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MEDIA RELEASE

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Multicultural Youth on Political Agenda

CMYI Welcomes Announcements in Lead Up to State Election

The Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI) today welcomed the youth focussed initiatives announced by both the Victorian Government and the Victorian Opposition in the lead up to the State election.

“The fact that both the Government and the Opposition have recognised the importance of not only listening to young people, but investing in programs and services that support them and enable their voice to be heard, is a very positive sign,” says CMYI Director Carmel Guerra.

Both the Victorian Government and Opposition have announced significant core funding increases to CMYI to continue work in advocating and supporting culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) communities.

“We are very happy to see the recognition of the need to collaborate with established organisations including CMYI and the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic),” says Ms Guerra.

The announcements highlight the unique culturally diverse nature of Victoria and focus on the need to involve and engage CLD young people in decision-making and opportunities to participate in their community.

“These announcements illustrate that both major political parties in this State recognise the strength of diversity, are investing in youth and supporting youth advocacy in a way that we haven’t seen before. That’s great news for young people and the broader community,” says Ms Guerra.

CMYI particularly welcomes the Government’s new initiative to fund a multifaith multicultural youth network. This type of initiative builds upon other recent announcements including interpreter services, and funding to teach English as a second language to refugee students.

Everyone acknowledges that there are significant pressures on CLD communities in our society. CMYI believes that announcements on funding for programs and services that encourage participation, build relationships, create linkages and foster understanding is very important.

“We have argued for some time that providing a focus on support for young CLD people will be something that will have a significant impact across the whole community. The focus on multicultural youth is good for Victoria and it’s good for Australia.” says Ms Guerra.

Media: For interviews and comment contact CMYI media advisor Matt Clear of [initi8](http://initi8.net.au) communications on 03 9755 3252 or 0403 229 094 or matt@initi8.net.au