



# SIKH INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF VICTORIA Inc



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Media Release

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## **Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria Receives VMC Harmony Grant 2009**

The Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria (SICV) was today awarded a Victorian Multicultural Commission Harmony Grant to carry out its role of sharing information about the Sikh faith with the wider Victorian Community and to create greater awareness and understanding of Sikh beliefs and practices.

Minister James Merlino, Minister for Sports, Recreation and Youth and Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs visited Gurdwara Sahib Blackburn to present the cheque to the Council.

Since its inception 2002, the Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria has been peak interfaith agency in Victoria to represent Sikh interests among all levels of government and the wider Australian community. It regularly conducts familiarization tours of the gurdwaras to educate members of the public about Sikh beliefs and practices. Groups such as police recruits, church members, interfaith networks, teachers, students and undergraduates of universities are among the many visitors who benefit from these tours. It is the aim of the SICV to promote a culture of peace and harmony within multicultural Australia.

Besides hosting groups at the gurdwaras, SICV also actively participates in interfaith and multi-faith activities through its membership of various networks, represents the Sikhs at major government interfaith bodies, forums and major state events. It is encouraging to note that the Victorian Multicultural Commission has recognised the importance of the voluntary community work being done by the SICV in bringing about greater understanding and acceptance of the Sikh way of life.

Minister Merlino congratulated the SICV on its past achievements and outlined the work of the Brumby Government to promote harmony and social cohesion. He then presented a cheque to Gurdarshan Singh, Chairman of SICV, who followed with a vote of thanks to the Minister.

The event concluded in a very relaxed atmosphere with the Minister and his staff joining members of the Sikh community of Victoria for lunch.

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