

# Filling in the puzzle

The bigger picture of engagement



## Cultural Diversity in the Local Court

*The Local Court is the gateway for local communities to access justice and the Court represents community standards. Thus, it is important that our Local Court bench reflects our communities and cultural diversity on the bench better reflects our increasingly multicultural society.*

*Magistrates from multicultural communities bring an understanding of those communities' customs, values, ways of thinking and communicating, and relationships with authority. They understand being Eastern in a Western society. Besides from administering blind justice, such magistrates can deliver more insightful justice with glasses of cultural sensitivity.*

- Magistrate Aaron Tang



*Cultural diversity in any organisation is important and even more so in the Local Court bench as it shows the face of justice is the same kind of face as one would see in any other setting in society. Being from a culturally and linguistically diverse background affords me a deeper sense of empathy towards and understanding of the cultural challenges faced by many of the people who come before the court.*

- Magistrate Rami Attia

*His Honour Justice Bathurst said it best "diversity means the community can feel closer to the Court and it promotes trust in the Court". We live in a multicultural society and the bench needs to reflect society, in doing so this promotes a sense of confidence and trust in the Courts. Representation on the bench means that the community can have confidence in that the bench represents society at large.*

- Magistrate Rana Daher

