NEMA
NORTH EAST MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual General Meeting for Financial Year 2025-26

Inclusion - Empowerment - Connection

CONTACT US

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1 About Us

NEMA supports new and established migrant, refugee and culturally diverse communities across North East Victoria, including Wangaratta, Alpine, Benalla, Mansfield and Indigo (Beechworth).

We promote inclusion, belonging and connection by supporting community members to access local services, build networks and participate fully in community life. Through cultural celebrations, social gatherings and community events - including Harmony Day, Diwali, Cultural Dinners, Multicultural Food & Art Festival, Teeyan, Colour Run (Holi) and Seniors Week - we celebrate diversity and strengthen relationships across the region.

NEMA is strengthened by its diverse membership and community partnerships. Through engagement, support and advocacy, we work to build a more inclusive, connected and welcoming North East Victoria.



Acknowledgement of Country

NEMA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the country throughout Australia, and recognises their continuing connection to the land, waters, culture, and community. We pay our respects to their Elders - past and present

2 Our Vision

Inclusion. Empowerment. Connection.
NEMA envisions a welcoming, inclusive and connected North East Victoria where people from all cultural backgrounds feel valued, empowered, supported and able to fully participate and thrive in community life.



Our Mission

1. Connect culturally diverse communities with local services, opportunities and support.
2. Empower individuals and communities to participate, contribute and thrive.
3. Advocate for inclusion, equality and stronger multicultural communities across North East Victoria.

3 Our Values

Inclusion & Respect:
NEMA values diversity and creates welcoming spaces where everyone feels respected, valued and heard. We recognise and celebrate different cultures, identities, experiences and perspectives.

Empowerment & Connection:
We support individuals and communities to build confidence, access opportunities and participate fully in community life. We strengthen relationships and create meaningful connections that foster belonging.

Collaboration & Advocacy:
We work collaboratively with communities, services, organisations and partners to respond to local needs and create positive outcomes. We listen to community voices and advocate for fairness, inclusion and equal opportunities.



Our values guide everything we do - ensuring every person is respected, every culture is valued, every voice is heard, and every community member has the opportunity to belong, participate and thrive.

4 Our Board



Ian Prentice
President



Michelle Bester
Vice President & Secretary



Robert Chatfield
Board Member



Susan Ingleton
Board Member



Pheba Sam
Board Member



Anjita Regmi
Board Member



Chi Chi Wang
Board Member

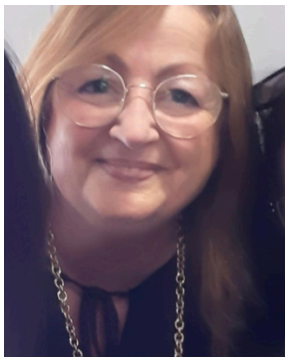
Our Staff



Robert Chatfield
Business Manager



Faryal N Khan
Manager - Community Engagement & Progams



Mary - Ann Jacka
Office Assistant



Su Hou
Volunteer

NO IMAGE AVAILABLE

Odette
Volunteer



5 NORTH EAST MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

20TH OCTOBER 2025 – SUITE 4, 90/100 OVENS STREET WANGARATTA

Present:
Ian Prentice, Rob Chatfield, Pheba Sam, Faryal Nawaz Khan, Yoshani De Silva, Mary-Ann Jacka, Marijana Cvijanovic, Elia Antonacci, Gabriele Antonacci, Amelia Hall, Sam Antonacci, Chi Chi Wang, Zany Contreras

Apologies:
Su Ingleton, Anjita Regmi, Michelle Bester

Minutes taken by: Pheba Sam, Vice President
Meeting started at 7:00pm by the Ian Prentice, President.

Acknowledgement of country:
We wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we meet on today and pay our respect to Elders, past present and emerging. We wish to acknowledge any Aboriginal people present.

Welcome: Ian Prentice, President
Proxies:
Adoption of the Agenda: Moved -Mary Ann, Seconded -Rob Chatfield- agreed
Nomination for Board: Michelle Bester, Ian Prentice, Pheba Sam.
Affirmation: All in

Presidents Report: Ian Prentice see reports

President introduced Yoshani as a new board member and also thanked all the families of volunteers and staff and acknowledged their support for all of us.

