

Copy of VWA online submission to Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) on a proposal for a Multicultural Act for Western Australia

15 February 2026

A copy of the OMI questions and the Volunteering WA answers to these questions set out in the OMI [discussion paper](#) *A Multicultural Act for Western Australia* which were submitted via an online form, are set out below:

What principles and values do you feel are important for a Multicultural Act to include?

The four key ideas which form the focus in most multicultural laws in Australia should be the starting point for a Western Australian legal framework

The following principles should also be considered for inclusion:

Recognising Aboriginal peoples as Australia's First People

Building a united, inclusive and harmonious society; and

Taking action against racism and discrimination

How could a Multicultural Act better reflect the WA Government's commitment to Aboriginal peoples as Western Australia's First Peoples?

This is a question which would most appropriately be answered by Western Australia's First Peoples.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments related to this section?

See our response to Principles for inclusion in question 1.

Volunteering WA are implementing an Innovate RAP. We are keen to ensure that the views and wishes of Western Australia's First Peoples are obtained and included in the development of the proposed Act.

What words do you think would be important to define in a Multicultural Act?

In addition to the definitions contained in the current WA Multicultural Policy Framework, it would be important to also include a definition of "Multiculturalism" in a Multicultural Act.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments related to this section?

N/A

Do you think a Multicultural Act should include a multicultural advisory body?

Yes

What responsibilities do you think an advisory body should have?

Give advice to government, promote inclusion, and help shape policies that reflect the needs of CaLD communities.

What specific areas of expertise could be considered when selecting members for the advisory body?

Members should reflect a mix of cultures, genders, ages, and regions. Given the importance of volunteering in Western Australia, it would be helpful to ask nominees if they have any experience in volunteering and/or working with volunteers.

What's the best way for an advisory body to connect with CaLD communities?

Through accepted consultative processes that are in place with these communities.

How could an advisory body share its activities and achievements?

By developing a suitable impact measurement framework and publishing an annual impact report.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments related to this section?

N/A

Do you think policies that require government authorities to respond to diverse needs (such as above), should be included in a Multicultural Act?

Yes, this is vital to ensuring the effectiveness of a Multicultural Act.

If yes, what policies do you think are the most important and should be included in a Multicultural Act?

All of the policies above are important.

Do you think the WA Government is doing enough to support CaLD communities in WA? If not, what else should be done and how could this be reflected in a Multicultural Act?

A Member of Volunteering WA who represents CaLD communities reached out to us in 2025 identifying a need for the government to do more to engage with, understand and respond to the needs of CaLD communities.

What sectors do you think should be responsible for implementing a Multicultural Act (for example, public sector, local government)?

The public sector should have primary responsibility. There may also be a potential role for local government.

What information do you think should be shared to demonstrate how the Multicultural Act is being used and making a difference?

An evaluation framework should be developed with annual public reports to demonstrate the impact of the Multicultural Act.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments related to this section?

N/A

How could a Multicultural Act ensure the issues of rural, regional and remote communities are considered?

Regional advisory councils or other regional consultative mechanisms could report to the independent advisory body.

Do you have any additional thoughts or comments related to this section?

N/A

Is there anything else that should be included in a WA Multicultural Act?

We have nothing further to add here.