



# MEMO

## QRL to celebrate Harmony Week

Harmony Week celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. This year's theme is "Everyone Belongs" and this connects to the QRL's vision to **unite, excite** and **inspire** people to create communities that are deeply connected to the game.

Here are a few statistics:

- Nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was.
- We identify with over 300 ancestries.
- Since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia.
- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia.
- Apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi.
- More than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia.

So what can you do to celebrate Harmony Week? The easiest way to celebrate it is for your league, club or team to wear orange on the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of March and talk about the diversity and inclusiveness and the positives of it in the community and in the game of rugby league. Get photos and place them on your club and league websites and social media platforms and show your community that you promote diversity and inclusion.

Here are some other examples of what you can do to celebrate Harmony Week in your communities, at your club or in your Leagues.

- Yarning circles at training during the week, to speak with those who have joined communities, to understand what it has meant to be involved in the game, and how it has welcomed them to community
- Dance groups that represent their local area
- Food trucks from cultures that represent your local area
- Hold demonstrations of local art
- Capture images and footage of celebrations to help form a Harmony Round Gallery on [qrl.com.au](http://qrl.com.au)
- Celebrate and recognise Harmony week, by communicating via Facebook or websites that leagues, clubs and teams are recognising this week

The QRL and the game of Rugby League want to be recognised as the most inclusive and culturally safe game in Queensland where everyone is welcome and belongs so let's start planning for March 18-20.

Remember the strength of our game lies in our differences not our similarities.

*S. Nosworthy*

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