greater Goulburn Valley region in her role as sole CALD Social Welfare Worker. In addition to broad service change, Giovanna successfully supported and assisted countless CALD individuals and families making a positive difference in people’s lives who often felt unsupported and invisible in the dominant regional culture.

Mr Marcello D’Amico  
Arts

Through his extensive professional involvement with multicultural communities, Mr Marcello D’Amico has aided in the establishment of positive relationships and increased awareness of the arts in multicultural Victoria.

Mrs Bahanita Danish  
Education

Mrs Bahanita Danish is an active and dedicated member of the Afghan Australian Philanthropic Association. She is a teacher at the ethnic school for Pashto language, very active within the Association’s women’s group as well as a reliable source of emotional and practical support for individuals within the community.

Ms Giuliana D’Appio  
Community Services

Ms Giuliana D’Appio has always had a passion for singing opera and over many years has studied and participated in local and Melbourne-wide amateur community-based groups. She contributes her singing skills as a volunteer member of various singing groups, and acts as leader of the women’s choir section of the Melbourne Opera. She is a nurturing and supportive person, qualities which are employed in her role as a teacher working with special needs children at East Burwood Special Developmental School.

Mr Ali Darwish  
Education

Mr Ali Darwish is a media, communication and translation consultant and scholar with international renown. He has taught at Australian universities for 12 years and acted as official NAATI examiner from 1990 to 2002. He has significantly contributed to the community via his extensive knowledge and writing, and the publication of several books on translation, the media and communication.

Ms Melinda Doolan  
Community Services

Ms Melinda Doolan, a Melton Shire Council Community Development worker, is recognised for her passion for building and strengthening relationships and partnerships between the Council and the community. Melinda develops, facilitates and/or assists in the establishment of community groups, projects, programs and networks.
Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria Award

Individuals

Ms Effie Dres
Community Arts
Ms Effie Dres has worked in a voluntary capacity for more than fifteen years as the coordinator, principal choreographer and administrator of cultural youth dance group, Romiosini. The group is comprised of up to fifty students, ranging in age from five to twenty years old, who perform traditional Greek folkloric dances with a modern contemporary influence. Through her passion and commitment, Effie has provided the opportunity for 2nd, 3rd and 4th generation Greek Australians to maintain their cultural heritage with pride and develop their skills in a fun environment.

Mrs Madhu Dudeja
Community Services
Mrs Madhu Dudeja is the founder and president of the Federation of Indian Women Associations in Australia Inc, an organisation focused on providing welfare services for women of Indian heritage. Madhu has created a common platform for women of different religions, linguistic and cultural backgrounds to come together and discuss and address issues affecting them. Her encouragement and support have aided the women in building their self-esteem and becoming more confident.

Mr Peter Gogorosis
Community Services
Mr Peter Gogorosis is recognised as a leader for his work to advance both practice and knowledge within the aged care sector. He has championed the model of culturally specific services not only for Greek elderly but all elderly whose first language is not English. Peter generates enthusiasm for culturally and linguistic appropriate services amongst organisations and professionals.

Ms Fatma Hodzic
Education
Recognised for her hard work in the education sector, Ms Fatma Hodzic is a very committed and supportive member of the Bosnian community. Fatma has been involved in teaching, organising classes and graduations as well as attending conferences held between Bosnian teachers in Victoria and interstate.

Mr Qing Song Lin
Community Services
Mr Qing Song Lin arrived in Australia in 1990 at the age of 18. Soon after he became an enthusiastic member of the Fujian Association of Victoria, actively engaging himself within the Association, the Chinese community and Australian society as a whole. Qing Song’s passion and commitment saw him last year appointed as President of the Fujian Association of Victoria. Within this role, Qing Song has led the Association to a higher level of engagement with both the Chinese community and wider society. He is recognised as a leader and a source of support for the community.

Mr Nick Loupos
Community Services
Through his work with community radio, Mr Nick Loupos has been contributing to the Greek community of Melbourne for over 25 years. Nick has kept the Greek community informed as well as entertained. As his popularity increased over the years he was able to use his position to encourage unity and involvement amongst the Greek community and generate support and assistance for those in need.

