



Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council

Meeting communique

The fourth meeting of the current term of the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council (the Council) was held virtually on 27 May 2020.

The Council was advised about the Multicultural Affairs COVID-19 Community Response Package, which includes:

- Scaling up the I Speak Your Language telephone support program delivered by the Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast (MCCGC).
- A funding boost for Community Queensland to support the most vulnerable people seeking asylum who have lost jobs as a result of COVID-19 and are unable to access income support.
- Supporting a gathering of Faith Leaders hosted by the Centre for Interfaith and Cultural Dialogue.
- A technology boost for Community Action for a Multicultural Society (CAMS) funded organisations to increase capacity to maintain virtual connections with their client base.
- Funding for a 'community connector' role within Australian Red Cross, to support CAMS organisations and others to direct vulnerable people, including those who are not proficient in English, to much needed supports and information.

The Race Discrimination Commissioner, Chin Tan, spoke to the Council about the need for a national anti-racism strategy and Dr Brian Adams from the Centre of Interfaith and Cultural Dialogue spoke about the project to connect Government and faith leaders to share key health messages, [lessons learned](#) and how to support vulnerable groups in the face of a crisis such as COVID-19. The report can be downloaded via - <http://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/about-us/our-department/novel-coronavirus-covid-19.html>.

The Council also heard from Ms Sue Graham from the MCCGC about the I Speak Your Language program, which provides a weekly call to people in their own language to provide support and referral to other programs as needed. More information about the program can be found via <https://www.mccgc.com.au/>.