

Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council (MQAC)

Meeting communique

The first meeting of the third MQAC was held on 28 February and 1 March 2023 in Brisbane. Day 1 was chaired by the Honourable Leanne Linard MP, Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Day 2 was chaired by Dr Faiza El-Higzi OAM.

Members commenced Day 1 of the meeting by providing updates on current and emerging issues and opportunities for culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Topics included housing, education, youth justice, The Voice to Parliament, English acquisition, mental health and employment.

Following this, MQAC met with the Director-General, Department of Education, who presented on the new education strategy, [Equity and Excellence: realising the potential of every student strategy](#) (the Equity and Excellence strategy). MQAC discussed issues experienced by students and families from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, including the need for better communication between schools and parents and for schools to employ more teachers from CALD backgrounds. The Department of Education will attend a future meeting to update MQAC on the implementation of the Equity and Excellence strategy.

The newly established MQAC discussed their collective priorities and provided feedback on a draft work plan.

On Day 2, MQAC was joined by the Queensland Human Rights Commission who briefed members on their work. This included work related to addressing racism in schools, the Building belonging: Review of Queensland's *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* report, the Inquiry into Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes (the inquiry) and a project to review Queensland Police Service recruitment practice and procedures.

MQAC then had a presentation from Multicultural Affairs on plans for Multicultural Queensland Month 2023 (August) and the work of Multicultural Affairs.

MQAC was finally joined by some of the team behind the COVID-19 CALD Health Engagement Project (CCHEP) who presented on some key learnings of the project. MQAC discussed the transferability of the CCHEP engagement approach, which could be a useful framework for other government agencies to adopt to effectively engage with CALD communities.

The next MQAC meeting is scheduled for July 2023 in a regional location.