Addressed about the change happening in the funding and informed that we may get an outcome by end of December.

Numbers are growing, especially in Benalla and Bright.

NEMA birthday celebration at the Da Vinci club. Simon Reich will be the special guest for the day.

We need to be present out there to be in community and be informed.

Outreach and other services report: Faryal Nawaz Khan See report

Faryal presented her report with the highlights of the growth and commitment on the LGA's and explained the progress.

- English Course: 8 students for the class
- Driving Lesson: across Benalla, Wangaratta and Alpine Shire.
- Resilience members: Chi Chi and Youshani
- Partnership: RWC I Burnett Institute I Monash ·Emergency prepared videos in different languages.
- Penelope research contribution and free-Swimming lesson with Wangaratta sports & aquatic.
- Social group: has expanded from 13 -17 -23
- We have launched our website and new YouTube channel.
- We are working for more core operational funding to keep the doors open for the community, two years program with local council.
- Out of 8 community councils around us, we work on half of the funding left on our side and thank the volunteers for the support they have extended.
- Report: Moved -Robert C Seconded- Mary-Ann J.

Treasurer Report:

- Ian thanked Mary Ann for her bookkeeping and then explained how the grants are recorded and then reported into the summary as shown in the Annual Accounts. ·Cash loss is around 9k after removing the impact of depreciation in the Profit & Loss Report.
- Explained about the expenses – Rent, wages & training cost.
- In Balance Sheet - Ian talked about how the funds are managed.
- Report: Moved- Ian P Seconded – Mary Ann
- A little over $500 has been donated to NEMA after Ian put out the request to members and supporters for donations.
- Membership Fees Proposal.
- Faryal: people noted we do not to take money from everyone- sometimes we and wave fees for people not having funds to meet it.

- Currently 109 of 600 members have paid the membership fees. Mary Ann explained how & why the membership is not paid for various reasons.
- Question: If we can list what benefits the members get from their membership eg., Coupon and discounts, services etc.
- Yoshani: do we give discounts for memberships?
- Unsubscribe non-active members?
- It was agreed to the Board Proposal to increase the fees to $20 form 1st July 2026 Report: Moved Marijana; Seconded – Yoshani

Introducing new Board Candidate:

Yoshani introduced herself a Solicitor, Sri Lankan migrant from Wangaratta. Moved from Melbourne to Wang as she understands the challenges of migrants and support them, joined NEMA. Vice President for North East Sri Lankans Association and volunteers for many associations and network giving legal advice.

Yoshani may run legal workshops next year to connect & support the community.

Presidents Address:

How to advocate and reverse misinformation about migration.

Passed on a story about a school in Kenya where they were $150k short of the cost for the construction. A person who had previously helped the school heard about it and in a short time they managed to raise $200k so they could complete the building. Stories are important to thrive and nurture and build avenues.

Meeting closed at 8:10pm

PROPOSED SPECIAL RESOLUTION - NUMBER 1: AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF ASSOCIATION

In accordance with rule 78 of the Rules of Association and subject to the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC), the Association proposes to alter its Rules by repealing its existing Rules and replacing them with the new Rules set out in Schedule 1.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS -AGM OCTOBER 26TH 2026

The board currently can have up to nine members. Appointment is for two-year term. There are six (6) vacancies and xxx nominations to date, if there are no further nominations, a ballot may not be necessary, but the meeting will decide by a show of hands if a ballot is required or if all six (6) can be elected by a show of hands.

Current members entering second year of 2 their year term are:

Michelle Bester, Pheba Sam and Ian Prentice

Current members available for re-election:

Rob Chatfield, Su Ingleton, Anjita Regmi and Chi Chi Wang.

New member nominations: Merry Sae-Lam



Chinese dragon at Food and Arts Festival, Wangaratta



Merry Sae-Lam

I am a Thai-Chinese-Polynesian senior training designer that serves private healthcare nationally. I have won awards in prior corporate and higher education roles for creating training that supports safety within the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as setting up workshops to cross skill employees to have an advantage in the job market no matter where they go.

