

## **Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council Meeting communique**

The ninth meeting of the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council (the Council) was held in Rockhampton on 21 June 2018.

In the morning the Council hosted a community consultation on raising awareness of domestic and family violence and the support and services available. The consultation engaged with community members, domestic and family violence services and Government agencies on what more communities can do to raise awareness of domestic and family violence and what more can be done to overcome the barriers for women reporting violence and accessing services.

The top issues discussed were:

- Different understandings about domestic and family violence
- Barriers to accessing services and/or reporting domestic and family violence
- Programs are working well in the region but there is still more that can be done

A report has been compiled, including findings from the community consultation, and is available on the Multicultural Affairs Queensland website.

Following the consultation, the Council met with Ms Faiza El-Higzi, Member of the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council to reflect on the morning's consultation.

Members also met with Councillor Margaret Strelow, Mayor Rockhampton Regional Council; Councillor Nev Ferrier, Mayor Banana Shire Council; Councillor Greg Williamson, Mayor and Councillor Fran Mann, Mackay Regional Council; Councillor Bill Ludwig, Mayor Livingstone Shire Council; Councillor Rick Hansen, Gladstone Regional Council; and Professor Andrew Markus from Monash University.

Ms Britney Lauga MP, Member for Keppel and Mr Barry O'Rourke MP, Member for Rockhampton also attended the meeting.

Professor Markus provided a presentation on the National Scanlon Survey on Social Cohesion, including Queensland's results for 2017, highlighting the difference in attitudes towards migrants, multiculturalism and the Muslim community in Brisbane and in regional Queensland. Following the presentation, the Council and local Mayors discussed social cohesion and regional settlement challenges and opportunities in the region, including the need to be proactive by showing leadership, sharing messages that everyone belongs, and layering diversity into all events.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in Brisbane in August, with other meetings for the year planned for Brisbane and the Gold Coast.