

# Cultural Diversity in Maroondah

## DID YOU KNOW...?

The Top 10 countries of birth of overseas settlers in Maroondah over the last 7 years are (in descending order): the UK, Burma, India, China, Sudan, South Africa, the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka & Malaysia.

Over the last 5 years:

- 1,688 overseas immigrants have settled in Maroondah.
- 471 settlers entered via the Humanitarian (refugee) Program—this is 1/3 of all refugees settling in the Eastern Region.
- The largest communities of recently arrived refugees in Maroondah are from Burma (51%) & Sudan (25%).
- Nearly half (45%) of the recent refugees settlers in the Eastern Region are minors (under 18 years of age). One-third (35%) are aged 19 to 35 years.

## **Common Issues for Newly-Arrived Refugees in Maroondah:**

- ☞ English language
- ☞ Housing—affordable rentals
- ☞ Education
- ☞ Employment
- ☞ Services—access, awareness, appropriateness
- ☞ Participation—social, recreational & civic

## **TOP 10 LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY RESIDENTS WHO HAVE LOW ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**

- Cantonese/Mandarin/Chinese (396 persons)
- Vietnamese (114)
- Italian (111)
- Khmer (74)
- Greek (48)
- Iranic languages (38)
- Spanish (36)
- Polish (35)
- Arabic (32)
- Korean (28)

# Recent & Current Council Cultural Diversity Initiatives

- ☞ Outer East Voices DVD—young people talk about living in the Outer East
- ☞ Living in Harmony project—media training for young people
- ☞ Homework Program (with Migrant Info. Centre)
- ☞ Community events
- ☞ Assessing the use of Council services by CALD and indigenous residents and developing ways to improve service access, response and equity
- ☞ Playgroup/Information sessions for Burmese families
- ☞ Outreach Maternal & Child Health and Immunisation services
- ☞ Cross-cultural training for direct service staff
- ☞ Culturally-specific recreation groups
- ☞ Resource booklet listing local services/organisations that assist in migrant/refugee settlement
- ☞ Funding support via Council's Community Grants
- ☞ Participating in local, regional and statewide networks and projects

## Resources

- ☞ **'Local Services & Groups for Newly-Arrived Migrants & Refugees in Maroondah'**  
Information on services/groups that can assist in the settlement of refugees in Maroondah.  
*Contact: Community Planning or download from the Maroondah Internet website.*
- ☞ **Free Interpretation Services**  
TIS National [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)
- ☞ **Free Online Translations (text)**
  - AltaVista's Babel Fish: [world.altavista.com](http://world.altavista.com)
  - Free Translation: [www.freetranslation.com](http://www.freetranslation.com)
- ☞ **Eastern Region Events and News**  
Monthly Migrant Information Centre news bulletin to facilitate information sharing between agencies and programs.  
[www.miceastmelb.com.au/multiculturalnews.htm](http://www.miceastmelb.com.au/multiculturalnews.htm)
- ☞ **Calendar of Cultural & Religious Dates**  
[www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) (Department of Immigration and Citizenship)
- ☞ **Statistics and Information**
  - [Demographic Profile for the City of Maroondah](#) (Migrant Information Centre)
  - [Population Diversity in Local Councils](#) (Victorian Multicultural Commission)
  - [Settlement Reports - recent settlers](#) (Department of Immigration and Citizenship)
  - [Comprehensive Profiles of Different Community Groups](#) (VMC)