

MULTICULTURALISM IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTEXT

Western Australia is a truly multicultural society: 3% of the population is Indigenous, 27% were born overseas and about half (49%) have one or both parents born overseas. Almost one-third (31%) of people born overseas speak a language other than English at home.

Local governments have a significant role to play in ensuring that all new migrants understand their rights and responsibilities, participate in our democracy and contribute all they have to offer. The character of an area and a community's sense of well-being, even the viability of local businesses, can all be affected by the extent to which new residents feel welcomed and included. Indeed, of the three tiers of government, local government is the best place to understand and respond to the needs of the community.

Used in conjunction with the complete guide, the Multicultural Planning Framework is designed to assist local governments to plan, provide services and report in a way that is inclusive of the needs of residents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

G M (John) Castrilli MLA

Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

It is no longer possible to ignore the cultural diversity within our communities. The presence of people from countries across the globe has transformed our way of life and brought both huge benefits and many challenges for our State.

Local governments are in the front-line of these changes and meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse constituency. Policy and program development must consider and respond to the varying needs of a growing number and range of individuals and groups from a diverse cultural background.

Mayor Troy Pickard

President, WA Local Government Association

Multiculturalism recognises the cultural and linguistic diversity of Western Australians. As a public policy, multiculturalism promotes equality, mutual respect and full participation in political, social and economic life, regardless of linguistic, religious, racial or ethnic background.

The Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) has been serving the Western Australian community for more than a quarter of a century. In that time our State has become increasingly diverse. Our cultural, linguistic and religious diversity is making WA a more interesting and dynamic place in which to live and work. It brings new opportunities for engaging with our world and challenges us to ensure everyone who lives here receives services which meet the needs of all community members delivered by staff who are culturally competent.

OMI has developed a number of resources related to the Citizenship and Multicultural Interests portfolio and cultural diversity in Western Australia. To learn more about cultural diversity, policies, programs, multicultural issues and how to engage with organisations and community groups, you are invited to visit our website: www.omi.wa.gov.au

Maria Osman

Executive Director, Office of Multicultural Interests

THE KEY OBJECTIVES OF MULTICULTURALISM IN WA

PARTICIPATION

Objective 1: Full participation of CaLD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities in social, economic and cultural life.

Objective 1a: Facilitate the inclusion and empowerment of members of all communities as full and equal members of the Australian community, enjoying the rights and duties of a shared citizenship.

Objective 1b: Encourage a sense of Australian identity and belonging as citizens, within a multicultural society.

EQUITY

Objective 2: Remove the barriers to equity experienced by CaLD communities.

Objective 2a: Ensure that all individuals and minority groups, recognising the unique status of Aboriginal peoples, receive equal and appropriate treatment and protection under the law.

Objective 2b: Remove all barriers to equal participation in, and enjoyment of, all aspects of society – social, political, cultural and economic.

PROMOTION

Objective 3: Promote the benefits of Western Australia's cultural and linguistic diversity.

Objective 3a: Enable the recognition and appreciation of the diverse cultures and backgrounds from which members of the Western Australian community are drawn.

Objective 3b: Foster the recognition of the achievements of, and contributions to, the Western Australian community of all individuals, regardless of their origins, perceived 'race', culture, religion and nationality.

The *Multicultural Planning Framework* has been developed to assist all Western Australian local governments, regardless of size or demographic makeup, to integrate multicultural initiatives and principles into their planning and reporting processes. Please refer to the complete planning guide *Implementing the Principles of Multiculturalism Locally* (available via www.omi.wa.gov.au) for more information.

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Government of Western Australia
Department of Local Government
Office of Multicultural Interests

Multicultural Planning Framework for Implementing the Principles of Multiculturalism Locally



A guide for
Western Australian
local governments

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Multicultural Planning Framework

