

Sister City and Friendship City Policy

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Strategic Pillar	Community
Responsible Branch	Community Arts and Recreation

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1 OUTCOMES

- 1.1 A Sister City relationship is an agreement between two cities or councils, where each city or council agrees to promote mutual understanding, friendship and professional conduct for the benefit of both communities and the promotion of local government.
- 1.2 A Friendship City relationship is generally less formal than a Sister City and is often used as a stepping stone to a Sister City relationship
- 1.3 The objective of this policy is to provide a structured and transparent framework for Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council's relationship with its Sister Cities and Friendship Cities. The policy will establish Council's commitment to its Sister City and Friendship Cities relationships to further cement the positive relationships.

2 POLICY

- 2.1 Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council values Friendship and Sister city relationship that:
- promote and develop cultural, social, educational, policy, technical, arts, innovations and other beneficial exchanges.
 - promote and encourage information exchange and liaison between Local Government, business leaders, social/cultural groups and the wider community.
 - Enhance and promote the image of Queanbeyan-Palerang Council.
 - Foster cross cultural understanding and the exchange of ideas and information.
 - Generate harmony, tolerance and goodwill
- 2.2 New Friendship and Sister City relationships will be reviewed by Council's Sister City Committee and officially adopted by Council.
- 2.3 Costs associated with the operation of Friendship and Sister City relationships will be determined for each relationship through mutual agreement with respective cities and through a resolution of Council.
- 2.4 Delegates for cultural exchange programs will be endorsed by a resolution of Council.
- 2.5 All delegates, Councillors, QPRC staff and members of the community including adults and students, participate in international exchange programs at their own cost.
- 2.6 The receiving and giving of gifts will be in accordance with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council's Gifts and Benefits Policy.
- 2.7 Where student delegations are anticipated, they will be supervised by accompanying adults.
- 2.8 Accompanying adults must be:
- Employed as a teacher in either NSW or the ACT; or
 - A resident of the Queanbeyan-Palerang local government area; and
 - Receive clearance for a Working with Children Check and a criminal background check

- 2.8 Preference will be given to applicants with appropriate language skills and/or experience teaching children of approximately the same age as the student delegation.
- 2.9 Accompanying adults will be determined through an application process and assessed by the Sister City Committee. However, Council reserves the right to use additional criteria as they see fit.

3 SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- 3.1 This Policy applies to the establishment and maintenance of all Friendship and Sister City relationships whether initiated by Councillors, staff of Council or the Queanbeyan-Palerang community. This Policy applies to all Council officials, to Council's current Sister City and Friendship city agreements and to all future agreements.

4 DEFINITIONS

- 4.1 Council official includes Councillors, Council staff, administrators, Council committee members and delegates of Council.
- 4.2 Council refers to Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
- 4.3 Current Sister City and Friendship City agreements apply respectively to Minami Alps, in Yamanashi Japan established on 9 October 1992; and Ohrid in North Macedonia established in 21 July 2014.
- 4.4 Future agreements refers to any and all agreements that are recommended by the Sister City Committee and are endorsed by Council

5 LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS AND/OR RELEVANT STANDARDS

NSW Local Government Act 1993 section 8(1)

A council's charter includes the need "to exercise community leadership" and "to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the multicultural principles".

6 REVIEW

- 6.1 This policy will be reviewed every four years or earlier as necessary if:
- legislation requires it, or
 - Council's functions, structure or activities change