

Policy for the 2006 Victorian Election

Promoting diversity: Strengthening Multiculturalism in Victoria

**WHEN IT
MATTERS**



**Steve Bracks
and Labor**



Strengthening Multiculturalism in Victoria

The Bracks Labor Government has taken a pro-active approach to strengthening multicultural Victoria – delivering balanced leadership, policies and legislation that support multiculturalism.

Victoria is the nation's premier multicultural state. The challenge is to ensure that multiculturalism remains strong in Victoria by building on our successes.

Over the next four years a re-elected Bracks Government will:

SUPPORT OUR DIVERSE CULTURES

- ✓ Invest \$8 million to boost the viability and vibrancy of three major cultural precincts – Lonsdale, Lygon and Little Bourke Streets – in partnership with the City of Melbourne and the Greek, Italian and Chinese communities.
- ✓ Ensure our cultural diversity is better understood, respected and promoted with a further \$2.5 million for multicultural festivals.
- ✓ Increase annual core funding for the peak body, the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, to \$250,000.
- ✓ Establish a multicultural centre at the DW Hope Centre in Norlane, Geelong with up to \$1 million in matched funding.

BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES

- ✓ Boost the Victorian Multicultural Commission's Community Grants Program by one third to \$4 million a year with a focus on supporting new arrivals to Victoria, and older Victorians and women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.
- ✓ Provide an additional \$2 million over two years to support community harmony initiatives.
- ✓ Provide greater support for multicultural communities through the Multicultural Advisory Unit within Victoria Police.

BUILD LANGUAGE SKILLS

- ✓ Increase funding to the After Hours Ethnic Schools Program, by a further \$3.1 million to increase the fee subsidy from \$100 to \$120 per student.
- ✓ Deliver the commitment in the 2006-07 budget to invest \$1.2 million for specialist English as a Second Language programs, built around a vocational curriculum, for recently arrived refugees.
- ✓ Deliver the \$3.1 million investment for the successful Language Services Strategy.

PROVIDE BETTER ACCESS TO SERVICES

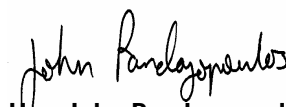
- ✓ Merge the activities of the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs into those of the Victorian Multicultural Commission.
- ✓ Provide priority support for older Victorians from CALD backgrounds and develop a specific CALD Older Persons' Action Plan in partnership with the Office of Older Victorians.
- ✓ Deliver the commitment in the 2006-07 budget to provide \$2.1 million to expand the refugee nurses strategy.
- ✓ Require Government departments to develop cultural diversity plans to improve service delivery to Victoria's CALD communities.

- ✓ Provide \$7.6 million over the next five years from the Community Support Fund problem gambling program to tackle problem gambling in CALD communities.

Labor is committed to strengthening multiculturalism in Victoria by providing increased support for Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse communities and promoting the social, economic and cultural benefits of this diversity.



Hon Steve Bracks MP
Premier and Minister for
Multicultural Affairs



Hon John Pandazopoulos MP
Minister Assisting the Premier
in Multicultural Affairs

Our values: Why the Bracks Labor Government supports multiculturalism

The Bracks Labor Government believes that a strong society is built on mutual respect, tolerance and understanding. By building a harmonious community, we are making Victoria more prosperous, fair and vibrant.

Multiculturalism is simple to understand. It means being free to practise, enjoy and share our culture, while upholding the rights and responsibilities of being Victorian.

Cultural diversity is part of the fabric of our community. We embrace it every day of our lives in the way we accept, respect and live harmoniously with each other.

According to the last census, Victorians come from over 230 countries, speak 180 languages and dialects, and follow more than 116 religions. One in four Victorians was born overseas. In fact, nearly half of us were either born overseas or have at least one parent who was.

Opponents of multiculturalism have alleged that multiculturalism encourages people from migrant backgrounds to 'stay separate'. Nothing could be further from the truth. The idea that people should either remain separate or be forced to assimilate offends our sense of fairness. No-one should have to apologise for where they came from or be ashamed of their culture.

Our nation today needs its leaders to promote harmony and mutual understanding. On this crucial issue for Australia's future, Victoria is not afraid to show leadership.

By maintaining a pro-active approach to strengthening multicultural Victoria, we are celebrating our cultural diversity – and promoting the significant social, cultural and economic benefits derived from our diversity.

Multiculturalism is also the foundation for a more prosperous Victoria. Nations, states, cities and communities that are at ease with – and that welcome – other cultures attract new people, investment and skills.

