

Regional Report for ECCV Board

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The Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District (ECSD)

ECSD is progressing well with settlement planning for its new arrivals. Recently arrived new communities include those from Iraq, Afghanistan, Congo and Sudan. At present joint effective approach by service providers such as the Education Department, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice, GOTAFE and Victoria Police, together with the Commonwealth Government 3 year funding of 2015 -2018, will strengthen the settlement services of the new arrivals.

The present availability of 4 mosques by the Albanians, Turks, Iraqis and Afghanis of the Goulburn Valley region offers sufficient opportunities for Muslims in the district to maintain their religious practice which is well embraced by all the local community.

Loddon- Campaspe Multicultural Services (LCMS) in Bendigo

LCMS recently had few protests by the some local residents despite the ongoing firm support by Council of the City of Bendigo regarding the establishment of the Mosque in the region. LCMS have planned settlement, education and social cohesion programs for the new migrants with strong support from Australian service providers, especially from 'MATCHWORK' and 'ONTRACK'. LCMS is progressing well with their preparation for the upcoming Refugee Week Celebration on 14th of June 2015

Sunraysia and Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMEC)

SMEC in Mildura will proudly be hosting their Cultural Opening Day on 13th June 2015 to recognise their new premises (an old primary school acquired through the support of the Department of Education). Currently SMEC conducts a 6 week program to prepare the CALD communities for the Citizenship test.

The 12 participant Citizenship classes are very much in demand with very successful outcomes. The recent increase in the issuing of infringement notices by the police to individuals from CALD communities in the

Sunraysia-Mallee (SM) region had created a Racial Profiling Receipt System. The RPRS accepted and endorsed by the police and SMEC will enable to identify how many times the **same** individual had been issued with infringements in **one** day and to follow up those cases to explore how to minimise them, where possible. SMEC is also working closely with ABC T.V. channel to publicise its significant role and services in the SM region.

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc (BRMC)

BRMC hosted its 10th Year Multicultural Tucker Day on the 13th May at GPlace in Ballarat. More than 60 people attended the event, including the Mayor of the City of Ballarat, Local MPs and delegates from overseas. BRMC is planning and coordinating the events during the Refugee Week in collaboration with several other partners in the week from 14th – 20th June.

The current venue (GPlace) that BRMC uses is in the hands of liquidators. If the premise is not secured for its role as the peak body in the Central Highlands Region, about 3000 users will be disappointed. BRMC is seeking for support from Ministers - Robin Scott and Jaala Pulford; local MPs - Geoff Howard and Sharon Knight; VMC, OMAC, City of Ballarat and ECCV.

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