

Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council

Meeting communique

The fourth meeting of the third Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council (MQAC) and the first meeting chaired by the Honourable Charis Mullen MP, Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, was held on 26 March 2024 in Brisbane. Minister Mullen opened the meeting, spoke about her lived experience as a second-generation migrant, her commitment to ensuring the needs and interests of culturally and linguistically diverse communities were reflected in government policy and the key role of MQAC in being a voice for multicultural communities.

MQAC members provided updates on current and emerging issues and opportunities for culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Topics included: the impact of geo-political incidents on communities in Queensland; challenges relating to youth justice and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in youth detention; the importance of community engagement including in regional areas; issues such as housing and the increased cost of living on international students; the importance of place based approaches to addressing issues and supporting communities; and empowering communities through the arts.

Representatives from Queensland Health and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation) presented on their ongoing work to make government services and information culturally responsive and accessible for culturally and linguistically diverse communities. MQAC provided advice on both departments' continuing work in this area.

Representatives from the Queensland Human Rights Commission and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General co-presented on the changes in the *Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023*. The Queensland Human Rights Commission also discussed the development of community education on the changes.

In concluding the meeting, Multicultural Affairs Queensland presented on its community engagement work to support social cohesion in response to geo-political incidents and the impacts felt by Queensland communities affected by global events.

The next meeting is scheduled for early June 2024.