

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD

MULTICULTURAL POLICIES AND SERVICES STATEMENT

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Statement is to confirm the Lord Howe Island Board's commitment to the Principles of Multiculturalism in conducting its affairs.

DEFINITIONS

The principles of multiculturalism are enshrined in the *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000*. The Principles are:

- The people of NSW are of different linguistic, religious, racial and ethnic backgrounds who, either individually or in community with other members of their respective groups, are free to profess, practise and maintain their own linguistic, religious, racial and ethnic heritage
- All individuals in NSW, irrespective of their linguistic, religious, racial and ethnic backgrounds, should demonstrate a unified commitment to Australia, its interests and future and should recognise the importance of shared values governed by the rule of law within a democratic framework
- All individuals in NSW should have the greatest possible opportunity to contribute to and participate in, all aspects of public life in which they may legally participate
- All individuals and institutions should respect and make provision for the culture, language and religion of others within an Australian legal and institutional framework where English is the common language
- All individuals should have the greatest possible opportunity to make use of and participate in relevant activities and programs provided or administered by the Government of NSW
- All institutions of NSW should recognise the linguistic and cultural assets in the population of NSW as a valuable resource and promote this resource to maximise the development of the State

THE BOARD'S CHARTER

In accordance with the *Lord Howe Island Act 1953* the Board has the following charter:

- (a) to provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the Island community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively,**
- (b) to exercise community leadership,**
- (c) to exercise its powers, authorities, duties and functions in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the principles of multiculturalism,**
- (d) to promote and to provide and plan for the needs of children,
- (e) to manage, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the Island's environment in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development set out in section 6 (2) of the [Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991](#),
- (f) to manage, protect, restore, enhance and conserve:
- (i) vacant Crown lands, and

- (ii) lands reserved or dedicated under section 19 or 19A (including, in particular, the Lord Howe Island Permanent Park Preserve), in a manner that recognises the World Heritage values in respect of which the Island is inscribed on the World Heritage List referred to in the United Nations *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*,
- (g) subject to paragraphs (e) and (f), to promote the Island as a tourist destination,
- (h) to have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions,
- (i) to bear in mind that it is the custodian and trustee of public assets and to effectively account for and manage the assets for which it is responsible,
- (j) to facilitate the involvement of members of the Board, members of the public, users of facilities and services and the Board's staff in the development, improvement and co-ordination of the Board's powers, authorities, duties and functions,**
- (k) to raise funds for Island community purposes by the fair imposition of charges and fees, by income earned from investments and, when appropriate, by borrowings and grants,
- (l) to keep the Island community and the State government (and through it, the wider community) informed about its activities,**
- (m) to ensure that, in the exercise of its regulatory powers, authorities, duties and functions, it acts consistently and without bias, particularly where an activity of the Board is affected,**
- (n) to be a responsible employer.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Lord Howe Island Board will observe the Principles of Multiculturalism in conducting its affairs in accordance with its Charter.

The Lord Howe Island Board will strive toward the following objectives, as identified in the NSW Government's Community Relations Plan of Action 2012:

- leadership
- community harmony
- access and equity within the framework of social justice obligations
- economic and cultural opportunities

RESPONSIBILITY

The CEO of the Lord Howe Island Board will:

- Provide leadership, ensuring the Principles are integral to the core business of the Board;
- With senior managers, oversee the implementation of the Principles in accordance with this statement
- Ensure the Board continues to progress and develop good practice, guided by the Multicultural Planning Framework
- Report on the implementation of the Board's multicultural initiatives through the Annual Report, and to the Community Relations Commission as required.