

MEDIA RELEASE

**A Call For a Safe Start to School For Everyone**

60 second TVC launch.

Media Conference                      1.00pm today

**SPEAKERS**

Helen Kapalos	Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission
Bishop Philip Huggins	Anglican Diocese
Richard Keddie	Filmmaker
The Hon Robin Scott MP	Minister for Multicultural Affairs

**Location**

THE CITADINES HOTEL - BOURKE ST  
Between Exhibition & Russell St.

Bishop Philip Huggins & filmmaker Richard Keddie have joined forces to call for a safe start to school for all students, but particularly students from the South Sudanese Community.

As the school year begins, some community members have expressed concern that young South Sudanese students may be a target for discrimination following recent media coverage and commentary.

We support the police in their efforts to bring any person, regardless of background, who has committed a crime to justice. We also acknowledge and support the efforts that the community is making to guide and engage young people to reach their potential.

In response to the media coverage that may have let a few shape our perceptions of a whole community, the Bishop and Richard Keddie are releasing an advertisement asking Victorians to look out for these young students and acknowledge the contribution that they are and will continue to make to our state.

Victorians have more common sense and compassion than to punish everyone for the actions of a few.

We hope to send a message of peace and goodwill to all kids, families, teachers and schools. We hope that our community will look after each other so that every kid has a great start to the school year.

Our message is simple, but powerful and true. Going to school and having an opportunity to learn is something that every Victorian child should experience and enjoy.

**For all enquiries pls call -**

Bishop Huggins 0418 799515

Richard Keddie 0419529885