



DID YOU KNOW?

22% of Banyule residents were born overseas.

20% of people speak a language other than English at home.

(Based on 2011 Census data)



Highlights from the 2014/15 Multicultural Plan

The Banyule Multicultural Advisory Committee guided the development and implementation of the Multicultural Plan. The 2014/15 Plan contained 25 actions, with 90% now complete. Many of the achievements occurred through partnerships with our leisure centres, libraries, traders' associations, neighbourhood houses and community groups.

We have summarised our progress below.

Improving access and equity in Council services and practices

- Delivering cultural awareness training for Council staff at the Islamic Museum of Australia.
- Running a session for the Banyule Leadership Network, attended by 100 of Council's senior staff, about the experiences of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Creating opportunities for children and young people from diverse cultural backgrounds to actively participate in designing feature furniture as part of the Bell St Mall upgrade in Heidelberg West.
- Convening six meetings of the Multicultural Advisory Committee and ensuring members helped influence Year Three of Banyule's City Plan 2013-2017.

Partnership with community organisations and advocacy

- Advocating to the Federal Government, based on advice from the Multicultural Advisory Committee, that the decision to revoke Australian Citizenship should be made by the Courts, not the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.
- Supporting the Islamic Men's Group to establish the Friday Futsal Program at Olympic Leisure Centre.
- Supporting the Bell St Mall Traders' Association to host events celebrating Lunar New Year and Harmony Day, which attracted over 600 and 300 visitors respectively.
- Working with young women leaders from the Somali community to form the African Women's Action Group which aims to inspire and engage local African young women and bring about change in their community.
- Supporting the North Heidelberg Sporting Club, Heidelberg Stars Soccer Club and the Somali Australian Council of Victoria to run a Multicultural Sports Celebration, with 200 children and young people participating.
- Supporting the Somali Australian Council of Victoria to plan and deliver a community forum on New Laws and Policing Powers, which was attended by 100 people.

Increasing community awareness

- Declaring Banyule a Refugee Welcome Zone which is a commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into the community
- Partnering with Yarra Plenty Regional Library and the Northern Region Indian Seniors Association, to hold an event celebrating the Indian Festival of Holi.
- Becoming a supporter of the 'Racism. It Stops With Me' campaign.
- Supporting the El Sedeaq Mosque to hold an Open Day for people to learn about and experience the Mosque and its community.

