

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

2010-11 Budget Estimates Hearing - 10 May 2010

Hon. John Brumby MP

Premier of Victoria and Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Multicultural Affairs

- **Victoria's diversity is one of its greatest strengths**
 - More than 200 countries of origin
 - More than 230 languages and dialects
 - More than 120 faiths
- **The Victorian Government regards this cultural, linguistic and religious diversity as one of Victoria's greatest assets**
- **We place a high priority on the Multicultural Affairs portfolio, which is administered through the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC)**
- **The VMC is a statutory authority that provides advice to the Government regarding our culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse society as well as delivering a range of highly successful programs**
- **Its objectives and functions are defined under *the Multicultural Victoria Act 2004***

Achievements in 2009-10

- **Walk for Harmony**
More than 10,000 Victorians participated
- **International Student Care Service**
The first of its kind in Australia
- **Cultural Precincts Enhancement Fund**
\$10m since 2007-08 spent or committed to enhance three of Melbourne's iconic cultural precincts

Achievements in 2009-10 (continued)

- **Promoting Harmony**

\$2 million over two years from 2009-10 was committed towards various multicultural & multifaith initiatives

- Premier's Multifaith Leaders Forums
- Multifaith Advisory Group
- Multifaith Multicultural Youth Network
- Multifaith/Interfaith Grants
- Partnerships with peak faith organisations
- Cultural Diversity Week and Viva Victoria celebrations
- "All of Us" community education campaigns

Achievements in 2009-10 (continued)

- **Parliament of the World's Religions**
Held in December 2009, with more than 6000 people participating
- **VMC Community Grants**
\$4.6m supporting 1,600 community organisations
- **Refugee Action Program (previously the Refugee Brokerage Program)**
Additional \$2 million over two years from 2009-10

Budget Initiatives 2010-11



- **Cultural Precincts & Community Infrastructure**
- **Support for International Students**
- **Promoting Harmony in Multicultural and Multifaith Victoria**

Budget Initiatives 2010-11



- **Victorian Multicultural Commission Community Grants**
- **Vulnerable Refugee Support Package**

Budget Overview 2010-11

- **2010-11 Multicultural Affairs portfolio budget output is \$13.8 million**
- **Additional allocation through CSF of \$2 million**
- **Total of \$15.8 million**