

Submission to the Inquiry into Civics and Electoral Education

The Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga welcomes the opportunity to comment on the adequacy of current practices in Civic and Electoral education in relation to migrant citizens.

We wish to make the following points:

- At present the opportunities for electoral education in this region are very limited for some and non-existent for others.
- For those who attend TAFE English classes there is a component of their course which introduces them to the Australian System. However, as many of these students are not eligible to become citizens for two years it is possible that by this time there is a need for access to ongoing education in this area. For example there could be Information Sessions conducted several times each year or at least once a year in areas where numbers are small.
- For those who do not have access to TAFE Education classes or who are not able to attend for other reasons, there needs to be Information Sessions or Short Courses available at convenient times for workers and free of charge.
- There may be need for the use of interpreters at some such information sessions, and we suggest this should be provided if necessary.

We thank you for your consideration of the above points.

Yours sincerely,

Bernadette Kelly

For the Management Committee of the Multicultural Council of
Wagga Wagga

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