Media Release

Ingrid Stitt MP Minister for Mental Health Minister for Ageing Minister for Multicultural Affairs



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HAVE YOUR SAY ON VICTORIA'S MULTICULTURAL REVIEW

The Allan Labor Government is inviting multicultural and multifaith communities, organisations and leaders to have their say in shaping Victoria's multicultural policies and institutions.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt today announced the start of community consultations for *Victoria's Multicultural Review*, with an advisory group set to engage multicultural communities across ten regional and metropolitan local government areas.

The advisory group will lead discussions and workshops to hear directly from multicultural Victorians about how the Labor Government can tackle discrimination, build social cohesion and foster a more inclusive Victoria.

Victoria's Multicultural Review is led by longstanding multicultural leader George Lekakis AO, with support from a targeted advisory group comprising of Hass Dellal AO, Carmel Guerra OAM, Miriam Suss OAM and Mark Duckworth PSM.

The Review will recommend how the Labor Government can strengthen systems, organisations and policies to better resolve conflict, foster connection and celebrate the rich diversity of our multicultural and multifaith communities.

As important steps are undertaken through Victoria's new Anti-Racism Strategy and the *Anti-Vilification and Social Cohesion* Bill now enshrined in law, it's critical that multicultural organisations have the support they need to strengthen inclusion and unity across all communities, especially those that are new and emerging.

For more information on where and when consultations will take place and how to participate, please visit <u>vic.gov.au/victorias-multicultural-review</u>.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt

"Victoria's multiculturalism is one of the most precious parts of our state – and it's essential that our systems actively support inclusion, tackle discrimination and bring communities together."

"We encourage all multicultural and multifaith communities to take part in this consultation process – your voices are integral in shaping the future of Victoria's multicultural policies and programs."

Quotes attributable to George Lekakis AO

"As someone who has dedicated my life to advocating for the rights and inclusion of multicultural communities, leading Victoria's Multicultural Review is not just a responsibility – it's a deeply personal mission."

"This work is about ensuring every Victorian is included, valued, and can access government services. It's about building a future where our diversity is not just acknowledged but celebrated as a strength."

Media contact: Max Resic 0435 256 250 | max.resic@minstaff.vic.gov.au