Occasionally, I volunteer as an end of life doula and educator, specialising in end-of-life administration. To support the work I do, I am mental health first aid certified and currently studying a Diploma of Counselling with 4 advanced study majors including Grief and Loss, Family Therapy, Working With Children and Adolescents, and Introduction to Expressive Therapies (e.g. art therapy, music therapy, play therapy, etc)

Being a child of 2 hard-working immigrants, I know that Australia's diversity is its strength and the work NEMA does is one of the keys to progressing the wellbeing and quality of life for many communities in North East VIC. With my professional and lived experience, I would love to help where I can to support NEMA's mission of fostering happy, healthy, multicultural communities.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2025-26



There is never a better time to celebrate what has been achieved in the past year than in our Annual Report and at our AGM. I am very grateful to everyone for helping us achieve so much throughout the year. We have provided quality support services to the many migrants, refugees and asylum seekers throughout the North East as well as celebrating NEMA's 20th Anniversary in November, hosted Cultural Dinners in partnership with Pangerang Community Hub, funded English Classes, Swimming Lessons, Driving Lessons and Social Connection Groups, as well as much more including the Colour Run in Benalla and the Food and Arts Festival in Wangaratta in May 2026.

A very big thank you to the Cultural Advocates who give of their time and energy in a variety of ways including coordinating the Social Connection group activities. The volunteers in the office continue to provide wonderful support to the paid staff and of course Mary-Ann and Faryal continue to serve us all wholeheartedly and are very professional in their roles. The Board also continues to function well in supporting the staff and volunteers while keeping in mind the longer-term goals of sustainability and succession planning. Thank you to you all!

NEMA has been again been well supported by and worked closely with the Rural City of Wangaratta as well as the Alpine, Mansfield and Benalla Councils. Their encouragement and participation in partnerships are so important and provide us with opportunities to reach out into the Local Government Areas we cover. As well NEMA continues to provide limited services and support to the Beechworth area.

We have been wonderfully supported this year by Deloitte's Legal in revising the Rules of NEMA (known as our Constitution). They are providing this service pro bono (no cost to NEMA). This process is in preparation for applying to be recognised as a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) by the Australian and Charities Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) and subsequently, to then apply for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Having this recognition will enable NEMA to apply for more grants and businesses are also more inclined to donate in support of NEMA because they can make tax-deductible donations. Deloitte Legal will also assist us with the process involving the ACNC and ATO. The revised Draft Rules will be presented to the members at the AGM for approval. It will be emailed ahead of time along with the other documents and these should be to you by 12th October.

At the time of writing this report we have been notified of an upcoming visit by the staff at the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). These three staff members have been, and continue to be, our main contacts in the DPC. They are very supportive of us and this visit will be important for us to

provide feedback on what is working well and what have been the challenges under the current arrangements. We will be communicating that one of the weaknesses of the current funding is that we have needed to spend too much time seeking opportunities of funding from grants etc. to provide for our overheads such as rent and insurance etc. This detracts from our desire to focus on service delivery.

We don't expect to find out much about any future scenarios as they will be waiting till after the state election to see how the next government approaches the challenges of the budget etc.

Rob, Faryal and I are looking forward to a meeting in November with Maria Dimopoulos from the Settlement Council of Australia (SCOA). There is to be another round of funding from this federal government agency coming available later this year and we expect will be providing funding for several years from July 1st 2027. We will be making an application for a share of the funds and are looking forward to this meeting to clearly demonstrate that NEMA delivers quality services and support to this North East Region of Victoria.

We have recently lost support from one of our business donors who has been consistently supporting NEMA for several years. We are very grateful for his generosity but are now feeling this loss as it provided income of around $10,000 per year. We will talk at the AGM how we may find other ways of increasing our funding for the ongoing exceptional work NEMA does in supporting so many people. With the government support currently not covering the overheads, any small reserve NEMA has had is being quickly eroded.

The Board has been continuing to seek new Board members and we hope to have a couple of new nominations for the AGM. You will be provided with an opportunity to get to know these candidates before the meeting through their brief bio. Proxy voting will be available if you are unable to attend the meeting in person.

Ian Prentice,
President
14/09/2026



Citizenship Ceremony - Wangaratta



NEMA 20th Birthday



Connecting Cultures - Celebrating Together, Benalla

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT FOR 2025-26

Introduction

The 2025–2026 year has been a period of growth, resilience and strong community engagement for the North East Multicultural Association (NEMA). Throughout the year, NEMA continued to support migrants, refugees and multicultural communities across North East Victoria through outreach, settlement support, education, social connection, cultural activities, advocacy and partnerships.

