

Question on Notice

No. 196

Asked on 19 March 2014

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister detail the specific grants process available for multicultural communities on the Gold Coast?

ANSWER

I thank the Member for Mermaid Beach for his question.

This financial year, within my portfolio of Multicultural Affairs, I introduced two grants programs: the Valuing Diversity Grants Program and the Economic Participation Grants Program.

Multicultural communities and organisations can apply for funding for events that promote community cohesion and understanding of cultural diversity through an annual funding round of the Valuing Diversity Grants Program.

I have approved funding for 88 diverse cultural events across Queensland in 2014. On the Gold Coast, total funding of \$52,000 was allocated to nine cultural events including the annual Gold Coast Multicultural Festival, celebrations of Chinese New Year, Malta National Day and the Chanukah festival.

In February 2014, I announced the 2014 funding round for a new Economic Participation Grants Program.

The Program is established to support initiatives developed by local government and non-government organisations that deliver economic independence and participation, as well as support business development for migrants and refugees.

The funding round closed on 14 March 2014 and my department is currently assessing the applications. I will make an announcement about funding allocation in the near future.

Specific information about funding priorities and criteria, as well as application processes for individual funding rounds, are publicly available on the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs' website at

<http://www.datsima.qld.gov.au/datsima/grants-and-funding>.

Grants are promoted via email blast to stakeholders, face book posts and media announcements to ensure as many people as possible are made aware of the funding rounds.