



NORTHERN TERRITORY MULTICULTURAL PARTICIPATION FRAMEWORK 2016-19







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Principles

The Northern Territory's strength and richness as a multicultural community is underpinned by the following set of principles that are embraced and enjoyed by all Territorians.

VALUING OUR DIVERSITY

- The cultural and linguistic diversity of Territorians are valued for their contribution to the ongoing social and economic development of the Northern Territory.

SUPPORTING ACCESSIBILITY

- All Territorians regardless of their background have a right to fair and equitable access to services and programs.

ENSURING PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION

- All Territorians should have the greatest possible opportunity to participate in, be included in, and contribute to the Northern Territory's social, cultural and economic life.

STRENGTHENING MUTUAL RESPECT AND SOCIAL COHESION

- All Territorians are entitled to mutual respect and understanding regardless of their cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds.

In exercising the rights and freedoms that the above principles provide all Territorians, it is acknowledged that everyone has a responsibility to uphold these rights and freedoms for each other.



Objectives

The Framework is guided by the principles and supported by the following objectives that encompass our values and commitments:

Community

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have opportunities to participate in all aspects of territory life.

Diversity

The Northern Territory's cultural, religious and linguistic diversity is acknowledged, respected and valued.

Economic Security

The multicultural community successfully participates in employment and contributes to the economic prosperity of the Northern Territory.

Education

Young and adult migrants from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have access to and are supported to participate in education.

Housing

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have access to safe and secure accommodation.

Health and Wellbeing

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have access to quality health and wellbeing services.

Safety

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds feel safe at home, at school, at work and in the community.

Lifestyle

The Territory lifestyle is enriched through supporting, showcasing, sharing and celebrating cultural diversity.



A Multicultural Northern Territory

- The Northern Territory's rich cultural diversity is reflected in our population. over 100 different languages are spoken in the territory by people who have come to live here from Asia, Europe, the Middle east and Africa. this is in addition to the Aboriginal Territorians that have enriched the territory for thousands of years. the Northern Territory's religious diversity is also reflected in the practices of Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Islam among others. We recognise and support the multicultural community and the role it has in the cultural, social and economic development of the territory.
- We welcome migrants from all nationalities and backgrounds including those who have arrived here as skilled workers, those who are reunited with their families here and other new arrivals, including humanitarian entrants.
- The Northern Territory Government acknowledges the contribution of migrants, as well as the achievements of the established multicultural communities and will continue to support the spirit of their cultures for their future generations.
- The Northern Territory has the opportunity to strengthen and develop the strong cultural, economic and business relations through our international linkages. overseas migration plays an important role in boosting expertise and filling skills shortages. The entrepreneurship skills in our multicultural community in setting up businesses are also valued as key contributions to the territory's economy.
- The Northern Territory Government acknowledges that many of our multicultural communities and associations are supported by the tireless work and efforts of their volunteers who make things happen. these volunteers ensure events and celebrations are organised, assist with the settlement of migrants and their efforts complement funded programs to support these activities. Volunteer based community groups also play an important role in providing leadership and promoting social cohesion.



- Through the Office of Multicultural Affairs in the Department of the Chief Minister, the Northern Territory Government provides coordination across government on multicultural affairs. A grants program also supports our multicultural community and enables the sharing of our diverse cultures with all Territorians. the Northern Territory Government works with stakeholders, both in government and the community sector to identify and address issues across the multicultural community, which includes families, youth and seniors.
- The National Settlement Framework enables the collaboration of the three tiers of government, Commonwealth, State and Territory and Local Government for settlement services to be effectively planned and delivered.





Priority Areas for Action

Community

Community participation is maximised by ensuring all Territorians are supported to access appropriate services.

OBJECTIVE

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have opportunities to participate in all aspects of Territory life.

KEY ACTIONS

Continue to fund government and non-government service providers to deliver programs and support services to our culturally diverse community to assist them to fully participate in all aspects of Territory life.

Engage with stakeholders through consultative groups such as the Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs, its working groups and relevant non-government organisations to explore and support initiatives that assist community participation.

Provide advice and coordination across the Northern Territory Government on specific community participation issues affecting the multicultural community.

Collaborate with the Commonwealth, State, territory and Local Governments on the National Settlement Framework, particularly in the areas of employment, education and health.



Diversity

As our cultural and religious communities exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens, they are participating in all aspects of Territory life, thereby maximising and contributing to the benefits of multiculturalism. This participation in society also promotes a sense of belonging for the multicultural community.

OBJECTIVE

The Northern Territory's cultural, religious and linguistic diversity is acknowledged, respected and valued.

KEY ACTIONS

Support the multicultural community through grants programs to showcase, celebrate and promote the vibrant cultural diversity of the Northern Territory through grants programs.

Promote the Language Services Policy to ensure that all Territorians irrespective of their language background, receive equitable access to Northern Territory Government programs, services and information.

Coordinate and engage with key stakeholders including the Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs, on issues pertinent to the multicultural community.

Continue to fund programs and support for service providers to deliver services to our diverse multicultural communities.



Economic Security

Economic security through employment is integral to wellbeing, independence and having an appropriate standard of living. Migrants contribute to the local workforce and strengthen the economy through their participation, overseas acquired skills, qualifications and knowledge.

OBJECTIVE

The multicultural community successfully participates in employment and contributes to the economic prosperity of the Northern Territory.

KEY ACTIONS

Engage and partner with key stakeholders to address employment issues for the multicultural community.

Explore and address the challenges faced by new arrivals in accessing employment through the Skills and employment Working Group of the Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs.

Provide support and advisory services to help people to obtain assessment of their overseas qualifications and skills.