Our work has focused on ensuring that people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds feel welcomed, connected and supported, while also creating opportunities for communities to share their cultures, build confidence and participate actively in regional life.

Despite changes and uncertainty around government funding during the early part of 2026, NEMA remained adaptable and committed to maintaining core services. Strong partnerships with councils, community organisations, health and legal services, peak bodies and local community groups enabled NEMA to continue responding to emerging community needs.

Community Engagement and Outreach

Throughout the year, NEMA provided individualised support to community members through outreach, advocacy, settlement assistance, IT support, referrals and service navigation. Support was provided according to individual circumstances and included assistance with Centrelink and MyGov matters, housing, employment, visa information, digital access and connecting people with appropriate local services.

NEMA also continued providing free English conversation classes in Wangaratta and Benalla. The Benalla program successfully relocated to Waminda Community House, providing a welcoming and accessible environment for participants and strengthening collaboration between NEMA and Waminda.

Free driving lessons continued to be an important program supporting independence, employment opportunities and participation in community life. NEMA also delivered a free swimming program for multicultural community members, with 37 participants completing the program and improving their water safety skills.
Participation in citizenship ceremonies across the region remained an important part of NEMA's outreach. These occasions provided opportunities to welcome new Australian citizens and reinforce their connection with the local community.

NEMA also launched the Community Connection Card, designed to encourage neighbours to connect with one another and help reduce social isolation. Emergency preparedness resources were also developed, including videos designed to provide accessible emergency information to CALD communities in English, Dari, Burmese and Punjabi.

Social Connection and Cultural Programs

Social connection remained a major focus throughout the year. NEMA continued supporting multicultural social groups across Wangaratta and the Alpine region, providing regular opportunities for community members to meet, build friendships and participate in activities.

The Wangaratta Mid-Week Break continued to provide a welcoming space for community members, with guest speakers such as Services Australia providing practical information about available government services and support.

The Alpine Social Group continued to grow, with NEMA working with cultural advocates and community leaders to strengthen participation and develop activities that respond to member's interests.

NEMA's Cultural Dinners, delivered in partnership with Pangerang Community Hub, were another major success. The dinners brought together people from different cultural backgrounds to share food, stories and traditions. Growing attendance and positive community feedback demonstrated the importance of these events in strengthening social connection, belonging and cross-cultural understanding.

NEMA also supported and participated in a range of cultural celebrations and community activities, including Diwali, Children's Week, Seniors Month activities, Christmas celebrations and other local events. The Multicultural Food and Art Festival, held in May 2026 with support from the Rural City of Wangaratta, was a significant achievement during the year. The event brought together more than 400 people to celebrate cultural diversity through food, music, art and community participation. The strong attendance and positive feedback highlighted the importance of multicultural events in bringing the broader community together.

Partnerships and Regional Engagement

Partnership development continued to be a key component of NEMA's work. NEMA maintained regular engagement with local councils, health services, community organisations, schools, government agencies and multicultural networks.

NEMA continued participating in the Benalla Health and Wellbeing Partnership, contributing to discussions about local community needs and opportunities for collaboration.

NEMA also became a formal member and organisational partner of the Grit and Resilience Consortium, strengthening our role in regional initiatives focused on social connection, wellbeing, resilience and community capacity. Through this partnership, NEMA secured support for the continuation of the Cultural Dinners program and contributed to broader regional community-building activities.

Other important partnerships and collaborations during the year included work with Pangerang Community Hub, Waminda Community House, Gateway Health, Hume Riverina Community Legal Service, Financial Counselling Victoria, local councils, schools and other community organisations.

NEMA also hosted and participated in professional development and community information sessions. A Financial Counselling Victoria Train the Trainer workshop was hosted in Wangaratta, bringing together 17 professionals and community members and strengthening knowledge around financial literacy and community resilience.

NEMA's engagement extended beyond the local region through participation in regional and state networks, including the FECCA National CEOs Network and other multicultural and community sector forums.

Advocacy, Representation and Capacity Building

NEMA continued to advocate for the needs and interests of multicultural communities across North East Victoria. Meetings with local and state representatives provided opportunities to discuss the importance of sustainable funding, accessible services and culturally inclusive programs in regional communities.

