

Networks and Committees

Disability Advisory Committees

Disability advisory committees operate in each local government area. Their role is to provide advice to councils on disability and inclusion issues and implementing councils' Disability Action Plans. Members include residents, parents and carers of people with disabilities, community organisations and disability services. For further information, visit your local council website.

Interfaith Networks

Interfaith networks are made up of representatives from diverse cultural and religious faiths who work in partnership with local government. Groups meet regularly and undertake a range of activities to promote understanding and respect for each other's beliefs, including organising and promoting events, gatherings and festivals, providing resources for public events and undertaking projects. Contact details for networks in your area can be found via the Faith Communities Council website or your local council website (See also Service and Resource Directories section)

Humanitarian Settlement Services Local Area Committees (HSSLAC)

HSSLACs are a funded service within the Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) contract. They meet on a quarterly basis in each HSS contract region and focus on issues affecting newly arrived HSS clients settling in that region. To contact your local committee, go to:

<http://refugeehealthnetwork.org.au/engage/local-refugee-health-networks/>

Victorian Local Government Multicultural Issues Network (VLGMIN)

The VLGMIN is a network for Victorian council staff interested in multicultural issues and policy development. The Network meets to: share information; advocate on issues affecting multicultural communities; promote best practice; and coordinate annual forums on a range of topics focusing on access, equity and inclusion. To contact the VLGMIN, go to:

<http://www.mav.asn.au/search?query=vlgmin>

Victorian Refugee Health Network (VRHN)

The VRHN provides support to the health, settlement and community sector by convening working groups, developing resources, hosting forums, completing reviews of available literature, providing specialist advice and participating in practice-related research projects. For a list of Refugee Health Networks, go to:

<http://refugeehealthnetwork.org.au/engage/local-refugee-health-networks/>

Victorian Settlement Planning Committees (VSPC)

VSPCs are funded through the Settlement Grants Program and are made up of settlement services and representatives from government, non-government, ethno-specific and multicultural organisations. The committees are located throughout Victoria and meet regularly to identify key

issues affecting newly arrived migrant and refugee communities, share information and resources and advocate for the needs of recently arrived groups. For further information, go to the Department of Social Services website: <https://www.dss.gov.au/>