

To provide Gladstone Regional Council's management sector with information in the area of Conferences and their Organisational benefit.



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## Gladstone Regional Council Conferences Attended

### Welcoming Cities – Brisbane 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2019

#### 1.0 Conference Attended and the Synopsis

##### Organiser:

Welcoming Cities facilitates a national network of inclusive, vibrant communities internationally recognised for their ability to foster a sense of belonging and participation.

Welcoming Cities seeks to address and embrace the challenges and opportunities of migration. We are working to create more welcoming and inclusive communities by supporting local government leaders and communities to be more effectively resourced, networked and supported.

Welcoming Cities supports local governments to advance communities where everyone can belong and participate in social, cultural, economic and civic life.

Welcoming Cities is part of a growing network of more than 135 municipalities around the world – including New York, London, Glasgow, Frankfurt, Adelaide, San Francisco, Christchurch and many others.

Members of Welcoming Cities have unprecedented access to a community of like-minded Local Councils through knowledge sharing, the development of partnerships, celebrating success, and standards and accreditation. We support local governments to advance communities where everyone can belong and participate in social, cultural, economic and civic life.

Website: <https://welcomingcities.org.au>

##### Conference name:

4th Welcoming Cities Symposium. 2 & 3 April 2019. Brisbane, Australia.

##### Conference synopsis:

The Welcoming Cities Symposium brings together international, national and local practitioners, policy-makers, researchers, business innovators and civic leaders to share and discuss the challenges, benefits and opportunities of migration, settlement, cultural diversity and inclusion.

Presentations from the day can be found here:

<https://welcomingcities.org.au/symposium2019-wrapup/>

#### 2.0 Key Learnings from each session attended or speaker session

Speaker	Key Learnings
Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs Opening Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Strong financial support of QLD government to the Welcoming Cities framework</li><li>– Welcoming Cities provides research and best practise advise to QLD government in matters best practise and policy</li></ul>
Professor Anita Heiss <i>Dr Anita Heiss is the author of non-fiction, historical fiction, commercial women's fiction, poetry, social commentary and travel articles. She is a lifetime ambassador of the indigenous literacy foundation and a proud member of the Wiradjuri Nation of central NSW.</i> First Nations keynote: An Australia We Can All Celebrate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Local government important role in reconciliation</li><li>– Great impact from mentoring First Nations People</li></ul>

<p>Professor Nareen Young First Peoples at the Forefront of Welcoming and Inclusion By David Moutou, Rodney Welch,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inclusion through workforce cultural awareness</li> <li>- Importance of considering First Nations People for all roles, not just some roles within an organisations</li> <li>- Key is in recruitment practices</li> </ul>
<p>Kenan Malik <i>Kenan is a writer, lecturer, and broadcaster. He has presented Analysis, on BBC Radio 4, and Nightwaves, BBC Radio 3's wonderful arts and ideas programme and was, for many years, a panelist on The Moral Maze, also on Radio 4. He has written and presented a number of radio and TV documentaries including Disunited Kingdom, Are Muslims Hated? Islam, Mullahs and the Media, Skulduggery and Man, Beast and Politics.</i> International keynote: Three Myths about Diversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The problem of multiculturalism is not one of too much immigration or diversity. It lies, rather, in the impact of the policies enacted to manage diversity. When we talk of "multiculturalism", we often conflate the lived experience of diversity with public policies towards minority communities. The failure of those policies has led many to blame diversity itself as the problem.</li> <li>- Most politicians today defend multiculturalism and sneer at Ukip policies, while assiduously fostering fears about immigration. What we actually need to do is the opposite – defend diversity and immigration while challenging multicultural policies.</li> </ul>
<p>Abul Rizvi <i>Abul Rizvi was a senior official in the Department of Immigration from the early 1990s to 2007 when he left as Deputy Secretary. Rizvi was Chief Finance Officer in the Department of Immigration from 1991 to 1995. He managed policy and delivery of Australia's migration program from 1995 to 2007. He was awarded the Public Service Medal and the Centenary Medal for services to development and implementation of immigration policy, including the reshaping of Australia's intake to focus on skilled migration, the growth of temporary skilled migration and development of pathways for highly successful overseas students to permanent residence. He is currently doing a PhD on Australia's immigration policies at Melbourne University and frequently provides media comment on developments in immigration policy.</i></p> <p>National keynote: Immigration Policy Challenges: How did we get here? Where are we going?</p> <p>PowerPoint: <a href="https://welcomingcities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Abul-Rizvi-Sides.pdf">https://welcomingcities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Abul-Rizvi-Sides.pdf</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Growing retiree towns in QLD where immigration will be central to their survival as aging and non-employable populations grow</li> <li>- These same town are more likely to vote for One Nation and oppose immigration</li> <li>- 40% of net migration numbers are international students</li> <li>- There has been only 200,000 migrants per year over the last 10 years, now government is increasing this number to 250,000</li> <li>- Government needs to increase net immigration numbers to achieve an increase in net surplus. 2019 Budget increased migration intake from 200,000 to 250,000 in recognition of this</li> <li>- Changes in new regional visas, but continuing with skilled work regional visas</li> </ul>
<p>John van Kooy Building an Evidence Base for Policy and Practice in Local Communities By John van Kooy , Rebecca Wickes , Emmanuel Musoni</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Settlement in regional areas works but requires a collaboratively approach</li> <li>- Toolkit discusses how immigration can help regional communities survive</li> <li>- Lead the 'Welcoming Regions Research: Migrant Settlement in Regional QLD' funded by QLD government. This is an evidence based review of what work in Regional Australia</li> <li>- Councils are key in coordinating processes (photo here)</li> <li>- Highlight the importance of a CULTURE OF WELCOME</li> <li>- There is room for humanitarian migration, especially family units, in options for community sponsorships of refugees and/or migrants</li> <li>- Regional Australia is using regional settlement for economic development and to fill the gaps in population declines</li> <li>- There are challenges with retaining new residents</li> </ul>

