



Anna Burke MP

DEPUTY SPEAKER – HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CHISHOLM

MEDIA RELEASE

24 February 2010

Funding boost for newly arrived migrants and refugees

Federal Member for Chisholm Anna Burke MP today announced the Federal Government would spend almost \$100,000 on support for newly arrived migrants and refugees.

Through the Government's Diverse Australia Program, Eastern Melbourne's Migrant Information Centre will receive \$47,000 for their *Cultural Partnerships in Harmony* project. The Southern Ethnic Advisory & Advocacy Council will receive \$50,000 for the *Youth Without Borders* project.

The Cultural Partnerships for Harmony will help identify the issues experienced by new community members, particularly new migrants from Burma, Iran, Liberia and the Sudan as well as people of Muslim faith.

The Migrant Information Centre will work with community representatives, local government, Victoria Police, Education and Justice and other key agencies to address these issues.

"This is about finding local solutions to fit the specific needs of the local community," Ms Burke said.

The Youth Without Borders cultural exchange project is designed to help break down the barriers between youth from diverse backgrounds in south-east Melbourne.

"This project will help our young people connect and communicate through a range of activities that will teach them about other cultures and put an end to false beliefs and stereotypes," Ms Burke said.

More information on Diverse Australia Program projects can be found at www.harmony.gov.au.

Media Contact: Joe Fennessy (0417 140 935)