



VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
MULTICULTURAL ISSUES NETWORK

## ***FORUM PROGRAM***

# ***Hope for Harmony***

*promoting social cohesion while responding to racism at the local level*

## **VLGMIN Annual Forum 2019**

On 26 September between 9.00am and 4.00pm, the City of Bendigo is hosting the 2019 Victorian Local Government Multicultural Issues Network (VLGMIN) forum at The Capital, a grand, National Trust-listed Victorian era building, 50 View Street, Bendigo.

We know that racism has harmful effects on people and their ability to fully participate in society. The 2019 VLGMIN forum will explore how far we have progressed in our combined efforts to understand and respond to racism at the individual, community and local government levels.

The VLGMIN forum is designed to provide a safe environment where the local government sector can define the debilitating effects of racism and explore effective strategic action. Come along and learn, network, compare – we plan to make this forum interesting, informative with at least one surprise to stimulate you. We hope to have a bit of fun during the day as well.

**Proudly sponsored by the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission**



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### FULL PROGRAM

8.30am - 12.30am	Morning sessions (Main auditorium)	Presenter(s)
8.30am	Arrival/coffee/tea and registration	VLGMIN Executive members
9.00am	Forum opening and housekeeping	Khayshie Tilak Ramesh  <i>City of Greater Bendigo Youth Mayor</i> <i>VMC Youth Commissioner</i> <i>Vice-president of Young People for Refugees</i>
9.10am	Welcome to Country	Dja Dja Wurrung Clan Aboriginal Corporation representative
9.15am	Welcome from Victoria Local Government Multicultural Issues Network (VLGMIN)	Ross Barnett  <i>VLGMIN Chairperson</i>
9.20am	Official opening by the City of Greater Bendigo	Deputy Mayor Cr Rod Fyffe  <i>City of Greater Bendigo</i>
9.30am	Address by Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC)	Kristen Hilton  <i>Commissioner of VEOHRC</i>
9.45am	Address by the Victorian Government	Josh Bull  <i>MP Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs</i>
10.05am	Keynote address by Nyadol Nyuon	Nyadol is a Human Rights Award winner and regular media commentator on race and racism having appeared on ABC's <i>The Drum</i> , as a panellist on Q&A and regularly contributes to The Age, Sydney Morning Herald and the Saturday Paper.
10.45am	Slam poetry performance	Anisa Nandaula  <i>Nationally recognised spoken word poet, play writer, educator and published author</i>
11.00am - 11.15am	Morning tea	Banquet room
11.15am - 12.15pm	<b>Panel of Insight</b>  A facilitated discussion where experts set the scene for the forum. Attendees will be able to put questions to the panel using <i>Slido</i> technology.	Facilitated by:  Professor Karen Farquharson <i>Head of the School of Social and Political Sciences and Professor of Sociology at the University of Melbourne</i>  Panellists:



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		<p>Acting Commander Murray Fraser <i>Priority Communities Division Capability Department Victoria Police</i></p> <p>Aleem Ali <i>CEO Welcoming Australia</i></p> <p>Councillor Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei <i>City of Yarra</i></p> <p>Dja Dja Wurrung Clan Aboriginal Corporation representative</p>
12.15pm - 12.30pm	<p><b>Lightening Talks</b></p> <p>Have you decided which workshops you will attend after lunch?</p> <p>During <i>Lightening talks</i> you will hear a quick pitch from each workshop convenor to help you decide.</p>	Workshop convenors
12.30pm – 1.15pm	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Banquet Room</b>
1.15pm - 3.30pm	<p><b>Afternoon sessions</b></p> <p>The afternoon is split into two sessions:</p> <p>Session 1 1.15pm – 2.30pm (workshops 1,2 &amp; 3)</p> <p>Session 2 2.40pm - 3.30pm (workshops 4, 5 &amp; 6)</p> <p><i>Choose one workshop per session</i></p>	Workshop sessions will be run in the Bendigo Bank Theatre, Engine room and La Trobe Art Institute.
1.15pm – 2.30pm	<b>Session 1: Workshops 1, 2 &amp; 3</b>	<i>Choose one of the below and check for room location on the day.</i>
Workshop 1	<p><b>VEOHRC in collaboration with local government embarks on digital strategies and innovative engagement to address racism within African and Muslim communities</b></p> <p>The African and Muslim communities of Victoria have incurred persistent, ongoing harmful racism, which includes religious discrimination and vilification. VEOHRC have embarked on a multi-faceted digital and community engagement strategy to strengthen our relationships with these communities to access our service and to report to us. This process has involved using</p>	<p>Convenor: Ross Barnett <i>City of Whittlesea</i></p> <p>Presenters: Angela Costi <i>Senior Advisor Information &amp; Engagement</i></p> <p>Rana Ebrahimi <i>Senior Project Adviser, VEOHRC as lead agency and incorporating the AHRC Adam Goodes story Campaign</i></p>



