



Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

Hearing Date: 13 September 2023

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District

Received Date: 15 October 2023

1. **Melina BATH,**

Question Asked:

Number of literate multicultural residents.

Response:

Our multicultural residents in the region demonstrate a wide range of literacy levels. Many migrants, such as skilled migrants, business migrants, and some spouse migrants, are highly literate. On the other hand, those with refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds might not be literate in their own languages. This can be due to lengthy stays in refugee camps or detention centres, or a lack of educational opportunities. While we have a significant number of residents from these backgrounds in our area, we are unable to offer specific figures.

The only data available to us is from the Census. According to the 2021 Census data, 32.2% of Greater Shepparton's population has either one or both parents born overseas, and 17.6% of households in our region speak a language other than English at home. However, we don't have any specific data regarding the literacy levels within our multicultural communities.