

# Media Release



**Attention:** news editors, ethnic media, social affairs, community writers

**December 15, 2011**

## **More support for regional and rural multicultural youth**

The Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) will soon open a new office, offering support to refugee and migrant young people living in the Gippsland region.

The office is the first of two CMY regional centres funded by the Victorian Government for four years.

“The opportunity to work in regional and rural Victoria is very exciting for us. We congratulate the state Government for answering the call of communities requesting support. Their investment will go some way to providing isolated young people with opportunities to settle and thrive in Victoria.”

“CMY has a long history of providing support where it is most needed, typically high settlement areas. Our new Gippsland office will allow us to work in partnership with local service providers to deliver a range of programs and support for young people.” said Carmel Guerra, CEO of CMY.

This initiative will provide support to disadvantaged young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds living in regional areas, to actively participate in their communities. CMY’s work will focus on providing group programs, projects and training for young people to help with education, employment and other issues they may face. It will also offer training and development opportunities to services and volunteers wanting to know how to work more effectively with young people from diverse backgrounds.

Latrobe City's Manager Community Development, Steve Tong said that “this area has a growing number of young people from diverse backgrounds that can make a real contribution given the right support. With CMY’s assistance, our local services will be able to offer that support.”

As the fourth largest rural region in Victoria with a population of over 75,000, the Latrobe Valley has the second highest proportion of overseas-born residents in regional Victoria. In the past few years a significant number of newcomers from South Sudan with refugee background have settled in the Gippsland region. A small but growing number of diverse young people and families are also moving to Wonthaggi, Sale, Bairnsdale and other communities within the region.

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**The Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY)** is a state-wide community based organisation that provides services to and advocates for the needs of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds Visit: [www.cmy.net.au](http://www.cmy.net.au)