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	<p>WhatsApp to create a closed community network, trialling an online community reporting tool, co-designing education and training workshops with City of Whittlesea, City of Yarra, City of Darebin, and community based organisations, producing four films to inform a storytelling campaign, and coordinating dialogue forums with community leaders and representatives. VEOHRC have also established an African Ambassadors Program, which is an ongoing program established to work closely with young African Victorians as they advocate for themselves and their communities.</p>	
Workshop 2	<p><b>'Better Together' anti-racism campaign</b></p> <p>Participants will brainstorm actions that local councils across the state can take to engage with the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria 'Better Together' anti-racism campaign. Key areas will consider economic participation and cross-cultural community relationships.</p>	<p>Convenor: Amber Cassidy <i>Hobsons Bay City Council</i></p> <p>Presenter: Zuleika Arashiro <i>Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV)</i></p>
Workshop 2	<p><b>Research informing our response to racism in our workplace, community and society.</b></p> <p>This workshop will bring together three expert researchers who will present relevant research and insights that could inform responses to racism at the local level within our organisations, our local communities and in broader Australian society.</p>	<p>Convenor: Petr Svoboda <i>City of Moreland</i></p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Professor Karen Farquharson <i>Head of the School of Social and Political Sciences and Professor of Sociology at the University of Melbourne</i> will highlight some key lessons from her research that is focused on the sociology of 'race' and racism, ethnicity, and diversity, particularly in the contexts of media and sport.</p> <p>Dr Brigid Trenerry, a social science researcher based in Singapore will present her work in intervention research and studying innovative responses to workplace disruption, diversity and discrimination and inequality.</p>



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		Doug Cronin is a facilitator and researcher of ethical storytelling. Doug will present highlights on his work with <i>Our Race</i> which co-creates stories that encourage organisations to genuinely work towards inclusive workplaces by taking an anti-racist stance.
<b>2.40pm – 3.30pm</b>	<b>Session 2: Workshops 4, 5 &amp; 6</b>	<i>Choose one of the below and check for room location on the day.</i>
Workshop 4	<p><b>Overcoming fear-based politics through intentional and proactive grassroots initiatives – two regional Victoria models.</b></p> <p>This workshop will provide participants an opportunity to hear about the <i>Pot of Courage Project</i> and the <i>Community Harmony Project</i>, two different grassroots initiatives that are proactively responding to fear-based politics by supporting community harmony and inclusion</p>	<p>Workshop 4 convenor: Jac Torres-Gomez <i>City of Greater Bendigo</i></p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Nyibol Deng and Shiree Pikinton</p> <p><i>A Pot of Courage, a Ballarat-based Incorporated Association</i></p> <p>Phillip Walker</p> <p><i>City of Greater Bendigo</i></p>
Workshop 5	<p><b>What role can Intergenerational dialogue play in confronting racism?</b></p> <p>This workshop will explore how the exclusion of people based on age differences may result in breakdown of communication between generations and how institutional barriers compounded by cultural and social obstacles may result in social isolation and exclusion.</p> <p>The presenters will discuss how intergenerational dialogue can be a means to enhance relationships between different age groups by facilitating interactions and communication to promote understanding, collaboration and harmony. They will further explore how through strength-based community development approaches, local groups and organisations in Dandenong and Bendigo have brought people together and engaged them in meaningful activities to promote greater understanding and respect.</p>	<p>Convenor: Essan Dileri <i>City of Melton</i></p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Mr Nay Chee Aung <i>Bendigo Community Health Services</i></p> <p>Mr Yong Deng <i>Vice President, South Sudanese Australia Youth United</i></p> <p>Ms Katharina Verscharen, <i>Coordinator, Youth and Family Services City of Greater Dandenong</i></p>



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Workshop 6	<p><b>Our home Our future - Promoting Social Cohesion via a grassroots community driven initiative</b></p> <p>An exciting new campaign which focuses on bringing communities together through storytelling and conversations about building inclusive and welcoming spaces from the ground up, including examples of how proactively welcoming migrants and refugees build stronger, welcoming and more resilient communities where racism and/or any other forms of discrimination has no place.</p>	<p>Co-convenors: Veema Mooniapah <i>City of Greater Geelong</i></p> <p>Frances Salenga <i>City of Ballarat</i></p> <p>Presenters: Kate McInnes <i>Executive Officer, Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services</i></p> <p>Abhishek Awasthi <i>Board Chair of Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services</i></p>
<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>Closing sessions</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
3.30pm - 3.45pm	<p>Plenary session: <b>My hope for Harmony is.....</b></p> <p>An interactive word cloud capturing attendee's hopes and aspirations throughout the forum.</p>	Facilitator
3.45pm - 4.00pm	Creative wrap up and close by spoken word poet.	Anise Nandaula
<b>4.15pm - 5.30pm</b>	<p><b>Launch of the City of Greater Bendigo's Intercultural Ambassadors Program and presentation of certificates.</b></p> <p>You are welcome to stay and network over drinks &amp; nibbles in the Banquet room after.</p>	<p>Deputy Mayor, Councillor Rod Fyffe <i>City of Greater Bendigo</i></p> <p>VLGMIN Executive members</p>

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