

# Victorian Budget 2021-22

## Supporting Victoria's Multicultural Communities

**The Hon. Ros Spence MP**  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

16 June 2021

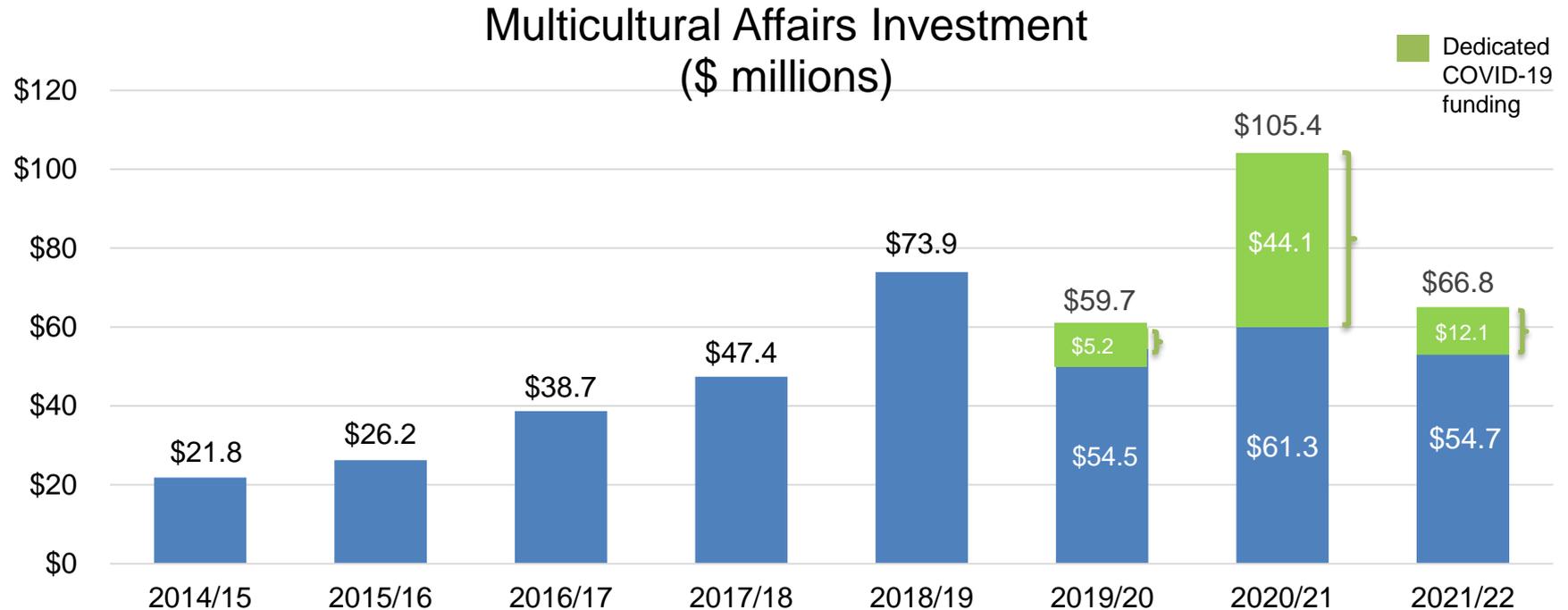


# Multicultural Affairs Portfolio Objectives



- Building **inclusive communities** and promoting **social cohesion**
- Addressing **racism** and **discrimination**
- Supporting multicultural communities **impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic**
- Promoting **positive settlement for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers**
- **Improving access** to government services
- Ensuring government programs, services and policies are **inclusive to all Victorians**
- Providing grants to **celebrate culture and faith** and to support multicultural community organisations

# Multicultural Affairs Investment



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# Dedicated COVID-19 supports in 2020-21

In 2020-21 the Multicultural Affairs portfolio delivered the following dedicated supports to Victorian multicultural communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **\$33.13 million** for the **CALD Communities Taskforce** and multicultural communities to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and to deliver local responses, including through a range of communications, translations, engagement and funding activities. To date, this funding delivered more than 200 partnerships with community organisations, and support for more than 70,000 individuals and/or 9,000 families/households through providing emergency relief, outreach and welfare support, and health literacy programs.
- **\$6.09 million** to **support some of Victoria's most vulnerable cohorts** and **address critical service gaps**, including supports for at-risk families and youth, supports for temporary migrants and women at-risk of family violence, a boost in translated messaging across government and supports for community wellbeing and connection.
- **\$4.86 million** to support communities during the pandemic, including **\$3 million to support the survival of multicultural media organisations** and to ensure critical information continues to be provided to multicultural communities and **\$1.86 million for further targeted communications and engagement** activities during the pandemic, to provide timely, in-language, culturally appropriate and accessible information and supports.

**In addition, a further \$34.3 million** was provided for economic recovery support – including funding for upgrades to 100 community facilities, providing an economic stimulus through job creation and supporting community and faith groups with a place to celebrate, preserve and share their traditions.

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# Supporting multicultural communities in 2020-21



In 2020-21 Multicultural Affairs also delivered the following programs and initiatives:

- **\$4.5 million** for the **Victorian African Communities Action Plan** including the delivery of a COVID-19 support package to respond to immediate community needs during the pandemic, 12 homework clubs and 8 School Community Liaison Officers to support improved schooling outcomes, leadership training for 25 community leaders, and grants to 21 organisations for projects to support inclusion and participation.
- **\$2.2 million** to support **improved settlement outcomes for newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers** including the provision of critical legal advice and support, navigation and connection support to health, education, employment and welfare services via community hubs and supported playgroups and community capacity building.
- **\$3.9 million** to **respond to increasing race and faith-based discrimination** for multicultural Victorians including the establishment of the Anti-Racism Taskforce which will guide the development of a whole of Government Anti-Racism Strategy and funding the Local Anti-Racism Initiatives Grants Program.

# New funding in the 2021-22 State Budget

New initiatives in the Multicultural Affairs portfolio announced in the 2021-22 Budget total **\$23.7 million** and include:

- **\$8.7 million to Supporting Improved Settlement Outcomes** to continue support for Victoria's humanitarian cohorts. This will fund critical programs that support refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers and other vulnerable multicultural communities across Victoria.
- **\$8 million for the Multicultural Seniors' Grants** to provide grants to more than 900 multicultural seniors' groups to help multicultural seniors stay connected to their communities across Victoria.
- **\$4.5 million for Recovery Together: Jobs and Stimulus Initiatives for Victoria's Multicultural Communities** to support upgrades to multicultural community facilities and deliver a bicultural workers strategy to strengthen employment outcomes for Victoria's multicultural communities.
- **\$1.5 million for the Tackling Racism in Victoria Head On** initiative to address the increase in vilification and hate-based conduct during the pandemic and to progress the work of the Anti-Vilification Inquiry.
- **\$1.1 million for Multicultural Festivals and Events.**

In June 2021, a further **\$12.1 million** was announced in 2021-22 to **continue the work of the CALD Communities Taskforce** and provide emergency support and vital public health information during the pandemic.