The Bracks Labor Government welcomes skilled migrants and refugees – proportionally more than any other Australian State - and we are providing the support needed for families to build a better life in Victoria.

All Victorians share a responsibility to encourage and foster a welcoming, open and tolerant state where people can live free from discrimination and vilification.

By making multiculturalism a key goal for every Government department, we can reduce inequality, improve access to services and encourage participation in our community, leading to a more cohesive, harmonious and prosperous Victoria.

How Victoria has been strengthened as a multicultural community

Over the last seven years, the Bracks Labor Government has delivered a wide range of initiatives to benefit multicultural communities and strengthen social cohesion. Labor has:

INCREASED RESOURCES TO MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES

- ✓ Quadrupled funding to support ethnic and multicultural community organisations through the Victorian Multicultural Commission's (VMC) community grants program, from \$750,000 in 1999 to \$3 million from 2006.
- ✓ Allocated \$6.7 million for community based refugee health nurses and locally based early intervention refugee workers to improve refugees' access to services and increase their participation in the community.
- ✓ Provided access to public hospitals for asylum seekers denied access to Medicare and extended eligibility for Victoria's Utility Relief Grant Scheme to asylum seekers.
- ✓ Funded 58 ethno-specific and multicultural agencies to provide Home and Community Care (HACC) services for people from CALD communities.
- ✓ Boosted funding for education and training in CALD communities by allocating an average of \$27 million a year for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in over 450 schools.
- ✓ Provided ongoing support, including over \$50 million in 2006, for Languages Other Than English (LOTE) programs in primary and secondary schools.
- ✓ Tripled annual funding to the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) from \$60,000 to \$180,000.

IMPROVED SERVICES FOR MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES

- ✓ Translated the Government Services directory into 15 languages.
- ✓ Increased the After Hours Community Languages Program student subsidy from \$90 to \$100 per student per year in 2004.
- ✓ Allocated \$2.75 million to the Language Services Strategy to extend interpreting and translating services and improve access to health, education, welfare and justice services.
- ✓ Introduced the National Interpreter Symbol and the interpreter card to ensure better access to interpreting services.
- ✓ Increased funding to \$13 million a year for free interpreting and translating services across government.
- ✓ Provided online translation directories for health and legal information, which link approximately 11,000 resources available in 60 languages.
- ✓ Undertaken extensive research into the particular needs of CALD women.

PROMOTED HARMONY AND CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

- ✓ Introduced the *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act* to protect all Victorians from serious racial and religious vilification.
- ✓ Introduced the *Multicultural Victoria Act* which formally recognises the benefits multiculturalism brings to Victoria; makes strengthening multiculturalism a core goal of every government department; and has improved accountability of departments through detailed annual reporting.
- ✓ Facilitated the signing of a Community Accord by ethnic and religious community leaders.
- ✓ Under the Community Partnerships Program, \$721,000 has been provided to 17 projects specifically targeting problem gambling in CALD communities.
- ✓ \$1.5 million for a hard hitting campaign advertising problem gambling services in ethnic media.
- ✓ Supported Victoria Police in the establishment of their multicultural policing strategy, which includes a Multicultural Advisory Unit and Multi-faith Council.
- ✓ Held the first Australian multi-faith forum with 34 faith and community leaders to build bridges between communities and develop multi-faith dialogue and provided \$2 million to support initiatives arising out of the forum including \$250,000 to support a new program of Women in Harmony Grants.
- ✓ Provided \$375,000 to establish the Centre for Dialogue at La Trobe University and an additional \$267,450 for youth leadership workshops.

OUR MULTI CULTURAL STRENGTHS ARE ECONOMIC STRENGTHS

- ✓ Increased Victoria's share of Australia's skilled and business migration from under 20% to 27%.
- ✓ Invested \$12 million to attract skilled migrants to metropolitan and regional Victoria.
- ✓ Established the Overseas Qualification Unit to assist overseas qualified professionals to access jobs.
- ✓ Trialled a 'job-ready' database for regional employees.
- ✓ Established a Diversity Register where individuals from CALD backgrounds can register their interest to serve on boards and committees.
- ✓ Established the Ethnic Enterprise Advisory Council to provide policy advice to the Victorian Government, and better support the 29% of small businesses operated by Victorians born overseas.
- ✓ Established university scholarships to encourage overseas students to live, study and work in Victoria.
- ✓ Attracted 34% of all international students to Melbourne as their study base.

