

August 2021 Newsletter



Dear Members and Readers,

Regional Victorians are lucky, so lucky, to live in our wealthy, safe and supportive community with a health system and many advantages even in the midst of this awful pandemic.

Take a moment to count your blessings this week.

Take another moment to register the grief and fear of people in our community whose relatives suffer overseas in COVID strife and other disasters. Our young Afghani community are 'in Hell' this week and yet they continue to work and contribute here. Our Nuer community also have families in floods and severe conditions but keep turning up to work and caring for family.

Now, BRMC wants to make the most of what we all have here. See below the many local resources for you to get information, vaccination and community support and the opportunities for you to get involved.

Let's keep each other well, give each other hope and build strength again together.

Warm Regards,

Ann

BRMC Executive Officer

COVID-19 Pop-Up Vaccination Hub

28 August, 4 September & 11 September

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

Multicultural Community COVID-19 Pop-Up Vaccination Hub

18 years + over



**Ballarat Welcome Centre
25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat**

**28 AUGUST
1pm - 3.30pm**

**4 SEPTEMBER
10.30am - 3.30pm**

**11 SEPTEMBER
10.30am - 3.30pm**

BOOKINGS

Please call the BRMC Community Engagement Team on 0491 066 246
or email community@brmc.org.au with the following details:

Full Name, Address, Phone, Date of Birth and Medicare Number (if applicable)

For further information about the vaccine, contact BCH, Louise on 0448 578 475
or Janine on 0418 504 869.



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council inc.



**Walk-ins
also
welcome!**

COVID-19 Update in Victoria

From 11.59pm on Monday 9 August 2021, lockdown lifted in regional Victoria and restrictions continue to ease - [COVIDSafe Settings](#)

Get vaccinated

One of the most important things we can do is get vaccinated to protect family, friends, and our community - [see Ballarat vaccination locations](#)

Do you need financial help because of COVID-19?

Take a look at the COVID-19 Disaster Payment and the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment. You may be eligible to receive one or both of these payments from the Australian Government - [financial assistance](#)

Your mental health is important

Some people may be feeling distressed, anxious or stressed during this time. If these feelings are interfering with your daily routine, it is important to seek assistance - [mental health resources](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

Updates from BRMC

Latest news on the Ballarat Welcome Centre and BRMC projects, programs and services.

Upcoming Events

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- BKFA Ponnonam 2021
- Viraj Salvi Trio Live in Concert
- Language Café: Explore Indian Culture
- BMA ONAM Celebrations 2021
- 2021 Interfaith Forum

Items of Interest

- Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence
- Women's Leadership Scholarship
- Future Healthy Program
- Diasporas Commissions Open Now
- Student Placement Initiative
- Migrant and Refugee Women in Australia: The Safety and Security Study

Events in Review

- Stepping Stones 2019 Ballarat Graduation
- BKFA Free Food Deliveries
- India United Charity Challenge Match

UPDATES FROM BRMC

BRMC Business-in-Residence

The partnership of Mat Tetni - Mary Deng and Mary Top - are the newest business-in-residence to move into the Ballarat Welcome Centre.

Mat Tetni

Mat Tetni is focused on creating a signature line of aprons combining upcycled denim with exuberantly colourful pops of Ankara wax cloth, as well as offering traditional South Sudanese-style beaded necklaces fashioned by Mary Deng.

An early participant in the A Pot of Courage social enterprise and graduate of the Ballarat 2019 Stepping Stones to Small Business Program, Mary Deng joined with her friend Mary Top in 2020 to establish Mat Tetni as a home-based business. With Winter biting at their ankles, the partners are very happy to be able to move from their garage 'workshop' into the warmth and space of the Ballarat Welcome Centre.

Mat Tetni's durable and beautiful 'kitchen couture' and jewellery can be found at local farmers / makers markets and online at <https://mattetni.com.au>



Stepping Stones Empowerment Pathways Program

CALLING ALL WOMEN

The new online Stepping Stones Empowerment Pathways Program is seeking women from migrant and asylum-seeking backgrounds, and women 50+ of any background.

