



Media Release

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Multicultural Arts Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Community Needs Analysis in Victoria.

Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV) in partnership the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) is holding a series of community consultations across Victoria in November and early December 2004 researching the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse artists and communities.

George Lekakis, Chairman of the Victorian Multicultural Commission said, " Multicultural Arts Victoria and Victorian Multicultural Commission believe it is important to identify any barriers that may exist and to identify the needs of CALD/NESB artists so that we can improve access and support to CALD/NESB artists and communities in Victoria."

This analysis undertaken by MAV and the VMC is an important step in ensuring access and participation of all Victorians in the arts.

Multicultural Arts Victoria's recently appointed Chair, Mr Stefan Romaniw OAM stated "The aim of this first multicultural arts needs analysis will be to inform local and state multicultural arts strategies. Culture is linked to the well being of a community, contributing towards social inclusion, access, life-long learning, community cultural development and overall quality of life."

"This analysis will provide the first community based research and consultation into multicultural arts activity undertaken in Victoria", Romaniw added.

The arts are essential in our community and it is the aim of the project to bring about new ways of thinking and new activity to enhance the vitality of the State of Victoria through the arts. Our cultural diversity has gained increasing relevance for arts and cultural organisations in this state.

Jill Morgan Multicultural Arts Victoria's Executive Officer commented, "Victoria is one of Australia's most culturally diverse states. Cultural diversity in itself, however, is no guarantee of a lively cultural life."

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