

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

Refugee, youth and migrant education groups to discuss settlement challenges

The Refugee Council, Adult Migrant Education Service, Multicultural Youth, and the Municipal Association of Victoria will appear before the Migration Committee's inquiry into multiculturalism in Melbourne on Friday, 3 February.

The federal parliamentary committee will also visit ethnic community radio station 3ZZZ.

Committee chair Maria Vamvakinou said the post war settlement of millions of new migrants is story of success, but settlement and integration is now more complex with greater diversity among new arrivals, the integration of the younger generations and the continuing needs of older migrants.

"It is important we keep abreast of the challenges facing migrants, including young people, and refugees, to ensure they are able to participate in Australian society on an equal footing with all Australians," Ms Vamvakinou said.

"The committee will hear from the multicultural youth network, the refugee sector, and AMES, one of the largest providers of English language and employment services in Victoria."

The federal member for Calwell said while Australia's economy has survived well during the global downturn, language tuition, and access to employment, health, affordable housing all need continued support from government and the community.

"Local government and grass roots services are on the front line, and their firsthand accounts of arrival and settlement, as well as the ongoing needs of migrant communities is crucial to making multiculturalism really work," Ms Vamvakinou said.

"The committee is focused on practical measures, and welcomes innovative ideas from the community."

Audio of public hearing will be webcast on <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

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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