

Question on Notice

No. 751

Asked on 15 September 2015

MR RYAN asked the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

In relation to support for multicultural communities—

- (1) How is the government supporting multicultural communities through the CAMS program?
- (2) How is the CAMS program being delivered in the Caboolture region?
- (3) How is the CAMS program in the Caboolture region working with other community organisations and key stakeholders?

ANSWER

(1) The Community Action for a Multicultural Society (CAMS) program supports multicultural communities by delivering outcomes in social connectedness, for culturally and linguistically diverse individuals and community groups.

The creation of opportunities that encourage the full participation of people from diverse backgrounds in the cultural, economic, political and social life of Queensland, helps build a prosperous state.

The program works to improve social ties and cross-cultural understanding as well as build confidence and enable community participation—assisting people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including migrant and refugee communities—to gain and sustain meaningful employment.

The Queensland Government is providing more than \$1.7 million in 2015–16 and a total funding commitment of over \$6.3 million over three years, to deliver the CAMS program across Queensland.

This includes funding for new three-year service agreements, developed in partnership with the 16 existing CAMS-funded organisations. It also includes funding for new CAMS services to commence shortly in Rockhampton and Mount Isa, and for Muslim women statewide.

(2) I'm pleased to inform the Member that, in the Caboolture region, the Caboolture Neighbourhood Centre will receive over \$330,000 in CAMS program funding over three years, subject to performance.

CAMS delivers outcomes in social connectedness—through dedicated, on-the-ground workers—to strengthen multicultural communities and promote community harmony and inclusion.

It's the trust developed through these day-to-day interactions between people, that builds the belonging, worth and acceptance needed to bring about a cohesive community.

Under the CAMS program, the Caboolture Neighbourhood Centre will deliver activities responding to identified local need and opportunities, agreed with the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, and designed to leverage other services and resources.

(3) The Caboolture Neighbourhood Centre is working closely with other community organisations and key stakeholders in the Caboolture region, as well as strategically engaging volunteers and placement students to maximise CAMS program outcomes.

Neighbourhood centres are the focal point for many communities.

Activities specific to the Caboolture Neighbourhood Centre, across the CAMS program, include sessions assisting individuals to speak, read and write English (complementing the Adult Migrant English Program and Literacy and Numeracy Program) and general schooling, while enhancing understanding of Australian life and culture. A volunteer buddy system for English learners supported through local TAFE is underway, so that learners get to practice their English in everyday conversations.

CAMS Caboolture supports connection in the service system through the Community Actions and Response for Multicultural Moreton forum, bringing together regional representatives of health, education, employment, social and multicultural services.

Through CAMS funding, the centre also works with recent arrival groups in the region and service providers to address barriers to connectedness in the community, including domestic violence and homelessness.

Our Government is committed to doing all it can to ensure that Queensland is a place where everyone can thrive and where there is a strong sense of belonging and welcome for people of all cultural backgrounds and faiths.

My decision to continue and expand the CAMS program, made after consulting with our multicultural communities, has drawn overwhelmingly positive stakeholder feedback.

CAMS is valued for the ways it builds social ties between individuals and groups, removes barriers to participation and makes a positive difference to people's lives.