

Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council Meeting communique

The tenth meeting of the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council (the Council) was held in Brisbane on 9 August 2018.

The Council was provided with a presentation by Deloitte Access Economics regarding the research report *Seizing the Opportunity: Making the most of the skills and experience of migrants and refugees*.

The research project into the under-utilisation of the skills and experiences of migrants and refugees came about from the Council's community consultation on jobs held in Ipswich in April 2017. Deloitte Access Economics (Deloitte) were engaged to undertake research on the net benefits of increasing skills recognition of migrants and refugees in Queensland.

The research report will be launched later this year.

Members then discussed the opportunities presented by the research findings, such as:

- consideration of alternative pathways to recognition of qualifications, such as through apprenticeships or support for establishing small businesses
- addressing the systemic issues over the long-term (e.g. 10-year strategy)
- engaging directly with industries and prioritising those with skills shortages
- working across government
- developing programs that target the most disadvantaged.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in Brisbane on 27 September 2018, with the final meeting for the year planned for the Gold Coast in November.