



28 October 2019

MCNT IS PROPOSING CHANGES AFFECTING MULTICULTURAL YOUTH REPRESENTATION

Multicultural Youth NT (MyNT) is a youth-led, non-profit organisation which aims to empower young people from all backgrounds to create positive change in their community. We support young people to integrate and interact, share ideas and have a voice in addressing issues that affect them.

Since its inception in 2007, MyNT has proudly represented young people at the peak multicultural body of the Northern Territory, the Multicultural Council of the NT (MCNT).

MyNT's representation at the MCNT Committee has allowed us a platform to represent the voices of young people, given us the opportunity to develop our governance and leadership skills, and allowed us to engage actively in our multicultural community.

Since then, MyNT has been recognised by the community and is a permanent member of the Minister's Advisory Council for Multicultural Affairs (MACMA). In 2017, the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) hosted the first ever Youth Day in Darwin alongside MyNT and the MCNT. We have worked with several local community organisations, developed and supported a number of successful projects and through the years, we have observed our members be recognised by the community for their leadership.

Last weekend, we were informed that the current MCNT Committee will be proposing to make changes to their Constitution at their upcoming AGM on 22 November 2019 that will result in the **removal of the MyNT representative from the MCNT Committee.**

We passionately believe in the self-evident truth that young people from diverse backgrounds have ideas and experiences that can make a positive impact on our community. We are future leaders and we face issues that other generations may not completely understand. We know that being discouraged and disenfranchised is the root of some of the biggest issues we face as a generation.

Young people have fought to be recognised by society and to have a platform to speak, and we believe these proposed changes are a step backwards in the progress of society. We believe that the voices and opportunities of multicultural youth should be **encouraged and not silenced.**

The MyNT Executive team is working together to make sure that young people can speak for themselves and we ask for your support in helping us inform the MCNT why it is important that multicultural youth should be able to continue to represent themselves.

Yours sincerely,

The MyNT Executive 2019