

Media Release

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



Thursday, 26 August 2021

SUPPORTING MULTICULTURAL VICTORIANS THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

The Victorian Government is helping Victorians from multicultural backgrounds continue putting healthy and culturally appropriate food on the table as Victorians do their bit by staying home.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence today announced more than \$1.4 million for 99 organisations to continue delivering immediate food relief services to Victoria's multicultural communities.

This will allow organisations to continue their important work, including by providing food hampers, freshly cooked meals, groceries and essential items to community members in need.

Funded through the Priority Response to Multicultural Communities During Coronavirus program, organisations including Fijian Community Association Victoria and the Ballarat African Association will be supported to continue providing communities with culturally appropriate food relief.

The Khalsa Foundation is also being funded to continue its food delivery service providing groceries and essential items to Shepparton residents.

Almost \$23 million has already been invested through the program, enabling support to more than 500,000 Victorians since it began in August 2020.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Government has funded more than 320 community organisations through the program to provide emergency relief, food support and community outreach, as well as targeted communication through translated materials and community-led content.

This builds on the \$5 million committed in June to the program to ensure Victoria's multicultural communities are well-supported to deal with the impacts of the pandemic.

A complete list of funded recipients can be found at vic.gov.au/priority-response-multicultural-communities-during-coronavirus-covid-19.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence

"We're helping put food on the table for Victorians in need – no Victorian should go hungry because of this pandemic."

"Victoria's multicultural communities have remained strong while facing the challenges of the pandemic, and we are ensuring they receive the help they need to keep going."

"Community organisations do such an important job feeding people and keeping them connected, and this will allow them to continue serving the communities they know so well."