



# Media Release

Friday, 27 November 2009

## **SPECTRUM'S ETHNIC YOUTH COUNCIL WINS EXCELLENCE MULTICULTURAL AWARD**

Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre's (SMRC) Ethnic Youth Council (EYC), an innovative program supporting and encouraging young people to be the next generation of leaders, has been awarded Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence 2009 in a ceremony hosted at Government House by the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser, yesterday.

"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 **EYC Project Officer, Ms Hala Abdelnour**, on the award.

"This award is a testimony of the hard work from the young people and shows how much it can be achieved when the right support and resources are provided," commented an overjoyed **Ms Abdelnour**, "receiving the Award for Excellence 2009 will hopefully encourage other young people to get involved and further motivate those already involved to aim higher".

SMRC's EYC consists of young people aged 15 to 25 years who are passionate about becoming leaders in their communities and representing their peers in addressing issues faced by young Australians, particularly those from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

"The EYC was created to respond to two of the common themes expressed to SMRC, in the many years of involvement with migrant and refugee communities: a desire to have their own dedicated voice; and the availability of organised ethnic-youth friendly social activities", explained **Settlement and Family Services Manger, Ms Sonia Vignjevic**.

"EYC's values are based on young people working for young people to inspire other youth to actively participate in fun and stimulating diverse projects, but also to provide opportunities to be connected with their communities, to ensure they are respected as individuals and get a fair go" said **Ms Vignjevic**.

The EYC, which will be represented at the *Parliament of the World's Religions* this December, has organised many successful events, such as the *Media Madness Forum* in which media and young people conveyed to discuss the role of media when addressing racial vilification and how young people can help create positive dialogue within the media.

**EVENT:** SMRC's Ethnic Youth Council (EYC) wins Victorian Multicultural Award for Excellence 2009

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:** A photo opportunity with members of the EYC can be arranged.  
**Note: talents available fluent in several community languages.**

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