

Question on Notice

No. 1769

Asked on 11 October 2016

MRS GILBERT asked the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON G GRACE)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise what the Palaszczuk Government is doing to support multicultural communities in the Mackay Electorate?

ANSWER

Mackay is a culturally diverse electorate. Around one in five people were born overseas and more than 27 per cent of people have one or both parents born overseas. In eight per cent of households, two or more languages are spoken (Census 2011).

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the wealth of cultures in Queensland and is committed to an inclusive Queensland where all Queenslanders, regardless of gender, culture or faith, have equal rights and are given equal opportunity in our state's economy and society.

Commencement of the *Multicultural Recognition Act 2016* on 1 July 2016 confirms this government's commitment to multiculturalism. The Act establishes the Multicultural Queensland Charter, which recognises our diverse cultural heritage and aims to promote Queensland as a united, harmonious and inclusive community.

The Palaszczuk Government established recurrent annual funding of \$1 million to support multicultural events and projects through the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland grants program.

I am delighted to advise that total funding of \$30,000 was approved for three multicultural events to be delivered in the Mackay electorate under the 2015–16 funding round:

- Mackay and District Australian South Sea Islander Association Inc received \$3000 to host the Mackay Australian South Sea Islander Recognition 2016 event
- Mackay Host Lions Pacific Island Community received \$7000 to host Pasifika
- Mackay Regional Council received \$20,000 to host Global Grooves.

Global Grooves is considered a signature event and has been approved to receive funding of \$20,000 per annum, in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

In addition, the Palaszczuk Government has extended our commitment to the Community Action for a Multicultural Society (CAMS) program to build the social connectedness of individuals in the community.

In 2016–17, we are providing total CAMS program funding of over \$2.1 million to 19 organisations. This includes funding of \$69,975 to Mackay's George Street Neighbourhood Centre and funding of \$73,101 to the Mackay Regional Council for the statewide CAMS service supporting Australian South Sea Islander Communities.

We are serious about bringing the aspirations, principles and obligations of the *Multicultural Recognition Act 2016* to life.