From 5 - 21 October 2021, the 6-session Empowerment Program will engage women from the Ballarat, Central Highlands, and Grampians Region, as well as the communities from Ballarat to Melton in a fun and interactive group-based program designed to increase the confidence and skills needed to pursue your transition to employment, education or entrepreneurship.

The Empowerment Pathways Program is also actively recruiting women from across Victoria's Wimmera District to participate in the Program from 26 October - 11 November 2021.

For further information for either of these opportunities, please contact Deborah Klein:
d.klein@brmc.org.au or 0457 934 728



Come join this fun and interactive group-based program to learn skills and gain the confidence for your move into employment, education or entrepreneurship

DAY 1	Tuesday, 5 October 2021 10:00AM - 2:00PM	<i>Defining Our Strengths & Skills</i>
	Program Introduction + Exploring Our Strengths + Traits Helping Us To Thrive	
DAY 2	Thursday, 7 October 2021 10:00AM - 2:00PM	<i>Turning Strengths Into Achievements</i>
	Our Strengths And Our Achievements + Setting SMART Goals That Work For Us	
DAY 3	Tuesday, 12 October 2021 10:00AM - 2:00PM	<i>Being Money-Minded</i>
	Budgeting & Financial Goals + Debt Busters + Superannuation & Tax	
DAY 4	Thursday, 14 October 2021 10:00AM - 2:00PM	<i>Finding Our Meaning & Purpose</i>
	Time Management + Being Assertive + Balancing Our Values, Our Strengths & Our Passions	
DAY 5	Tuesday, 19 October 2021 10:00AM - 2:00PM	<i>Saying It Out Loud Makes It Real</i>
	Interview & Presentation Hints & Tips + Interview & Presentation Practice	
DAY 6	Thursday, 21 October 2021 10:00AM - 2:00PM	<i>Empowerment Aspirations</i>
	Interview & Presentation Practice + Guest Speakers + Celebrating You!	

- **FREE - REGISTER NOW!**
bsl.org.au/services/consulting-and-training/stepping-stones
- **FOR WOMEN OF MIGRANT & REFUGEE BACKGROUNDS & ALL WOMEN 50+**
- **ALL SESSIONS ONLINE**

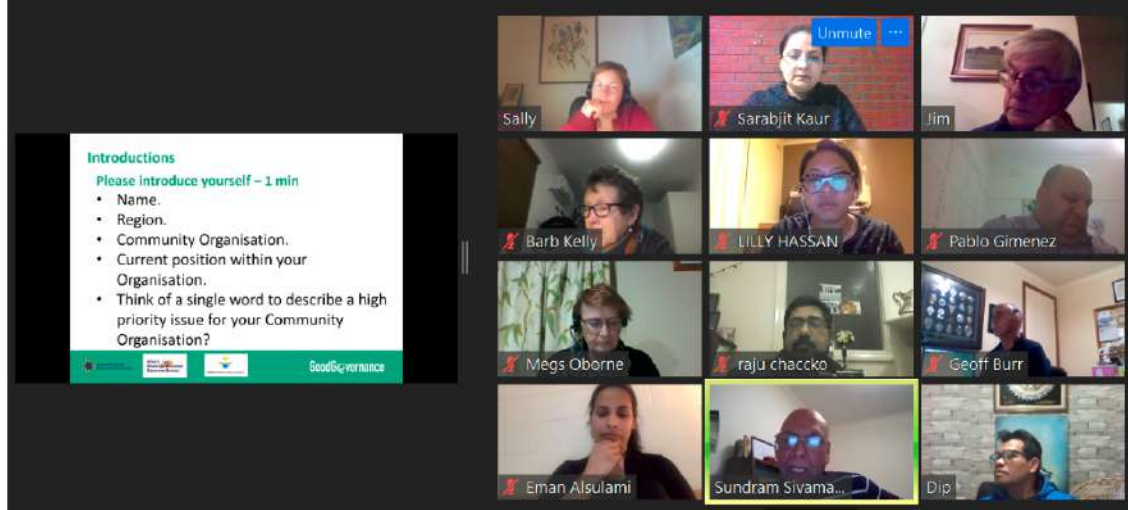
Interested? Have Questions?
Contact Deborah Klein
d.klein@brmc.org.au
0457 934 728



Good Governance Program

BRMC's Good Governance program offers free governance mentoring support to community organisations, cultural groups and associations looking for governance and compliance advice. Experienced and trained volunteer mentors support committee members with management strategies to help them realise their vision for their communities through ongoing mentoring, advice and governance support.

