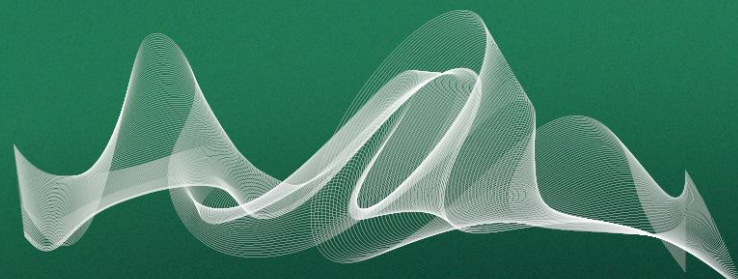




Australian Government



Australian Multicultural Council

Meeting Communique – 8 December 2025

The Australian Multicultural Council (AMC) convened its third meeting for 2025 on Monday 8 December. The meeting was held virtually and chaired by Ms Christine Castley, bringing together Council members, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs - the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, government representatives, and guest speakers.

The AMC was briefed on key issues relevant to progressing Australia's multicultural agenda and the AMC's focus on social cohesion, civic participation and community resilience:

- Scanlon Foundation Research Institution on the Mapping Social Cohesion report 2025 with the report highlighting that social cohesion remains steady, but financial hardship continues to weigh on trust and inclusion with consequent impacts on people's sense of belonging and attitudes to migration and multiculturalism.
- The 2025 McKinnon Democracy Index and its findings on declining trusts in institutions, increasing polarisation, uneven representation and the impact of mis and disinformation.
- Update on the work of the Migrant and English Language Services Branch, noting work underway on significant workforce and demand/supply challenges in the national language services sector
- Briefing on the Office for Social Cohesion's new guide 'Connections that Matter'.
- Briefing on the Australian Government's Multicultural Access and Equity Policy and Annual Snapshot.

The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, addressed the meeting and commended the AMC for its work to date to support the advancement of a modern multicultural Australia.

In line with its 2025/26 program of work, the AMC endorsed next steps on the following:

- **Shaping Australia's national narrative on multiculturalism:** the AMC has made recommendations to government on the importance of demonstrating leadership through a clear commitment to multiculturalism in Australia in a way that embodies the voices and hopes of every person living in Australia and celebrates a national spirit founded on fairness, respect and a shared commitment to the common good.
- **Economic participation for migrants and culturally diverse communities:** the AMC has provided advice to the Minister on practical steps to tackle barriers to economic participation for migrants and culturally diverse communities, and improve pathways for recognition of skills, experience and entrepreneurship as key planks in lifting Australia's productivity.
- **Youth voice:** Arrangements to ensure inclusion of a multicultural youth voice.

The AMC also discussed how Australia is experiencing a period of heightened tension marked by polarising public discourse, racism, Antisemitism, Islamophobia and misinformation, and urged the Australian Government to progress a coordinated, whole of government response and action on the National Anti-Racism Framework and the two Special Envoy reports on Antisemitism and Islamophobia.