



MCOT submission to 2022-23 state budget

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Summary

The Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCOT) is the peak body representing more than 100 multicultural organisations across Tasmania.

This submission to the Tasmanian Government 2022-23 State Budget requests project funding, in 2022-23 alone, for:

- state-wide consultations to inform the Government’s next Multicultural Action Plan;
- a Multicultural Tasmania Report to the Government; and
- a short-term Multicultural Governance and Sustainability Project.

The case for each of these projects is set out on the following pages.

In addition, the funding of these projects would bolster MCOT’s capacity as a peak body, which is constrained given the comparatively low level of peak body funding in Tasmania.

- MCOT receives less peak body funding than any multicultural council representing any other state and territory in the federation (e.g. [Multicultural Council of NT annual report](#)) and less than any multicultural council serving a jurisdiction of similar size to Tasmania (e.g. [Geelong Ethnic Communities Council annual report](#)).
- The cessation of State Government project funding in 2021-22 (relating to COVID, Afghanistan, and equipment) is estimated to drive MCOT’s budget position from a \$11,000 surplus in 2021-22 to a \$26,000 deficit in 2022-23.
- MCOT is proactive in pursuing revenue sources beyond the State Government, with more than \$90,000 of revenue in 2021-22 being from sources other than the State Government. We are targeting a similar level of non-State Government revenue in 2022-23.
- MCOT maintains a lean operation, with five part-time, modestly-remunerated staff.

Below is a summary table of the requested funding streams.

	2022-23
Consultations for State Government Multicultural Action Plan	\$75,000
‘Multicultural Tasmania’ Report to the State Government	\$30,000
Multicultural Governance and Sustainability Project	\$34,800
Total if each adopted	\$139,800

MCOT has consulted with the Department of Communities in the development of this submission.



Consultations to inform the State Government's next Multicultural Action Plan

The next Multicultural Action Plan is proposed to commence in July 2023, with the [current Multicultural Action Plan](#) to be extended to June 2023.

In 2022-23 MCOT proposes to undertake extensive consultations across the State and to provide a Strategic Directions Report to the State Government to inform the development of the next Multicultural Action Plan.

The proposal mirrors the consultations and reporting undertaken by the Council of the Ageing (COTA) in 2016-17 that led to the [Active Ageing Plan 2017-2022](#).

- The 2016-17 Tasmanian Budget (see page 163 of [Budget Paper No. 2](#)) allocated \$125,000 to COTA to undertake consultations and produce a [Strategic Directions Report](#). This was in addition to other project funding received by COTA in that year.
- As set out on page 35 of this [Strategic Directions Report](#), COTA consulted with nearly 650 Tasmanians over the age of 50 through focus groups across the state, an online and hard copy survey, the distribution of reply paid postcards, the recording of online comments through social media, the receipt of written submissions, stakeholder engagement with interest groups, and direct feedback. The resulting [Strategic Directions Report](#) proposed various strategic directions, priority actions, and initiatives, which culminated in the State Government's [Active Ageing Plan 2017-2022](#).

Six years on from the COTA consultations and report, MCOT requests less funding to deliver more extensive consultations — and a similarly comprehensive report to the State Government.

- MCOT has more than 650 contacts in Tasmania's multicultural community through our membership alone. By leveraging off this base, MCOT will deliver to the State Government input from at least 1,000 Tasmanians of a culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse background.
- Consultations will be conducted in each of the ways pursued by COTA, but with additional translations into dozens of languages spoken in Tasmania.
- Consultations will be undertaken in collaboration with the State Government to ensure the issues of most interest to the State Government are covered.
- Consultations will be concentrated in the first six months of 2022-23, followed by close engagement with the State Government in the second six months of 2022-23, to dovetail with the finalisation of the new Multicultural Action Plan.
- As well as the extensive consultations undertaken directly by MCOT, the proposal includes support to the Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania and Migrant Resource Centre North to undertake complementary consultations with a particular focus on recent humanitarian stream arrivals, with the results to be captured in MCOT's overall reporting to government.



State-wide consultations to inform next Multicultural Action Plan	2022-23
Online engagement costs (Survey, scheduling, graphic design, publishing, and analytical tools; customer relationship management system; bulk SMS service)	\$4,000
Translation and interpreter costs	\$9,000
Social media advertising costs	\$2,000
Printing, publication, stationery, and postage costs	\$1,000
Travel, venue and stakeholder costs	\$4,000
Staff costs (Online, Administrative, Executive/Managerial)	\$35,000
Payment for Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania consultations and input	\$10,000
Payment for Migrant Resource Centre North consultations and input	\$10,000
Total	\$75,000



‘Multicultural Tasmania’ Report

MCOT requests funding for the production of a ‘Multicultural Tasmania’ report to the State Government.

The report would analyse and synthesise data from the 2021 Census (to be released in June 2022) so as to inform the State Government of the dramatic changes in Tasmania since the 2016 Census. The report would also draw on additional data including from the Scanlan Foundation.

The ‘Multicultural Tasmania’ report would be produced and delivered to the State Government in the second half of 2022. As such, it would form a crucial evidence base for the development of the State Government’s next Multicultural Action Plan, to apply from July 2023. The report could be combined with the reporting on consultations outlined in the prior proposal, or could be a stand-alone report.

There is a dearth of information on the countries of origin, languages, religions, settlement patterns, employment, and social participation of those who have migrated to Tasmania over recent decades. This hinders State Government policy development aimed at improving the living standards of all Tasmanians. The production and delivery to government of a ‘Multicultural Tasmania’ Report would resolve this information problem and ensure that future State Government policy is underpinned by highly accurate information.

The production of the Multicultural Tasmania Report should be tasked to MCOT. MCOT is a trusted organisation that is independent of government but nonetheless understands the importance of government having accurate and up-to-date information on the needs of Tasmania’s multicultural communities. MCOT staff would collaborate with the State Government in the analysis and synthesis of data from the 2021 Census to ensure that all of the most relevant topics of interest to the State Government are fully examined.

Funding the production of a Multicultural Tasmania Report by MCOT would align with the funding of reports produced on other population cohorts in Tasmania by the relevant peak body, such as the State of Volunteering Reports produced by Volunteering Tasmania.

‘Multicultural Tasmania’ Report	2022-23
Staff costs (Part time data analyst)	\$28,000
Associated research and publication tools/subscriptions and office equipment	\$2,000
Total	\$30,000



Multicultural Governance and Sustainability Project

MCOT requests funding for a short-term Multicultural Governance and Sustainability Project.

The Project would ratchet up the professionalism of existing multicultural community organisations in Tasmania, and assist disconnected migrants to form associations to enhance their sense of community and further their interests.

More professional governance arrangements amongst multicultural community organisations would allow better engagement with the State Government and more self-reliance, including through better tapping into private sponsorship opportunities.

A dedicated MCOT project officer would have clear KPIs to achieve within a twelve-month period with respect to:

- the constitutional and financial arrangements within, and governance training obtained by, existing multicultural community organisations, and
- the formation and potential incorporation of currently disorganised groupings of recent migrants.

To ensure that best practice in multicultural community governance is demonstrated from the top down, the proposal also includes provision for MCOT board members and leadership to undertake a formal program with either the AICD or ICDA, such as the AICD's Governance Foundations for Not-For-Profits Program, covering duties and responsibilities, strategy, and risk.

Multicultural Governance and Sustainability Project	2022-23
Multicultural community organisations governance and sustainability project (temporary part time project officer, 15 hours/week)	\$25,000
AICD/ ICDA Governance for Not-For-Profits Program (Duties and Responsibilities, Strategy and Risk)	\$9,800
Total	\$34,800