

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events
Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Arts
Minister for Racing

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Phone: +61 3 6165 7665
Email: minister.jaensch@dpac.tas.gov.au



Ms Helen Burnet MP
Independent Member for Clark
C/o: HAProcedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Constituency Question – Racism towards local government candidates

Dear Ms Burnet

Thank you for your Constituency Question on 8 September 2026, in regard to the concern raised by your constituent Yabbo Thompson, about heightened levels of racially motivated attacks against local government candidates.

As the Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs, I take the matter of addressing racism seriously. The Tasmanian Government endeavors to make our State a harmonious, inclusive and respectful place to live, work and raise a family, regardless of your cultural background or heritage.

The Government launched the *Embracing Diversity, Fostering Belonging: Tasmania's Multicultural Action Plan 2025/2029* early last year, with a focus on addressing racism and discrimination, strengthening social cohesion, improving access to culturally responsive services, and supporting social, civic and economic participation to enable our culturally and linguistically diverse communities to contribute, thrive and achieve in Tasmania. The Action Plan contains a raft of initiatives that we will work towards in collaboration with our multicultural communities, and we have also recently announced the first Ministerial Multicultural Advisory Council, which will meet shortly.

The Government invests in a range of multicultural organisations to support our communities, including the Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCOT), the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) and Cultural Welcomes Services North, the Moonah Multicultural Hub, cultural festivals and the National Accreditation Authority for Translators (NAATI). Further to this, in July we announced eight organisations had been successful in receiving Social Cohesion Grants to deliver practical, community-led initiatives that build stronger connections between all Tasmanians.

It is very disappointing to hear of incidents of racism or vilification towards those standing for local government election. There is never justification for this abhorrent behaviour, and I trust that, where appropriate, these incidents are reported to Tasmania Police.

Once again, thank you for your question on behalf of your constituent.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line.

Hon Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

1 October 2026