Whether you are a board member, committee member or someone in the community - there's something to gain for everyone. To find out how you can participate, contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.



Community Volunteers: Migrant English Program

The Migrant English Program offers free English tutoring to empower individuals with the language skills required for their social and professional growth.

Migrant English Program Tutor

Christian Brown joined the team in 2020. He generously offered his time and expertise to deliver a training session on Respectful Relationships for our Diversity Homework Club tutors before going on to mentor his student by helping them get closer to their language learning goals. Christian's friendly demeanour and thoughtful lesson planning have gone a long way in instilling confidence in his student who says, "I am very happy with Christian's teaching style. We meet once a week and he helps me by providing books and lessons that help me improve my English. Learning English from Christian has helped me a lot. Thank you for the help."



Let's hear from Christian what he has to say about his tutoring experience:

I have been an English tutor with BMRC for approximately two months. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to support my student and am proud to be working to make a positive difference in my community. I was born in Ballarat and I feel a strong obligation to give back to the town that raised me. The support that Sarabjit has provided me is first class and I am lucky to have her knowledge and practical advice to guide me.

I am learning about and from my student every week. Already, I have developed a greater understanding of what it is like to move across the world to live in Ballarat. I am inspired by my student's courage and dedication to learning and am hopeful that I am helping him develop his English skills.

To participate/ volunteer with the Migrant English Program, contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

Diversity Homework Club

Diversity Homework Club is a welcoming community of students and tutors from diverse backgrounds. We are delighted to see our students actively participate in the learning activities, whether it's writing poems, debating or reading to win Good Reader awards. Here's an insight into the fun learning community:

Diversity Homework Club Tutor

Timothy has volunteered with Diversity Homework Club for more than five years. He has been unwaveringly committed to improving learning outcomes for students from CALD backgrounds. Tutors' planning meetings are enriched by Tim's contributions as he has his hand on the pulse of the students' abilities and readiness to learn. He adapts and customises teaching plans to make them work for the students in his small groups. He often breaks the sessions by sharing fun facts or by throwing achievable challenges to the students. Currently, in addition to adding insightful observations based on the 'fact of the day', Timothy runs the weekly 'times table Bingo!' session that the students enjoy and participate in with great enthusiasm.



"Tim is a driving force in the group, always ready to share his expertise in all things including the use of technology and hints on how to inspire the students into joining in particularly students who may be a little hesitant. Tim is always bright and cheerful and brings an energy to all the group, both tutors and students." - Vanessa, Tutor

"Timothy is always looking for and finding really good ways to engage the students particularly in the Maths and science areas. He must spend some time on line finding great things to present to them." - Anne, Tutor

Timothy shares his thoughts on Diversity Homework Club:

Diversity Homework Club: a living community and what a joyous learning experience for all concerned! We meet conveniently online weekly to facilitate learning, each week with unique gems of learning moments, for instance: 'What word of the day will the students choose today?' 'Which students will bring their reading logs and excel towards their reading awards?' 'What numbers will the times table bingo reveal?' We tutors meet online, discuss and prepare a framework before each homework club session for the value of all.

Diversity Homework Club Student

DHC student Bryan Nguyen is a sensitive DHC student who listens carefully and responds thoughtfully. His quiet demeanour generates a peaceful learning environment in the breakout rooms he participates in. The students in his working groups always have something to learn from his insightful responses and steady 'staying on task'.

Here's Bryan, sharing his thoughts:

I enjoy Diversity Homework Club. I get to do work and make new friends. I know how to write haikus and couplets. I write short stories and participate in Kahoot! I learn how to spell new words and sometimes I win a challenge in word-play. I am happy that I have won two reading awards - one Gold and one Bronze.

I enjoy sharing stories from the books I read. My favourite author is Anh Do whose book 'WeirDo' is fantastic. It's about a boy whose first name is Weir and last name is Do.