The contrast with the Liberal Opposition

Traditionally, multiculturalism has enjoyed bi-partisan support. Now there is a clear difference between the Liberals' rhetoric and the improved outcomes achieved for multicultural communities under the Bracks Government.

At a time when there is a greater need to build bridges between our multicultural and multi-faith communities, the Liberal Party is sending mixed messages.

The Victorian Liberals continue to stand silent while their Federal counterparts are pursuing a political agenda which is dividing our multicultural communities.

The Victorian Liberal Party has no vision for multiculturalism in Victoria. To them, it's all about the folkloric – food and costumes. They are committed to abolishing the Department for Victorian Communities (DVC). This action will significantly weaken multicultural services and marginalise the needs of CALD communities in government.

Under the previous Liberal Government, the Victorian Multicultural Commission was allocated only \$750,000 per year to support ethnic community organisations. The Bracks Labor Government has increased this annual support to \$3 million in 2006 and if re-elected will increase it to \$4 million.

The Bracks Labor Government has worked hard to protect Victorians from racial and religious vilification, while the Liberals have continued to play politics with this important issue. Now the Liberals have joined the National Party in promising to remove the religious provisions in the *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act*.

The reality is the Liberal Party will again let our ethnic communities down and will remove the support necessary to secure the significant social and economic benefits offered by Victoria's multiculturalism and cultural diversity.

THE CONTRAST WITH THE NATIONAL PARTY

The National Party have no policies when it comes to promoting our cultural diversity and strengthening our multicultural communities.

They have consistently opposed and would repeal the *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act* which protects Victorians from vilification.

Our vision for the future: What Labor will do

Labor will continue to develop and implement initiatives designed to encourage Victorians of all backgrounds to participate in the social, economic and political spheres of community life.

Our diversity is our greatest cultural, social and economic asset. As a result, Victoria is perceived internationally as a welcoming place to do business, study, work, live and raise a family.

Labor recognises that diversity strengthens and unites us and we celebrate the many languages and faiths represented in Victoria.

Labor also recognises that some members of CALD communities, especially older people, women and refugees, are among the most disadvantaged in our community and are in need of particular support.

We will work with Victoria's ethnic and multi-faith communities to build a greater understanding between communities and reduce disadvantage and celebrate our vibrancy.

Over the next four years a re-elected Bracks Labor Government will:

SUPPORT OUR DIVERSE CULTURES

1. Labor will invest \$8 million to boost the viability and vibrancy of three major cultural precincts – Lygon, Lonsdale and Little Bourke Streets – in partnership with the City of Melbourne and the Italian, Greek and Chinese communities.

Many of Victoria's CALD communities have developed a presence in particular locations in Melbourne, with the oldest precincts being the Italian, Greek and Chinese precincts on Lygon, Lonsdale and Little Bourke Streets. These precincts act as centres for community celebrations and as tourist centres that offer visitors the opportunity to experience the food, culture and history of these communities.

Faced with increasing competition from expanding retail precincts such as Docklands and Southbank, these ethnic precincts require co-ordinated investment if they are to remain sustainable and attractive for investment, cultural and tourist activities.

Labor will invest \$8 million to establish a Cultural Precincts Enhancement Fund in partnership with the City of Melbourne and local Italian, Greek and Chinese communities. This initiative will fund restoration of key laneways, street beautification, including art work, landscaping and lighting, as well as boost resources for the communities to showcase their culture and heritage including their key festivals.

2. Labor will ensure our cultural diversity is better understood, respected and promoted with a further \$2.5 million for multicultural festivals.

Victorians are proud of our diversity – and of the fact that multiculturalism is woven into the fabric of our State through sport, arts, architecture and cuisine. Victorians understand that our communities are strengthened by a greater understanding and appreciation of other cultures.

To ensure our cultural diversity continues to be respected and promoted, Labor is investing an additional \$2.5 million to support multicultural celebrations and festivals across Victoria.

Through three year funding agreements Labor will support a range of multicultural festivals in Melbourne including:

- ✓ Antipodes Festival
- ✓ Melbourne Italian Festival
- ✓ Chinese New Year
- ✓ TET Festival
- ✓ Hispanic Latin American Festival
- ✓ Celtic Festival
- ✓ Diwali Festival
- ✓ Sunnation Multicultural Festival
- ✓ Refugee Week Festival
- ✓ Celebrate Our Cultural Diversity Week

Labor will also support activities in regional Victoria including the Pako Festival in Geelong and festivals in Bendigo, Ballarat, Shepparton and Mildura.