NEMA also maintained engagement with government departments and regional networks, including participation in meetings with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and other key stakeholders. Staff professional development remained an important priority. During the year, Faryal participated in webinars, workshops and sector events focused on multicultural engagement, mental health, financial wellbeing, leadership and community development.

A major professional development opportunity was participation in the Women Deliver Conference 2026 in Melbourne (Naarm) through a scholarship from the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV). The conference brought together thousands of participants from around the world and provided valuable opportunities to learn about women's leadership, economic empowerment, wellbeing, gender-based violence prevention, youth leadership and community-led solutions. The knowledge and networks gained through this opportunity will continue to inform NEMA's community engagement work.



NEMA also continued to share information about its services and role through presentations to schools, community groups and service providers. These activities helped increase understanding of multicultural communities and strengthened NEMA's visibility as a regional multicultural organisation.

Recognition and Organisational Achievements

The year also included several significant milestones and recognitions for NEMA.

NEMA's Emergency Preparedness for CALD Communities project was recognised by the Rural City of Wangaratta, with the project named a finalist for the Australia Day 2026 awards. NEMA was subsequently honoured with the Project of the Year award, recognising the contribution of the project to community safety and inclusion.

NEMA's work was further recognised through Faryal being selected as an Australia Day Ambassador 2026 and being recognised as a woman contributing to the local community through an International Women's Day initiative with the Rural City of Wangaratta.

NEMA also celebrated its 20th anniversary, bringing together more than 100 community members, volunteers, stakeholders and local representatives. The celebration provided an opportunity to reflect on NEMA's history and recognise the contribution of the many people who have supported the organisation over two decades.

The relocation of NEMA's Benalla office to Waminda Community House was another important development. The new location has created opportunities for stronger community connections, more accessible services and collaborative programs and funding opportunities.

Community Impact

Across the year, NEMA's work demonstrated the value of having a dedicated multicultural organisation embedded within regional communities. Our programs have supported people to improve their English, access services, gain greater independence, develop social connections, learn about financial and emergency preparedness, participate in community activities and celebrate their cultural identities.
NEMA's outreach model has also allowed us to identify emerging needs and respond flexibly. From individual settlement support to community-wide cultural festivals, our approach has remained centred on inclusion, empowerment and connection.

The continued growth of cultural dinners, social groups, English classes and community events demonstrates that there is a strong and ongoing need for culturally inclusive activities in North East Victoria.

Looking Ahead

As NEMA moves forward, our focus will remain on strengthening sustainable programs, expanding partnerships and ensuring that multicultural communities across our region continue to have access to culturally responsive support.

Key priorities for the coming year include:

- Continuing settlement, outreach and service navigation support.
- Strengthening English language and community education programs.
- Expanding social connection activities across NEMA's catchment areas.
- Continuing Cultural Dinners and other community-led cultural activities. Strengthening emergency preparedness and community resilience initiatives.
- Developing new partnerships and joint funding opportunities.
- Supporting employment, education and financial wellbeing pathways Continuing advocacy for sustainable multicultural services in regional Victoria.
- Strengthening volunteer involvement and community leadership. Expanding NEMA's visibility and engagement across Wangaratta, Benalla, Alpine, Mansfield and Indigo (Beechworth) communities.

Conclusion
The 2025–26 year reflects NEMA's continued commitment to Inclusion, Empowerment and Connection, supporting multicultural communities across North East Victoria to connect, participate and thrive.
We look forward to building stronger, more inclusive and resilient communities in the year ahead. Thank you to our staff, volunteers, partners, funders and community members for your continued support.

Faryal Nawaz Khan
Manager - Community Engagement & Programs

FINANCIAL REPORT

A0047396K
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2026

Scope

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report of North East Multicultural Association Assoc #: A0047396K for the year ended 30 June 2026. The association's committee are responsible for the financial report and the committee have determined that the accounting policies described at Note I to the financial statements are appropriate to meet the needs of members and also the Associations Incorporation Act, (1981 Vic). We have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the association. No Opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used within Note 1 to the financial statements are appropriate to the needs of the members.



