MULTICULTURAL YOUTH NETWORK

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Multicultural Youth Network?

The Multicultural Youth Network (MYN) comprises up to 20 young people who are the ‘eyes and ears’ that inform government on Victorian multicultural youth. The MYN is a Network that will provide opportunities to build capacity and relationships, and be consultative mechanism for multicultural youth policy in Victoria.

Members of the MYN represents a diverse range of Victoria’s multicultural communities, including young people born here in Australia and overseas, from different cultures and faiths, from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds, from different parts of Victoria, and with different life experiences and education backgrounds.

What is the relationship between the MYN and the Victorian Government?

The MYN is supported by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Robin Scott and the Minister for Youth Affairs, Jenny Mikakos.

Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division (MASC) within the Department of Premier and Cabinet provides strategic coordination and administrative support. The MYN is a consultative structure of MASC. It is not an advisory board.

The MYN also consults with and works on projects with the Victorian Multicultural Commission and regularly interacts with the Office for Youth within the Department of Health and Human Services.

The MYN is chaired by the VMC Youth Commissioner, Tina Hosseini.

What kind of activities does the MYN do?

The MYN’s most recent projects will give you an idea of the types of activities including:

- workshops in metropolitan Melbourne, Bendigo, Geelong, Shepparton and Wodonga with young people to discuss multifaith issues, cultural diversity and identity;
- hosting a panel discussion on youth mental health as part of National Youth Week;
- participating in the Ubuntu youth stage at the Multicultural Festival during Cultural Diversity Week, featuring dance, poetry and music from young performers;
- participation in the 2016 Buddha’s Birthday and Multicultural Festival by holding a stall and running a forum on diverse cultural experiences growing up in Victoria;
- initiating interfaith discussions with students of Victoria University;
• providing feedback on relevant Victorian government policies;
• participation in the Australia Day Ambassador Program youth forum and the Multicultural Youth Roundtable in May 2015; and
• producing a survival guide for young, new arrivals to Victoria providing information and advice on topics including public transport, education, social support, employment, budgeting and leisure.

When are applications due?

Applications close on Monday 3 July 2017 at 5pm.

Am I eligible to apply?

If you are aged between 16 and 25, are a young person who is committed to greater intercultural understanding and social harmony among young people from diverse communities, and believe you can actively be the voice of your generation and community, then the MYN could be for you.

When and how will the new members be chosen?

A shortlist of potential members will be selected from the written applications by a panel, and phone or face-to-face interviews will be undertaken shortly after. Following a recommendation and approval process, all applicants will be informed of their outcome. This process is designed to ensure that members of the MYN represent a broad selection of Victoria’s multicultural diversity, as well as a geographic spread of members and a gender balance.

Are members paid for being part of the MYN?

Membership of the MYN is unpaid and voluntary. Members who choose to participate in MASC-approved additional activities and projects may be reimbursed for their time and travel costs. Travel cost to MYN meetings may also be reimbursed, if the member is travelling greater than 100kms to be there.

How long do members serve?

Membership of the MYN commences in late July 2017 and concludes in January 2019. Members are required to attend monthly meetings in the Melbourne CBD area and participate in additional activities as they arise.

Induction sessions will be held in late July 2017, the date is to be confirmed. The induction sessions will formally commence MYN members’ term. This term will conclude in January 2019.

I live in regional Victoria. Can I be a member of the MYN?

We encourage regional Victorians to apply for the MYN. However, please note the requirement to travel to Melbourne for meetings (reasonable travel costs will be reimbursed, such as V/Line tickets).
The MYN has also undertaken projects around Victoria such as a regional schools tour and youth leadership workshops.

**Why should I apply to be a member of the MYN?**

This is a unique opportunity to provide insight, youth leadership and advice to the Victorian Government on a range of multicultural youth issues and initiatives via MASC.

MYN members are also offered skills development opportunities in a supportive environment, such as cultural and religious sensitivity training and public speaking or group facilitation training.

Through participating in the network meetings and other projects, members develop project management, team work and meeting facilitation skills. MYN members also become more familiar with how government operates, and learn how to effectively represent their community.

Furthermore, one of the lasting benefits of being an MYN member is the friendships formed across cultural backgrounds.