

Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council

Meeting Communique

The eighth meeting of the current Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council (the Council) was held on 20 October 2021 in Brisbane, with regionally based members joining virtually. The meeting was chaired by the Honourable Leanne Linard MP, Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

The meeting commenced with members raising current and emerging issues impacting culturally diverse cohorts in their networks or local community. Key issues discussed included: vaccine hesitancy among some cohorts; the impact of the situation in Afghanistan on local communities; and the need to promote Queensland as an attractive place to settle, study and work including for humanitarian entrants, skilled migrants and international students.

The Council then met with Mr Peter Russo MP, Member for Toohey, who is the Chair of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee undertaking the inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes. Mr Russo updated the Council on the progress of the inquiry, including the next steps which entail reporting to the Legislative Assembly by 31 January 2022.

Council member Mr Nkosana Mafico presented to the Council on 'Social Cohesion and Social Business: An immigrant Perspective'. Drawing on learnings from his PhD thesis, Mr Mafico discussed how factors such as gender and social class impact immigrant entrepreneurship.

Council member Ms Dea Bickey presented on Australian South Sea Islander peoples' history, issues and aspirations. Ms Bickey took members through a timeline of Australian socio-political influences directly targeted at South Sea Islanders and Australian South Sea Islanders.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 2022.