Implement the Northern Territory international education and training Strategy to build and strengthen productive education partnerships and collaborations locally, regionally and internationally that contribute to the economic and social development of the territory.



Education

Schools play an important role in the fostering of cultural understanding and social cohesion through the delivery of languages and cultural programs. Students whose first language is a language or dialect other than English may require additional English language learning support to learn how to listen, speak, read and write in English. Adult English learners also benefit through increased participation in society.

OBJECTIVE

Young and adult migrants from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have access to and are supported to participate in education.

KEY ACTIONS

Provide access to age-appropriate curricula in schools while delivering and supporting English language learning.

Support the learning of languages and cultures in Northern Territory schools.

Deliver programs that meet the English language learning and educational needs of students to enable participation and inclusion in all aspects of living in the Northern Territory.

Promote the Charles See Kee Leadership Scholarship to assist students from humanitarian entrant background to further employment and leadership outcomes.



Housing

Safe and secure accommodation is a basic and important need for all territorians and enables participation in other aspects of life such as education and employment.

Accommodation is equally important for newly arrived humanitarian entrants in Australia who may be vulnerable due to their circumstances and experiences. Access to accommodation through targeted assistance is a critical component of successful settlement.

OBJECTIVE

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have access to safe and secure accommodation.

KEY ACTIONS

Coordinated and responsive service delivery to ensure accessible accommodation for newly arrived humanitarian entrants.

Continue to provide housing support to the settlement services sector to assist these new arrivals.



Health and wellbeing

Health and wellbeing supports active participation of people of all ages, in all aspects of society. This is particularly important for newly arrived humanitarian entrants who may be vulnerable due to their circumstances and experiences.

The multicultural community, particularly newly arrived humanitarian entrants, require a range of health services. Timely and appropriate access to health, mental, social and emotional wellbeing services provide long term social and economic benefits.

OBJECTIVE

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have access to quality health and wellbeing services.

KEY ACTIONS

Support newly arrived humanitarian entrants to access support and services that assist with transitioning into community.

Coordinated and responsive service delivery to ensure accessibility to health and wellbeing services for the multicultural community.

Continue to provide targeted health support to new arrivals.

Continue funding programs to support new arrivals maintain positive family relationships.

Encourage foster and kinship carers within multicultural communities to encourage and maintain family and community connections.



Safety

All Territorians seek to live in a safe environment. The Office of Multicultural Affairs works with key stakeholders to share information and develop ideas to promote social cohesion and resilience in the multicultural community.

OBJECTIVE

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds feel safe at home, at school, at work and in the community.

KEY ACTIONS

The Northern Territory Government continues to work with key government and non-government stakeholders, to respond to community safety challenges affecting multicultural communities.

Explore and address issues related to community safety through the Community education Working Group of the Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs.

Promote an environment that is free from discrimination and violence of all kinds.

Promote initiatives through the *Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy 2014-17: Safety is Everyone's Right*.



Lifestyle

Participation in art, recreation, sporting and cultural events encourages healthy, active and connected communities. Multicultural communities have the opportunity to strengthen, showcase and share their culture in the territory through many festivals and celebrations including the Darwin Waterfront Harmony Soiree, Big Day Out in Alice Springs, Greek Glenti, India@Mindil, Pesona Indonesia, Italian Festival and Oz Fusion - all regular events in the Territory calendar.

Our diversity is also supported and celebrated through multicultural language classes, community activities and cultural festivals.

OBJECTIVE

The Territory lifestyle is enriched through supporting, showcasing, sharing and celebrating cultural diversity.

KEY ACTIONS

Provide grant funding through the Office of Multicultural Affairs to support and strengthen multiculturalism in the Northern territory.

Work in partnership with community organisations to bring together the celebration of our cultural diversity at the annual Darwin Waterfront harmony Soiree and the Big Day out in harmony in Alice Springs.





Implementation

The Framework will be implemented through existing initiatives that support its principles and objectives. New initiatives will also be developed to respond to emerging issues in our diverse multicultural community. Implementation will occur through:

COORDINATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- The Office of Multicultural Affairs will coordinate and engage with stakeholders on issues relating to multicultural affairs. this presents opportunities for information sharing and ideas development with stakeholders who have the knowledge and experience in working with and supporting culturally diverse communities.
- The Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs will continue to identify priority areas for action and task working groups to address specific issues such as Skills and Employment and Community Education on Australian laws and culture and report outcomes to the Council. this will complement the work to be undertaken in collaboration with the three tiers of government - Commonwealth and State, territory and Local Governments through the National Settlement Framework.

GRANTS PROGRAM

- The Northern Territory Government provides funding to multicultural community associations to share and celebrate their cultures with all territorians and to develop initiatives to strengthen their culture.
- Grants are available for our multicultural community as well as key service providers funded to support our multicultural community and to assist in the settlement of migrants in the Northern territory.
- Facilities grants support maintenance and upgrades to existing multicultural community facilities and encourage sharing arrangements to allow more multicultural groups to have access to these facilities to conduct their events and celebrations.

SUPPORT THROUGH NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Northern Territory Government agencies continue to provide a range of support and services vital to the settlement of migrants to the Northern territory.
- A snapshot of the Northern Territory's multiculturalism will be developed when the 2016 Census data is available.
- An implementation plan on the key actions contained within this Framework will be available on the Office of Multicultural Affairs website. A review of the implementation plan will be undertaken by the Office of Multicultural Affairs in October 2017.

USEFUL LINKS – FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

- Language Services
http://www.dlgcs.nt.gov.au/interpreting/language_services_policy
- Northern Territory Grants program
http://www.dcm.nt.gov.au/strong_community/grants





