



Australian Government

# Multicultural Framework Review

## Introducing the Multicultural Framework Review

The Australian Government is pleased to release the report of the Multicultural Framework Review (available at [www.homeaffairs.gov.au/multiculturalframeworkreview](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/multiculturalframeworkreview)).

The Review examines the state of Australia's multicultural society, and recommends changes to laws, policies and institutional settings that build on its strengths and enable it to respond to contemporary challenges.

Three eminent Australians – Dr Bulent Hass Dellal AO, Ms Nyadol Nyuon OAM and Ms Christine Castley – conducted the Review. The Review Panel was supported by an informed and relevant Reference Group: Mr Osmond Chiu; Ms Swati Dave; Ms Rana Ebrahimi; Mr Bachar Houli; Mr John Kamara; Ms Premila Levaci and Mr Mohammad Al-Khafaji.

The Government published information about the Review and an invitation to make submissions in texts in 33 languages and in audio format in 35 languages. The Panel received 796 submissions, 126 in languages other than English, which were then translated to inform its thinking. It also invited young people aged 4 to 24 to express in pictures their experiences and views of our multicultural society. Their 103 artworks can be viewed at [www.homeaffairs.gov.au/onlineartexhibition](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/onlineartexhibition)).

## Sustaining our multicultural success story

For at least 65,000 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have sustained many cultures on this continent. They have resisted systemic and sometimes violent attempts to eradicate them from the time of colonisation. Successful multiculturalism starts with greater understanding and celebration of First Nations history and cultures.

While migration to the Australian continent began in 1788, since 1945, Australia has welcomed 7.5 million migrants, including more than 950,000 refugees and people in humanitarian need. These profound yet peaceful changes are a source of national strength and pride.



## Key findings from the Review

The Panel travelled across Australia to consult more than 1430 individuals and 750 organisations. Among many insights, the Panel found:

- While government must establish laws and policy to prevent discrimination, promote equal opportunities and provide access to strong public services, all people who call Australia home share responsibility for sustaining our multicultural society.
- Regional communities are increasingly culturally diverse and an important part of the multicultural story.
- Many factors shape the diverse lives of Australians. The Government must consider intersecting forms of discrimination when making policy.
- Young people, who will define Australia's multicultural future, must be at the heart of policy-making considerations.

The Panel's 29 recommendations emerge from three core principles of the Review:

- **Connection** – setting the foundations of a multicultural Australia through leadership, planning, and accountability between all levels of government and communities.
- **Identity and belonging** – creating a welcoming Australia through English language programs, citizenship policy, and participation in arts, culture, sports, and media.
- **Inclusion** – building cultural capability into public services, customising grant programs, ensuring digital inclusion and a strong language services sector, and meeting the unique needs of young people and regional areas.

This is among the most substantial and thoughtful reviews of Australian multiculturalism ever conducted. The Government commits to and will be guided by the Framework's principles, as we build on our commitment to ensure Australia's multicultural settings harness the talents of all Australians.