Mr Nicholas Alexander Moraitis
Community Services
Mr Nicholas Alexander Moraitis arrived in Australia in September 1969. Soon after his arrival he was employed by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, and remained with there for the following 20 years as a Community Liaison Officer. This role involved visiting various ethnic communities to explain the services offered by the the bank and liaising with new migrants in order to help them to organise their finances. Nicholas was also responsible for providing new migrants with information that would assist them to better understand the Australian way of life, so as to successfully settle in their adopted country and integrate into the wider Australian community.
Ms Lotana Motuku
Local Government
Ms Lotana Motuku works within the Aged Care Department of Boroondara City Council. She liaises with many diverse nationalities, generates enthusiasm and involvement amongst the elderly and promotes positive ageing. Lotana’s involvement in the aged care sector is over and above what is required and expected.

Mr Adel Moussa
LOTE Education
For the past 15 years, Mr Adel Moussa has been teaching LOTE at Bayside Secondary College. Within this timeframe Adel has developed a strong bond with the students and community as a whole. Through his teaching, Adel promotes peace, harmony and understanding of different cultures, values and beliefs. Adel also works as a volunteer careers advisor and translator at the Migrant Resource Centre.

Mr Daniel Issac Musa
Community Services
Since his arrival in Australia in 2003, Mr Daniel Issac Musa has demonstrated leadership within the Sudanese community in Wyndham. His initiative and passion for multicultural developments is made evident through his volunteer work with the Sudanese community, the organisation of festivals and cultural events throughout Wyndham and the development of initiatives aimed at overcoming social and cultural barriers facing the Sudanese community in Wyndham.

Mr Justo Paras
Community Services
For 10 years now the MRC North West has been conducting a Tax Help Service, run in conjunction with the ATO, to provide advice to those in genuine financial need. Since its inception, Mr Justo Paras has been offering his services in a voluntary capacity. Justo has gone to great lengths to help those in need by providing timely and accurate advice. This has had the effect of not only saving the individual money, but also affording them respect by demonstrating patience, diligence, and interest.

Ms Despina Rovolidis
Community Services
Since 1970, Ms Despina Rovolidis has been involved in the Oakleigh Greek Orthodox Community. At a young age, Despina became aware of the importance of social cohesion and tolerance between the Australian and Hellenic cultures. This awareness motivated her to become further involved in the welfare section of the community. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Oakleigh Greek Orthodox Community and with her encouragement, large numbers from the local Greek community became active members and supporters of the group.

Mr Angelo Ruggieri
Community Services
Mr Angelo Ruggieri has contributed to his local community for the past 20 years as a volunteer at Villa del Sole aged care facility. Angelo has distinguished himself by volunteering for the visiting program at Villa del Sole, and as a result has received various awards of recognition for his valuable work and dedication.

Mr Georges Ruta
Arts
Mr Georges Ruta is a second generation Polish Australian who has been actively involved in voluntary leadership and activism for the benefit of the Polish community since 1968. For almost 40 years Georges has been playing the piano as a part of hundreds of performances by Polonez, a Polish orchestra, at community events in Victoria and interstate.

Dr Stewart Sharlow
Community Harmony
As a result of his deeply held Christian faith and close involvement with the Muslim community, Dr Stewart Sharlow was inspired to join peoples of all faiths and cultures together in harmony. He was highly instrumental in the establishment of The Janssen Spirituality Centre for Inter-religious and Cross-cultural Relations, opened in January 2008. The Centre is dedicated to mutual understanding and enrichment, respect and collaboration, between followers of various cultures and faith traditions.
Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria Award
Individuals

Ms Anthea Sidiropoulos
Arts
Over the past 10 years Ms Anthea Sidiropoulos has been servicing Melbourne’s multicultural communities, municipalities and non-government organisations with her professional services as a multilingual, multicultural singer, writer, performer, producer and facilitator of multicultural music events and programs inclusive of cross-cultural and intergenerational themes which are highlighted, embraced and celebrated.

