

Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council

Meeting communique

The fifth meeting of the third Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council (MQAC) was held on 3 and 4 June 2024 in Toowoomba, chaired by Mr Beny Bol OAM.

MQAC members held a community consultation session with local community members and leaders to discuss opportunities and challenges for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This consultation was organised and hosted by the Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma. Discussions focused on housing, education and employment pathways, skills recognition, transport, racism and a sense of belonging.

Representatives from the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) and the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) presented on activities, successes, challenges, and lessons learnt from the Agri-Connect Pilot Initiative; and supporting employment outcomes for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including refugees in the Darling Downs and South West region.

MQAC members engaged with Queensland TAFE's Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) participants to learn about their employment journeys, aspirations, challenges, and the effectiveness of government services in supporting them to find employment. AMEP participants also had the opportunity to meet with QFF and DESBT representatives.

In concluding the meeting, MQAC members reported their findings from the community consultation and sessions with QFF, DESBT and TAFE AMEP participants to the Honourable Chairs Mullen MP, Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Minister Mullen thanked MQAC members for their participation, acknowledged the issues raised, and committed to working with her Ministerial colleagues to address issues affecting culturally and linguistically diverse communities in the region.

The next meeting Council is scheduled for August 2024, in Brisbane.