

MEDIA RELEASE

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Talking Difference in Frankston

It has been likened to the Tardis and, just like the Doctor, it has the ability to change lives.

Museum Victoria's Talking Difference Portable Studio, designed to facilitate conversation about cultural difference, will arrive for a two-week visit at Carrum Downs Library on May 4 and then travel to Frankston Library for a further two weeks from May 18.

Talking Difference, an Immigration Museum initiative, is an online media project aimed at promoting diversity and challenging discrimination by encouraging people to view and create their own works in film, sound, image and text. The project is expected to help further strengthen the Frankston community by widening understanding and acceptance of cultural differences.

The *Talking Difference* Portable Studio features new technology, including a touch screen, HD camera, microphone and lights, to allow people to view multimedia content produced by others and to respond with their own video, audio, text and drawing.

Free workshops to help local people create video questions will be held in the Hummingbird Room at the Lyrebird Community Centre, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm on Monday, May 4 and in the Library Long Room at Frankston Library, from 2pm to 4pm on Wednesday, May 20.

"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 Immigration Museum Community Engagement Manager Tatiana Mauri.

"Through the project, people not only become new media makers but also become champions for sharing ideas and dialogue about cultural identity and intercultural understanding".

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter encouraged local residents to visit the *Talking Difference* Studio at Frankston libraries.

"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," she said. "We hope Frankston residents embrace the chance to have their say in this unique and creative way."

Talking Difference is a partnership between Frankston City Council, VicHealth, Museum Victoria and Artistic Merit.

***Talking Difference* Portable Studio – Carrum Downs Library, May 4-17 and Frankston Library, May 18-31. Online, visit <http://museumvictoria.com.au/talkingdifference>**

MEDIA:

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