Mrs Dalal Sleiman
Community Services
Ms Dalal Sleiman entered Australia as a refugee in February 1992. After learning English she enrolled in a Community Development degree and since graduating has been working in the community sector, in both paid and voluntary roles, helping newly arrived migrants and refugees to resettle in Australia. Dalal is also the founder and president of the Chaldean Women Association in Victoria, where she organises information and training sessions, and provides hands-on advocacy for the women.

Mrs Loula Spiridonos-Papazois
Community Services
Mrs Loula Spiridonos-Papazois has been actively involved in a number of community organisations in a voluntary capacity and has been actively involved in promoting cultural activities for over two decades. Loula has written and composed many literature and poetry for various organisations. She also visits residential care homes, providing entertainment to the elderly residents by singing and reciting her poems. She is well known and respected within Melbourne’s Greek community.

Ms Usha Sripathmanathan
Community Services
As founder and artistic director of the Natyalayaa Dance Company, Ms Usha Sripathmanathan has been an educator to countless students and an important creative artist in the south Asian community in Melbourne. Practicing Bharatha Natyam, a form of Indian Classical Dance, Usha has performed solo and collaboratively in major cities and arts festivals and other public events in Australia. She is an innovative choreographer whose dances reflect a wide range of artistic expressions ranging from pure tradition to multicultural collaborations with other artists of diverse cultures.

Mr Athanasios Stathopoulos
LOTE Education
As principal of the ZINON School of Languages, Mr Athanasios (Tasos) Stathopoulos has specialised in teaching HSC/VCE level students and also in lecturing for all Greek HSC/VCE candidates on classical Greek literature and translation. He has also written a book with theatrical pieces, appropriate for students. Tasos was instrumental in the Department of Education providing accreditation to ethnic schools for the teaching of languages other than English at VCE level.

Sr Lorraine Testa ASJM
Education
Sr Lorraine Testa, Principal of St Bernadette’s Primary School Sunshine North since 1991, was born in Melbourne of Maltese parents. After acquiring her initial teaching degree, Sr Lorraine furthered her studies in Religious Education, ESL and LOTE and was responsible for the introduction of Maltese and Vietnamese language programs. Sr Lorraine maintained strong connections with Malta and during her term as Principal she has overseen the welcoming of Maltese dignitaries into the school, all interested in seeing children of Maltese descent and the Maltese Language Program.

Ms Eva Wakim
Community Services
Ms Eva Wakim has undertaken extensive work with mainstream government departments at both a Federal and State level in promoting culturally and linguistically appropriate services to the community. Eva’s dedication to the work that she does is evident in the quality of service and care that she has offered the Arabic-speaking and CALD communities that she has worked with. Eva strives to ensure that her projects are accessible and implemented in a culturally sensitive way. Members of the community, in particular the elderly with health concerns, have been offered support and services that address otherwise common experiences of isolation and neglect.
Mr Thomas Patrick Walsh
Arts
Mr Thomas Patrick Walsh is the founder of an extremely popular community, cultural and musical session which has been held in Trentham for 14 years. Locally considered the doyen of traditional Irish music, many travel miles to attend the session with Tom. He is passionate about sharing his love of music, and encourages and supports young musicians to gain experience and perform within the community.

Mr Arthur B.W. Yong
Community Services
Mr Arthur Yong has served the Whittlesea community for more than 20 years. Arthur helped to start and served on more than 20 community organisations, all of which continued on to form important support networks. After retiring from his work as a scientist and biochemist at the Royal Children’s Hospital in 1999, Arthur committed even more of his time to community voluntary work and holds governance positions in several community organisations.

