

Change the Conversation- Multicultural Australia



Settlement
Council
of Australia



Changing the Conversation- Speakers

AT A GLANCE

Target participants: All Queenslanders, with particular focus on multicultural communities.

Aim of program: To inform and engage multicultural Australia in support of The Voice.

Organisations involved / partnerships: Multicultural Australia, Queensland Performing Arts Complex and other multicultural organisations who have endorsed the Joint Resolution of Multicultural Organisations.

Location: Queensland Performing Arts Complex

Sponsors: QPAC, Hopgood Ganim Lawyers, blue APACHE, Brisbane Lions and Maurice Blackburn Lawyers.

INTRODUCTION

Multicultural Australia is strongly committed to supporting the inclusion of First Nations Voice in the Constitution, as a key change sought by First Nations Australians in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. In consultation with our Reconciliation and Solidarity Working Group, which includes staff who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, we have engaged in advocacy in support of the Voice to Parliament.

We developed and published a [Position Statement](#) expressing our support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart and our solidarity with First Nations Australians. We have also been actively involved with a growing collective of multicultural organisations who are supporting the Joint Resolution of multicultural organisations in support of the Voice Referendum, by endorsing the Joint Resolution and actively advocating for other multicultural organisations to do the same. We will collectively publicly launch this resolution in the coming months.

We have also identified that there is a significant need for further education within multicultural communities in the lead-up to the referendum. In response to this recognised need, we decided to host an event in support of the Voice, dedicating the first of our Changing the Conversation series of events to the Uluru Statement from the Heart to highlight what it means for the many voices who are part of today's Australia.

Changing the Conversation is a series of thought-provoking discussions we are hosting in partnership with the Queensland Performing Arts Centre exploring key issues in our increasingly multicultural society that all Australians must grapple with to create a more inclusive future. Our goal is to bring together thought leaders from academia, government, business and the community to engage in robust discussions about multiculturalism in the Australian context, exploring issues of who and where we are as a nation and what we need to do to create a society that better reflects and cares for all its people.



Changing the Conversation

POINT OF DIFFERENCE

Multicultural Australia has identified that, while there has been significant engagement in relation to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the upcoming referendum from many parts of Australia, there is scope for the multicultural community to have increased engagement in this important conversation. We consider this engagement critical to the success of the referendum, given that Australia is a multicultural nation, home to the most diverse collection of cultures in the world.

Data from the 2021 Census reflects that 27.6% of people were born overseas and 22.8% of the population speak a language other than English at home. Our work seeks to inform and engage all the voices that form part of our diverse nation, with a focus on bringing multicultural Australia along on this journey. We also seek to educate and empower our newly arrived clients who are not eligible to vote in this referendum about this important cause and about the political systems of Australia.

OUTCOMES

The Changing the Conversation event was a very successful event, attended by over 700 people and we received very positive feedback. The event, in conjunction with related media and social media publicity, has contributed to raising awareness and support for the Voice. Other outcomes of our engagement and advocacy in support of a Yes vote for the Voice are yet to be seen.



Over 700 people attended the event

KEY LEARNINGS

In sharing our learnings, we are focussing on the Changing the Conversation event we convened.

1. Convening a public event about a topical issue is very worthwhile, and an important way of generating awareness and understanding about important social issues.
2. Having a diverse panel with difference backgrounds and areas of expertise is very valuable in providing a diversity of perspectives and voices in relation to an issue.
3. There is significant value in organisations which work with specific clients/communities, such as Multicultural Australia, engaging in advocacy and information-sharing about broader issues of social importance, such as the Voice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

<https://www.qpac.com.au/past-events/changingtheconversation>