



Multicultural Youth Tasmania (MYT) Voices

Youth Consultation Report 2021

Recommendations for positive change

Racism and Discrimination

Addressing racism is a complex issue and requires a whole-community response. Young people attributed experiences of racism, particularly in schools, to a lack of education among their peers, teachers, and the broader community.

Therefore, multicultural youth felt that more education and awareness around what racism is and the wide-reaching impact it has on young people would work to reduce racism in schools, colleges, TAFE and at work. To ensure instances of racism, discrimination and stereotyping are more adequately addressed in schools, young people recommended cultural awareness and anti-racism training for students and teachers.



Education and Training

Young people advocated for improvements in the support offered by schools. This includes an extension of English as an Additional Language (EAL) support so students can gain higher levels of confidence and ability. Increased language support for all school subjects while learning English was also recommended. For young adults aged over 18 who have experienced a disrupted high school education, it was recommended that a range of adult learning classes be offered to provide a chance to catch up on lost education opportunities. 'First language' classes were recommended to prevent young people from losing their first language.

Employment

Young people identified the need for more employment workshops and peer support networks, as well as improved access to training for work while multicultural youth are still learning English. Multicultural youth also suggested education be provided to employers on the benefits of hiring young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

Mental Health

Young people recommended mandated cultural awareness and trauma training for all health care staff, including training on how to use phone interpreters. It was suggested that Healthcare practitioners be encouraged to use a more conversational approach when assisting young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. Education for parents around youth mental health, in-language communication and resources about mental health, and a greater diversity in mental health care workers were also recommended.

Transport

Increased availability of buses and cheaper transport options were recommended. To reduce instances of racism and discrimination, youth recommended education be provided to all public transport workers and drivers, including on the importance of equity of access. Young people felt that there needs to be an improved response to complaints of inappropriate behaviour. Greater diversity in drivers was also suggested.

These recommendations will be used to enact positive change and improve the settlement outcomes of multicultural youth in Tasmania.