Dr Xiaokang Zhou
Education
Dr Xiaokang Zhou arrived in Australia in 1989 as an international student. By 1999, Xiaokang had gained a doctorate in linguistics, a qualification as a Mandarin-English translator and a Graduate Diploma in Education. The following year she began her career in education, teaching ESL and LOTE at Peninsular School, Mt Eliza. She has written and published almost 300 rhymes/songs to help students learn Chinese easily and more effectively - a project that has earned her wide recognition as an innovative and passionate teacher.
### Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria Award

**Organisations**

**Antonine Monks**  
Community Services  
In 1998 two Antonine Monks arrived in Melbourne from Lebanon to help service the Lebanese community in Melbourne by providing priestly assistance to Monsignor Joseph Talchi. St Charbel’s monastery was established with the aim of providing spiritual, educational and social services for the Lebanese community. There the monks offer pastoral care, attend to the sick members of the local and wider community and offer their services in Arabic, English and Italian.

**Aus Audio Visual Arts Association**  
Community Arts  
The Australian Audio Visual Arts Association is an active participant in a number of community initiatives in the Greater Dandenong area. Since its formation in 2003, the Association has made voluntary contributions to the community, encompassing such activities as singing performances, cancer awareness stalls and free medical seminars. The Association is recognised and commended for its enthusiastic initiatives.

**City of Greater Dandenong – Libraries Outreach Program**  
Library Services  
The Libraries’ Outreach Program focuses on the literacy needs of specific disadvantaged and excluded groups within the City of Greater Dandenong, the most culturally diverse municipality in Australia where nearly 60% of residents speak languages other than English at home. The Outreach Program aims to tackle poor literacy at the grass roots. Barriers to access and inclusion are being overcome, local capacity fostered and positive literacy outcomes enhanced for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

**Jewish Aid Australia**  
Community Services  
Jewish Aid Australia (JAA) is a non-profit community organisation dedicated to creating positive and lasting change in a number of multicultural communities through capacity building programs and social justice campaigns. At its core, JAA’s mission is to mobilise the Australian Jewish Community to assist, both locally and overseas, in under-resourced humanitarian projects that improve the sustainability of individuals in various localities. Through its various projects, largely focused on multicultural issues, JAA continues to create a framework for responding to the growing concerns of disadvantaged groups.

**Latino-American Women’s Association of Victoria**  
Community Services  
The Latino-American Women’s Association of Victoria aims to nurture, promote, educate and empower Latino-American women in the Western suburbs of Melbourne. The Association provides information and referrals, educational and social activities, home visitation for the isolated, aged and sick and general support to its members, as well as encouraging active participation in the wider community.

**Loddon Prison**  
Community Services  
Loddon Prison is a walled, medium security prison that houses 395 male inmates from a diverse range of cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds. Where other prisons simply separate ethnic groups, Loddon Prison developed the ‘Working with Diversity’ project to directly address causes of cultural intolerance. The ‘Working with Diversity’ project uses the international ‘languages’ of food, hospitality and sport to cultivate a better understanding of other cultures and ethnicities within the prison environment, thereby reducing the potential for tension and conflict.

**ParentsLink Regional Parenting Service at MacKillop Family Services**  
Community Services  
In 2006 ParentsLink Regional Parenting Service at MacKillop Family Services developed a community development program titled ‘Families Together’ to support the establishment of several culturally and linguistically diverse playgroup/parenting groups. Some of the playgroups have been ethno-specific, while others have included broader participation and have been multicultural in composition. The project aims to strengthen CALD communities by reducing risk factors faced by newly arrived migrants, including cultural dislocation, effects of trauma and language difficulties.
### Partaz Nou Kiltir
**Community Arts**

Partaz Nou Kiltir ('Sharing our Culture') is a group of traditional dancers from the Island of Rodrigues, a region of Mauritius. The main goal of the group, established in 2000, is to share the dances and unique culture of the Island of Rodrigues with other communities in Victoria, as well as provide entertainment to migrants who are familiar with the traditions.

### Spectrum MRC – Ethnic Youth Council
**Youth Services**

The Ethnic Youth Council (EYC), established in 2006, is a group facilitated by Spectrum MRC. The Council consists of young people aged 15 to 25 years who are passionate about becoming leaders in their communities and representing their peers in addressing issues faced by young Australians, particularly those from migrant and refugee backgrounds. The Council is recognised as being a powerful body that represents the diversity of young people living in Melbourne.

