

Media Release

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



Friday, 18 December 2020

INVESTING IN MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Andrews Labor Government is kicking off a multi-million-dollar infrastructure boost that will strengthen multicultural connections while revitalising the state's economy.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence was at the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple in The Basin today to announce the more than 60 buildings and facilities that will be built, upgraded or repaired under a \$21 million investment made through this year's Budget.

Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam Incorporated will receive \$500,000 to upgrade the kitchen at the Sri Vakrathunda Temple, which is the oldest Hindu temple in Victoria.

Among the other projects is a new children's playground for the Pancretan Association of Melbourne's Wantirna South site, a major refurb for the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville and an upgrade for the Korean Society of Victoria's community hall in Oakleigh.

The Horsham Islamic Welfare Association will be able to upgrade their kitchen, storeroom, wash area and re-concrete around the building, while the Abruzzo Club will get a new lift installed to make access easier for their patrons.

These projects will benefit the many multicultural organisations that help bring communities together, while also putting more shovels in the ground and creating construction jobs.

Ensuring that multicultural communities can celebrate, preserve and share their traditions and promote social cohesion is a priority for the Labor Government.

Applications for the next round of community infrastructure funding will open on Monday, with grants of up to \$500,000 available per project for maintenance, upgrades or renovations.

For a full list of successful projects or to apply, visit vic.gov.au/multicultural-community-infrastructure-fund. Applications will close at 3pm Monday, 15 February 2021.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence

"This year has proven that, more than ever, community and cultural connections are vital – this investment in clubs, halls and community centres serves a dual purpose in enriching our diversity while also creating jobs."

"In Victoria we want to have many easily accessible, high-quality culturally diverse spaces, that are safe and welcoming and that can bring joy and connection to Victorians of all backgrounds."

Quotes attributable to Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor

"This is great news for the local community and all visitors to the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple, which has been a huge drawcard with its awe-inspiring architecture and design."

"Not only this, but I'm stoked that the Chinese Association of Victoria, in Wantirna, will be receiving over \$75,000 to help revamp their community facility."

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