

Tuesday 11 March 2014

RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME

City Of Ryde is proud to joined forces with some of Australia's leading businesses, sporting bodies and NGO's to support the "Racism. It stops with me" campaign.

The Council has committed to preventing racism by pledging to undertake activities over the next three years in support of the campaign.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Roy Maggio, said: "By being part of this campaign, Council will lead by example ensuring the City of Ryde is a place where everyone feels equal, safe and included.

"The City of Ryde is one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse local government areas in Greater Sydney, with a large Asian population. More than a third of residents who call the City of Ryde home come from non-English speaking backgrounds.

"Support of our diverse communities can be shown by Council's inclusion policies and our recent partnership with the establishment of the Community Migrant Resource Centre Eastwood office which provides five bi-lingual community workers to assist newly arrived migrants. The City of Ryde was also declared a Refugee Welcome Zone in 2013."

Of the City of Ryde's 110,000 population:

- 36% of residents come from non-English backgrounds
- 7% of residents have limited English fluency
- In 35% of houses, at least two languages are spoken
- 42% of people speak a language other than English at home
- 60% of residents follow Christianity with a combined 11% following Buddhism Hinduism and Islam and the remainder stating no religion.

Research from 2011 shows that one in seven Australians say they experienced discrimination because of their colour or background. This figure has been increasing steadily in recent years.

"As community leaders, we must do all we can to take a stand against racism and we will encourage businesses, groups and organisations to publicly join Council as official 'Racism. It stops with me' campaign supporters," the Mayor said.

The national "Racism. It stops with me" campaign, which is being led by the Australian Human Rights Commission, has been developed by a partnership of government and non-government agencies and will run until 2015.

For more information about the campaign go to: <http://itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au/>
Or follow the campaign on Twitter @ItStopsWithMe.

What: Signing of official *Racism. It stops with me* supporters' agreement between City of Ryde and the Australian Human Rights Commission's (AHRC).
Announcement of Anti-Racism Workshops for community organisations.

When: Wednesday 19 March, 11.00am – 12.30pm

Where: West Ryde Community Hall, 3 – 5 Anthony Street, West Ryde.

Who: City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Roy Maggio; AHRC Race Discrimination Commissioner Dr Tim Soutphommasane; key guest speaker, guest performers; community organisations; community groups and individuals.

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