



RACHEL NOLAN MP

Member for Ipswich

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NOLAN ENCOURAGES ATTENDANCE AT GRANTS INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan today encouraged community groups in the Ipswich area to attend an information session on funding opportunities for community-based organisations, being managed by Multicultural Affairs Queensland.

Where: The Cunningham Room, Ipswich Civic Hall

When: Monday 21 June 2004 at 6pm - 8pm

Acceptance RSVPs to: Uma Lethbridge at Multicultural Affairs Queensland on freecall 1800 053 739.

Ms Nolan said officers from Multicultural Affairs Queensland and other major Queensland funding bodies such as Councils, Arts Queensland, the Gambling Community Benefit Fund and Casino Community Benefit Funds were travelling to major metropolitan and regional centres in Queensland in June and July to promote grants available for multicultural festivals and projects.

"Representatives from the funding bodies will briefly describe the purpose of their grants and will then be available to answer questions," she said.

"Last year the Beattie Government, through the Multicultural Assistance Program (MAP), allocated more than \$400,000 for more than 60 projects and events across Queensland.

"This financial year the funding available through MAP has increased to more than \$700,000, with major, successful festivals now eligible to apply for three year funding, with the amount available for each major festival doubled from \$10,000 to \$20,000 annually."

Ms Nolan encouraged community organisations to seriously consider how they could utilise a grant to promote and support multiculturalism in their local community.

"The MAQ funding is available for multicultural festivals and events and also for multicultural projects," he/she said.

"All submissions will be considered - the beauty of this type of process is that communities know what works for them and most often come up with unique and meaningful project proposals.

"It also means we have an opportunity to inject funding into local communities and thus support local businesses and community development.

The forums are free and a light supper is also provided.

The Multicultural Development Association's Grants Access Worker, who assists community groups to apply for grants, will also be available to give advice.