The author Anh Do is from Vietnam. He is a refugee who is resilient, strong-willed and writes wonderful books.



I was also born in Vietnam. Here is a haiku about Vietnam:

It is very hot

It has yummy food, O yes,

I like Vietnam.

Want to join this learning community? Contact Sarabjit at s.kaur@brmc.org.au.

Social Support

New Program: Carer Support Hub

BRMC Social Support will be launching our new program Carer Support Hub on **Thursday 19 August, 10am - 3pm** at the Brown Hill Cricket Club, 30 Reid St. Special guests include our brilliant local artist Melinda Muscat and the very talented Stella Savy.

Carer Support Hub allows carers to take a break from their daily routines. The program provides carers an opportunity to meet up with friends, do some shopping or simply have some quiet time at home. Our Team appreciate that it is sometimes difficult for a carer to leave their loved one in the care of others, understanding this we welcome carers to participate in the program.

If you know someone who might benefit from our Carer Support Hub or one of our Social Support Services please contact Teresa at teresa@brmc.org.au or 0417 109 052.

NEW PROGRAM!

CARER SUPPORT HUB

Do you provide help to a loved one, neighbour or friend?

This program is designed to help you by providing an opportunity for Social Interaction, Meals and Excursions. Carers and family members can take part in the activities or you can leave the person in need of care at our program.

For more information call Teresa on

0417 109 052



**MINI BUS TRIPS - EXERCISE - ART & CRAFT
GAMES - FRIENDSHIPS - FOOD - LAUGHTER**

**THURSDAY
19 AUGUST**

10am to 3pm

**Morning Tea & Lunch
will be provided**

**BROWN HILL CRICKET CLUB
30 Reid Street Brown Hill**

August Social Support Programs

Bookings essential - call BRMC office (new direct line) 03 5331 1123.

Tai Chi: 17, 24 and 31 August, 1pm - 2pm (\$5) Brown Hill Cricket Club

Carer Support Hub / Social Hub: Thursday 19 August, 10am - 3pm

(\$5 Social Hub, \$10 Carer Support Hub) Brown Hill Cricket Club

Health & Wellbeing Seasonal Lunch: Wednesday 25 August, 11.30am - 2pm (\$10)

Victoria Bowling Club

Bus Trip (Winchelsea): Thursday 26 August, 9am - 4.30pm (\$40) Victoria Bowling Club

Please note that all programs are subject to COVID-19 restrictions and may be postponed with short notice.

If you know someone who would benefit from BRMC Social Support Services, contact Teresa on 0417 109 052 or teresa@brmc.org.au.

Become a Social Support Volunteer

Make a difference to the lives of so many in our community by volunteering with us at BRMC Social Support.

We at BRMC celebrate diversity and welcome all. As a Volunteer you will be an essential and valued member of the BRMC Social Support team.

Contact Teresa on 0417 109 052 or teresa@brmc.org.au.



Help provide social support to clients from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds through much needed programs.

Become a Volunteer!

Contact Teresa on
03 5383 0613 / 0417 109 052
or teresa@brmc.org.au



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Hospitality Assistant
- Program Assistant
- Driver
- Home Visiting
- Administration / General Assistant

As a Volunteer you will be an essential and valued member of the BRMC Social Support team.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Industry Networking Nights: Aged Care and Hospitality

Thursday 19th August, 5pm - 7pm

Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat

Are you just starting your career, looking for a change or finding it hard to break into your chosen industry? Come along and hear from people in the industry, ask questions and learn how to find work in aged care or hospitality.

Guest Speakers:

Belinda Eden, Troop Events

Judy Bradley, Australian Unity

Rose Nakakeeto Ssekimpi, Aged Care Professional

[Register](#)

Industry Networking Nights

Spotlight: Aged Care and Hospitality

Thursday 19 August, 5-7pm

Ballarat Welcome Centre

25-39 Barkly Street

Light supper provided

Come hear from people in the industry, ask questions and learn how to find work in aged care or hospitality.

Registration essential

<https://industry-networking-nights.eventbrite.com.au>



Ballarat Regional
Multicultural Council inc.



