



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

HEAR OUR VOICES MULTICULTURAL WOMEN'S GATHERING

About 100 women from vastly different multicultural backgrounds will come together on Friday 4 May from 9am to 4pm at the Moonah Arts Centre for the Hear Our Voices Multicultural Women's Gathering.

Activities through the day include informal workshop style discussions and sharing of stories, music, dance and food.

The Gathering has been running since 2014 and has been a collaborative initiative between Glenorchy City Council, the Migrant Resource Centre, Catholic Care, Tasmanian Health Service, City of Hobart, Multicultural Council of Tasmania, Red Cross Hobart Women's Shelter, Hobart Women's Health as well community volunteers and a range of other organisations.

The State Government *Multicultural Grants Program* has supported the event for the last two years.

This year, the planning committee, convened by Glenorchy City Council also planned and conducted a leadership training session with bi-cultural workers who will be interpreting at the gathering. This was supported and hosted by the City of Hobart and Migrant Resource Centre.

Glenorchy City Council Mayor Kristie Johnston said one of the aims of the gathering was to help women develop their own groups and develop confidence to advocate on behalf of other women in their communities.

"Many topics are discussed at these gatherings ranging from employment issues, racism, understanding cultural issues for young people arriving in a new country right through to development of friendships and networking in the community," she said.

"It is a fantastic opportunity for the women to express themselves and help with developing language skills. Some of the early attendees are now helping to plan the forum which is truly inspiring to see.

"It can be an alarming and traumatic time for families moving to a new country and this is one event that can help women grow and learn more within their own community and also further afield.

"It gives them a chance to speak with service providers and find out lots of information to take home with them.

ENDS

Many of the women come from very sensitive backgrounds and if possible, please send female journalists/camera operators/photographers. This would be very much appreciated by the organisers.

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