



Office of Multicultural Interests **STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2013**

Updated November 2010

Minister's message

In Western Australia we have the highest proportion of people born overseas of all Australian State and Territories, with over 200 cultural groups and nearly 300 languages.

The State Government takes pride in our cultural diversity and welcomes the opportunity to plan for a future which captures the potential of multiculturalism. The Strategic Plan 2009-13 is the blueprint for achieving this potential.

The Strategic Plan has been developed through community consultation, research and feedback.

People across metropolitan and regional Western Australia have asked for government services which are contemporary and flexible enough to meet the needs of all community members, delivered by staff that are culturally competent and reflect the cultural diversity of their clients.

Culturally and linguistically diverse communities have asked for facilitation between government and non-government services, advocacy on their behalf, capacity building to increase participation, respectful engagement and community education about the benefits of cultural diversity.

On behalf of the State Government, I believe we have listened to these needs and reflected them in this plan. Western Australians can create a society based on opportunity and prosperity by empowering people from all over the world and bringing them together economically, socially and culturally.

The Strategic Plan is a commitment to all Western Australians and represents a clear direction for the Office of Multicultural Interests for the next five years.

As part of the Department for Local Government, the Office of Multicultural Interests is here to serve you and meet your needs through leadership, consultation, innovation and professionalism. The Strategic Plan will be reviewed annually and the Office of Multicultural Interests shall be accountable for ensuring that objectives of the plan are realised.

I look forward to working with all Western Australians to achieve this new vision and in launching the OMI Strategic Plan 2009-13, I commend the document to you.



Hon G M (John) Castrilli MLA
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT; HERITAGE;
CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS





Office of Multicultural Interests

Our Vision

An inclusive and cohesive society which draws on its cultural and linguistic diversity to enhance the social, economic and cultural development of the State.

Our Purpose

To lead Western Australia in achieving the full potential of multiculturalism.

Our Objectives

Participation

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

Equity

Remove the barriers to equity experienced
by CaLD communities.

Promotion

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

Participation

Equity

Promotion

PUBLIC SECTOR

Facilitate CaLD engagement in government decision making processes, policies and programs.

Actions

- Consult with CaLD communities to improve decision making processes, policies and programs.
- Support advisory mechanisms to facilitate engagement.
- Produce and distribute information on CaLD communities and their needs.

Support the public sector to achieve substantive equality for people of CaLD backgrounds.

Actions

- Provide strategic advice and information on multicultural issues.
- Facilitate interagency collaboration in policy development and service delivery.
- Identify barriers and provide information and advice on their removal.
- Collate and distribute impact or benefits of information and advice provided.

Develop policies and support programs to increase cross-cultural awareness and counter racism.

Actions

- Develop and implement programs to counter racism in all its forms.
- Support programs to increase cross-cultural awareness.
- Support the promotion of State services to CaLD communities.
- Showcase best practice examples of improved participation and equity from actions initiated by the public sector.

EMPOWERING CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE (CaLD) COMMUNITIES

Provide CaLD communities with the information, skills and opportunities to support settlement, integration and citizenship.

Actions

- Build capacity in employment, education, training, health, housing, settlement, justice and ageing.
- Facilitate information exchange between government, non-government organisations and CaLD communities.
- Support civic development, participation and contribution to public life.
- Support mechanisms to ensure strategic use of government funds.

Undertake research, consultation, and partnerships to identify, address and advocate the needs of CaLD communities.

Actions

- Research and distribute information on CaLD needs.
- Encourage a partnership approach to addressing CaLD needs.
- Advocate the needs of CaLD communities.
- Report impact and benefits of information provided.

Support projects, programs and events that promote multiculturalism and engage all Western Australians.

Actions

- Promote multicultural activities which include and engage all Western Australians.
- Promote CaLD programs which express and celebrate cultural diversity.
- Advocate for the recognition of cultural and linguistic diversity in Western Australia's commemorative programs.
- Showcase best practice examples of improved participation and equity.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Facilitate strategic partnerships between CaLD communities, peak industry bodies, trade and consular sectors to enhance social and economic outcomes.

Actions

- Facilitate opportunities for participation in the business, industry, trade, consular and community sectors.
- Provide information on migration patterns and settlement trends.
- Foster the international networks, knowledge and skills of CaLD communities.

Recognise the achievements of CaLD communities and their contribution to the State.

