



# Media Release

Thursday 27 November 2008

## **SUPPORTING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS THE SPECTRUM**

In their quest to enhance understanding of migrant communities' needs around family relationship matters and increase accessibility to services specifically designed to support family relationships in diverse cultures, a forum is being held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December. The forum, 'Family Relationships in Diverse Cultures', is a joint initiative of Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre (SMRC), Broadmeadows Family Relationship Centre (FRC) and Greensborough FRC, with support from Whittlesea Community Legal Centre.

The forum aims to bring professionals, community leaders and community organisations together to develop strategies for overcoming barriers facing families and groups accessing family relationship services.

'Adaptation among immigrant families in a new cultural environment is a complex and multidimensional process,' explained **Broadmeadows FRC Senior Cultural Advisor, Dr Khairy Majeed**, 'and in particular parenting within different, and often conflicting, cultural models can be very challenging and quite often problematic. With this forum, we want to provide practical tools for those who are working daily with families from different cultural backgrounds. It is important for practitioners in the family services sector to understand how the cultural element can sometimes add a further layer of complexity in family relationships. At the same time, it is important that existing services are accessible by families from diverse cultures,' added **Dr Majeed**, 'and this forum's aim is to ensure a culturally responsive service delivery.'

The Broadmeadows FRC, which has been operating since July 2008, provides information and referrals for families at any stage of their relationships, as well as individual interviews, group and joint sessions (including family dispute resolution) for separating or separated families. The Centre also provides advice on parenting after separation and helps parents focus on the needs of their children. The Centre is run by a consortium of agencies: MacKillop Family Services, Relationships Australia, and Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre.

This is a free event but registration is required. To register, call Dr Khairy Majeed on 9351 3705 or email [khairy.majeed@mackillop.org.au](mailto:khairy.majeed@mackillop.org.au)

### **EVENT DETAILS & PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:**

**EVENT:** Forum for practitioners 'Family Relationships in Diverse Cultures'

**DATE & TIME:** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2008, 9.30am to 4.30pm

**VENUE:** Hume Global Learning Centre, 1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows  
Community leaders are available for interview.

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