3. Labor will increase annual core funding for the peak body, the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) to \$250,000.

The Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria represents the interests of more than 170 multicultural community organisations across Victoria. As CALD communities grow and become increasingly diverse, the ECCV will need additional support to ensure it continues to adequately represent its stakeholders.

Labor will increase the ECCV's core annual funding from \$180,000 to \$250,000 to enable the council to more effectively represent the interests and aspirations of Victoria's CALD communities.

4. Labor will establish a multicultural centre at the DW Hope Centre in Norlane, Geelong with up to \$1 million in matched funding.

The development of the D W Hope centre is part of a \$20 million Community Support Fund program to build and upgrade government and non-government community buildings with local government.

The Centre in Norlane, Geelong is of major community and cultural importance as the former Commonwealth Migrant Hostel. The development of a multicultural facility on this site provides a direct link to the important contribution Geelong's migrant history has made to the region's cultural and economic development.

With an estimated 50 ethnic groups across the City of Geelong, and with 80% of Geelong's first generation migrant communities residing in the northern suburbs, the construction of a purpose built multicultural facility will provide greater opportunities for cultural participation and cross-cultural development.

Facilities at the centre will include aged care services, child care facilities, meeting and training rooms, employment services and artists' spaces and gallery. The Centre will also build links to the Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative (located immediately adjacent to the site) and historical links to the stories of early migration settlement in Geelong.

The Geelong Ethnic Communities Council (GECC) is the peak body representing CALD communities across the region. With 31 affiliated ethnic communities GECC is a major stakeholder in the centre and will provide tangible links for traditionally disadvantaged groups. A more comprehensive range of services will be offered at the redeveloped centre.

BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES

5. Labor will boost the Victorian Multicultural Commission's Community Grants Program by one third to \$4 million a year with a focus on supporting new arrivals to Victoria, and older Victorians and women from CALD backgrounds.

The Victorian Multicultural Commission supports over 1600 organisations per year through its Community Grants Program.

Multicultural communities have identified the Victorian Multicultural Commission's community grants as being instrumental in strengthening their capacity to more effectively participate in the wider community.

The demand for community grants has grown significantly across metropolitan and regional Victoria over the last seven years, with funding to the program increasing from \$750,000 in 1999 to \$3 million in 2006.

Labor will further increase funding for the Community Grants Program to \$4 million a year. This will enable:

- ✓ A significant increase in the funding available to Multicultural Senior Citizens groups.
- ✓ Additional support to women's and youth community groups, particularly those from new and emerging communities.

A stronger Community Grants Program will increase the capacity of ethnic community organisations across Victoria to not only support our multicultural diversity, but also contribute real economic, social and cultural benefits for all Victorians.

6. Labor will provide an additional \$2 million over two years to support community harmony initiatives.

Labor is committed to making sure that all Victorians continue to live harmoniously together with the right to practice different faiths, speak freely, celebrate diversity and live without fear of discrimination and vilification.

Victoria has an excellent record of interfaith cooperation. Working in partnership with faith and community leaders and promoting community events is a powerful way of increasing understanding and celebrating our similarities rather than our differences.

Recent events in Australia and overseas have placed many of our CALD communities under greater pressure. Labor will work to ensure that the strength of multicultural Victoria is not undermined by these events.

Labor will provide funding for projects, developed and supported by the Premier's Multi-Faith Forum and grass roots community and interfaith networks, which are aimed at promoting harmony and increasing understanding of the complexities of a multicultural and multifaith society.

Increasing the ability of young new arrivals to participate in community life is also a key factor in maintaining a strong multicultural Victoria. Labor will support mentoring programs to strengthen CALD women's leadership capacity. Labor will also establish a Multifaith Multicultural Youth Network to strengthen youth participation and leadership and provide funding for a community education campaign to complement Victoria's annual Celebrate Our Cultural Diversity Week.

7. Labor will provide greater support for multicultural communities through the Multicultural Advisory Unit within Victoria Police.

Victoria benefits from the positive relationships that exist between Victoria Police and our ethnic communities –achieved by the excellent work of Victoria Police's Multicultural Advisory Unit, Multicultural Liaison Officers and Multifaith Council.

Labor will build on this work through:

- ✓ Cultural awareness training for recruits and established members of the force.
- ✓ Appropriate placement of police from CALD backgrounds within new and emerging communities.
- ✓ Recruitment policies.
- ✓ The long-standing police and community multicultural advisory council.
- ✓ The Victoria Police Multifaith Council.
- ✓ Positive and regular contact between police and young members of these communities in community settings.

