

Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council Meeting communique

The eighth meeting of the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council (the Council) was held in Toowoomba on 26 April 2018.

In the morning the Council hosted a community consultation on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) — Workforce Capability. The consultation engaged with community members, disability service providers, job active providers and Government agencies on identifying and engaging people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds with disability in the NDIS, workforce capability issues in servicing the needs of people from CALD backgrounds with disability and taking advantage of the employment opportunities within the NDIS. The top issues discussed were:

- Lack of availability of interpreters, particularly in regional areas
- Difficulties understanding the NDIS and what services are available
- Many job opportunities exist but accessing and filling these are challenging.

A consultation report is being compiled, which will include the findings from the community consultation and will be available on the Multicultural Affairs Queensland website.

Following the consultation, the Council met with the CEO of the Health and Community Services Workforce Council, part of the consortium that developed Workability QLD, the workforce strategy for the NDIS in Queensland, to reflect on the morning's consultation.

Members also met with the Toowoomba Mayor, Paul Antonio, Western Downs Mayor, Paul McVeigh, and Professor Andrew Markus from Monash University. Professor Markus provided a presentation on the National Scanlon Survey on Social Cohesion, including Queensland's results for 2017 and in particular results highlighting the difference in attitudes towards migrants, multiculturalism and the Muslim community in Brisbane and in regional Queensland. Following the presentation, the Council and Mayor Antonio and Mayor McVeigh discussed social cohesion and regional settlement challenges and opportunities in the region, including the opportunity for Local Governments to lead by attracting skilled new arrivals to the area while considering the capacity of local infrastructure.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in Rockhampton in June, with other meetings for the year planned for Brisbane and the Gold Coast.