

Media Release

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



Saturday, 12 December 2020

FURTHER SUPPORT FOR MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES

The Andrews Labor Government is continuing to support multicultural communities so that all Victorians emerge stronger on the other side of this pandemic.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence today announced an additional \$18.8 million to the CALD Communities Taskforce so that multicultural organisations can continue to lead local responses to the pandemic, including emergency relief, food and clothing supplies and outreach support.

The Taskforce will allocate the funds where needed, with more than \$5.4 million distributed to multicultural and multifaith organisations since it was set up in August.

This work has supported more than 90,000 Victorians from thousands of households and families during the pandemic. As well as this, the Taskforce is distributing around \$2 million to over 900 multicultural seniors groups to help their members stay safe and connected.

Continued support for the CALD Communities Taskforce recognises the unique challenges multicultural communities have faced as a result of the pandemic.

This latest funding package includes \$8 million to partner with community organisations and multicultural service providers so they can promote testing and COVID Safe behaviours with local communities, with a focus on supporting women and young people.

The funding also includes \$3 million to expand the distribution of translated health advice.

This funding is on top of the record \$69.1 million announced in last month's Budget, taking the total investment to multicultural communities to \$87.9 million.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence

"Empowering local groups to deliver local responses – whether it's food boxes or culturally sensitive support during isolation – has been crucial and it's also helped keep community connections strong."

"This extra funding means we can continue to support those who need more of a helping hand, whenever and wherever they need it."

"Victoria is proudly multicultural and we're making sure that every Victorian is supported as we continue on the road to recovery."