

Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council Meeting communique

The 12th meeting of the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council (The Council) was held in Brisbane on 22 November 2018.

The Council members heard from senior executives from the Department of Housing and Public Works and the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training on topics of interest to the Council and the progress of actions in the Queensland Multicultural Action Plan 2016-17 to 2018-19. Discussion focused on support for people seeking asylum, consistency in the collection of data in relation to cultural diversity, and assistance for migrants and refugees with skills and qualifications gained overseas to utilise these skills within the workforce.

Further information on the progress of actions in the Multicultural Action Plan can be viewed on the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs' website by visiting <https://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/multicultural-affairs/policy-and-governance/multicultural-policy-and-action-plan.html>

The Council then met with senior representatives from Arts Queensland, Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), Screen Queensland and Queensland Theatre, to discuss the representation of Queenslanders from culturally diverse backgrounds in the arts, as performers, within the workforce and audiences.

Members were also advised that the current membership term for the Council is due to expire on 31 July 2019 with recruitment for new members commencing early in the New Year.

Other matters discussed were the work plan and meeting schedule for 2019 and the launch of the research report *Seizing the opportunity: Making the most of the skills and experience of migrants and refugees*.

The next meeting of the Council will be in March 2019.