Melton City Council - Intercultural Approach

Diverse, confident and inclusive communities

A Proud Community Growing Together
Overview

- Rapid growth
- Diversity in the City of Melton
- Council’s intercultural approach
- Interculturalism versus multiculturalism
- Council’s Intercultural Plan and initiatives
The City of Melton is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Australia.

In **2016** our estimated population is **137,865** with an annual growth rate of **4.7% (6479 people)**

By **2036**, it is expected that the City will more than double to be in excess of **315,908** residents
Rapid growth

Population Growth Prediction


A Proud Community Growing Together
## 2014-2015 growth snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Per annum</th>
<th>Per week</th>
<th>Daily</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>People</strong></td>
<td>5,114</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equals to one primary school</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Families</strong></td>
<td>1,763</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equals to 1.5 community centres</td>
<td>Equals to one new street</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Babies</strong></td>
<td>2,240</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equal to two kindergarten classes</td>
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Diversity in the City of Melton

• Post WWII migration (from Europe)
• The City of Melton has become increasingly culturally diverse - more than 130 nations represented
• Current increase in migration from African and Asian nations (skilled migrants, refugees, family reunion)
Melton City Council’s intercultural approach

- Council recently adopted an intercultural approach
- Intercultural approach principles – based on sharing and learning across cultures, promoting understanding, equality, equity, harmony, and justice
Interculturalism versus multiculturalism

The Commonwealth Government has identified three dimensions of multicultural policy:

• cultural identity
• social justice
• economic efficiency
Interculturalism versus multiculturalism

Interculturalism
• Bi-directionality, reciprocity and mutuality
• Learn from each other
• Engage in an ongoing exploration
• Authentic and meaningful exchanges of information
Interculturalism versus multiculturalism

Multiculturalism: the existence of multiple cultural traditions within a single jurisdiction.

Interculturalism: the existence of different minorities is acknowledged. Bi-directionality, reciprocity & mutuality.

Overlap Areas
Interculturalism versus multiculturalism

- Both focus on cultural practices, rights and wellbeing of non-dominant minority cultural groups
- Recognition, respect and accommodation by the majority cultural group
- Embrace pluralism
- Assimilation not forced
Melton City Council’s intercultural approach

• Four year Intercultural Plan
• Language Services Policy and Procedure
• Community Partnership Program (76 groups – 37 applications)
• Community grants
• CALD Advisory Committee
• Melton Interfaith Network
Challenges

• how we adapt and ensure our work with communities is aligned with the principles of interculturalism and;

• how we learn, unlearn, and relearn.
“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”

Alvin Toffler
Thank You
References

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- Integration and Multiculturalism: *Ways towards Social Solidarity*, John W. Berry, Queen’s University, Papers on Social Representations, Volume 20, pages 2.1-2.21 (2011), Peer Reviewed Online Journal, 2011
- How does Interculturalism Contrast with Multiculturalism?, Nasar Meer & Tariq Modood, Dec 2011
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