

# Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council (MQAC)

## Meeting communique

The 10th and final meeting of the current MQAC was held on 16 June 2022 in Hervey Bay.

MQAC also held consultation meetings with community members, neighbourhood centre staff and volunteers, service providers, local Members of Parliament and other stakeholders at the Hervey Bay and Maryborough neighbourhood centres on 15 June 2022. The focus of discussions were on creating a sense of welcome and belonging in Hervey Bay and Maryborough, particularly in relation to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Some of the topics raised by participants included: the changing population demographics of the region; opportunities for increasing a sense of welcome and belonging including more focus in schools about diversity and inclusion, healing and reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and political leadership, including at the local government level; and the need to raise awareness of and exposure to the region's culturally diverse communities amongst the broader community.

The MQAC meeting on 16 June 2022 commenced with a workshop facilitated by Mr Aleem Ali and Mr John van Kooy from Welcoming Australia. In addition to MQAC members, workshop participants included the local Member of Parliament for Hervey Bay and representatives from North Burnett, Fraser Coast, Gympie and Bundaberg regional councils. MQAC members supported Welcoming Australia at this workshop by contributing their insights and lived experience in fostering greater welcome and belonging for people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

Following the completion of the workshop and departure of guest participants, the formal MQAC meeting was held. Members provided updates on current and emerging issues and opportunities for culturally and linguistically diverse communities and discussed key learnings from the community consultations and Welcoming Australia workshop. MQAC also reflected on key achievements of MQAC's three-year term and suggested opportunities for development and improvement for the next MQAC.

Minister Linard thanked members for their significant contribution and expressed her appreciation for the challenging conversations which the MQAC has engaged in. The Minister noted a new MQAC will be appointed for a three-year term in the second half of 2022.