



**CAIRNS CITY COUNCIL  
LAMP  
Local Area Multicultural Partnership**

**MULTICULTURAL REFERENCE GROUP  
INFORMATION PACKAGE AND  
NOMINATION FORM**



# Multiculturalism

*“Multiculturalism”, means “many different cultures living together”.*

There are up to seventy different cultural groups represented in Far North Queensland.

This reference group is not meant to represent only individual group interests, but to promote harmony and equality for all people.

Members of this group are not asked to represent only those people who are from the same cultural background as they are, but to have an understanding of “broader Multicultural issues”.

This means that many of the things that affect your community can also be the same things that affect other people who speak different languages and have different “cultural practices”, or ways of doing things.

In 1998, the Queensland Government launched the Multicultural Queensland Policy. The Local Area Multicultural Partnership (LAMP) program is a key Government strategy in promoting the principles of this policy. LAMP is a partnership between the Cairns City Council and Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The following principles guide both the LAMP program and the Queensland Government in developing plans for promoting positive multicultural community relations.

## Multicultural Queensland Policy

**ACCESS:** All Queenslanders enjoy equitable (meaning fair, equal, or the same) access (meaning the right to use), services and programs;

**PARTICIPATION:** All Queenslanders enjoy equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities to participate in, contribute to and benefit from all things that are part of life in Queensland.

**COHESION:** All Queenslanders share responsibility for the continuing development of Queensland as a cohesive, (meaning united), and harmonious society.

# **Application for membership to the Cairns City Council Multicultural Reference Group**

**For the Local Area Multicultural Partnership  
LAMP**

## **PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Include the names and phone numbers of two referees in your application.
- You can hand deliver your application to the Customer Service Centre at the Cairns City Council Chambers in Spence Street. But please be sure to make it attention to: Deevah Melendez Multicultural Planning and Development Officer
- **OR** you can email it to: [d.melendez@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:d.melendez@cairns.qld.gov.au)
- **OR** fax to: 0740443830
- If you wish to mail your application, please post to:

Deevah Melendez  
Multicultural Planning and Development Officer  
Cairns City Council  
PO Box 359  
Cairns , Qld 4870

- For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Deevah Melendez on (07) 4044 3012.

**APPLICATION FORM  
CAIRNS CITY COUNCIL  
MULTICULTURAL REFERENCE GROUP**

**DATE:**

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**NAME:**

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**ADDRESS:**

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**COMMUNITY**

**ORGANISATION:**

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**PHONE B/H:**

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**MOBILE:**

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**FAX:**

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**EMAIL:**

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**Country of  
Birth**

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**How long have you lived in Cairns?**

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**What  
Languages  
do you  
speak?**

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**What is your Cultural background?**

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**Have you been endorsed (approved) by your community committee?**  
*(Council will require the copy of minutes confirming your endorsement)*

**YES/NO**

PLEASE LIST ANY COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS YOU ARE INVOLVED IN NOW OR HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH IN THE PAST.

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WHAT COUNCIL ISSUES ARE AFFECTING YOUR COMMUNITY?

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WHAT COUNCIL ISSUES WOULD YOU LIKE THE MULTICULTURAL REFERENCE GROUP TO ADDRESS?

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WHAT SKILLS CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE AS A MEMBER OF THIS GROUP? (good organiser, community, community liaison person, public speaking).

WHAT SKILLS WOULD YOU LIKE TO DEVELOP WHILE A MEMBER IN THIS GROUP?

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**PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS OF TWO REFEREES:**

1.

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2.

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# Membership

## Explanatory Framework of Council Reference Group Guidelines

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- Voting by consensus will be given priority.
- In accordance with the Cairns City Council's ratified guidelines for reference and advisory groups, if the need for voting on pertinent issues arise, voting rights will only be limited to nine identified active community members.
- Members joining after a nine panel membership has been designated, will act as advisors to the group and representatives of their communities.
- The total number of voting or non-voting members will not exceed twenty people.
- All members will have access to the same level of information, have the opportunity to participate equally and be included in all decision making processes.
- A Cairns City Councillor will represent Council on the group.
- Three members representing government agencies will be invited; such as from Education, Law Enforcement, Health, Anti-Discrimination or Employment departments. To ensure co-operation of services, Migrant Settlement Services will also have one member on the committee.
- Members representing government agencies will not have voting rights.
- Membership will include only one person representing one particular cultural group.
- Membership to the group will endeavour to include Community representatives from as many culturally diverse groups in the Cairns area as possible.
- Members should have an understanding and appreciation of Multicultural issues, that are inclusive and considerate of other cultures aside from their own.
- It will be assumed that members who speak on behalf of their communities, will have their community's best interest in mind.

- Members are expected to report back to their communities on any information or issues presented at MRG meetings.
- Mediation between cultural groups experiencing conflict will be done externally, unless it directly involves Council.
- The role of the MRG will be to advise Council and the Multicultural Planning and Development Officer on issues relating to their communities and their relationship to Council issues.
- Applicants who agree to join the MRG, will do so on a voluntary basis.
- Membership will last two years.
- All members are expected to consult the Multicultural Planning and Development Officer for any issues relating to Council.
- Every member will participate in a two way performance review upon the biennial (two years) of their membership.
- Members reaching their two year anniversary will be encouraged to adhere to either of the following processes; nominate a community representative from either their own or another. If no other representative comes forward, current members can re-apply for membership or withdraw their membership.
- Members are requested to call in their apologies if they are unable to attend meetings.
- If a member does not attend more than four consecutive meetings, send a representative on their behalf or send their apologies, it will be assumed the member no longer wishes to participate as a member and will no longer receive any correspondence related to the reference group. They will however remain on the Council's database and be informed on any general community issues or activities.
- All members are expected to familiarize and adhere to with the official Cairns City Council Reference Group Guidelines.



## Multicultural Reference Group Terms of Reference

1. To provide guidance and support towards developing a partnership with Cairns City Council to understand and respond to issues affecting people from different cultural and language backgrounds, who are living in the Cairns Local Government region <sup>(1)</sup>.
2. To work in partnership with Cairns City Council and the community to:
  - a. Increase the understanding of issues affecting people from diverse cultural and language backgrounds.
  - b. Provide guidance and support in responding to those issues.
  - c. Increase the appreciation of our community's cultural diversity and recognise the value of the contributions that all communities can make.
  - d. Encourage and assist people from diverse cultural and language backgrounds, to use Cairns City Council services that can help them.
  - e. Assist Council staff that provide those services, to become more accessible and to communicate more clearly with those customers.
  - f. Promote fairness, harmony and participation through the practice of positive Community Relations <sup>(2)</sup> that will benefit all people.

### Footnotes:

(1) The Cairns Local Government region, meaning from the borders of Ellis Beach towards south of Miriwinni (Whoopen Creek).

(2) Community Relations – The community relations plan has been developed under the Multicultural Queensland Policy and is an integral part of the Queensland Government's approach to the management of "cultural diversity". It's development follows wide consultation across Government agencies and community groups. It's outcomes include broader acceptance and understanding of diversity in the community; reduction of levels of discrimination and prejudice; and increased awareness of rights, responsibilities and opportunities of citizenship. (Foreward from the Queensland Community Relations Plan by Peter Beattie MLA Premier, Queensland Government, Sept. 1999).