Media Release

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Gladstone Regional Council to welcome 115 new Aussies on Australia Day

Gladstone Regional Council will kick start its Australia Day celebrations with a citizenship ceremony to welcome 115 new Aussies on 26 January.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said our new citizens are from 21 countries, including Philippines, South Africa, Pakistan, Italy, Germany, Spain, Vietnam and Zimbabwe and will join thousands of other Australians who are celebrating their citizenship on our national day.

"Australian citizenship ceremonies are an important part of our nation's celebrations, with more people becoming citizens on Australia Day than any other day of the year," Councillor Burnett said.

"Australia Day gives all citizens, whether by birth or choice, the opportunity to openly reflect on what it means to be an Aussie and to celebrate our great nation — our rich indigenous and migrant history and our promising future."

Events to celebrate Australia Day will include Gladstone Regional Council's Australia Day Family Fun Day, held at the Millennium Esplanade parklands at Tannum Sands from 2-6pm.

Other events held across the region and supported through Council's Community Investment Program include the Builyan Many Peaks Community Development Association's Australia Day Brekkie, Boyne Valley Community Discovery Centre's Australia Day Backyard and the Turkey Beach Progress Association's Australia Day Breakfast.

South End Progress Association unfortunately had to cancel its Australia Day celebrations.

Visit <u>www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/events-1</u> for more information on events, including Australia Day activities across the Gladstone Region.

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For further information contact Council's Brand and Communications Team on 4970 0700 or media@gladstone.qld.gov.au