### Windermere Child and Family Services

The Windermere Child and Family Services aims to improve the wellbeing of children, families and communities in the Southern region of Victoria, including those from a CALD background. In 2006 Windermere recognised the importance of further engaging with and improving its service delivery to CALD communities, so undertook extensive consultation processes that resulted in the development of a CALD Strategy Plan. Windermere regularly monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of the Plan to ensure that multicultural communities have equitable access to child and family services provision.
VMC Ambassador Award

Recognising achievements in multicultural affairs by an organisation, an individual (or a family) or a young person (under 25) who have shown an exemplary demonstration of leadership in the promotion of Victoria’s cultural diversity.
**Ms Ruth Harley**  
**Individual**  
Within her role at City West Water, Ms Ruth Harley works in partnership with various organisations to develop and execute projects that improve relations with various ethno groups and working agencies. Ruth has been instrumental in the organisation of countless events that have effectively engaged multicultural communities, including raising funds in order to allow 1000 persons from various ethnic backgrounds to attend the Melbourne Zoo and the annual Cultural Diversity Soccer Match, both of which are staged during Cultural Diversity Week. Ruth is the driver of many events and is actively involved with each to ensure its success in promoting harmony and cultural diversity within the wider community.

**Mr Wilbert Mapombere**  
**Individual**  
Mr Wilbert Mapombere is recognised as being an outstanding ambassador for the City of Ballarat. Wilbert draws upon his experience as a refugee to inspire other migrants to contribute to the wider Australian community and be responsible citizens. He has enhanced community awareness and social acceptance of refugees, new migrants and international students in Ballarat, and extends his voluntary services to activities that promote inclusion and integration initiatives. Wilbert is an advocate for the local CALD community in various capacities, including the provision of free legal advice and services to refugees and other disadvantaged groups through his own small law practice. He is also the founder and president of the Ballarat African Association, which now comprises more than 600 active members.

**Ms Hannah Kinross**  
**Youth**  
Ms Hannah Kinross first volunteered at the Migrant Information Centre (MIC) in 2007, where she immediately threw herself into helping refugees participate in their new community. Hannah joined the MIC’s staff in 2008 and started initiating and delivering programs connecting refugee and migrant communities to their local community and empowering individuals with knowledge and skills to participate meaningfully in their new neighbourhood. Hannah’s work was underpinned by her personal interest in every individual she worked with. Cultural barriers were dissolved by her ability to engage with all individuals regardless of age or cultural or religious backgrounds. Hannah’s work was characterised by her willingness and ability to work beyond the normal constraints of a job to achieve the best possible outcomes for refugee and migrant communities. Hannah tragically passed away earlier this year.

**Asylum Seeker Resource Centre**  
**Individual**  
Established in 2001, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) is Australia’s leading provider of aid and advocacy to asylum seekers living in the community and in detention. Over the past eight years, the ASRC has developed and diversified its work to advance the welfare of asylum seekers in response to the needs and issues presenting. The ASRC is a community-based organisation, operating on a non-profit basis with public benevolent institution status.
Media Award

Recognise excellence in the reporting of multicultural affairs and acknowledge outstanding efforts by those in the media to highlight issues of social importance and contribute to increasing awareness about Victoria’s diversity.

Local Government Award

Recognising major improvements made, or initiatives developed, by a local municipal council that promotes and strengthens multiculturalism and meets the identified needs of that municipality’s culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
Media Award

3CR Community Radio - Refugee Radio Broadcast

3CR Community Radio is one of Melbourne’s oldest community radio stations. Established in 1976, 3CR broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week in over 20 different languages. The station is committed to social change and social justice and is dedicated to giving voice to those issues and people that may be denied one in the mainstream media.

