




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.51 am): The Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council provides a voice for multicultural communities across Queensland and performs a deeply valued advisory role to government. Last week I was honoured to announce the members who will form the third council, following a record number of nominations. The council was established in 2016 through the passing of the Multicultural Recognition Act by my predecessor Minister Grace. The council is constituted of 11 members for a period of three years and advises on opportunities and barriers facing people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds from across Queensland and how to promote the Multicultural Queensland charter values.

I want to thank all members of the second council for their service over the past three years and the wise and sage advice they have provided. In the last term the council met in both Brisbane and regional Queensland. The council has met with young people from migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds to hear their perspectives. It has led discussions on belonging and being welcome across Queensland, including in our regions. Members have lent their voices and experiences to important conversations, including the parliamentary inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes, and they have provided an important conduit between Queensland multicultural communities and frontline service delivery agencies and a deeper understanding of the needs and wishes of these communities. The current council's term ended on 31 July and I want to once again thank all 11 members for their service over the past three years. They were appointed by my predecessor Minister Hinchliffe and they were incredibly well chosen.

I am now pleased to welcome the third Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council including continuing members Dr Ignacio Correa-Velez, Dr Faiza El-Higzi and Mr Giri Sivaraman and I want to warmly welcome our new members: Mr Beny Bol, Mr Ameya Bhagwant Deshmukh, Mrs Kenny Duke, Ms Anna Jones, Mr Timothy Lo Surdo, Miss Madina Mohmood, Mr Andrew Taukolo and Miss Fardowsa Mohamed Yussuf. These new members come from a range of backgrounds including legal, health, teaching and academia. They have experience working in the fields of domestic and family violence prevention, youth settlement and human rights. They bring valuable lived experience, including from a refugee, migrant and international student background. I am particularly excited to have two emerging young leaders, Madina and Fardowsa. They will bring an understanding of the experiences of young Queenslanders from refugee and migrant backgrounds. I am thrilled to see so many people of cultural backgrounds, faiths and languages working together to create a more inclusive and harmonious Queensland and I look forward to the contributions of these new members in the years ahead.