



Government of **Western Australia**  
Office of **Multicultural Interests**

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

**Karratha, Port Hedland and Broome**  
**1-3 September 2010**

Do you or your clients face particular issues at work, school or in the community because of language, culture or religion?

Do you need help with these issues - but can't get it?

Do you have ideas about how things could be better?

Would you like to share your experiences of good projects that celebrate cultural diversity in your community?

We look forward to meeting you on:

- September 1 in Karratha – 1-3:30pm & 7-9pm, Shire of Roebourne
- September 2 in Port Hedland – 1-3pm & 7-9pm, Lotterywest House
- September 3 in Broome – 2-4pm, Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre

### **About OMI and our team**

The Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) is a WA State government office responsible for advising the Government how to improve services for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds. We also work with CaLD people to help them participate more in the life of the community.

OMI's Walter Gomes and Helen Maddocks look forward to meeting you and hearing about your stories of living, working and studying in the Pilbara or Kimberley.



*Walter Gomes*



*Helen Maddocks*

Walter manages OMI's Community Strengthening team. Helen is our Principal Policy Officer.

Walter and Helen will use the information you give them to write a summary.

The summary will be sent back to you. It will also be sent to government departments and published on our website ([www.omi.wa.gov.au](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au)).

OMI will follow up the priority issues that you identify. We will work with government departments and other organisations to find solutions and put them into action.

## OMI's reasons for choosing your towns

OMI selected your towns in the Pilbara and Kimberley for our first regional consultations because we understand there has been a rapid population growth including many people from CaLD backgrounds. We would like to understand how well your region is meeting your needs and whether more should be done.

## Regional Development

It is well known that the regions of the Kimberley and Pilbara are rich in resources of significant national and international interest. In the past decade in particular, WA's mineral wealth has been much in demand. As a result, the mining industry has expanded.

- The Pilbara accounts for 37% of the State's production of minerals and petroleum. Its main commodity is iron ore, followed by copper, gold and silver.
- The Kimberley's main industries are mining, retail, construction, pearling and agriculture. Diamonds are its main mineral product. The Argyle Diamond mine is the largest supplier of diamonds in the world.

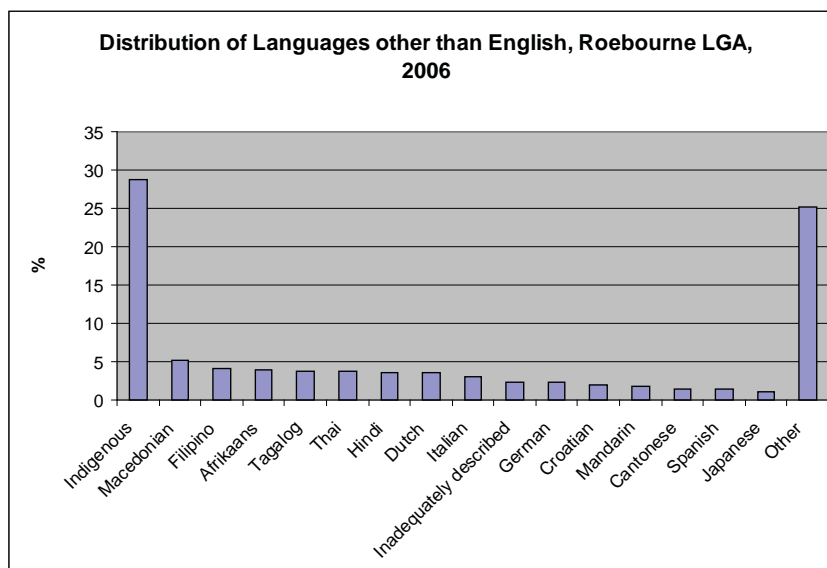
Due to the mining boom, the regions have experienced:

- pressure on local infrastructure and community services;
- "Fly In Fly Out" workforces; and
- increased recruitment of professionals and trades staff including temporary overseas workers through the 457 visa sub-class and skilled workers through Australia's Skilled Migration program

## Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Karratha - Roebourne LGA

Karratha is a major town in the Shire of Roebourne. In 2006 the population of the Shire of Roebourne was 16,420 of which 4.8% were born overseas in non-main English speaking countries. This was significantly lower than for Western Australia in total (15.2%). The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (11.1%), however, was significantly higher than for the State (3%).

People from non-main English speaking background countries\* predominantly came from the Philippines, India, Thailand, Netherlands, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Germany and Malaysia. Approximately 7% of the population (1,167 people) spoke a language other than English at home, of which 28.8% were Indigenous languages.



Major religious affiliations were with the Christian faiths (46.2% of the population), Buddhism (0.7%), Hindu (0.5%), Islam (0.2%) and Ratana Maori (0.2%).

Services to people from CaLD backgrounds are predominantly provided by Frontier Services, Karratha Community Service. Key multicultural groups include the Pilbara Multicultural Association, Karratha Islamic Centre, Islamic Association, Muslim Women's Association, Pilbara Indonesian Association and Australian Filipino Friendly Association.