Local Government Award

City of Stonnington

The City of Stonnington is commended for the provision of a range of culturally appropriate services to the CALD communities of the region. In recognising that cultural diversity enriches the municipality, the City of Stonnington has committed to ensuring that all residents have ease of access to council services and facilities, regardless of cultural and linguistic background, and that service planning and delivery are responsive to the needs of these communities. It has provided excellent long-standing consultative arrangements with communities, and supported the provision of services and facilities free of charge to community organisations. Multicultural communities and residents have a high regard for the work of the City of Stonnington.
Victorian Multicultural Education Award

*Recognising outstanding practices in education that raise awareness and support implementation of multicultural initiatives.*
Mr Michael Ring

Michael Ring is the LOTE Manager at Wallan Secondary College. He has established a thriving and exciting Indonesian LOTE program through cultivating a committed and passionate team of LOTE teachers. He has also created a network of partnerships and contacts to place this new school (established in 2006) at the centre of exemplary practice in multicultural education where the knowledge and understandings required for 21st century citizens in a global culture and a global economy is accessible to all students.

Due to Michael’s leadership, Wallan secondary is one of six schools in the Malaysia Victoria Sister Schools Program (MVSSP) pilot. As part of the MVSSP program, Michael has embedded the use of communication technologies to provide authentic and sustainable learning tools for the students across the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). He has developed strong ties with the Indonesian Consulate in Melbourne that included scheduled visits from Wallan SC students.

Michael has contributed to a number of high quality professional learning programs that benefit teachers across school sectors and curriculum areas including the Values Education Teacher Professional Learning Program for Remote & Rural Schools (DEEWR), the Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE project as well as regional professional development to support the implementation of the 2009 DEECD strategy, Education for Global and Multicultural Citizenship.

Richmond West Primary School

Richmond West Primary School is to be congratulated on its initiatives and practices which support the educational and settlement needs of migrants and refugees. The school is committed to promoting equity and excellence to all its students and successfully engages these students in a range of programs to extend their learning. This is a school where students are actively being prepared for life as global and multicultural citizens.

With 86 per cent of the school’s population coming from Language Backgrounds Other than English (LBOTE), Richmond West primary has a long history of teaching English as a second language (ESL) students. Its consistently high academic results exceed the benchmarks. The school environment is rich in language by way of its two bilingual programs, two Language Other Than English (LOTE) programs as well as its multilingual communications and school signage. The bilingual programs are highly regarded and a number of students travel from outlying suburbs to attend the school. By grade 3 students at Richmond West primary school meet or exceed state standards in literacy and numeracy, and many are fluent in more than one language.

For many families, the school is their first experience of the Australian education system. Through daily contact with the families, and by maintaining close relationships with community organisations Richmond West primary school is able to provide both prevention and intervention strategies that address the education, personal and social needs of students and their families.
Narre Warren South P-12 College

Narre Warren South P-12 College is a school with a high percentage of students from a Language Background other than English (LBOTE) and ESL students. Over the past 5 years, the percentage of LBOTE students has increased to 45 per cent of the student population. The school has a variety of English language and literacy programs for students from Prep to Year 12. The school also provides out of school hours learning programs to give further support to students for whom English is an additional language. The program is to be extended next year to cater for the needs of students from neighbouring schools.

Teachers participate in ongoing out of hours professional learning that continues to develop their intercultural literacy and English as a Second Language pedagogies. The school’s Multicultural Education Aides play an important role in delivering this program.

The college has established strong and productive partnerships with a variety of community organisations and government agencies to provide parents and students from migrant and refugee backgrounds with a range of supportive programs and activities. An outcome of these school-community partnership programs is a school Multicultural Community Committee, which will consist of representatives from the community, parents, teachers and students. This committee will oversee the planning and implementation of the school-community partnerships into the future.

Narre Warren P-12 College is actively engaged in putting into practice a number of the strategies outlined in the Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development to provide opportunities for all its students.
Police & Community Multicultural Advisory Committee Award (PACMAC)

Acknowledging police members who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to the development and enhancement of harmonious relations between police and Victoria’s culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
Police & Community Multicultural Advisory Committee Award (PACMAC)

Police Annual Multicultural Award
Awarded to a Police Officer with an outstanding record in a culturally diverse community and for a positive contribution towards the enhancement of understanding and trust between police and ethnic communities.

