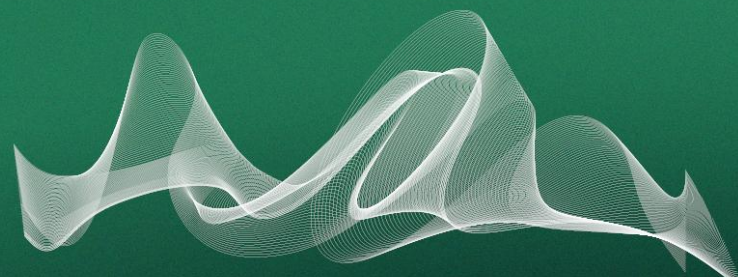




Australian Government



Australian Multicultural Council

Meeting Communique – 19 August 2025

The second meeting of the Australian Multicultural Council (AMC) 2025–2028 was held at Parliament House, Canberra, on 19 August 2025, bringing together Council members, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, government representatives, and key stakeholders to advance Australia’s multicultural agenda.

Minister Aly delivered an opening address sharing her lived migrant story, illustrating systemic barriers for migrants and highlighting the importance of a collective aspiration to create belonging for all. Modern multiculturalism should emphasise mutual respect and inclusion, where every child regardless of origin should be given the opportunity to thrive and fully participate in all aspects of life. Minister Aly called for the breaking down of intersectional barriers and heralded the establishment of the Office for Multicultural Affairs as a great opportunity to drive a cohesive approach to multicultural policy across all levels of government.

AMC members and Minister Aly participated in a roundtable discussion on substantive and intergenerational multiculturalism, exploring how to move beyond symbolic gestures to develop policies that deliver tangible outcomes. Minister Aly challenged the AMC to reimagine multiculturalism – and provide fresh and innovative advice to Government about how we increase economic opportunity, social mobility and productivity by ensuring migrants can work in their trained field, noting they are an untapped resource. Members also discussed:

- shaping the national narrative on multiculturalism: including celebrating diversity, increasing civic participation and social cohesion;
- intergenerational inclusion, particularly youth engagement; and
- enhancing social and economic inclusion by removing barriers to participation and inclusion, language services and policies, and opening economic opportunity, especially in relation to skills and employment.

First Assistant Secretary, Sneha Chatterjee briefed the AMC on the establishment of the Office for Multicultural Affairs as of 17 July 2025, including its functions and priorities.

The AMC also received briefings from the Office for Social Cohesion (Department of Home Affairs), the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute, and the Australian Institute of Family Studies. The session provided valuable insights on collaborative research and data gathering to tackle barriers for multicultural communities in contributing to and fully participating in Australian life.

The AMC identified three priority areas for their annual work plan:

1. National narrative and engagement – positioning multiculturalism as a national strength
2. Youth engagement and education – with a focus on multigenerational inclusion
3. Skills recognition and employment – with a focus on removing systemic barriers

The AMC will progress this agenda by surfacing lived experience, acting as a trusted advisor to government and ensuring community voice remains central to its work.