



LIMESTONE COAST MULTICULTURAL NETWORK Inc.

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Tuesday, 22 March 2011

Joint Standing Committee on Migration,
P.O. Box 6021,
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT, 2600.

Dear Jane,

Thank you for your invitation to submit ideas and thoughts to the Inquiry into Multiculturalism in Australia.

Our Organisation has been in recess for about 2 years and reformed in June 2010 with a small but committed Board.

At present, we can only address the issues that relate to Mount Gambier and would like to address the following:

4 - Incentives:

Refugees and Skilled Migrants need their own place of worship, e.g. the Buddhist refugees in Mount Gambier currently do not have a hall or space they can go to worship together. They do not have ready access to a Spiritual Advisor or Teacher, so funding needs to be provided to bring one across until they can fund this themselves (and taught how to do so), or alternatively funding provided to set up a Monk in Mount Gambier. They could become involved with this project under a "Project Leader", learning how to find a room to rent, or house for the monk, setting up regular paid classes (helping to bring in finances for ongoing expenses, eventually being able to finance all expenses), advertising and promotion etc.

This could provide teaching to others in the Community bringing more understanding of their religious beliefs, as well as bringing others of the faith to the area for various spiritual teaching/activities and thereby increasing tourism dollars in the area.

7 – Business enterprises:

One of the most needed services employment wise is Aged Care Garden Maintenance at reduced fees. Aged Care packages usually do not cover gardening and whilst it is easy to find someone to cut lawns it is harder to find someone who will come in and weed and do trimming of bushes and garden maintenance at reduced fees.

Multicultural cafes: This could take the form of combined cultures (2 or 3 together), providing the area with a taste of their food, bringing awareness of this to others, helping migrants and refugees to integrate and practice language skills and get them out in the Community. This would also involve Business Studies, Accounting studies, Hospitality studies, Cooking studies etc. They could even take on apprentices.

Multicultural gift shops: similar to above, standing on their own or combined with above café. If they made their own craft/giftware, this would cut down on expenses and bring greater profit to them.

The above require training at TAFE or Uni in various fields including, accounting, business studies, garden maintenance, hospitality industry, etc.

Aged Care Workers from a non English Speaking background. There will come a time when our migrants and refugees need more care at home than family can provide and as language can be a problem more workers from non English speaking backgrounds need to be trained in this profession. Although this is not a “business” as carers are usually employed by other agencies, it is still an area that needs to be addressed. Perhaps agencies could pair refugees and/or migrants with people skilled in this area under some kind of “apprenticeship scheme”.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Wilson
Secretary