Labor will ensure Victoria Police continues to engage with CALD communities to help to ensure that Victoria enjoys a safer, more respectful and egalitarian multicultural society

BUILD LANGUAGE SKILLS

8. Labor will increase funding to the After Hours Ethnic Schools Program by a further \$3.1 million over four years, increasing the fee subsidy from \$100 to \$120 per student.

Being bilingual or multilingual is increasingly important for succeeding in a globalised economy. If Victoria is to fully realise the opportunities offered by our multicultural community, we must further develop the provision of language training.

Labor is committed to providing quality language training to members of CALD communities through the ESL, LOTE and After Hours Ethnic Schools programs.

Labor recognises that After Hours Ethnic Schools, in particular, are an important way for CALD communities to pass on language and culture to future generations. Labor acknowledges the increasing pressures facing After Hours Ethnic Schools and will ease some of these pressures by increasing the government fee subsidy from \$100 to \$120 per student.

Labor will also provide a one-off \$300,000 funding boost to the VMC's After Hours Ethnic Schools professional development program.

These initiatives will ensure better learning quality outcomes for all students and contribute to Victoria's international competitiveness.

9. Labor has committed \$1.2 million for specialist English as a Second Language programs built around a vocational curriculum.

A growing number of new arrivals from places such as the Horn of Africa do not have long and deep roots in our community. These people are often fleeing traumatic circumstances, such as civil war and extreme famine. In some instances, their teenage children have never attended school.

The experiences of these new arrivals are difficult for Victorians to grasp, but the Bracks Labor Government has introduced new resources to give these people the extra help they need to make a successful transition to life in our cities and country towns.

Of particular importance is the need to increase English training for young people from these ethnic groups. The Bracks Labor Government has previously allocated \$1.2 million to provide a higher level of language assistance to young refugees with little or no formal education and poor literacy in their own languages.

This initiative will use the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning to build a study program incorporating literacy, numeracy, work skills and industry specific skills, in a way that is relevant to the interests and learning needs of young refugees.

10. Labor will deliver the commitment in the 2006-07 budget for \$3.1 million to continue the successful Language Services Strategy.

The Language Services Strategy focuses on the better delivery of health, justice, and education services through improved interpreting and translating services, including training, testing and accreditation.

More than 180 languages and dialects are spoken in Victoria. The demand for language services has increased due to the growing number of emerging languages (spoken by new arrivals from Africa and the Middle East); the growing numbers of aging CALD Victorians who revert to their first languages; and the need to support specialist professional development courses and interpreter awareness training in the mental health sector.

The Bracks Labor Government has committed a further \$3.1 million to prioritise interpreter and bilingual service capacity for newly arrived refugees, assist ageing migrant communities access aged care services, and ensure culturally appropriate services across the Victorian Government.

PROVIDE BETTER ACCESS TO SERVICES

11. Labor will merge the activities of the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs (VOMA) into those of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC).

Consolidating the administration of the Multicultural Affairs portfolio into a single statutory authority will significantly improve the delivery of Victoria's multicultural affairs strategies, policies and services.

Labor will amend the *Multicultural Victoria Act* to establish this new entity, which will provide a greater community focus and have an increased capacity to support CALD communities. The benefits of consolidation will include:

- ✓ A more coordinated and community focused approach to the development and implementation of multicultural programs
- ✓ Improved delivery of policy and program advice, as well as meeting the objectives specified within the *Multicultural Victoria Act*
- ✓ Greater clarity across the community and government with respect to roles and responsibilities within the Multicultural Affairs portfolio.
- ✓ Clearer direction and management of issues relating to multicultural affairs.
- ✓ Reduced duplication and greater efficiencies and synergies within the streamlined administration.

- ✓ This reform will free up \$1 million a year which will be redirected to producing more support to CALD communities.

The merged authority will continue to be overseen by Commissioners appointed by Cabinet and will be supported by an advisory body with representation from community advocacy groups.

12. Labor will provide priority support to older Victorians from CALD backgrounds and develop a specific CALD Older Person's Action Plan in partnership with the Office of Older Victorians.

With 38% of older Australians expected to be from a CALD background by 2011, greater support is required to meet the specific needs of older Victorians from CALD backgrounds, particularly in the areas of health care, language and social isolation.

