Dear Community Leader

Thank you for attending the first Community Leaders Forum with the Department of Social Services on Wednesday 6 August and for contributing to the success of the gathering through your generous participation in the event.

It was both a pleasure and privilege to meet with so many amazing community leaders who are vitally involved in the lives of their communities and who represent the rich cultural diversity of which we in Victoria are rightly proud.

I believe we succeeded in beginning to paint a picture for you of the broader DSS beyond settlement and multicultural affairs.  As I said on the night, I look forward to working with you to find the common ground, the best access, the most sensible solutions in that DSS landscape for you and your communities.

I look forward to meeting with you again.  It is my hope that we can meet together about twice a year, and to this end we are planning a meeting with you early in 2015 with a focus on one of the DSS programme areas that works alongside settlement and multicultural affairs.  In this way, we hope to add further detail to the picture.

In the meantime, please be assured that the team of Multicultural Community Liaison Officers in the department will continue to be available to support you and listen to your concerns – I encourage you to make contact with them.

Until we meet again, best wishes to you and your communities.

Yours sincerely,

Bernadette Ryan

**State Manager**

**Department of Social Services**