BKFA Ponnonam 2021

Saturday 21st August, 10am

St Patricks Cathedral, 3 Lyons St S, Ballarat

Hosted by Ballarat Keralites' Foundation of Australia (BKFA).

BALLARAT KERALITES' FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



PONNONAM 2021

Onam Celebration with Mega Thiruvathira



21st August, Saturday

10am Onwards

3 Lyons St S, Ballarat Central VIC 3350

Viraj Salvi Trio Live in Concert

Saturday 21st August, 7pm

Ballarat Trades Hall, 24 Camp St, Ballarat

A rare opportunity for Ballarat to enjoy Indian ragas, featuring classically trained vocalist Viraj Salvi with harmonium and tabla accompaniment by Pandurang Torvi and Prasad Karve.

Viraj is also giving a 90 minute presentation / music workshop before the show. Insights

into the art form, vocal techniques and much more will be presented. Great for singers/musicians and anyone wanting to learn about this fascinating tradition.

Presentation / Workshop at 5pm - \$5

Concert at 7pm - \$15

[Tickets](#)

KABIR BOOKINGS AND BALLARAT TRADES HALL EVENTS PRESENT



Hindustani Classical Music

CONCERT AND WORKSHOP

Viraj Salvi
vocals

Pandurang Torvi
tabla

Prasad Karve
harmonium

AUGUST 21

BALLARAT TRADES HALL
24 CAMP ST BALLARAT CENTRAL

TICKETS AT THE DOOR
OR TRYBOOKING.COM

WORKSHOP \$5 5PM
CONCERT \$15 7PM

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



CONTACT 0490314621

Language Café - Explore Indian Culture

Thursday 26th August, 4pm

Ballarat Library, 178 Doveton St N, Ballarat

The Language Café aims to regularly bring people from all walks of life together to chat in different languages in an inclusive environment. In August we spotlight Indian Culture, sharing snacks and stories from this community. It's a great opportunity to make new connections and to chat in different languages.

[Register](#)



BMA ONAM Celebrations 2021

Saturday 28th August, 10am

St Patricks Cathedral, 3 Lyons St S, Ballarat

Hosted by Ballarat Malayalee Association (BMA).



**BALLARAT
MALAYALEE
ASSOCIATION**



ഓണം പൊന്നോണം 2021

SATURDAY 28TH AUGUST 2021

ST PATRICK'S PARISH HALL, 3 LYONS STREET SOUTH,
BALLARAT CENTRAL



Sun 2 Solar
THE REAL SOLUTION

Vish Homes
Real Estate

**ARCH
MEDICAL
CENTRE**

ad

**ALFREDTON
INDIAN STORE**

ONE AGENCY
BALLARAT

**SWARNAM
AYURVEDA**

www.bmaballarat.com.au



2021 Interfaith Forum

Sunday 12th September, 2pm - 4pm

St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St S, Ballarat

Death, Sanctity of the Human Body and Organ Donation.

Organised by Ballarat Interfaith Network.

To register attendance call 0400 650 234.

INTERFAITH FORUM

DEATH, SANCTITY OF THE HUMAN BODY, & ORGAN DONATION

**Speakers: Organ Donation,
Blood Donation, & interfaith
perspectives: Aboriginal, Baha'i,
Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh**

**Sunday, September 12th, 2-4pm
St Patrick's Cathedral Hall
Cnr Sturt & Dawson Sts, Ballarat**

TO REGISTER ATTENDANCE PHONE

0400 650 234

COVID COMPLIANT EVENT:

MASKS, QR CHECK-IN, SOCIAL DISTANCING

DONOR REGISTRATION AVAILABLE

BRING MEDICARE CARD TO FACILITATE

ORGANISED BY

BALLARAT INTERFAITH NETWORK



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence

Nominations are now open for the Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence.

If you or someone you know has made a positive impact to Victoria's multicultural communities, nominate them today. There are 15 categories and you can make multiple nominations.

Nominations close on 5 September 2021.

Nominate Now

**VICTORIAN
MULTICULTURAL
AWARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE
2021**

Nominations now open

Women's Leadership Scholarship

Scholarships are now available through Women & Leadership Australia to encourage more women to step into leadership roles and to support the further development of current women leaders.

