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98 WAYS TO CELEBRATE S.A. CULTURE

The Minister for Multicultural Affairs Michael Atkinson has announced that almost one hundred projects will share in this year's Multicultural Grants Scheme.

Mr Atkinson made the announcement from the Ministerial Council on Immigration and Multicultural Affairs meeting in Perth.

"These 98 parcels of money will help celebrate the rich tapestry of culture, arts, food, language and religion we are lucky to have here in South Australia," Mr Atkinson said.

The grants range from \$300 to \$10,500 and this year will help with everything from large festivals such as the Hellenic *Odyssey* to a book on Latvian immigrants and a multi-faith youth forum.

The highly popular scheme will also assist events including a Buddhist lunar festival, a French food and art celebration and the 30th anniversary of Vietnamese farmers in Virginia.

"All these endeavours help religious and ethnic minorities feel at home in South Australia and educate long-time South Australian residents of the value of different cultures," Mr Atkinson said.

The grants also fund helpful services and information for migrants. An Iranian women's group will teach parenting, budgeting and employment skills, and a domestic violence service will use its grant to educate women about the justice system.

"It's crucial that South Australians who've arrived here from overseas can access important information in their own language and in a friendly environment. This means they can take advantage of the great benefits of living in South Australia and can contribute fully to the life of the State," he said.

About a quarter of people living in S.A. were either born in a non-English speaking country or have a parent born in a non-English speaking country.

About 10,000 migrants settle in South Australia each year, on top of about 25,000 students who come to study. Over 200 languages are spoken in South Australia.

"With the help of the annual Multicultural Grants Scheme, South Australians are learning about each others beliefs, customs and practices,"

"The more we know about each other the more we can understand each other's perspective and live in harmony," Mr Atkinson said.

"I look forward to attending many of these events and witnessing the benefits that the grants bring to enriching the cultural life of this State."