**ACT Multicultural Recognition Act 2022**

**Community Consultation Fact Sheet on the Multicultural Advisory Council**

**Purpose:**

The Multicultural Advisory Council (Council) advises the Minister on issues of interest or concern to the ACT culturally and linguistically diverse community and supports the exchange of information and ideas between the Minister and the members of the ACT community.

**What you have already told us:**

In community consultations held in 2021 we received feedback on the focus, direction and representation of the Council. The feedback was supportive of a council with broad community representation reflecting the diversity of migration backgrounds and experiences. Feedback also told us you wanted information on and access to, council information and advice, to be made publicly available.

**What we heard:**

* The Council should be independent and have direct access to the Minister.
* The Terms of Reference should be flexible enough to allow social and political change.
* The Council should be a conduit between the community and the Minister/Government and provide advice to the Minister.
* There were differing community views about the composition of Council.
* Transparency is important. Meeting minutes and advice to Minister should be publicly available.
* The Council should be adequately resourced.

**The proposed Multicultural Advisory Council:**

The Multicultural Recognition Act will detail the establishment, functions, membership and appointments, of the Multicultural Advisory Council.

To enable the Multicultural Advisory Council to remain responsive to the changes of a growing ACT community, a Terms of Reference will be developed after the Act is passed. The Terms of Reference will detail operational matters, including how the Council will conduct meetings, meeting quorum requirements, and the keeping and publishing of meeting minutes.

The proposed Multicultural Advisory Council will have the following functions:

1. Advising the Minister on ways to:
* continue to grow the cultural and linguistic diversity of the ACT
* encourage the adoption and application of the multicultural charter
* increase opportunities for active participation in social, cultural, economic and civic life in the ACT
* foster harmonious relations within the ACT community
* strengthen the ACT as a welcoming and inclusive community for all.
1. Facilitating the exchange of information and ideas between the Minister and the culturally or linguistically diverse community of the ACT.
2. Undertaking consultation to identify the evolving needs of the culturally or linguistically diverse community in the ACT.
3. Providing advice to, and consulting with, any group or entity as directed by the Minister.

The proposed Multicultural Advisory Council will have:

1. Eleven members to represent the diverse cultural, gender, age, residency and immigration status and generations of migrants who call Canberra home.
2. The following representation:
* people who represent cultural or linguistic diversity
* people who have demonstrated leadership or expertise in contemporary issues relevant to cultural or linguistic diversity.
1. Be made up of people of different:
* gender identities
* age groups
* residency or immigration status
* generations of migrants.

Multicultural Advisory Council members will be appointed by the Minister for a term of 2 years and able to serve a maximum of 2 terms to ensure membership reflects the changing issues and needs of the Canberra community.

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### Questions for consideration

1. **Do you agree with the proposed functions of the Multicultural Advisory Council? If not, what changes do you suggest?**
2. **Does the proposed Multicultural Advisory Council represent the diversity of Canberra’s multicultural community?**

**If not, what changes do you suggest?**