

Question on Notice

No. 480

Asked on Tuesday 6 August 2013

MR STEVENS asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier (MR ELMES)—

QUESTION

With reference to multicultural funding on the Gold Coast—

Will the Minister outline what support the government gives to assist the multicultural community in the region?

ANSWER

I thank the Member for Mermaid Beach for the question.

The Queensland Government delivers a number of initiatives that support the multicultural community on the Gold Coast and demonstrate our commitment to strengthening all Queenslanders' understanding of the benefits of cultural diversity.

In 2012–13, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs provided more than \$178,000 in funding to assist the multicultural community in the Gold Coast region.

Under the Community Action for a Multicultural Society (CAMS) program—a State-wide partnership between the Queensland Government and 16 community organisations—more than \$470,000 in funding has been provided to the Multicultural Communities Council of the Gold Coast (MCCGC) since 2004 to employ a multicultural worker.

This worker undertakes community development activities that benefit people from culturally diverse backgrounds and strengthen cultural diversity in the Gold Coast region. The MCCGC received almost \$89,000 in 2012–13 under this program.

As part of the state-wide Local Area Multicultural Partnerships (LAMP) program, jointly funded by the Queensland Government and 13 local councils across Queensland, almost \$45,000 was provided to the Gold Coast City Council in 2012–13 to employ a LAMP multicultural officer.

Since 2000, more than \$713,000 in funding has supported the LAMP officer to integrate the principles of multiculturalism within the Council and promote positive intercultural relations in the Gold Coast local government area.

This Government, through the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs, also continues to support a wide range of multicultural community projects and events targeting the Gold Coast region, such as the iconic Gold Coast Multicultural Festival.

In 2012–13, a total of \$45,000 in funding was provided under the Multicultural Queensland Partnerships Program for Gold Coast based events and projects in 2013 that promote cultural diversity and build community capacity to address emerging needs and access to services.

These are:

Organisation	Project/Event Name	Amount
Gold Coast Multicultural Festival Association Inc.	2013 Gold Coast Multicultural Festival	\$20,000
African Communities Association Gold Coast Inc.	Cultural Harmony on the Gold Coast	\$1,000
Gold Coast Chinese Club Inc	Gold Coast Festivals Gala 2013	\$5,000
Gold Coast Multicultural Arts Group in Collaboration	Afghan Women Social and Cultural Participation Project	\$6,000
Pasifika Gold Coast Working Group	Pasifika Gold Coast 2013	\$2,500
Gold Coast Hebrew Congregation Inc.	Chanukah in the Park 2013	\$2,500
Maltese Australian Gold Coast Association Inc.	Malta's National Day	\$1,000
Surfers Paradise Alliance Ltd.	Surfers Paradise Chinese New Year Festival	\$5,000
The Japanese Society of Gold Coast Inc.	Japan and Friends Day 2013—Natsumatsuri	\$2,000
TOTAL		\$45,000

In addition, a number of other state-wide initiatives funded by the Queensland Government assist the Gold Coast's multicultural community.

For example, the Queensland Government provided funding of \$120,000 to Surf Life Saving Queensland in the 2012 calendar year and \$67,000 in the 2013 calendar year for the *On the Same Wave* program. This important program has helped Surf Life Saving Queensland improve water safety outcomes for migrants and refugees, international students and overseas visitors, including those on our Gold Coast beaches.

This initiative promotes the 'swim between the flags' message, and a multilingual version of Surf Life Saving Australia's Beachsafe smartphone app will also be launched in the near future.

Multicultural communities in the Gold Coast region can expect to continue to benefit from the support of the Queensland Government in 2013–14.

In June this year, I announced a new funding program called the Valuing Diversity Grants Program. With two new funding categories—'signature events' and 'culturally diverse events'—this program will build on the economic benefits of Queensland's rich cultural diversity and promote community cohesion, acceptance and respect for diverse cultures.

I hope to announce the outcomes from this grants program in September 2013.

Finally, it is important to note with almost 28 per cent of the Gold Coast's population born overseas—according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 2011 Census data—all Government departments assist the Gold Coast's multicultural community through core business activities and programs.

This Government is committed to supporting the development of strong multicultural communities in all areas of Queensland.