

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

Recognising Tasmania's Cultural Diversity

The Federal Migration Committee will continue its investigation of multiculturalism in Australia at a public hearing in Hobart on Friday 9 March.

Committee chair Ms Maria Vamvakinou said Tasmania has become home to a range of migrants and humanitarian entrants from diverse cultural backgrounds since European settlement, who continue to make a significant contribution to the island state.

"Tasmania has many established ethnic communities like the Greek, British and Irish and is now also home to growing African communities," Ms Vamvakinou said. "This is reflected by some of the annual festivals expressing Tasmania's multicultural diversity such as the Moonah 'Taste of the World Festival'."

"Tasmania's multicultural policy framework and programs, as well as non-government settlement services will be the subject of the hearings on Friday. We hope to learn more the practice of multiculturalism in Tasmania."

The Member for Calwell also recognised that despite the rise of humanitarian arrivals, Tasmania currently suffers from an outflow of people as a result of the recent economic pressures and decline of skilled migration.

"There are significant challenges for a small state like Tasmania, which must provide support to promote settlement and integration for diverse communities, and retain the skills and experience that new migrants bring."

The public hearing will commence at **9.00am** at the **Parliament of Tasmania** and will include representatives from the Tasmanian Government, the Multicultural Council of Tasmania and the Migrant Resource Centre (Southern).

Proceedings will be audio broadcast on http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

The full program 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.

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