

Monday 20 May 2013

## **Ryde Welcomes New Centre for Migrants and Refugees** **Friday 24 May, 159 Shaftesbury Road, Eastwood, 3.30pm**

As a recently declared Refugee Welcome Zone, the City of Ryde will officially open a new Community Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) in Eastwood on Friday 24 May.

Mayor, Cllr Ivan Petch, said: “The City of Ryde is proud of its status as one of the State’s most culturally diverse communities, with more than 110 different nationalities living in Ryde.

“This new partnership between the City of Ryde and the Migrant Resource Centre will help migrants and refugees with many of the challenges they face as they transition to settle in their new home and is a good example of how Council is responding to the needs of an ever changing community.”

The City of Ryde’s population of 105,000 is expected to grow by an additional 15,000 in the next 10 years. Currently, more than one third of its population comes from countries where English is not the first language and 42% speak a language other than English at home.

Executive Director of the Community Migrant Resource Centre, Melisa Monteiro said, “We recognise the changing landscape, the growing diversity in the region. The MRC will provide a pathway and settlement support structure designed to support migrant communities in their everyday lives as well as provide a point of contact for migrants settling in this region.

“The nature and function of this service is wide and covers everything from cultural life, sporting life and probably most importantly social life linking people by language, culture, and need. We will foster a sense of place and belonging.”

Bilingual services for the Afghan, Iranian, Chinese, Korean, Sri Lankan and Indian communities, as well as a number of other communities from the Indian sub-continent, are available. The Centre is open Monday – Friday:

Monday	Faiza (Afghan and Iranian), 10.00am – 5.00pm Chrys (Tamil and Indian Sub continent), 9.00am – 4.00pm
Wednesday	Mina (Korean), 12.30pm – 2.30pm Li (Chinese), 9.00am – 5.00pm
Thursday	Mina (Korean), 9.00am – 2.30pm Chrys (Tamil and Indian sub-continent) 9.30am – 4.30pm
Friday	Faiza, (Afghan and Iranian) 10.00am – 5.00pm

The Eastwood office of the Community Migrant Resource Centre is located at 159 Shaftesbury Road, Eastwood. For details go to [www.cmrc.com.au](http://www.cmrc.com.au)

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**Photo Opportunity: Friday 24 May, 3.30 pm, Migrant Resource Centre, 159 Shaftesbury Road, Eastwood. Guests of honour: John Alexander MP, Federal Member for Bennelong; The Hon Greg Smith MP, Attorney General, Minister for Justice; Cllr Ivan Petch, Mayor, City of Ryde; The Hon Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Citizenship and Communities, Member for Ryde**  
**Media contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer 9952 8083**