

Queensland Ethnic Affairs Policy

From: Queensland Bureau of Ethnic Affairs, Ministerial Report on Implementation of the Queensland Ethnic Affairs Policy 1994/95, Brisbane, Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, 1995, p 58.

The Ethnic Affairs Policy

Queensland is a culturally diverse society comprising over 120 different ethnic communities. Individuals from these communities add a cultural, linguistic and religious diversity that enriches this State.

Overseas born Queenslanders now make up 17% of the state's total population and 7% of the state's population are from non-English speaking backgrounds. These Queenslanders have contributed significantly to the economic and social development of the state.

The Queensland Government recognises the benefits that flow from a culturally diverse society and believes that fair and equitable access by all to the opportunities offered in this state is a pre-requisite for a cohesive and harmonious community.

Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 provides protection for individuals from racial discrimination. Many services and programs of Queensland Government agencies address the specific needs of people on non-English speaking backgrounds.

To build upon the achievements of Queensland's ethnic communities and to strengthen the partnership between Government and ethnic business and community organisations, the Queensland Government has adopted the following principles that will guide the further development of the policies, programs and services of Queensland Government departments and agencies.

The Principles

The Queensland Government is committed to:

- recognising the right of all individuals to maintain and foster their cultural identity whilst being encouraged to fully contribute to building a cohesive and harmonious society;
- accepting and respecting the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds of others within the Queensland legal and institutional framework;
- acknowledging the right of all individuals to benefit from the resources and opportunities the state has to offer and to contribute to the state's development, without prejudice or discrimination;
- valuing the social and economic benefits of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of the community which can be shared by all;
- encouraging the participation of all Queenslanders in social, political, economic and cultural life and their contribution to positive community relations;
- improving the design and delivery of services taking into account the cultural diversity of the Queensland community.