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## **BUDGET BOOSTS SUPPORT FOR MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES**

The 2021-22 NSW Budget showcases the NSW Government's continued commitment to supporting multicultural communities across the state, with new investment in world-class language services and support for refugee, new and emerging communities in NSW.

Minister for Multiculturalism Natalie Ward said the NSW Government will invest an additional \$1.0 million into services to revolutionise digital-based interpreting services and improve accessibility in remote areas over the next year.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in the demand for video and telephone interpreting," Mrs Ward said.

"This funding will ensure people from all backgrounds have equal access to reliable and quality information and services.

"It will enable the development of an interpreting mobile phone application, further reducing barriers for communities who speak languages other than English."

The mobile phone application will feature cutting-edge digital technology to link police and emergency services in the field with on-the-spot interpreters, ensuring timely interpreting support to those who need it, when they need it most.

In addition, the NSW Government's Interpreter Scholarship Program will support up to 100 budding interpreters to become certified in 2021 with the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters.

"Scholarship recipients will benefit from subsidised world-class training at TAFE NSW and universities, to speak new, emerging and in-demand languages," Mrs Ward said.

The Budget also includes \$8.5 million over three years to continue vital support programs for refugee as well as new and emerging communities in NSW.

The programs provide assistance with employment, English language proficiency and job readiness, with the aim of reducing social isolation, particularly of migrant and refugee women and children.

For more information about Multicultural NSW's programs and initiatives, visit: [www.multicultural.nsw.gov.au](http://www.multicultural.nsw.gov.au)

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