

## "Hand-in-Hand" Pilot Project

### Organisations Involved & Contact Details

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### Aims & Target Group

The consultation sessions with these groups sought to gather information on people's thoughts regarding the increasing cultural diversity within Holland Park, their thoughts and experiences on racism and any suggestions that would improve race relations and strengthen the community in Holland Park.

### Project Description & Components

Developed due to the rapid changes in demographics which result in racial tension amongst the broader community. Holland Park, a Brisbane suburb, was chosen as the catchment area for this project due to the diversity, both culturally and socioeconomically.

### Process

Focus groups, structured as information and consultation sessions, were conducted with a total of 64 people from Somalia, Vietnam, Former Yugoslavia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Participants of the focus groups were given information from the Anti-Discrimination Commission of Queensland on their roles and responsibilities, the different types of discrimination and where they can lodge a complaint if they have been discriminated against. The project also conducted a focus group with community members from the mainstream community so that issues could be addressed hand-in-hand with those identified by the non-English speaking background communities.

Brisbane City Council is taking a leadership role in addressing these issues and is interested in working with others who are keen to address racism and make Brisbane a more friendly place.





## Outcomes

The focus groups revealed that although most people are well settled in the Holland Park area, many are still subjected to racism and are discriminated against. Migrants who are "visible" where skin colour and clothes are different, are targeted more than other migrants. Both overt and covert racism was commonly reported.

Most people identified the need for more education at community level to ensure that people had a better understanding of cross-cultural issues. Community get togethers and cross cultural playgroups were suggestions to improve race relations in the suburb. The media was seen to be an important tool in demonising refugees and portraying them in a negative manner. Most people at the focus groups requested information in their languages and were keen to have workshops to understand the role of the ADCQ.

## Challenges & Obstacles

## Funding

Queensland Government, Multicultural Assistance Program, 2002 Grant \$10,000

## Images



Training session with the Somali community

