



Media Release

21 November 2018

Strategy to deliver a welcoming, inclusive Cockburn

The City of Cockburn has achieved the first priority action of its Cultural Diversity Strategy 2018-2021, and is now a member of the international Welcoming Cities network.

Cockburn is the sixth most multicultural local government in Western Australia and adopted its inaugural Cultural Diversity Strategy in September.

It is one of more than 200 local governments around the world to join Welcoming Cities, and only one of three member local governments in WA and 22 in Australia.

Membership aligns with the strategy's vision of providing people from all backgrounds with a welcoming and inclusive environment that gives them a sense of belonging, making them feel valued to fully participate in social, cultural, civic and economic life in Cockburn.

Cockburn's Cultural Diversity Officer Meski Ashagrie said the City was increasingly diverse, which offered both strengths and challenges to the City, and which the strategy would help enhance and meet.

"In Cockburn, 21.42 per cent of the population speaks a language other than English at home, compared to the state average of 17.54 per cent, according to the 2016 Census," Ms Ashagrie said.

"And 44.5 per cent of our residents have both parents born overseas. Compared to the state average of 32 per cent, 34 per cent were born overseas.

"It's interesting to know that six of the top 10 ancestries in Cockburn do not have English as their first language.

"Historically many immigrants came from the UK, Italy, Croatia and Portugal while more recent source countries have included China, India and the Philippines.

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“The Philippines is now the largest non-English speaking country of birth in the City, accounting for two per cent of our population.

“Residents from a Chinese background are the top culturally diverse community in Cockburn (about 3.5% of our population).”

The strategy has six outcomes, 24 strategies and 56 actions. All align with The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities which is a framework for councils to benchmark their cultural diversity and inclusion policies and practices, identify where and how further efforts can be directed and, assess progress over time.

For more information about Cultural Diversity on the City’s website, visit:
<https://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Community-Support/Multicultural-Cockburn>

For more information about Welcoming Cities visit: <https://welcomingcities.org.au/>



Caption: *l-r City of Cockburn CEO Stephen Cain, Cultural Diversity Officer Meski Ashagrie, Community Development Manager Gail Bowman and Family & Community Development Manager Barbara Freeman, with Welcoming Cities National Manager Aleem Ali (centre).*

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