Inspector Tom Rawlings

Inspector Tom Rawlings has had an exceptionally positive impact on police service delivery to South Eastern Region’s Multicultural Community over fundamentally developing the Region 5 Multicultural Liaison Unit and its methods of engaging the community. Examples of his creative and selfless approach to the development and growth of his Multicultural Portfolio are numerous. Inspector Rawlings has supported and assisted his staff via enabling them to travel to all parts of Victoria, Australia, and internationally with the focus of them developing a greater understanding of policing in a multicultural context. As a result of this broad experience and development, Region Five’s Multicultural Liaison Unit staff has effectively educated Victoria Police members across the State.

Police Multicultural Media Award
Awarded to a Police Officer who has promoted policing issues to Victoria’s Multicultural Communities through effective communication strategies utilising Multicultural Outlets.

Senior Constable Maha Sukkar

Senior Constable Maha Sukkar was Victoria Police’s first sworn officer to wear the hijab as part of her police uniform. During her five-year career, she has put tremendous effort and pride in displaying a positive image of the Victoria Police, especially within the Islamic and Arabic speaking community. Senior Constable Sukkar has been instrumental in presenting safety and security information to members of the Arabic Speaking Community via her regular guest spot on SBS Arabic Radio. She has been most generous with her time and effort in making many appearances in the print media, as she appreciates the benefits of cross cultural and crime preventative education via this medium.

Probationary Constable Award
Awarded to a probationary Constable from a Culturally and Linguistically diverse background who achieved academic excellence in Recruit training during the calendar year immediately preceding the award sustained excellence in operational policing as a Probationary Constable.

Constable Rebecca Amiridis

Constable Rebecca Amiridis was born in Australia and is of Greek and Italian heritage. Constable Amiridis was the Squad 10 recipient of the Blue Ribbon Foundation Communication Skills award for outstanding performance in communication skills. She has maintained excellence in operational policing duties whilst working at various areas that have a large local multicultural community, including the Reservoir Police Station and the Darebin Family Violence Unit. After gaining operational experience Constable Amiridis would like to pursue a career as a Detective with the Homicide Squad.
Police Community Exemplary Award

Awarded to a member of the public who has demonstrated innovative strategies and initiatives aimed at promoting positive relations between Police and Victoria’s Multicultural Communities.

*Foundation House – The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture*

The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (VFST), or 'Foundation House' as it is also known, provides a range of services to people from refugee backgrounds who have survived torture or war related trauma.

Foundation House has worked in partnership with the Victoria Police in developing a training package tailored especially for Victoria Police Recruits. This training package focuses on both pre and post settlement and the associated experiences that many refugees bring with them to their new home in Australia. This training, generously provided free of charge by Foundation House, has proven an invaluable and excellent package in helping Victoria Police members gain a deeper understanding of the Refugee experience and how they can better provide sensitive policing services accordingly.
Business Corporate Award

Recognising inclusive practices or initiatives by a business or corporation that utilises and promotes Victoria’s multicultural advantage.
**Pitruzzello Estate**

Sam and Lucia Pitruzzello, of the Pitruzzello Estate, are prominent members of the Italian community and have achieved significant success both in Australia and overseas. The Pitruzzello Estate consists of an olive oil processing plant and will later be expanded to include a restaurant and art gallery. The Pitruzzello Estate contributes to multicultural Victoria by developing and participating in initiatives which seek to increase the understanding of traditional Italian cuisines, and Sam and Lucia are recognised as community leaders who work tirelessly to promote and strengthen multiculturalism in Victoria.

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**Vicki’s Bickies**

Vicki’s Bickies began operation as a single person business 10 years ago. As the business grew, more employees were needed. From the outset, Vicki’s Bickies employed staff members from ethnically diverse backgrounds, with no discrimination surrounding levels of English language ability. Vicki’s Bickies has demonstrated outstanding work practices and relationships with staff. The facility includes a separate prayer space where employees pray as and when they need. In addition Vicki’s Bickies provides assistance in transporting employees to and from work and in contacting doctors and sourcing medical advice should employees become ill.