

How was the Action Plan developed?

The Action Plan was developed through extensive community consultations undertaken in 1999/2000. The consultations identified the community's needs and canvassed the community's views on how access to government policies, programs and services could be improved.

How will the Action Plan be evaluated?

Queensland Government agencies will evaluate their own activities under the plan.

The Interdepartmental Working Group on the Australian South Sea Islander Community will monitor the overall progress of the Action Plan.

The annual *Report to the Premier on the Implementation of the Multicultural Queensland Policy*, prepared by Multicultural Affairs Queensland, will contain a summary of the actions taken across government.



"For too long now, Australian South Sea Islanders have been subjected to ongoing racial discrimination and harsh treatment. The Action

Plan aims to turn that around.

I commend the Action Plan as a major implementation guide towards better addressing the needs and aspirations of all Australian South Sea Islanders."

Peter Beattie MP
Premier and Minister for Trade

How can I obtain a copy of the Action Plan?

For a copy of the *Action Plan for the Australian South Sea Islander Community*, please call or write to:

Multicultural Affairs Queensland
PO Box 185
Brisbane Albert Street
Queensland 4002

Telephone: 07 3224 5690

Facsimile: 07 3224 5691

Free call: 1800 679 763
(outside Brisbane)

Email: MAQ@premiers.qld.gov.au



Queensland Government

Department of the **Premier and Cabinet**

*Queensland Government Action Plan
Australian South Sea
Islander Community*

**From
commitment
to action**

"The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that present and future generations of Australian South Sea Islanders have equality of opportunity to participate in and contribute to the economic, social, political and cultural life of the State".

**Queensland Government Recognition Statement:
Australian South Sea Islander Community**

Why develop an Action Plan?

Australian South Sea Islanders are the Australian-born descendants of people brought to Queensland between 1863 and 1904 to work within the sugar industry. They were brought from eighty Pacific islands, with the majority from Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

Between 1906 and 1908 large numbers of Australian South Sea Islanders were deported. Those who remained and their descendants were subjected to ongoing racial discrimination and harsh treatment, including restrictions as a result of government legislation.

The Queensland Government recognised this harsh treatment when it launched the *Queensland Government Recognition Statement for the Australian South Sea Islander Community*. In the statement, the government acknowledged and regretted “that Australian South Sea Islanders experienced unjust treatment” and “continue to face significant disadvantages.”

The statement, which received bi-partisan support in State Parliament, identified a need for government departments and agencies to work together to improve service provision for Australian South Sea Islanders.

The recently released *Action Plan for the Australian South Sea Islander Community* provides a blueprint for government agencies to turn this commitment into action.

This brochure provides a summary of the Action Plan.



Key areas of the Action Plan

Improve the Australian South Sea Islander community's access to government services

The Australian South Sea Islander community is disadvantaged in the areas of employment, training, education, health and housing. The community also has significant needs for services relating to cultural heritage, business development and its young people. The Action Plan guides government agencies on how to deliver appropriate services for the community.

Increase awareness of Australian South Sea Islander issues within government and assist government agencies to address issues in a culturally appropriate way

The Action Plan will improve government staff awareness of Australian South Sea Islander issues and encourage an understanding of the community's history, culture and identity. This is a vital step towards the long-term goal of providing equitable, accessible and culturally appropriate services to the community.

Reduce discrimination and prejudice against Australian South Sea Islanders

The Action Plan encourages agencies to ensure discrimination is eliminated. This includes consideration of the Australian South Sea Islander community's needs when conducting awareness training, consulting with the wider community and in the delivery of services.

Improve the knowledge, understanding and acceptance within the broader Queensland community of the Australian South Sea Islander people

The Action Plan includes a public education strategy intended to raise awareness about the Australian South Sea Islander community and the issues it faces.

Assist in community development for the Australian South Sea Islander community

The Action Plan recognises the need to work with the community to both develop services and assist it to develop its own capacity to build on these services.

