

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

Inquiry into Multiculturalism in Australia

The Parliament's Migration Committee will hold its first public hearing into multiculturalism and the contribution of migration to Australia on Tuesday, 29 March 2011 at the Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University, Melbourne. The program will run from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Among the witnesses will be the Ethnic Communities Council (Victoria), the Islamic Womens' Welfare Council of Victoria, the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Africa Think Tank, the Greek Orthodox Community (Melbourne and Victoria) and the National Ethnic Disability Alliance. Professor Joseph Camilleri, Director of the Centre for Dialogue, will also appear.

Ms Vamvakinou MP, Chair of the Committee said,

"Migration into Australia has made Australian society diverse, culturally rich and forward looking. There are many positive strategies in place and success stories to be told. However, we need to keep in touch with the changing needs of both new and established migrant communities. Flexible settlement policies are the key to successful integration and, as needs change over time, so too must government and community services adapt to cater to changing conditions," she said.

"These organisations bring valuable expertise to the current debate on multiculturalism. They work directly with new migrants, including refugees, and established communities and understand the challenge of building a cohesive, integrated community", Ms Vamvakinou said.

The hearing will be held at the Centre for Dialogue, Boardroom, Level 3 Science Building, La Trobe University, Bundoora Campus, Melbourne. The hearing will be audio broadcast:

<http://webcast.aph.gov/livebroadcasting>

The deadline for submissions is Friday 8 April 2011. An extension will be granted if needed.

Further 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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