



Hon Glen Elmes MP
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
and Multicultural Affairs
Minister Assisting the Premier

Your reference: 10.4 Petitions
Our reference: MA/13/0037
ATSIMA 02354-2013

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3 APR 2013

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliamentary House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 6 March 2013 concerning Petition No. 2045-13, sponsored by Ms Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Member of Inala, requesting the Government's support for the Multicultural Recognition Bill 2012.

This Government's priorities are to reduce red tape and regulation, stimulate Queensland's economic growth and improve job creation. The Bill does not assist with any of these intentions. Moreover, given the absence of enforcement powers and penalty provisions in the Bill, it would be unlikely to result in improved services or outcomes for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, any more than an updated multicultural policy would.

Promoting the recognition of culturally and linguistically diverse Queenslanders and the valuable contributions they make to Queensland's communities and economy is more appropriately addressed through the multicultural policy, which is currently being reviewed to ensure it achieves positive outcomes, such as improving services and creating opportunities for jobs.

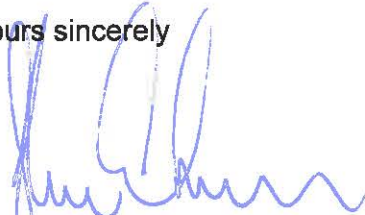
The Government is committed to supporting the continued development and growth of strong multicultural communities across our state. We are working closely with communities to ensure that our cultural diversity is viewed positively as a valuable resource for Queensland.

As the Multicultural Recognition Bill 2012 did not support these priorities, the Government did not support the Bill during its debate in Parliament on 6 March 2013.

If you require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, please contact Mr Wayne Briscoe, Executive Director, Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs on 3224 5330.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Glen Elmes', with a wavy line underneath.

Glen Elmes MP
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs
Minister Assisting the Premier
Member for Noosa