



Media Release

Tuesday 25 November 2008

SPECTRUM'S PROGRAM ECIPped FOR EXCELLENCE AWARD

Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre's (SMRC) Employed Carers Innovative Program (ECIP), which assists carers with their work and family commitments, will be awarded Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence 2008 in a ceremony to be hosted at Government House by the Governor of Victoria, Professor David De Kretser, on Monday 15 December.

“The State Government recognises the importance of acknowledging outstanding achievements by individuals and organisations in promoting the linguistic and cultural diversity of Victoria's multicultural communities,” explained **Mr George Lekakis, Chairman of the Victorian Multicultural Commission**, in congratulating Spectrum's CEO, Ms Rosemary Kelada, on the award.

“This award represents such a great achievement for the staff of ECIP,” commented an overjoyed **Aged & Disability Services Manager, Ms Nirmala Abraham**, “receiving the Award for Excellence 2008 means a recognition of all the hard work and passion that the staff of the program have demonstrated through their service to ageing migrants and the success of creating a culturally appropriate innovative model”.

Spectrum's ECIP is a two year project providing respite to employed carers of people who are frail and aged. The aim of the project is to address the respite requirements of people who have care responsibilities for ageing people but who are working or are looking to re-enter the workforce. The Program is centre-based and focuses on activities of cultural interest to each community group represented, including music, arts and crafts, games, gentle exercise, and home country news and information. All program staff speak relevant languages and the Cooks prepare home-like ethnic meals while Drivers provide in a friendly supported transport system.

Groups operate from Monday to seven days a week from 8am to 6pm to accommodate the working hours of carers. Groups supported are Italian, Vietnamese, Chinese and Macedonian.

Since its establishment in March 2006, ECIP has supported 100 adult carers to maintain their work and family responsibilities whilst providing support to their ageing parents. To be eligible, clients have to have carers currently in employment. Since the program's commencement, 10% of the 98 carers have been able to either increase their hours of work or the program has represented an opportunity for them to gain a new job.

EVENT DETAILS:

EVENT: Spectrum wins Victorian Multicultural Commission Excellence Award 2008

DATE & TIME: Monday 15 December 2008, 5.30pm

VENUE: Government House, Government House Drive, Melbourne

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: A photo opportunity with local ECIP groups from a range of LGAs can be arranged.

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