

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP  
Multicultural Connect Australia (WA)  
Dancing Campaign and Anniversary Celebration  
Sunday, 21 May 2023**

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Kaya Wonju (Hello and Welcome)

I am delighted to be here today together with my wife Pat and Councillor Phoebe Corke to celebrate all that is so special about our multi-cultural community.

A special thanks to Sherry Deacon, President, Multicultural Connect Australia (WA) for allowing us to share in this celebration of music, song and dance.

I acknowledge the Whadjuk people of Beeliar Boodja, the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered today and I pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to First Nation Peoples here today.

I acknowledge:

- Sherry Deacon, President of Multicultural Connect Australia (WA) and members of their Committee;
- Representatives from the Consulate of the People's Republic of China:
  - Mr Wang; and
  - Mr Zhou;
- President of Indonesian Community in Perth;
- President of Australia Asia Communities;
- Deputy President of Hindi Sanaj of WA Inc;
- The Performers who will be entertaining us today;
- Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

Events like today provide us all with the opportunity to absorb the vibrancy of our community because it's all about acknowledging the wonderful and diverse cultures that make up our community and to immerse ourselves in a range of cultural experiences from all over the world... with traditions and cultures other than our own.

Cockburn is becoming an increasingly culturally diverse place... and this diversity has grown over the past seven years.

One in five residents of Cockburn come from countries where English is not the first language... and a similar proportion speak a language other than English in the home.

Historically, the city has had significant populations of Italian, Croatian, German and Portuguese people... while those who have come to Cockburn over the past seven years are more likely to hail from China, India and the Philippines.

So, it's little wonder that the City of Cockburn should celebrate and embrace the history, diversity and talents in our community with events like the one today being presented under the auspice of Multicultural Connect Australia (WA).

I believe arts and culture help to create a feeling of identity, belonging and connectedness, and help to build a cohesive local community spirit.

That's a benefit to every single one of us... so, as a city, we look for ways to supporting activities such as we will see today.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to share in today's music, song and dance extravaganza.

Thank you.