

**Joint Standing Committee on Migration****Chair: Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP****Deputy Chair: Mrs Louise Markus MP**

Refugees in a rental crisis

Queensland is experiencing a housing affordability crisis, with families most affected following recent floods.

Refugees and migrants in emerging communities are the particular victims of Queensland's tight rental market, according to a study conducted by the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland. High rents are forcing new arrivals into outlying areas, and relative poverty and lack of private transport is leading to social marginalisation.

In Brisbane on Monday 11 July, the Joint Standing Committee on Migration will hear from peak multicultural organisations and alliances about accommodation challenges and other obstacles to successful settlement for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Committee chair Ms Maria Vamvakinou, stated: "The Committee is aware of the challenges posed to settlement providers when local economies create additional pressures on the most vulnerable in the community. Providers in Queensland are working hard to address these problems with intensive case management and innovative programs to help new arrivals get on with their lives".

"The Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland will also brief the Committee on its successful migration story, while also considering some of the challenges facing older migrants," Ms Vamvakinou said.

Other key stakeholders appearing will be:

- The Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ)
- Queensland Shelter
- Employment Action for Cultural Diversity, and
- The Multicultural Development Association.

This public hearing will be held in the **Dandiir Room, Level 5 Parliamentary Annex, Queensland Parliament, Alice Street, Brisbane**, commencing at **10.00am**. Proceedings will be audio broadcast on <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

Further information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website www.aph.gov.au/mig or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560.

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