

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Youth



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MORE SUPPORT FOR MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES

The Victorian Government's CALD Communities Taskforce – set up last month – has already helped hundreds of individuals and families get the support they need, including food packages and culturally appropriate care during self-isolation.

The Taskforce is partnering with community organisations and local governments to develop community specific, locally delivered solutions that will help slow the spread of coronavirus.

Since the Taskforce was established, more than \$1.3 million has made its way to multicultural and multifaith organisations, supporting more than 600 individuals or families during the pandemic.

It includes timely emergency relief packages, support to purchase medication and assistance accessing emergency payments for Victorians living right across the state, including regional areas such as Ballarat, Geelong and Colac.

The work of the Taskforce comes in response to feedback from community leaders and in recognition of the vital role local and community organisations play in identifying and supporting those who need it most.

The Taskforce continues to invite proposals for funding from organisations that currently provide emergency relief essentials to help them in supporting people to stay at home and slow the spread of the virus.

This includes support for individuals to access testing services, mental health support for those in self isolation and delivering culturally appropriate relief essentials such as food.

Supports and services must be delivered within three months of receiving funding and meet all the current health directions of the Chief Health Officer and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Priority is given to those located in pandemic hotspots, as well as major multicultural communities, emerging and vulnerable communities, as well as regional locations.

For more information or for a list of funded organisations to date, visit vic.gov.au/multicultural-taskforce-funding.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence

"The best way to get through this crisis is by supporting and looking after one another. We want to make sure multicultural communities have what they need while they're staying at home."

"We know there are many grassroots organisations that have existing knowledge and the networks needed to get support into communities quickly and effectively – that's why we're empowering them to continue their good work."

"The Taskforce has already proven invaluable to this process, so we can get vital support to where it's needed most."