<p>Sarah Breavington          Developing Leading Practice: Showcasing Local Government Welcoming Initiatives          By Sarah Breavington , Jac Torres-Gomez , Haidee Kalirai , June Rout</p>	<p>Greater Bendigo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increase size of photo library showing diversity in the community</li> <li>– Many social, grass roots initiatives, from refugee storytelling to library activities with migrant communities</li> <li>– Strong collaboration with community organisations who advocate for refugees and migrants</li> <li>– Greater Bendigo Cultural Diversity and Inclusion plan 2016-2019 document attached</li> </ul> <p>City of Sydney:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Have a ‘Social Sustainability Policy 2018-2028’</li> <li>– Discussion on evaluation</li> <li>– City of Sydney reports a decrease in satisfaction with their ‘future security’ and ‘feeling part of community’</li> <li>– Level of trust in contact with other people in their area is very low</li> </ul> <p>Welcoming Communities, across NZ councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– NZ government piloting a “Welcoming Communities” program across these NZ councils and regions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tauranga/Western Bay of Plenty (Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council)</li> <li>○ Palmerston North (Palmerston North City Council)</li> <li>○ Whanganui (Whanganui District Council)</li> <li>○ Canterbury (represented by Ashburton and Selwyn District Councils)</li> <li>○ Southland (Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council).</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Interim evaluation findings of the program presented include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Noticeable increase in community participation</li> <li>○ Expanding the program by 2022 to more than 50% of local councils</li> <li>○ Local employers high participation</li> <li>○ Garden shed projects for welcoming</li> <li>○ Sporting club participation in newcomers teams</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Understanding of the contributions migrants provide to agricultural and service sectors</li> <li>– Presented the Bay of Plenty Council</li> <li>– The program doesn’t just deliver activities but adds value to existing programs</li> <li>– More information:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/newsletters/settlement-actionz/actionz13/welcoming-communities">https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/newsletters/settlement-actionz/actionz13/welcoming-communities</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## Members

Our network includes a growing number of local councils (cities, shires, towns and municipalities) from across Australia.



### 3.0 One thing you will use as a result of your learnings

I will advocate for Gladstone Regional Council to join the Welcoming Cities network to access the program's resources and outcomes in social, cultural and economic development by utilising the network's access to:

- Knowledge Sharing
- Partnership Development
- Standard + Accreditation

### 4.0 One thing that the organisation could use to improve its operations

Join the Welcoming Cities extensive network of national and overseas Councils

Membership of the Welcoming Cities network is a measurable step towards becoming a thriving community. All that is required to join is a signature and commitment from the Council's Mayor or CEO – there is no fee for joining.

Councils join at the "Committed" membership level and can immediately access a range of benefits. As Councils progress through the stages of Welcoming, further benefits and opportunities are made available.

More information about the benefits of becoming a member can be found here:

[https://welcomingcities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Benefits\\_Standard\\_WC\\_2018-06-20.pdf](https://welcomingcities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Benefits_Standard_WC_2018-06-20.pdf)

And here:

[https://welcomingcities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Welcoming-Cities-Flyer\\_Nov2017\\_screen.pdf](https://welcomingcities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Welcoming-Cities-Flyer_Nov2017_screen.pdf)

### 5.0 Other comments

Other reference documents:

Seizing the opportunity: Making the most of the skills and experience of migrants and refugees, A research report for Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Deloitte Access Economics, November 2018

<https://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/resources/multicultural/programs-initiatives/deloitte/seizing-the-opportunity.pdf>

The Welcoming Cities Standard (The Standard): <https://welcomingcities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/WelcomingAustralia-TheStandard-ForWeb.pdf>

## 6.0 Conference attendance costs

<b>Conference Registration Fee:</b>	\$ 220.00
<b>Travel Costs:</b>	\$ 260.31
<b>Accommodation:</b>	\$ 162.00
<b>Sundries:</b>	\$ 00.00
<b>Additional Costs:</b>	\$ 85.00
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>\$ 727.31</b>