

Media Release

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



Thursday, 6 March 2025

HELPING ORGANISATIONS BECOME CHAMPIONS OF COHESION

The Allan Labor Government will protect Victoria's vibrant multiculturalism and enhance social cohesion through the commencement of the Victorian Multicultural Review, to be led by the respected George Lekakis AO.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt today announced that Hass Dellal AO, Carmel Guerra AO, Miriam Suss OAM and Mark Duckworth PSM will form a Targeted Advisory Group to support Mr Lekakis in his review of Victoria's multicultural policies and institutions.

The Victorian Multicultural Review will provide recommendations on how the Labor Government can ensure Victoria's systems, organisations and policies are set up to resolve conflicts, build bridges and celebrate the strength of our multicultural and multifaith communities.

It will also facilitate discussions with communities, key multicultural and multifaith stakeholders, peak bodies and groups to identify strategies to confront discrimination, promote unity and strengthen Victoria's social cohesion. This includes work within the Victorian Multicultural Commission to ensure it can deliver this agenda.

The eminently qualified and respected Mr George Lekakis AO was the longest-ever serving Chair of the Victorian Multicultural Commission, and he has unique insights and knowledge of multicultural and multifaith communities, government institutions and policies.

With the delivery of Victoria's first Anti-Racism Strategy, and the Anti-Vilification and Social Cohesion Bill before the Parliament, now is the time to make sure Victoria's multicultural organisations can bring this vision to life and help deliver for all communities, including new and emerging ones.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt

"Our multiculturalism is one of the most precious parts of our state, and makes us uniquely Victorian."

"The Multicultural Review led by the eminently qualified and respected Victorian, George Lekakis AO, is one of many steps being taken by the Allan Labor Government to protect and strengthen it."

"This will guide the next steps needed to strengthen Victoria's multiculturalism and help stop division."

Quote attributable to George Lekakis AO

"Our strength lies in our diversity, and by bringing together leaders and experts from diverse backgrounds, the Multicultural Review will help guide action to foster a safer, more inclusive Victoria for everyone."