

## Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the 2018-19 PAEC Budget Estimates Hearings

**Hon Robin Scott MP**

### **MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**

1. Please provide information regarding key performance indicators and qualifications for the multicultural safety ambassadors program.

*(Asked by Mr O'Brien, page 6 of the Multicultural Affairs portfolio transcript)*

#### **Response**

Victoria's first Multicultural Safety Ambassadors Program will recruit well respected individuals in multicultural communities to promote safe workplace practices.

This initiative will complement the work of the Migrant Workers Centre. One of the Centre's functions is advocacy, education and information provision regarding safe working conditions.

The Ambassadors Program will also complement existing Victorian Government, and Commonwealth, legal and regulatory measures to ensure safe workplaces.

The ambassadors will promote the benefits of safe workplace practices and demonstrate by example that operating within the occupational health and safety framework is both economically viable, and achieves good outcomes for both workers and employers.

Ambassadors must be respected community members with a track record of working for the betterment of their communities. They will receive appropriate training to be able to deliver information and awareness raising campaigns within their communities, and to refer issues and complaints appropriately.

The success of the initiative will be measured by a range of factors including the number of people reached by the Ambassadors; matters are referred to appropriate authorities; and feedback from community members on the impact of the information and awareness raising campaigns undertaken by Ambassadors.

2. Please provide further details regarding the new way of working and reporting under the outcomes framework, announced in the Victorian multicultural policy statement.

*(Asked by Ms Pennicuik, pages 7-8 of the Multicultural Affairs portfolio transcript)*

#### **Response**

The Multicultural Policy Statement, '*Victorian. And proud of it.*,' introduces an Outcomes Framework to drive improvements across government and ensure that every Victorian can belong, contribute, achieve and succeed.

The development of this Outcomes Framework aligns with a broader approach across portfolios in how the Victorian Government is measuring impact and informing new policy and practice.

The Outcomes Framework is in its early stages of development. It will aim to deliver an outcomes-based approach, focusing on what has been achieved through government investment to create meaningful change for individuals, families and communities.

The Framework will provide:

- an improved evidence base for policy and program development
- a greater understanding of where targeted investment is required
- increased capacity for the Victorian Government to respond to marginalised individuals and communities.

The Framework is governed by five key domains:

- Victorians are safe and secure
- Victorians are healthy and well
- Victorians are able to participate fully
- Victorians are committed to their culture and communities
- Victorians have equal rights and opportunities.

Future reporting of government departments, as mandated through the *Multicultural Victoria Act 2011*, will be progressively aligned with the Outcomes Framework and the above five key domains.

3. With respect to the Budget Paper No. 3 (p. 102), Table 1.19 refers to \$15.3 million for the Multicultural community infrastructure program. How is it anticipated that funding can assist people to become more involved in their physical communities?

*(Asked by Ms Shing, page 9 of the Multicultural Affairs portfolio transcript)*

#### **Response**

The Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund (MCIF) will assist communities to feel connected with their traditional culture and identity by creating safer community facilities that are more accessible. The MCIF supports the upgrade of existing centres to improve the condition as well as supporting the delivery of new facilities or access to spaces for culturally diverse communities. By improving community infrastructure, Victorians will be more able to celebrate and share their culture with pride and further strengthen Victoria's social cohesion.

4. With respect to the Budget Paper No. 3 (p. 309) referencing 'Multicultural affairs policies and programs', which shows \$6.1 million underspent in the portfolio in 2017-2018, please provide information and an itemised list about what has been underspent.

*(Asked by Mr O'Brien, pages 9-10 of the Multicultural Affairs portfolio transcript)*

#### **Response**

The 2017-18 portfolio budget was originally \$51.1 million and later revised to \$45.0 million, a \$6.1 million reduction to the original budget. Four programs within the portfolio including the Multicultural Access Program, Communications Strategy for the Multicultural Policy Statement, Family Violence services for Culturally diverse communities and Multicultural Community Harmony had minor annual proportional underspends. The remainder of the portfolio budget with underspend

is comprised of minor elements. Also, \$2.1 million was an addition to the 2017/18 budget, for the Multicultural Community Infrastructure program and the Targeting Youth Offending initiative.