

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



Tuesday, 16 March 2021

CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK IS BACK FOR 2021

Cultural Diversity Week is looking to the future in 2021, with the theme 'What does Multicultural Victoria look like in 2030?'

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence and Victorian Multicultural Commission Chairperson Vivienne Nguyen today announced the program for the week-long celebration of Victoria's vibrant and diverse community from 21-28 March.

The program includes a series of panels called 'Curious Conversations', where participants can ask big questions, spark constructive conversations and envision the future of Victorian multiculturalism. The panels are hybrid events where people can join and submit questions via Facebook Live.

Public, private and community organisations are encouraged to also hold their own COVIDSafe events during Cultural Diversity Week, upload them on the VMC's website and join in on the conversation on social media.

Culture Break – a series of performances run by Multicultural Arts Victoria around the CBD, including on the steps of Old Treasury Building and The State Library – will also be taking place during the week as our CBD returns to life.

Sharing culture through food, music and conversation is a cherished pastime for Victorians. Even with the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional multicultural and multifaith celebrations were adapted to ensure the health and safety of all Victorians.

The always popular Premier's Gala Dinner will be held later this year pending COVID-19 restrictions. For more information visit <u>multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/cultural-diversity-week-victorian-multicultural-commission</u>.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence

"This Cultural Diversity Week, we want Victorians to think about what strong, fair and diverse Victoria could look like in 10 years' time.

"Our cultural diversity has social, cultural and economic benefits for our state, and I encourage Victorians to take part in the events and excitement happening throughout the week."

Quotes attributable to Victorian Multicultural Commission Chairperson Vivienne Nguyen

"Last year was tough for our communities, but we adapted. Building on the lessons of 2020, this year's Cultural Diversity Week theme "What will multiculturalism look like in 2030?" has a focus on making the ideal a reality."

"We won't shy away from tough conversations during this week and will work constructively together to discuss what the harmonious future may look like."