



MEDIA RELEASE

African Australians have their say

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Some four hundred delegates from across Australia come together today to discuss issues surrounding people arriving from Africa in recent years to resettle in Australia through the Australian government's humanitarian program.

"This conference will be an opportunity for African-Australians to have their say about resettlement and integration into the broader Australian community. Workshops will focus on education, employment, health, youth and community development", said Dr Berhan Ahmed, the *Organising Committee* chairman.

"People from Africa come from very diverse cultural backgrounds and speak many languages. However, many of the challenges such as restarting schooling here, or looking for pathways into the job market are similar", said Dr Ahmed.

Dr Ahmed says the aim of the conference is to develop the communities' advice to government on what more needs to be done to achieve better outcomes for both the new and emerging African-Australian communities and the broader Australian community.

The conference will be formally opened at 2.30pm today by the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser AC. Speakers include Melbourne Lord Mayor John So, the Federal Minister for Workplace Participation, Dr Sharman Stone, the Shadow Minister for Immigration, Integration and Citizenship, Tony Burke and the Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Urban development and Consumer Affairs, Laurie Ferguson.

The forum continues at Melbourne University until Friday.

For more details please see: <http://www.union.unimelb.edu.au/conferences/att/>

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