

MEDIA RELEASE

TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2012

Wanted: passionate, young people who want to make a difference

Victorian Multicultural Commission Chairperson, Mr Chin Tan, announced today that the Multifaith Multicultural Youth Network (MMYN) is seeking new members for 2013. The MMYN is a group of highly capable, engaged and enthusiastic young people from culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse backgrounds, who are passionate about diversity and want to make a difference in Victoria.

“The MMYN is a valuable opportunity for young people from a variety of backgrounds to engage with government, raise the issues that matter most to them and come together to build understanding and acceptance across their faith communities,” Mr Tan said.

“I would encourage anyone who is interested to join in and make sure the voice of your community is heard.”

Culturally and religiously diverse young people aged between 16 and 25, with an enthusiasm for interfaith and intercultural engagement and collaboration, are encouraged to apply for the MMYN.

Previous MMYN initiatives include:

- The annual Regional School Tour, where members of the MMYN travel to regional Victoria to discuss issues of faith, culture and identity with high school students.
- Coordinating the Ubuntu youth stage at Viva Victoria during Cultural Diversity Week, featuring music, dance and poetry performances.
- Participating in the *Young People, Identity and the Media* forum and the *Owning Racism* symposium.

The MMYN supports members to develop their leadership, project management and group facilitation skills, as well as make strong friendships and networks. Previous members have gone on to work for government and community organisations, and some have even established their own organisations. All make a difference.

The 2011 Census has shown that more than 26 per cent of people living in Victoria were born overseas, and Victorians speak over 260 languages and follow 135 different religions.

“Being part of a group like the MMYN offers you the opportunity to share your own culture and engage with people from different backgrounds, and build lasting links across Victoria’s diverse cultural and faith groups”, Mr Tan said.

The MMYN – coordinated by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship – meets four to six times a year in Melbourne, and membership is on a voluntary basis. The application process is competitive, and is open until Monday 24 September 2012. Application forms and further information are available at <http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au>

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