

This submission was made to the former Community Affairs Committee about a similar Bill in 2011. It has been provided to the Health and Community Services Committee and re-published with the agreement of the authoring organisation.



**MR 2011 BILL INQUIRY
SUBMISSION 001**

24 November 2011

The Research Director
Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000



To Dr Kathy Munro

The Local Government Association of Queensland would like to commend the Queensland Government for introducing the Queensland Multicultural Recognition Bill 2011 to the Queensland Parliament in October 2011. The LGAQ welcomes the opportunity presented by the State Government to provide comment on the Bill.

The proposed Bill will strengthen and support the implementation of multiculturalism within Queensland. Given LGAQ's co-ordination of the LAMP program since its inception, we welcome the proposed Multicultural Charter and provisions for the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council.

Local Government in Queensland plays an integral role in integrating the principles and practices of multiculturalism throughout their organisations and in promoting intercultural harmony in their local region. Multiculturalism forms part of most councils' community plans.

The governance and reporting arrangements which are proposed are something that LGAQ has been committed to and, in our co-ordination role of the LAMP program since 1998, we have assisted councils to support multiculturalism. With the advent of a 457 visa workforce in many local council areas, as well as the settlement of humanitarian refugees (with the numbers in both groups expected to rise over the next 5 years), local governments will play a critical role in the integration of these CALD communities at the grass roots level.

It is disappointing that the Bill does not recognise the importance of the State working with local government councils to achieve the goals of the new Multicultural Policy.

It would be opportune for this collaboration to be 'formalised' if LGAQ could be considered for membership of the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council to represent all local councils in Queensland.

We once again commend the government for proposing a Bill that has the potential to strengthen citizenship, diversity and harmony within Queensland.



GREG HALLAM PSM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Submission No 1
11.1.5