Actions

- Recognise individuals and groups that have achieved excellence and innovation in advancing multiculturalism.
- Produce profiles on CaLD communities to increase awareness of cultural diversity.
- Support initiatives which highlight the economic, social, cultural and linguistic benefits of cultural diversity.

Promote cultural diversity as an international, economic, social and cultural asset for Western Australia.

Actions

- Promote the contribution of CaLD communities to the development of Western Australia.
- Produce information on the outcomes of migration for the State.
- Promote the advantages of a multicultural society for State development.

Multiculturalism

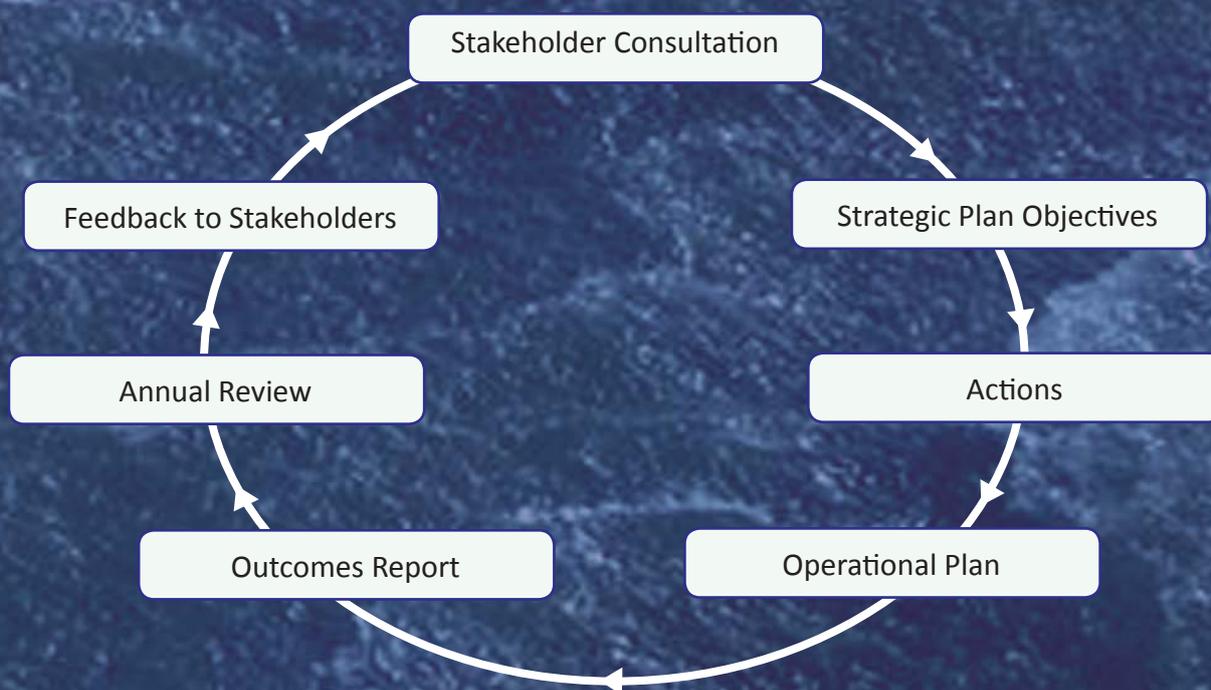
Multiculturalism recognises the cultural and ethnic diversity of Western Australians. As a public policy, multiculturalism promotes equality, mutual respect and full participation in political, social and economic life, regardless of linguistic, religious, racial or ethnic background.

In Western Australia, multicultural policy is based on four key principles which are set out in the Western Australian Charter of Multiculturalism. These are:

- **Civic Values** - commitment to Australia and the basic values and structures of Australian democracy, respect for individual freedom and dignity of all members of society
- **Fairness** - public policies free of prejudice, discrimination and exclusion on the basis of origins, perceived 'race', culture, religion, ethnicity and nationality
- **Equality** - equal opportunity for everyone to achieve their full potential
- **Participation** - equitable participation by all Western Australians in social and economic life, irrespective of origins, culture, religion, ethnicity or nationality.

The Western Australian Charter of Multiculturalism recognises the unique status of Aboriginal people as the first Australians.

Strategic Plan 2009-13 How it works



Department of Local Government

The Office of Multicultural Interests became part of the Department of Local Government in March 2009. This supports the many synergies across local government and multiculturalism, and will ensure the continued delivery of quality services to Western Australian communities.

Office of Multicultural Interests

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