

Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council

Meeting Communique

The 9th meeting of the current Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council (the Council) was held on 22 and 23 March 2022 in Brisbane.

Day 1 commenced with members providing updates on current and emerging issues and opportunities for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. The local impact of the war in Ukraine, the impact of the floods and housing affordability were some of the topics discussed.

Next the Council met with a number of young people from the Future Leaders Advocacy Group run by Multicultural Australia and the Youth Voice Program run by the Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT). This was an opportunity for the Council to hear directly from young people from migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds on the topics that mattered most to them. These topics included: representation; employment; and mental health and wellbeing. The young people shared personal stories and offered advice on how to address some of the issues raised, and how to maximise opportunities for Queensland youth from CALD backgrounds.

The Council met with the Chief Executive Officers of Multicultural Australia and QPASTT who updated the group on the work of their organisations. They discussed opportunities and considerations for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032) noting it presents an opportunity to be an 'Olympics of Belonging'.

Day 2 focussed on meeting with government representatives to discuss the issues and opportunities in the areas of youth justice, child safety, employment and Brisbane 2032.

- Phillip Brooks, Deputy Director, General and Kate Connors discussed DCYJMA's efforts to improve service delivery for CALD families, youth and children who interact with the youth justice and child safety systems;
- Rebecca Atkinson, Deputy Director-General, Strategy, Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) briefed the Council on DESBT's work to better support people from CALD backgrounds to find jobs, start small business and return to work; and
- Kerry Petersen, Associate Director-General, 2032 Taskforce, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) presented on Brisbane 2032 with discussion focussed on how it can be as inclusive as possible and capitalise on opportunities for CALD cohorts.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 2022.