ICEPA AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY INVITES YOU TO A PUBLIC SEMINAR:

CULTURAL RESPONSES TO EMERGENCIES
BUSHFIRES, SAFETY AND CRISSES

Culture is an important part of who we are as individuals and as a community. How we respond to emergencies and adverse situations both in practical and emotional terms is influenced by our culture. Also important is the role of culture in how we communicate emergency messages and how we express grief. In the aftermath of the Victorian bushfires, this seminar draws attention to important considerations of cultural and linguistic diversity in responding to emergency and in healing and rebuilding communities.

This seminar will explore the issues and challenges that arise when engaging with CALD communities during emergency situations, including effective forms of communication during emergency procedures, creating awareness about fire prevention, cultural knowledge of managing bush fires and assessing risk and community needs.

SPEAKERS

Christine Nixon has extensive experience addressing the needs of a wide range of communities through her career in the police service. As Chair of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, Christine coordinates the activities of all local, state and Commonwealth Government agencies, and community organisations involved in helping communities affected by February's bushfires. Her priority is to help communities recover and rebuild in a way that is safe, timely, efficient, and respectful of each community's needs. Prior to joining the Authority in March this year, Christine was the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police from 2001 - 2009. She joined Victoria Police after serving with the New South Wales Police from 1972 in a variety of roles.

Andrew Zammit is a Commander with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade focussing on the Brigade's response to the bushfires; and recommendations coming out of the Bushfire Royal Commission. Since joining the Brigade in 1987 as a firefighter, Andrew has been involved in a wide range of professional activities including responding to fires and other emergencies, community education, recruitment training courses, and peer support. Recently, Andrew has been the officer in charge of the MFB's Emergency Medical Response (EMR) team, and director of the Media and Communications Directorate. Andrew's breadth of knowledge around emergency response includes working with CALD communities and emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Michele Grossman is an associate professor at Victoria University, who leads research with and about CALD communities. She has worked as an investigator on projects that explore the issues and challenges that face refugees and newly arrived and emerging communities settling in Australia. Michele has extensive interest and engagement with issues related to cultural diversity, including young people, juvenile justice, and policy. Michele has strong links with CALD communities in and around Melbourne. In this seminar, Michele will speak about culture as resilience in building community.

WHEN

Wednesday 22 April 2009

TIME

9.30 - 10am registration, with morning tea. Seminar: 10.00am - 12.00pm

WHERE

Ballroom A, Rendezvous Hotel (Melways 2009 ref: Map 1A J9)
328 Flinders Street, Melbourne

RSVP

esential: Contact Sue Butterworth by Monday 20 April
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Email: Sue.Butterworth@vu.edu.au
# Cultural Responses to Emergencies

**Bushfires, Safety and Crises**

**Wednesday 22 April 2009**

## Seminar Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Attendee registration and morning tea</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Everyone seated comfortably, seminar commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.05am</td>
<td><strong>Victoria University welcome</strong></td>
<td>Professor John McCallum&lt;br&gt;Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor&lt;br&gt;Victoria University</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.10am</td>
<td><strong>Why cultural responses to fire and emergencies are important</strong></td>
<td>Professor Hurriyet Babacan&lt;br&gt;Director, ICEPA&lt;br&gt;Victoria University</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Address:</strong> Rebuilding community after fire and inclusion of culturally diverse communities</td>
<td>Christine Nixon&lt;br&gt;Chair, Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.50am</td>
<td>Q &amp; A</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td><strong>Working with CALD communities and emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery</strong></td>
<td>Commander Andrew Zammit&lt;br&gt;Metropolitan Fire Brigade</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.20am</td>
<td>Q &amp; A</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td><strong>Culture as resilience in building community</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor Michele Grossman&lt;br&gt;Associate Dean Research and Research Training&lt;br&gt;Victoria University</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00pm</td>
<td>Seminar concludes</td>
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For further information, transcripts and photographs, please contact:

Allyson Griffith, Communications Officer<br>Institute for Community, Ethnicity and Policy Alternatives (ICEPA)<br>Phone: 9919 5480<br>Email: Allyson.Griffith@vu.edu.au
We are an interdisciplinary institute at Victoria University dedicated to research and development, that engages with diverse communities and stakeholders including migrant, refugee, and diaspora communities; international communities and policymakers.

**Areas of research**
ICEPA undertakes research and development activities locally, nationally and globally, designed to lead to policy change. Our research work is informed by interdisciplinary theories deriving from sociology, psychology, social policy, economics and business, health, education and other relevant areas.

We work in partnership with staff, students, and government, community and industry organisations within and beyond the western region of Melbourne. ICEPA aims to build and share knowledge about communities that will increase capacity and enhance community development and wellbeing. Our specific research and development focus includes:

**CULTURAL DIVERSITY**
Language and communication, young people and communities, refugees, migration, multiculturalism, ethnicity, identity, diasporas, community development and diversity.

**SOCIAL INCLUSION**
Disadvantage, social exclusion, racism, human rights, engagement, participation, gender/age/class, inclusive practice.

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING**
Focussing on information communication technology, health disparities, diversity and health, health systems, wellbeing, domestic violence, child protection and childhood development.

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Focusing on a range of areas with emphasis on East Timor and the Pacific Islands.

**Join the ICEPA eNews list**
Sign up to our quarterly eNewsletter to stay up-to-date with research project developments. Send an email to us at ICEPA@vu.edu.au.

**Contact us**
To find out more about our research, post-doctorate support opportunities and our upcoming events, please feel free to visit our website, or contact us directly.

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