Scholarships of \$1,000 - \$5,000 will support participation in one of three leadership development courses designed for emerging through to senior leaders.

Apply by 10 September 2021.

[Apply Now](#)

Future Healthy Program

Calling all 18-25 year olds who want to share their stories to build a healthier Victoria! VicHealth is recruiting Community Champions for their Future Healthy program, which aims to create a Victoria where nobody is denied a healthy future, no matter what their postcode, bank balance, background or ability.

CALD young people are strongly encouraged to apply.

[Apply Now](#)



Diasporas Commissions Open Now

Diasporas will launch in 2021 with a series of commissions open to diverse creatives across Victoria.

More than a festival, Diasporas holds space for the interrogation and development of arts and cultural practice with diverse artists and communities. Through the Diasporas Commissions, Multicultural Arts Victoria seeks to create opportunities for participation that uphold models of self-determination, by prioritising marginalised and under-represented lived experiences.

[Find out more](#)



Student Placement Initiative

CMY is focusing on assisting multicultural and youth sector organisations to create placement opportunities for students who are undertaking Youth Work, Community Services and Community Development degrees and diplomas, to ensure they are able to do the 100 or 250 hours placement that they must undertake to complete their qualification. This is under the Working for



Victoria initiative funded by the Victorian Government.

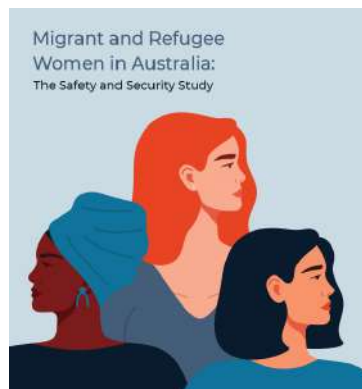
It's a real opportunity for a win-win - the multicultural and youth sector can have the additional (free) capacity to undertake projects or complete work, and the students get the experience they need in the sector.

If this is something that your organisation may be interested in, please contact Amy Chen at achen@cmy.net.au to have a chat about it.

Migrant and Refugee Women in Australia: The Safety and Security Study

This landmark national report released by Harmony Alliance in collaboration with Monash University Migration and Inclusion Centre draws on survey responses from almost 1,400 migrant and refugee women across Australia.

It offers a unique snapshot of a sample of women from across Australia who were willing to share their experiences and its findings can be used to inform policy and other measures that may best support migrant and refugee women into the future.



[View Report](#)

EVENTS IN REVIEW

Stepping Stones 2019 Ballarat Graduation

Our Stepping Stones Superstars, their Mentors, supporters and families came together on Saturday 31 July for an online celebration of the achievements of the 2019 Stepping Stones to Small Business graduating class. Keynote speaker the Hon. Michaela Settle MP praised the women and their commitment to personal development and enterprise, followed by moving testimonials from each of the Stepping Stones graduates in turn.



BKFA Free Food Deliveries

Ballarat Keralites' Foundation of Australia (BKFA) and volunteers cooked and delivered more than 1,000 meals to the community during the lockdown period. We thank BKFA for their kind generosity and support to those in need.



India United Charity Challenge Match

Well done to members of the local Ballarat Indian community who came out to play in the SMS India United Charity Challenge Match on 10 July. The Desi Demons won the match 12-5 against the Bharat Tigers. The fundraiser helped raised valuable funds for CARE Australia's efforts to fight the devastation caused by COVID-19 in India.



Share Your News

Have something you would like us to share on social media or in our monthly newsletter?

Tag us on Facebook [@brmc.ballarat](https://www.facebook.com/brmc.ballarat) or submit items to media@brmc.org.au.

BRMC Contact Details

Ballarat Welcome Centre

25-39 Barkly St, Ballarat VIC 3350

Phone: 03 5383 0613

Email: info@brmc.org.au

Website: www.brmc.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/brmc.ballarat



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

For updates, advice and **translated resources** visit

www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus





If you have a coronavirus question and need a translator:

- Call 131 450 (TIS National)
- Then request the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398

Keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only

BRMC connects and supports diverse communities to be safe and informed and to minimise the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19).

BRMC respectfully acknowledges the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people, their elders and community leaders, past, present and emerging - traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work.  



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