A re-elected Bracks Labor Government will give priority to support for independent living for older Victorians from CALD backgrounds. This support will include: planned activity groups, home help, assistance with showering and dressing, delivered meals and assistance with home maintenance. CALD-specific programs will provide a stronger focus on reducing isolation and re-establishing social connections between people.

The Culturally Equitable Gateways Strategy will also assist local councils, ethno-specific and multicultural agencies to work cooperatively on improving the access of people from culturally diverse backgrounds to these mainstream Home and Community Care (HACC) services.

The Bracks Labor Government's Aged Care Land Bank initiative will encourage the provision of additional residential aged care beds in metropolitan areas by providing not-for-profit aged care providers with access to surplus government land. Priority will be given to assisting CALD communities to establish and maintain aged care facilities for elderly members from their own communities, providing culturally sensitive care and carers speaking appropriate languages.

Labor will also consult extensively to develop a CALD Older Persons Action plan that will build on current initiatives to meet the needs of the growing population of older Victorians from CALD backgrounds. The plan will be implemented in 2007-08.

13. Labor will deliver the commitment in the 2006-07 budget to invest a further \$2.1 million to expand the refugee nurses strategy.

Newly arrived refugees and humanitarian entrants face a range of problems, including educational difficulties (due to disrupted school and language problems), dealing with the after effects of torture, trauma and family displacement, and cultural adjustment issues.

In addition to refugee intervention workers, the hours and availability of community based refugee health nurses will be extended in Community Health Centres in areas with high refugee populations.

Clinicians and resources will also be matched to better support this high needs group.

14. Labor will require Government departments to develop cultural diversity plans to improve service delivery to Victoria's CALD communities.

The landmark *Multicultural Victoria Act 2004* enshrines the principles of multiculturalism for future generations and makes strengthening of multiculturalism a core goal of every Victorian Government department.

The Act reflects, the Government's commitment to:

- ✓ Valuing diversity.
- ✓ Reducing inequality.
- ✓ Improving access.
- ✓ Encouraging participation.
- ✓ Promoting the social and economic benefits of cultural diversity to all Victorians.

Cultural awareness training is making our public servants more aware of the additional help some groups may need. Labor will also require all departments to develop cultural diversity plans that address the provision of culturally sensitive service delivery to Victoria's CALD communities.

Departments will be required to:

- ✓ Incorporate culturally appropriate training for staff into the delivery of services to our CALD communities.
- ✓ Ensure that information on services is readily accessible to CALD communities.
- ✓ Include assessment of the effectiveness of service delivery to CALD communities as an integral part of program evaluation.
- ✓ Report annually on progress through their Ministers to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

15. Labor is providing \$7.6 million over the next five years from the Community Support Fund problem gambling program to tackle problem gambling in CALD communities.

Labor recognises the importance of cultural-specific responses to instances of problem gambling in CALD communities. CALD communities are often faced with significant barriers such as lack of English language skills, cultural attitudes and social isolation.

Since 1999, the Bracks Labor Government has spent over \$1.5 million in advertising problem gambling services in ethnic media and provided information in 11 languages with a focus on bilingual counselling services and in-language telephone information and referral services.

Through the Community Partnership Program, we have provided over \$720,000 in funding for 17 projects aimed at reducing some of the disadvantage faced by CALD communities. These projects have provided local responses for CALD communities and have assisted in breaking down some of the barriers such as language and the stigma attached to accessing problem gambling services.

Labor is currently building on this by providing \$7.6 million as part of the *Taking Action on Problem Gambling* statement for CALD specific initiatives.

This will enable greater community education targeted at CALD communities and improve access to services for those who are disadvantaged and isolated in our community.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

RECURRENT INITIATIVES	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m	2009-10 \$m	2010-11 \$m	TOTAL \$m
Ethnic precincts development	3.0	3.0	2.0	-	8.0
Ethnic Communities Council	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.28
D W Hope Centre	1.0				1.0
Multicultural community grants	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	4.0
Community harmony initiatives	1.0	1.0			2.0
After Hours Ethnic Schools program	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	3.1
TOTAL RECURRENT FUNDING	7.1	5.8	3.8	1.8	18.4
<i>Less:</i>					
Savings from merger of VOMA into VMC	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	4.0
CSF funding for ethnic precincts & D W Hope Centre	2.0	1.0	1.0	-	4.0
TOTAL IMPACT ON OPERATING SURPLUS	4.1	3.8	1.8	0.8	10.4

For further details on Labor's policies and team, please contact
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