

Attention: COS, news, social affairs, health & community

EXPERT COMMENT ON MULTICULTURAL YOUTH ISSUES

The Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI) is a community based organisation that advocates for the needs of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

In supporting young people, CMYI combines policy development and direct service delivery within a community development framework. This approach gives CMYI strong connections with young people and their communities while enabling positive change on a local, state and national level.

CMYI represents a range of individuals and organisations from culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) communities, government and non-government organisations and has a strong commitment to improving the social and personal status of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

For media there is no better-placed organization than CMYI to comment on:

- issues facing multicultural communities (including Arab and Muslim communities);
- refugee and newly arrived families and young people;
- government policy (in relation to refugee, newly arrived and CLD young people);
- juvenile justice issues and the relationship between police and young people;
- social harmony, racial abuse, discrimination and anti-terrorism laws.

Contacts include:

- **Carmel Guerra** has over 15 years experience of policy and advocacy work at the highest levels of both State and Federal Government. She has been heavily involved in shaping Victoria's approach to CLD young people. As Director of CMYI, Carmel has been instrumental in the development of a better understanding of CLD juvenile justice issues, including as part of an award-winning crime prevention program which has generated strong partnerships between Victoria Police, legal, youth, multicultural and Indigenous agencies.
- **Steve Francis** has extensive experience within both the academic and community sectors in policy development, project management, research and evaluation design. Most recently Steve has focused on the experiences and settlement needs of refugee and migrant communities in Australia, with a particular focus on young people. Steve has a PhD in Anthropology and is currently an Honorary Fellow with the School of Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Melbourne.
- **CMYI representatives and programs in your local area**

Media: CMYI can provide case studies and talent for interviews and a range of background information. Carmel Guerra, Steve Francis and other members of CMYI with local/regional experience are available for interviews and comment.

Media: Contact CMYI media advisor Matt Clear of initi8 communications on 03 9755 3252 or 0403 229 094 or matt@initi8.net.au

For more information on CMYI: www.cmyi.net.au