

# Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council (MQAC)

## Meeting communique

The third meeting of the third MQAC was held on 18 and 19 October 2023 in Brisbane, chaired by Mrs Kenny Duke for the first day and Dr Faiza El-Higzi OAM for the second day.

Council members commenced day 1 with a visit to Sunnybank State High School to speak directly with students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds about equity, diversity and inclusion opportunities as well as their personal experiences navigating life in Queensland. MQAC also met with parents and school staff to discuss needs, opportunities and successful initiatives which support positive learning outcomes for students.

MQAC met with representatives from the Department of Education (DoE), who presented on their ongoing commitments under the Queensland Multicultural Action Plan. MQAC discussed the Department of Education's work towards increasing the number of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in the workforce and ways in which the teams within People and Culture are seeking to meet their target for increased representation. The Department of Education also presented to MQAC an update on their *Equity and Excellence: realising the potential of student strategy* with a particular focus on the needs of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds following a meeting held earlier in the year with the Director-General of the Department of Education.

On day 2. MQAC members provided updates on current and emerging issues and opportunities for culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Topics included: education, youth justice, policing, English acquisition, migration, and employment. MQAC was then joined by the Director-General of the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training for an update on the youth justice portfolio and to discuss the recent changes to youth crime laws.

This presentation was followed by a meeting with the Queensland Police Service to discuss their commitments under the Queensland Multicultural Action Plan. Topics included recruitment pathways for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, the preliminary establishment stages of the Police Multicultural Advisory Group, and community engagement.

Multicultural Affairs Queensland presented on its work with the Australian South Sea Islander community, which included a history of Australian South Sea Islanders and current priorities for key bodies like Queensland United Australian South Sea Islander Council.

MQAC was also updated by Multicultural Affairs Queensland on its ongoing work, including Multicultural Queensland Month, language services, engagement with the Commonwealth Government's Multicultural Framework Review, social cohesion, and Celebrating Multicultural Queensland funding program for 2022-23.

The next meeting is scheduled for early 2024 in Brisbane.