

Media Release

27 June 2012

***Talking Difference* offers opportunities for expression in Mildura**

An exciting project to encourage conversations about cultural difference is giving people in Mildura the opportunity to view and create multimedia content about their experiences.

Museum Victoria's *Talking Difference* Portable Studio at Mildura Library (3 July – 22 July) offers members of the local community an opportunity to share ideas about cultural identity and tolerance leading up to and during the Mildura Writers Festival.

Talking Difference is an online media project aimed at promoting diversity and challenging discrimination by encouraging people to create film, sound, images and text. The project is expected to help strengthen the community and promote understanding and acceptance of cultural differences.

The Studio is part of VicHealth's *Arts About Us* Roadshow touring regional Victoria in 2012. VicHealth has funded 18 *Arts About Us* projects over three years to develop arts-based programs, shows and exhibitions that celebrate cultural diversity and help people understand the harmful impacts of race-based discrimination.

The *Talking Difference* studio is a welcoming, enclosed space, where people are drawn into virtual discussion about cultural difference and diversity. The studio features a touch screen, HD camera, microphone and lights, to allow people to view each other's work and to respond via video, audio, text and drawing. A team of locals will record video questions about what it means to live in Mildura and the challenges people face in a workshop at the beginning of the tour and invite others to create content in the Portable Studio.

"The strength of *Talking Difference* is that the communities involved are effectively taking charge of new technologies to create their own conversations about diversity and difference," said Tatiana Mauri, Community Engagement Manager of the Immigration Museum.

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter encouraged local residents to visit the *Talking Difference* Studio at Mildura Library to share their thoughts, experiences and ideas.

"VicHealth is really excited to support the Studio to encourage dialogue about the benefits of cultural diversity and the harm caused by race-based discrimination. We hope Mildura residents embrace the chance to have their say in this unique and creative way," she said.

Talking Difference is a partnership between VicHealth's *Arts About Us* Program and Museum Victoria.

For more information about VicHealth's *Arts About Us* Program visit www.artsaboutus.com.au

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Rural City of Mildura Mayor, Councillor John Arnold and Mildura Writers Festival Chair, Donata Carrazza, will launch *Talking Difference* at 12pm on July 3 at Mildura Library.

***Talking Difference* Portable Studio at Mildura Library 180-190 Deakin Ave, Mildura (3-22 July).**

Portable Studio Champion Workshop

Develop your communication skills, basic multimedia skills, meet other people, and share your ideas. If you have an interest in community leadership or multimedia production, you can be a *Talking Difference* Portable Studio Champion. Make videos that get people thinking about diversity and cultural difference. Be part of a project touring the State and sparking dialogue. Studio Champion Workshops will run Tuesday July 3 from 10am-11:30am or 1.30pm-3pm. Please RSVP to Catherine Kelly by Friday 29 June 2012 catherine.kelly@mildura.vic.gov.au or by phone 03 5018 8266.

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For further media information, interviews or images, please contact:

Emily Tate, The Launch Box, on 0452 236 740 or Emily@thelaunchbox.com.au