VLGMIN invites you to attend our annual forum

21 September 2016: 9.15am – 4.30pm

THE ECONOMICS OF MULTICULTURALISM:
BENEFITS, BARRIERS AND BUSINESS

Kindly hosted by the City of Greater Geelong

Opening:  Hon Robin Scott MP Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Finance

Key Note Speaker:  Bruce Marshall, chair of the Victorian State Practitioners Network for Economic Development Australia - Economic Development Australia [EDA] is the national professional body for economic development practitioners in Australia

Facilitation:  Rafael Epstein: Walkley Award winner, journalist and ABC announcer

Registration Open:  Information and registration is available here.
There is no doubt that local government can play a pivotal role in encouraging and benefitting from the economic advantage that multiculturalism brings to our communities.

Migration provides social, human and financial capital for Australia. For instance, refugees and migrants who gain citizenship have a 77% workforce participation rate compared with a national average of 65%. We also know that 30% of Australian small businesses are owned or operated by people born overseas (ABS 2005). In Nhill alone, Karen refugees have added more than $40 million to the local economy (Deloitte Access Economics and AMES).

Harnessing the economic benefits of migration is a smart move for government, business and community. Strong partnerships, collaborative planning and confident dialogue between stakeholders offers positive outcomes for all sectors. The 2016 VLGMIN forum will bring together the current research, initiative, thought and practice that enhance these outcomes. It will also discuss the barriers to benefiting from multiculturalism, such as how discrimination and complex systems can hamper the equitable participation of people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Through panel discussions, presentations, ‘lightning talks’ and workshops the forum will explore three areas:

**Benefits** – articulating multiculturalism’s real economic benefits, such as increased skilled labour, job generation, economic growth, increased productivity, innovation and business formation, new international trade links, improved regional development and repopulation, and increased and new clients / community reach.

**Barriers** - how the barriers to legal and meaningful employment for multicultural communities can be reduced.

**Business** – examples of good practice and successful initiatives from the public and private sector, and ways to work in collaboration with corporations and industry to ensure your council makes the most of multiculturalism while better serving all residents.

The forum is targeted at local government staff, in particular those in economic development, community development and human resources. It is also open to representatives from organisations interested in enhancing the economic benefits of multiculturalism and attracting culturally diverse staff and clients.

The 2016 VLGMIN forum is generously hosted by the City of Greater Geelong, in partnership with the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, Welcoming Cities and the MAV

Cost (including GST) $70 (so $75 total with events booking fee of $5)

For further information contact Terri Soumilas on (03) 9249 4496 or email Terris@brimbank.vic.gov.au