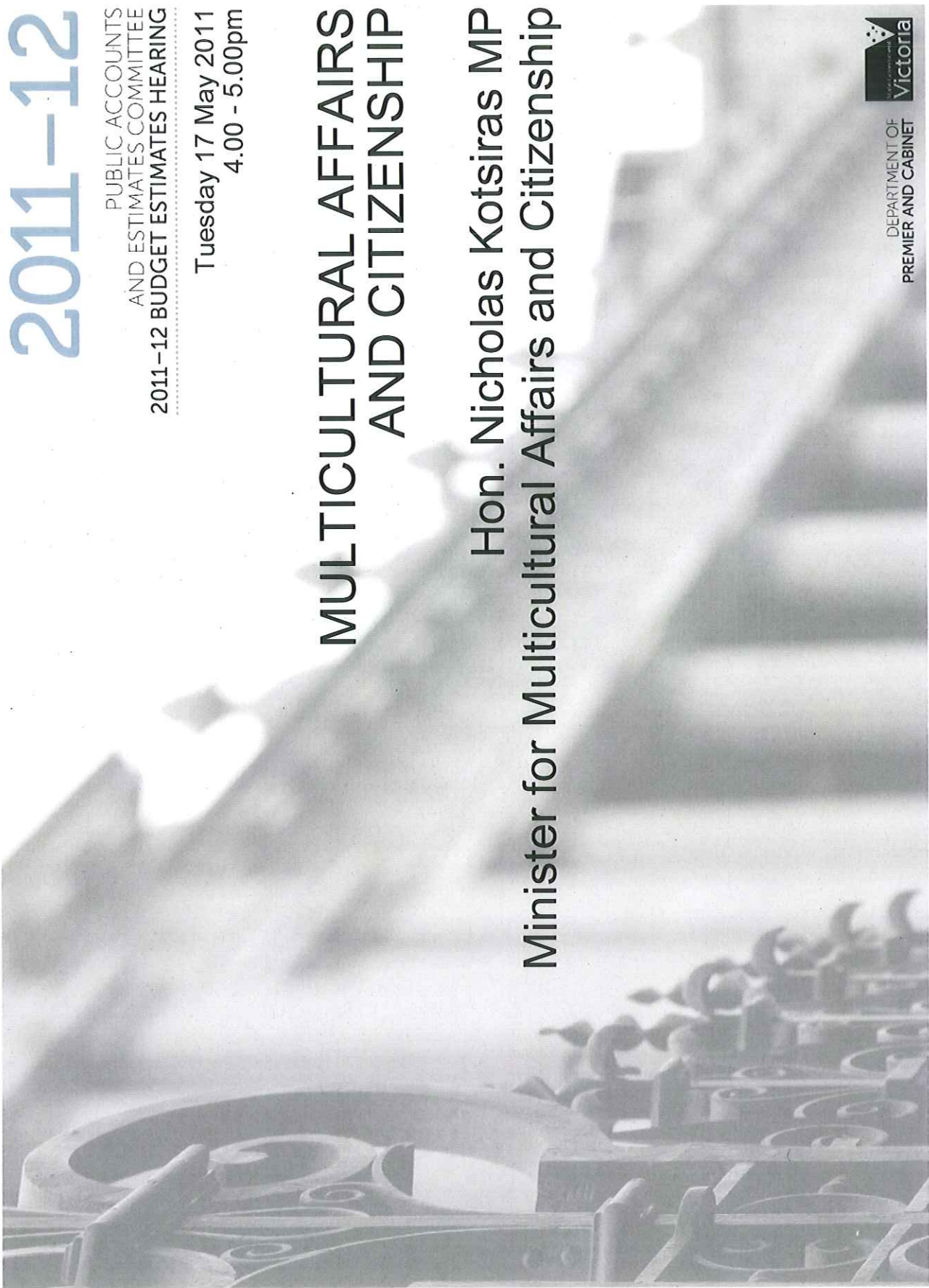




2011-12

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
2011-12 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Tuesday 17 May 2011
4.00 - 5.00pm

MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS AND CITIZENSHIP

Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship



Victoria's Diversity

- Multiculturalism is one of Victoria's greatest strengths
 - More than 200 countries of origin
 - More than 230 languages and dialects
 - More than 120 faiths

 - The Government's approach to Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship will :
 - promote unity through diversity;
 - better inform people of their rights and responsibilities;
 - provide world-class services in a culturally sensitive and appropriate manner; and
 - make use of our diversity to seize the economic opportunities multiculturalism provides.
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Achievements in Multicultural Affairs

- **Community Grants Program**
 - Continued support for community groups and senior citizens and multicultural festivals and events through increased levels of funding
 - **Cultural Precincts Enhancement Fund**
 - Final implementation phase of reinvigorating Melbourne's Greek, Italian and Chinese precincts
 - **Cultural Precincts and Community Infrastructure Fund**
 - Roll-out of the first phase of the cultural precincts and community infrastructure fund
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Government Commitment to Multiculturalism

- Commitment outlined in Government's Plan for a Multicultural Victoria
 - Ongoing commitment to ensure the success of multiculturalism
 - Reforming legislation and administration of the multicultural affairs and citizenship portfolio
 - Whole-of-government approach
 - Significant increase in funding
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Multicultural Victoria Act 2011

- New legislation – *Multicultural Victoria Act 2011*
 - Broadening the portfolio to incorporate citizenship
 - Strengthening the independence of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC)
 - Establishing eight regional advisory councils – stronger and more formal consultations between VMC, local communities and the Government
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Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) *Strengthening Our Community*

- *Multicultural Victoria Act 2011*
 - VMC established as a new, more independent statutory authority
 - New composition of the commission
 - Establishment of Eight Regional Advisory Councils
 - Additional research, advisory and reporting powers
 - Requirement of Departments to assist the Commission in its research functions and the delivery of its objectives and functions
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Establishment of the Office for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship (OMAC)

Functions of OMAC include:

- Providing policy advice
- Delivery of a wide range of programs and strategic projects, such as:
 - Community Grants Program
 - Promoting Multicultural and Multifaith Harmony
 - Cultural Precincts Enhancement Fund and
 - Cultural Precincts and Community Infrastructure Fund
 - Refugee Action Program
 - Language Services Strategy
 - International Student Care Service
- Settlement Coordination Unit to be established within OMAC



Citizenship

- Broadening the portfolio to incorporate citizenship
 - Citizenship is the basis on which to build a strong and unified society, where individuals learn from each other and together help forge a more inclusive and harmonious society.
 - Citizenship as a social concept and unifying force
 - Equal Rights and Responsibilities of all Victorians
 - Shared values
 - Participation
 - Social Cohesion
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2011-12 Budget Initiatives

- The overall output funding for the Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship portfolio in 2011-12 is \$19.6 million, which represents a 42 per cent increase on the published 2010-11 target output cost of \$13.8 million.
- Specific Initiatives
 - Calendar of Major Events - \$1.1m over 4 years (\$4.4m)
 - African Community Leadership - \$150,000 over 3 years
 - South Asian Building Fund - \$650,000 in 2011-12
 - Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll - \$120,000 per annum over 4 years

(continued next slide)



2011-12 Budget Initiatives (Continued)

- Victorian Employment Diversity Awards - \$100,000 per annum over 4 years
 - Migrants and Refugee Rights and Responsibilities Seminar Program - \$200,000 per annum over 4 years
 - Antipodes Centre for Greek Culture Heritage and Language Centre - \$2m in 2012-13
 - Multicultural Language Services - \$0.5m per annum over 4 years (\$2m in total)
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Other Multicultural Affairs Related Initiatives

- The initiatives I've outlined are supported by investments made in other portfolio areas, such as:
 - \$1.8m over four years to the Centre for Multicultural Youth
 - \$0.4m over four years for the Multicultural Volunteer Awards
 - \$1.6m over four years to facilitate the participation and inclusion of older people from CALD backgrounds