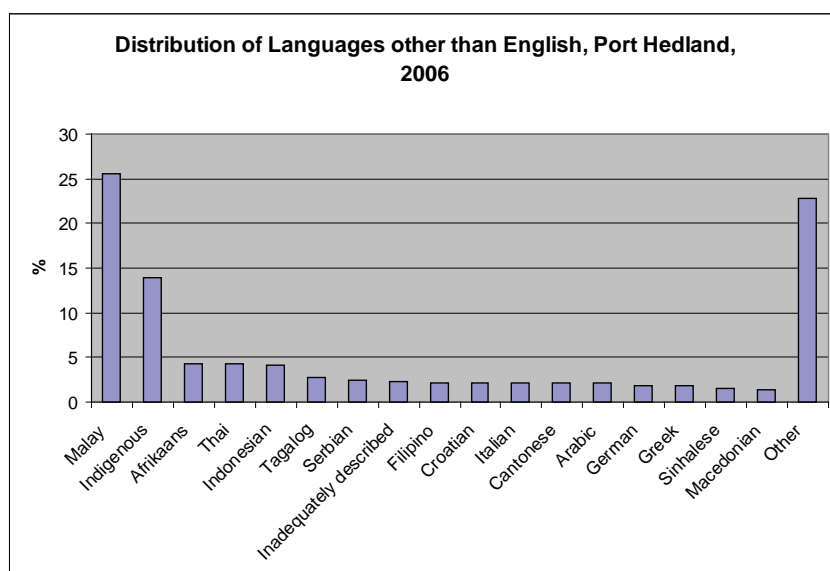
### Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Port Hedland LGA

The two main residential centres of the region are Port Hedland and South Hedland, with the remaining population living on pastoral stations or in Indigenous communities such as Yandeyarra.

In 2006 the population was 12,993 with 6.3% born overseas in non-main English speaking countries. Approximately 15% of the population were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. People from non-main English speaking background countries came from a variety of countries including the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Germany, the Former Republic of Macedonia, Netherlands and Papua New Guinea.

Nearly 10% of the population (1,174 people) spoke a language other than English at home. Of these, the main languages spoken were Malay (25.6%) and Indigenous languages.

Major religious affiliations were with the Christian faiths (39%), Islam (3.4%), Australian



Aboriginal Traditional Religions (0.9%), Buddhism (0.8%) and Hinduism (0.4%).

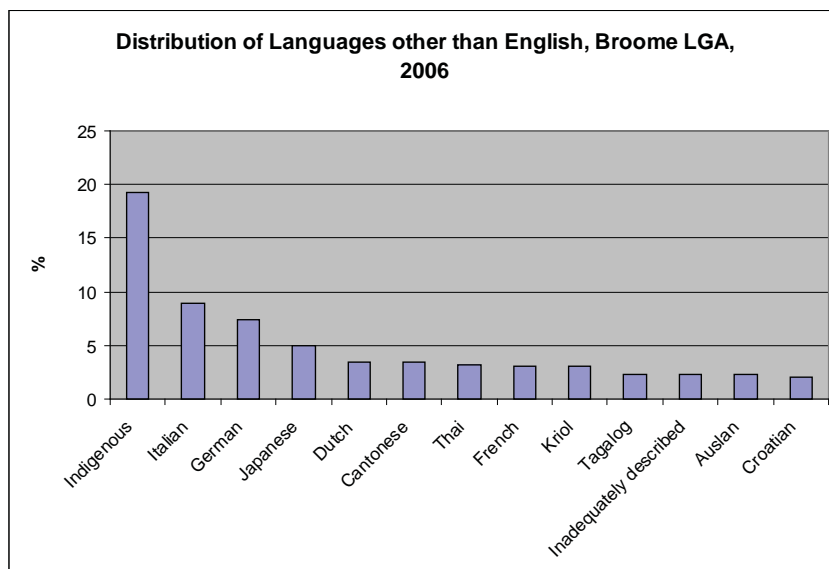
Services to people from CaLD backgrounds are predominantly provided by Frontier Services, Pilbara Migrant Service. Key multicultural groups include the Australian Filipino Friendship Association, Muslim Women's Association and the Pilbara Indonesian Friendship Group.

### Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Broome LGA

Since the start of the pearling industry in the late nineteenth century, the population of Broome has been a very diverse community including European, Malay, Japanese and Aboriginal peoples. According to the 2006 Census, the population of the Broome LGA was 14,436. A total of 3.3% of the population was born overseas in a non-main English speaking country and 27.3% of the population were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

People from non-main English speaking background countries came from Germany, the Philippines, Netherlands, Italy, Singapore, Thailand, India, Zimbabwe, China, Sri Lanka, Finland and Malaysia.

Nearly 5% of the population (621 people) spoke a language other than English at home. Of these, the main languages spoken were Indigenous languages (19.2%), Italian (8.9%) and German (7.4%)



Major religious affiliations were with the Christian faiths (50.7%), Buddhism (0.9%), Islam (0.3%) and Hinduism (0.1%). Key multicultural groups include the Broome Multicultural Society, Shinju Matsuri and Te Waaka Kiwi Club.

## Some questions for our meeting

1. What are the issues faced by people from CaLD backgrounds, including permanent and temporary migrants, in employment? For example, English language difficulties and difficulties understanding occupational safety and health and workplace rights.
2. What are the issues faced by people from CaLD backgrounds, including permanent and temporary migrants, in family and community life? For example, family and domestic violence, integration with the local community, availability of community and social services, racism and discrimination and transport issues.
3. Do services to people from CaLD backgrounds meet the needs? For example, education and health services.
4. What is the impact of these issues and service-delivery gaps?
5. How do you believe these issues and service gaps could be addressed? What are the solutions?
6. What other issues are facing CaLD communities?
7. How does your community promote and celebrate cultural diversity?



**We look forward to meeting you.**

Statistics in this paper come from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and Office of Multicultural Interests publication The People of Western Australia. Statistics from the 2006 Census, Volume two – Regional Local Government Areas (2008).

\* Non-main English speaking countries are all overseas countries except United Kingdom and Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, USA and South Africa.