

Our story, our future  
 Queensland Multicultural Policy and Multicultural Action Plan 2016-17 – 2018-19  
 Annual Report 2017-18  
 ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF QUEENSLAND

## Background

- ‘Our story, our future’ is the Queensland Government’s multicultural policy promoting an inclusive, harmonious and united community for Queensland.
- The policy focuses Queensland Government action on three policy priorities for culturally diverse communities and Queensland as a whole – (1) achieving culturally responsive government, (2) supporting inclusive, harmonious and united communities and (3) improving economic opportunities.
- The policy is being implemented through a three year Queensland Multicultural Action Plan 2016-17 – 2018-19.
- The policy and action plan are a requirement of the *Multicultural Recognition Act 2016* (the Act) and represent one of three key provisions of the Act, together with establishing the Multicultural Queensland Charter and Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council.
- Section 24 of the Act requires entities with actions in the action plan to report publicly on an annual basis. The attached report fulfils this requirement for 2017-18 for **Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ)**.

## Priority area 1: Culturally responsive government

Outcome: Culturally capable services and programs

Action	Timeframe	Progress status	Achievements and outcomes
Raise awareness of voting and democratic processes within culturally diverse communities through a tailored democracy education program.	2016–19	Completed	<p><i>Multilingual Guide to Voting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the 2017 State General Election and for subsequent State by-elections, the ECQ produced a Multilingual Guide to Voting to educate culturally diverse communities about the Queensland electoral process (refer <a href="https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/76542/Multilingual-Guide-to-Voting.pdf">https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/76542/Multilingual-Guide-to-Voting.pdf</a>).</li> <li>• The guide was written in 27 of the most widely spoken languages in Queensland (based on 2016 Census results), included a brief overview of elections, and highlighted that voting is a secret process which ensures no one can see how another person votes.</li> <li>• The guide explained how to cast a valid ballot using the full preferential voting system, which was important given its introduction for the 2017 State General Election.</li> <li>• The guide was (and is) available on the ECQ website, at all polling booths used in the 2017 State General Election, and was distributed to peak community groups prior to the election.</li> </ul> <p><i>Guide to Democracy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <i>Guide to Democracy</i> was released in September 2018 via a dedicated website <a href="https://guidetodemocracy.ecq.qld.gov.au">https://guidetodemocracy.ecq.qld.gov.au</a>.</li> <li>• The guide aims to facilitate young people’s understanding of electoral matters – including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and communities – by investigating issues in their communities and learning how to take action on them.</li> <li>• The guide encourages Humanities and Social Sciences students in primary and secondary schools to consider community-based issues important to them. It looks at how students can make positive change in their school or local community and how they, as active and informed citizens, can take part in our democracy.</li> <li>• The guide’s website specifically acknowledges Queensland’s culturally and linguistically diverse nature by prominently displaying a text box which contains the following: “Over 20% of Queenslanders were born overseas coming from more than 220 different countries and nearly 10% of Queenslanders speak a language other than English at home”.</li> </ul>