

Latin American Community of Australia (QLD) Inc.

Email: info@lacaqld.org.au

Web: www.lacaqld.org.au

PO Box 5812 West End 4101 QLD



Who is LACA?

Non for profit

Non political and non-religious

Volunteer and community driven organisation

What do we want to achieve as an organisation?

To celebrate and share Latin American culture- *This is our vision*

At the 2011 Census over 109, 000 Australian residents declared that they were born in Latin America and over 16,000 of Queensland's population were born in Latin America. Queensland's Latin American community is represented by 22 countries from South and Central America, and the Caribbean with the majority coming from Chile, El Salvador, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, Peru, Mexico and Venezuela.

Australia is a multicultural community which as Latin American we are proud to be part of. And if you think about it Latin America is a multicultural continent- we share language all along the continent (although with different accents!) however Latin American way of life is a diversity of music, food, and crafts from a dynamic and diverse place of many different cultures and traditions

The aim of the organisation is to celebrate the connection between community and culture with the wider community in QLD of which, we as Latin Americans are part of. We believe the communities of Latin America can make significant contribution to the liveliness and richness of Queensland multicultural society, as an organisation we want to acknowledge the cultural and artistic expression through language, dance, music, visual arts, and food of our talented Latin American communities. And we want to share that wonderful culture and acknowledge the talents and skills of people in our community.

We will

Work as an umbrella organisation for the purpose of bringing together the Latin American community including groups for having a unified voice for all Latin Americans in QLD.

LACA aims to have the responsibility to act as the representative of the Latin American community in QLD in dealings with the federal, state and local governments, as well as other organisations and institutions. We want to present a unified Latin American viewpoint and express the concerns on current social issues relevant to Australia's multicultural society.

LACA will act to assist and promote the activities of its individual members and member organisations, but it will not exercise control over the internal matters of any of its member organisations.

As an organisation we can show the importance of having a strong cohesive community which includes support for older people in our community. As Latin Americans we have a love of 'having a good time' with family, friends and celebrating with sports, dance and music- there is a strong social need which is being met by the social sports/cultural groups in our community. But there

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are also serious needs which need to be addressed and these include support for newly arrived immigrants, overseas students who may find themselves in difficulties and for our elders who may find themselves isolated and marginalised due to language barriers. One of our aims as an organisation is to set up an age care facility that will cater for the specific needs of our Spanish speaking elders. And as people, who come from a collective cultural background, we share that sense of responsibility of looking after one another and to exercise this cultural strength to the fullest, we need to work together

And as an organisation we will work with

Transparency

We will work with transparency and accountability- to work as a non-political, non-religious, non-profit organisation on projects that benefit community to promote cultural, social, welfare and educational needs of Latin Americans in QLD. We will work under strict governance practices

Encouragement

We want to encourage and build capacity for Latin American Community in QLD- we want the Latin American Community to take its place in Australia's multicultural society

Advocacy

We want to advocate on behalf of the Latin American community and are committed to developing strong partnerships with governments, service providing organisations and the wider community to improve the quality of life for our members so Latin American individuals, families and communities are able to properly establish their lives here as fully participating members of Australian society

Inclusiveness

We want to encourage participation of our communities as equals in QLD community without discrimination due to gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual preference, age or creed

Promote

We want to foster and promote social, economic and cultural wellbeing of all people of Latin American background and their families with the broader community of Queensland

Build

We want to build and maintain effective relationships and partnerships with our communities- LACA means hair spray in Spanish and like a good hair spray, we want to stick around and support our communities

Celebrate

Celebrate our communities' talents, skills and strengths and we are confident that together we can achieve these aims

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Vision

To bring together and celebrate Latin American culture

Mission

To serve as an umbrella organization for people of Latin American heritage in Queensland, based on the principles of equality and justice.

In unity with all Latin American communities in Queensland, we strive to create better opportunities, improve social and economic status and improve the health and wellbeing of all people of Latin American heritage in Queensland.

To support our elders with the aim of providing an age care facility that will cater for the needs of Latin American individuals including their language and cultural requirements

Objectives

The objects of the association are to —

- (1). work together with transparency, without political, religious and nationalistic agendas.
- (2). advocate for unity of all Latin American individuals and Latin American entities in Queensland
- (3). encourage the participation of people of Latin American heritage as equals in Queensland community, without discrimination due to gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual preference, age or creed
- (4). encourage representatives of all Latin American communities (especially new and emerging communities) to become involved in the association to ensure their special, ethnic and cultural needs are sensitively handled by the association and in the broader community
- (5). promote social, economic and cultural status, welfare and wellbeing of all people of Latin American heritage and their families within the broader Queensland community
- (6). advocate and lobby for equality and equal access to employment opportunities, education, social, health, government and community services relevant to members, their families and other people of Latin American heritage in Queensland
- (7). assist every person of Latin American heritage in Queensland to obtain reasonable access to the association's economic, social, health and cultural resources
- (8). bring together community service organisations and individuals with similar aims to assist people of Latin American heritage in Queensland
- (9). liaise with all levels of government and community organisations to address issues affecting people of Latin American heritage in Queensland
- (10). provide assistance to Latin American migrants and promote awareness in the government and community sectors on possible improvement to services to these Latin American communities
- (11). promote Australian/Latin American tourism with the aim of building economic bridges between the countries
- (12). initiate or participate in research that leads to identifying specific needs in Latin American communities and Latin American heritage people in Queensland
- (13). promote and protect Latin American cultural identity within Australian culture
- (14). promote loyalty to Australia within Latin American communities.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE LACA 2014

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