The financial statements have been prepared to distribute to members of the association so as to fulfill the reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporations Act, (1981 Vic). We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this audit report or on the financial statements to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates, examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with accounting policies as described in Note I so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Association's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows. The accounting policies within Note I do not require the application of all Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

NEMA continued to deliver programs and services across North East Victoria while managing its financial resources responsibly during 2025–26.

Key Financial Figures

Financial Indicator	2025–26
Total Revenue	$186,419
Total Expenses	$199,927
Operating Result	($13,508) Loss
Net Assets	$40,619
Cash & Bank	$55,354

NEMA's revenue increased significantly compared with the previous year, reflecting continued grant support, donations, room hire, memberships and other income. The year closed with a $13,508 operating loss, compared with a $30,477 loss in 2024–25.

Revenue & Expenditure

Where NEMA's Revenue Came From

- Grants: $149,569
- Donations: $22,296
- Room Hire: $12,417
- Memberships: $1,320
- Other Income: $817
- Total Revenue: $186,419

Grants remained NEMA's primary source of income, supporting the delivery of community programs, settlement support, engagement and other activities.

Financial - Auditor's and Treasurers Report

Membership Fees – No change proposed

Possible fundraising campaign



Revenue

$186,419



Expenses

$199,927

Key Areas of Expenditure

- Wages: $74,075
- Rent: $20,324
- Depreciation: $20,815
- Project Expenses: $17,874
- Travelling & Entertainment: $9,500
- Superannuation: $8,888
- Food & Drinks: $6,993
- Function Room Hire: $4,634
- Computer & Software: $3,576
- Insurance: $3,594

Total Expenses: $199,927.

The financial results reflect the cost of maintaining NEMA's operations and delivering programs across the region, including staffing, premises, projects, technology and community activities.

Financial Position & Looking Ahead

At 30 June 2026, NEMA reported total assets of $87,328, liabilities of $46,709 and net assets of $40,619. The annual loss of $13,508 was an improvement from $30,477 in 2024–25.

NEMA remains focused on securing sustainable and longer-term funding to support operational costs, maintain essential services and strengthen its capacity to continue serving multicultural communities across North East Victoria.

Looking Ahead

NEMA will continue to focus on financial sustainability, responsible use of funding and strengthening diverse income opportunities, while ensuring resources are directed towards programs and services that create meaningful outcomes for multicultural communities across North East Victoria.

Every dollar supports NEMA's mission of Inclusion, Empowerment and Connection.

Net Result: Loss	Previous Year: Loss	Net assets at 30 June 2026:
$13,508	**$30,477**	**$40,619**



PERFORMANCE & IMPACT
JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026

Supporting Multicultural Communities Across Five LGAs

Throughout 2025–26, NEMA continued to support multicultural community members across Wangaratta, Alpine, Indigo (Beechworth), Benalla and Mansfield.

Across the two reporting periods, NEMA recorded 9,553+ reported engagements/reach — 5,390+ from July–December 2025 and 4,163+ from January–June 2026. This figure represents program reach and engagements and should not be interpreted as the number of unique individuals.

DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

NEMA supported people from 30+ cultural and language backgrounds, reflecting the diversity of North East Victoria. Communities supported included people from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and many other backgrounds.

OUR CONTRIBUTION

NEMA's 2025–26 performance demonstrates a strong and growing contribution to multicultural communities across North East Victoria. Through direct support, community connection, advocacy, skills development and regional partnerships, NEMA continues to help people access services, build confidence, strengthen relationships and participate fully in community life.

5,390+
Reported Reach/ engagements
July - Dec 2025

4,163
Reported Reach/ engagements
Jan - Jun 2026

FUTURE OUTLOOK

NEMA enters 2026–27 with a clear commitment to strengthening Inclusion, Empowerment and Connection across North East Victoria. We will continue to provide practical settlement support, community-led programs, advocacy and opportunities that enable multicultural community members to participate, connect and thrive.

Our focus will be on strengthening regional partnerships, expanding services across our five LGAs, supporting community leadership, improving access to education and employment, and creating meaningful opportunities for social connection and belonging.

As community needs continue to evolve, NEMA will remain responsive, collaborative and community-focused, while working to strengthen sustainable funding and organisational capacity to ensure our services can continue to make a lasting difference.

Together, we look forward to building stronger, more inclusive and connected communities across North East Victoria.



THE END

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