

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

September 8, 2023

## **Empowering Diversity: Multicultural Jobs Expo to Drive Employment Opportunities in Townsville**

The Townsville Regional Jobs Committee, Jobs Townsville North Queensland, will present a Multicultural Jobs Expo on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am-12:30pm at the PCYC Aitkenvale. The Expo will offer direct engagement between businesses looking to hire, and jobseekers from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

Over 90 skilled jobseekers from culturally diverse backgrounds will be in attendance, with experience in key industries including engineering, administration, IT, construction, healthcare, social assistance, and professional services. No registration is required.

The Multicultural Jobs Expo is proudly supported and funded by the Queensland Government through the Regional Jobs Committees Program.

The Expo is supported by Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland, Unify Intercultural Australia, Workforce Australia Local Jobs Townsville, and Multicultural Australia.

Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development Di Farmer applauded the Townsville Regional Jobs Committees' efforts to support the fast-growing region.

"Townsville is a great example **Palaszczuk Government's** job creation success with Jobs Queensland's latest data showing the Townsville region is projected to have the third fastest employment increase in Queensland by 2025-26," Minister Farmer said.

"In fact, it's estimated there will be more than 134,000 employed in the region by 2025-26 – that's close to an additional 14,500 workers since 2020-21.

"Working hand in hand with **the Townsville Regional Jobs Committee** we are creating jobs and local solutions to workforce challenges, which is key to delivering our *Good people. Good jobs. Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032.* 

"There are great opportunities across the region, and I thank the Townsville RJC for the work they're doing to connect employers and jobseekers through events like this, and supporting an inclusive and diverse workforce for North Queensland."

Stephanie Naunton, CEO of Unify Intercultural Australia, highlighted the value of diversity in the workforce. "The Multicultural Jobs Expo is an opportunity for employers to link with skilled individuals from diverse backgrounds. With local skill shortages, it's a moment for businesses to engage with the multicultural community who are diligent, loyal clients seeking to contribute to the workforce."

Stephanie added that "Having supported numerous long-term employment outcomes, Unify IA aims to connect with more potential success stories at the Multicultural Jobs Expo."



Rachel Cliffe, Chair of the Townsville Regional Jobs Committee, emphasised the significance of the Committee as a by locals for locals' solution dedicated to bridging skills gaps, boosting workforce involvement, and unlocking hidden potential.

Rachel stated that "by linking businesses with motivated job seekers, the mutual benefits are immense. With an unemployment rate hovering around 2%, it is vital to consider and implement new ways to compete in the regional jobs market."

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