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Bills Backgrounder
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Multicultural Victoria Amendment Bill 2008

This Bills Backgrounder provides web links to legislation, reports, documents and statistics relating to issues raised by this bill before the Victorian Parliament.

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Bills & Acts

[Multicultural Victoria Amendment Bill 2008](#) and [Explanatory Memorandum](#).

Premier John Brumby delivered the [Statement of Compatibility & Second Reading](#) speech in Parliament on 28 October 2008.

The current Act covering multicultural affairs is the [Multicultural Victoria Act 2004](#) (which repealed the Victorian Multicultural Commission Act 1993). Here is the [Explanatory Memorandum](#) & Premier Steve Bracks' [Second Reading](#) speech delivered in Parliament on 3 November 2004.

Comparative legislation

Currently, South Australia and New South Wales currently have legislation specifically for addressing the promotion of multicultural affairs. Other states, territories and federal legislation cover issues of discrimination based on race and exceptions to discrimination in other less specific acts.

ACT

[Discrimination Act 1991](#)

For exceptions relating to race, see section 43, for unlawful vilification, see section 66

NSW

[Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000](#)

NT

[Anti-Discrimination Act](#)

For exceptions of cultural or religious sites, see section 43

QLD

[Anti-Discrimination Act 1991](#)

For racial and religious vilification, see section 124A, for serious racial and religious vilification, see section 131A

SA

[South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Act 1980](#)

TAS

[Anti-Discrimination Act 1998](#)

For exceptions relating to race, see sections 40-42

WA

[Equal Opportunity Act 1984](#)

For discrimination on the grounds of race, see part III

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

[Racial Discrimination Act 1975](#)

CANADA

[Canada: Canadian Multiculturalism Act 1985](#) is the most comparable international legislation to the Victorian Act, as it addresses multiculturalism specifically.

Background material

The [Victorian Multicultural Commission](#) is an independent statutory authority established in 1983 under the name of the Victorian Ethnic Affairs Commission. Since then, the Commission has provided independent advice to the Victorian Government to inform the development of legislative and policy frameworks as well as the delivery of services to our culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse society. The VMC website includes [Victoria's population diversity](#), a [Multicultural Resources Directory](#) and also publishes the quarterly [Multicultural Victoria Magazine](#).

Websites

The [Australian Human Rights Commission](#) is the new name of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. The Commission was established in 1986 by an act of the federal Parliament as an independent statutory organisation and report to the federal Parliament through the Attorney-General.

The [Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia](#) (FECCA) is the national peak body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. They provide advocacy, develop policy and promote issues on behalf of their constituency to government and the broader community.

[Making Multicultural Australia](#) provides a list of links on their website of multicultural educational, government and independent organisations providing community and educational resources.

The [Centre for Cultural Diversity in Aging](#) provide a useful list containing contact details for ethnic community organisations, religious organisations and other useful CALD community contacts throughout Australia.

State Government Departments & Organisations

These state and territory government websites provide many links and resources for the values and aims of multiculturalism, and how governments put this into practice. They can also provide links to related organisations in their state.

[Multicultural SA](#) (S.A.)

[Community Relations Commission](#) (N.S.W.)

[Office of Multicultural Affairs](#) (A.C.T.)

[Multicultural Affairs Queensland](#) (QLD)

[Department of the Chief Minister: Multicultural Affairs](#) (N.T.)

[Office of Multicultural Interests](#) (W.A.)

[Multicultural Tasmania](#) (TAS)

Statistics

The following collated data is specific to the subject of multiculturalism from local, national and international sources, focusing on the movement of people and communities. Community Profiles are available for the top [75 overseas birthplaces groups](#) in Victoria.

The latest statistics describing migration to Australia are compiled by the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), which includes summaries as well as data.

For Australian immigration statistics, see the [Dept of Immigration and Citizenship](#).
For international refugee statistics, see the United Nations refugee agency, [UNHCR](#).

With almost a quarter of Victorians are born overseas, the Victorian Multicultural Commission have compiled [population and migration](#) information and identified relevant Victorian census data. Further statistical information regarding refugees in Australia can be found at the [Refugee Review Tribunal](#) website (see under the “*publications*” heading).

Media

See here for Victoria Government [media releases](#) from the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

For media releases from the [Victorian Liberal Party](#) and [The Nationals Victoria](#), type '*Multiculturalism*' in the search boxes.

For media releases about multicultural affairs from the [Greens Victoria](#), browse through *Media Releases 2008 or past years*.

This [ABC webpage](#) has up to date news relating to multicultural issues.

See also [SBS News](#) & [SBS Radio](#) webpages.

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Reference Service

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