



**Department of Local Government,
Sport and Cultural Industries**
Office of Multicultural Interests



Welcome to Western Australia!

Western Australia is one of the most diverse States in Australia with almost one-third (31%) of our population born overseas. More than half (52%) have at least one parent born overseas and three-quarters (75%) identify that they have a non-Australian ancestry. In addition to English, 15% of the population speak a language other than English at home.

Western Australia is home to people from more than 190 countries, speaking approximately 270 languages and dialects (including around 50 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages). Western Australians follow more than 130 religious faiths.

People from the United Kingdom, Europe, South-East Asia and the Middle East, and more recently from South Asia and Africa, have made Western Australia their home, creating a harmonious environment that respects diversity.

This website will provide you with a wide range of information and resources to help you participate in all aspects of the social, economic and cultural life of our great State. It will also provide you with an appreciation of the extent of our State's diversity and the benefits it provides.

The Office of Multicultural Interests

The Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) is a division of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. OMI supports the development of State Government policies and programs to promote multiculturalism and improve services to Western Australians from diverse cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds. OMI provides leadership on multiculturalism within the public sector, to the WA community and the business sector—creating partnerships for a more inclusive and productive society.

OMI is not responsible for citizenship (naturalisation), visa or immigration matters. For information about immigration or becoming an Australian citizen, please contact the Department of Home Affairs at www.homeaffairs.gov.au.

Our policies and programs

Language Services

The Western Australian Language Services Policy 2014 is a Western Australian Government policy that aims to ensure that language is not a barrier to services and programs for people who require assistance in English. Many Western Australians require assistance in communicating effectively, for example, some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and migrants, and people who are Deaf or hearing impaired.

If you visit a government office and need help with communicating in English you can request an interpreter, who will be provided free of charge. If you have a Western Australian Interpreter Card it will assist in obtaining an interpreter in your language. These can be obtained by emailing: harmony@omi.wa.gov.au.

More information about the WA Language Services Policy can be found under the What we do area of



Community Grants Program

The Community Grants Program (CGP) funds projects and activities that strengthen the capacity of culturally diverse communities and support the development of culturally inclusive policies, programs and services. CGP grants also aim to encourage intercultural understanding and to promote the many benefits of WA's cultural diversity.

Not-for-profit, incorporated community organisations and groups based in WA can apply for funding.

For more information, please contact the OMI Grants Officer by emailing grants@omi.wa.gov.au. Guidelines and application forms can be found under the Grants area of the OMI website.

Resources and publications

A wide range of resources and publications are available on the OMI website. These include statistics on WA's cultural diversity, culture and religion information sheets and educational materials. There are also links to government and community organisations.

Equal Opportunity

Being an inclusive society, Western Australia does not tolerate discrimination and the Western Australian Equal Opportunity Act 1984 renders discrimination unlawful. Advice can be sought from the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity in Western Australia (www.eoc.wa.gov.au). Please report incidents considered to be racially motivated to the WA Police via the WA Police Assistance Centre on 131 444.

Feedback welcome

OMI welcomes feedback from the community. If you have an important issue you would like to raise with us or have any queries regarding cultural diversity in Western Australia, please send an email to our dedicated Harmony email address: harmony@omi.wa.gov.au. We also welcome submissions to our Events Calendar so we can help you publicise your not-for-profit events. Please see the Events Calendar webpage for information on how to submit an event.

For more information about OMI initiatives and programs, please contact:

Office of Multicultural Interests
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
140 William Street
Perth WA 6000

Telephone: (08) 6552 7300
Email: harmony@omi.wa.gov.au
Website: www.omi.wa.gov.au