

# **Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council**

## **Meeting Communique**

**Tuesday, 11 February 2025**

The seventh meeting of the third Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council (the Council) was held on 11 February 2025 in Brisbane, chaired by the Honourable Fiona Simpson, Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism (Minister Simpson).

As an introduction, Multicultural Affairs Queensland provided an overview of the Council's role and functions and highlighted some of the Council's key achievements to date. Minister Simpson shared with members the Queensland Government's vision for multiculturalism in Queensland and goals for the Council.

Council members discussed current opportunities and challenges for culturally and linguistically diverse communities across Queensland. Topics included: the impact of overseas conflicts and geopolitical events on social cohesion in local communities; the importance of community-led responses that are culturally responsive to the needs of diverse communities; the impact of trauma, racism and discrimination on communities and resulting impacts on mental health; the importance of story-telling and the arts to foster healing in multicultural communities and a sense of belonging; and the barriers faced by people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds accessing mental health support, rental accommodation, training and employment opportunities, and other services.

Members discussed the Council's strategic priorities for the year ahead, deciding that a key focus will be to work with decision makers across government and mainstream services to ensure place-based services and funding are more responsive to the diverse needs of communities.

Minister Simpson acknowledged the issues and ideas raised, and thanked Council members for their attendance and insights.

The next meeting will be scheduled for mid-2025.