

**Joint Standing Committee on Migration****Chair: Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP****Deputy Chair: Mrs Louise Markus MP**

Opportunities in Multicultural Melbourne

Melbourne is Australia's second largest city and the multicultural capital of Victoria. The city is home to residents from 180 countries, speaking over 233 languages and dialects and following 116 religious faiths.

On **Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 October 2011** the Joint Standing Committee on Migration will visit Dandenong in South Eastern Victoria and Melbourne CBD as part of its inquiry to multiculturalism.

The Committee Chair Ms Maria Vamvakinou stated: "In Dandenong, the Committee will hear from adjoining **Monash City** and **South Eastern Region service providers** about settlement needs and services. The Committee will also take evidence on an innovative pilot to assist refugees into employment developed by the **South East Melbourne Manufacturing Alliance Inc.**"

"The following day in Melbourne CBD, **the Social Studio** will brief the Committee about its fashion school, designer workshop, and café which provide young refugees with exciting opportunities to socialise, study and work. The Committee is enormously impressed by the high success rates achieved by the Studio", Ms Maria Vamvakinou said.

In Melbourne, the Committee will also hear from the **Chaldean Community**, the **Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council**; the **Royal Women's Hospital** and the **National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council**, with **3ZZZ Melbourne Ethnic Community Radio**.

The Committee's public hearing in Dandenong will be held on **Tuesday 25 October** at: **The Rehearsal Room, Drum Theatre, Dandenong Town Hall, cnr Walker and Lonsdale Streets**, commencing at **1.00pm**.

In Melbourne CBD the public hearing will be held on **Wednesday 26 October** at: **Parliament of Victoria Committee Rooms (Room G.6) 55 St Andrews Place, East Melbourne**, commencing at **9.30am**.

Proceedings will be audio broadcast on <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

The full programs for these hearings and other information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website www.aph.gov.au/mig or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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