**ACT Multicultural Recognition Act 2022**

**Community Consultation Fact Sheet on the Proposed Multicultural Charter**

**Purpose:**

The Multicultural Charter is a positive duty and rights-based values statement for the Canberra community we want to live in and the norms we want to live by.

**What you have already told us:**

In community consultations held in 2021 we heard what the Canberra community want from the Charter.

Feedback was supportive of the proposed scope of the principles and suggestions were made to ensure the use of language and terminology is strengths-based, inclusive and non-discriminatory.

In refining the Multicultural Charter, we considered principles included in legislation and policy across Australia, the feedback provided by the Canberra community and alignment with ACT Government policies.

**What we heard:**

The proposed Multicultural Charter needs to provide:

* Clear definitions, and core values, for recognising, valuing celebrating and promoting cultural and linguistic diversity in the ACT.
* A commitment to actively call out racism and discrimination.
* Acknowledgement of language as central to the preservation and recognition of cultural identity.

The proposed principles below intend to speak directly to every Canberran and place a clear and positive obligation on all Canberrans to understand biases and be open, respectful and embracing of diversity in all its forms.

**The proposed principles of the Multicultural Charter:**

The Legislative Assembly declares to each and every individual in the ACT that –

1. you are entitled to live in a community where there is mutual respect, irrespective of your background, culture or religion or spiritual belief; and
2. you have a shared obligation to stop racism, discrimination and the negative effects they have on our community; and
3. you are free and safe to express, practice, share and maintain your cultural and religious or spiritual identity; and
4. your varied experiences and personal attributes, as an individual or as part of a community, contribute to the unique expression of your cultural identity, and is recognised and respected; and
5. you belong to the ACT community, and are free to participate on equal terms in the social, economic, civic and political life of the ACT; and
6. whether you are a refugee, migrant or otherwise, you are forever welcome and your contributions to the ACT are valued and recognised; and
7. language is central to the preservation and appreciation of cultural identity, and you are free and supported to use, preserve and promote your language; and
8. you are an integral part of the ACT’s cultural, linguistic and religious or spiritual diversity, and are supported to enjoy and celebrate the diversity in all aspects of community life.

**Please tell us:**

1. **Do the principles reflect a clear and ambitious vison for the ACT you want to live in?**
2. **What do you like about the principles?**
3. **How can they be improved?**