

Question on Notice

No. 247

Asked on 1 March 2017

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 how the Palaszczuk Government's multicultural policy and action plan 'Our story, Our Future', will help build united, harmonious and inclusive communities in Queensland as well as ensure recognition of Australian South Sea Islanders?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government is committed to an inclusive, harmonious and united Queensland, a place where all people feel a strong sense of belonging and opportunity.

The *Queensland Multicultural Policy: Our story, our future* (the policy), which I publicly released on 21 December 2016 and launched at Parliament House on 15 February 2017, promotes an inclusive, harmonious and united Queensland, and guides Queensland Government action through the *Queensland Multicultural Action Plan 2016–17 to 2018–19* (the action plan) to build inclusive, harmonious and united communities.

Priority outcomes include increasing recognition and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and culture, celebrating our multicultural identity, supporting connected and resilient communities and promoting a respectful and inclusive narrative about diversity. The policy also highlights Australian South Sea Islander recognition and acknowledges the community's unique history and significant contributions to the social, cultural and economic development of Queensland.

Action highlights to build inclusive, harmonious and united communities for people of all backgrounds, including Australian South Sea Islander communities, are:

- delivering the Multicultural Queensland Ambassador Program to engage businesses, organisations and local governments on practical ways to adopt and implement the Multicultural Queensland Charter
- actively promoting the Multicultural Queensland Charter in schools across Queensland
- delivering culturally inclusive programming in the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, to respond to audiences from diverse cultural backgrounds
- encouraging Queenslanders from diverse backgrounds to participate in sports and active recreation, including through targeted promotion of Get Started Vouchers to communities
- delivering training programs which provide information on discrimination law, unconscious bias and financial benefits of diverse and inclusive workplaces
- showcasing Queensland's rich multicultural heritage and archival records through social media.

The action plan includes an action to support social connectedness through our investment in the Community Action for a Multicultural Society program and projects. Under this program, the Mackay Regional Council will receive more than \$73,000 in 2016–17 to support Australian South Sea Islander communities. This funding will support delivery of youth leadership forums in five regions across Queensland and three community events celebrating 150 years of Australian South Sea Islanders in Mackay in 2017.

Additionally, the Mackay and District Australian South Sea Islander Association received \$4000 under the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland grants program towards a recognition function commemorating 150 years of Australian South Sea Islanders in Mackay in 2017.

The Queensland Government continues to seek opportunities to address Australian South Sea Islander disadvantage and to promote recognition of their culture, heritage and contributions. Through the policy and action plan the Queensland Government is committed to focusing its efforts to build inclusive, harmonious and united communities for all Queenslanders, including Australian South Sea Islander Queenslanders.

The policy and action plan recognise that a welcoming, inclusive and harmonious community is one where people appreciate and celebrate difference and where we recognise our diverse heritage and the vast potential and benefits that diversity offers.