

Question on Notice
No. 207
Asked on 8 March 2018

Mr S Andrew asked Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Minister Grace's pledge to South Sea Islander Community groups in Mackay, in September 2017, to work with the Leaders/Elders to provide a framework for people to achieve a level playing field within the community—

Will the Premier provide a timeframe and a venue to meet with all of the South Sea Islander groups for discussions and provide an implementation timeframe for the Five Point Plan outlined by the Beattie Government?

ANSWER:

Queensland Labor Governments have a strong record of recognising and supporting the State's Australian South Sea Islander community.

I am advised that on September 21, 2017 then Minister for Multicultural Affairs Grace Grace chaired a meeting in Mackay to discuss the needs and aspirations of Queensland's Australian South Sea Islanders.

A welcome outcome of the meeting was the community's decision to establish a state-based representative body. Eight community members have nominated for an interim working group. The working group is charged with identifying and undertaking initial tasks necessary for the establishment of a new State body.

I understand the interim working group is being aided in their efforts by the Mackay Regional Council. My Government funds the Council (via the Government's Community Action for a Multicultural Society (CAMS) program) specifically to assist the Australian South Sea Islander community. The Government has recently extended funding for the Mackay CAMS program for a further period of two years.

I am advised the interim working group is identifying an appropriate implementation timeline, with the help of the Mackay Regional Council.

Since being elected in 2015, my Government has passed the *Multicultural Recognition Act 2016*. Underpinning the legislation, is the Government's current multicultural policy *Our Story, Our Future*. Included in the policy is a specific statement recognising Australian South Sea Islanders.

The policy and associated Action Plan guide my Government's efforts in delivering culturally-responsive Government; inclusive, harmonious and united communities; and improved economic opportunities for all Queenslanders.