

Multicultural Advisory Group (MAG) – Role Description

1. Purpose of the MAG

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The Multicultural Advisory Group (MAG) provides independent, informed advice to Christchurch City Council on matters affecting culturally, linguistically, and ethnically diverse communities in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

The MAG supports the implementation of the Christchurch Multicultural Strategy – Our Future Together, ensuring that Council planning, services, and decision-making reflect the city’s multicultural identity, aspirations, and needs, while upholding the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and recognising the unique role of mana whenua.

2. Role of MAG Members

MAG members contribute their **individual expertise, lived experience, and skills** to support inclusive and well-informed advice to Council.

Members:

- Provide impartial, evidence-informed advice on issues affecting multicultural communities
- Contribute strategic insights that support equity, inclusion, participation, and wellbeing
- Engage in respectful, collaborative discussions that reflect diverse perspectives
- Support a consultative and inclusive approach to the delivery of the Multicultural Strategy
- Act in the collective interest of multicultural communities across the city

Clarification on Representation

MAG members are appointed in their **personal capacity**.

They do **not** represent organisations, agencies, or specific communities.

Members are selected based on their **skills, abilities, experience, and insight**, and while they may draw on lived experience or community knowledge, they are expected to contribute independently and consider a range of perspectives beyond any single group or interest.

3. Responsibilities of Members

- Members are expected to:
- Attend and actively participate in scheduled MAG meetings (every two months)
- Prepare for meetings by reviewing papers and contributing constructively
- Engage respectfully with members, Council staff, and invited contributors
- Apply an equity and Tiriti-based lens to discussions and advice
- Maintain confidentiality and declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest
- Uphold Council’s Code of Conduct and MAG values

- Members may also be invited to participate in workshops, consultations, or working groups related to Council initiatives.

MAG members do not represent organisations, interest groups, or communities.

Members are selected based on their individual skills, abilities, knowledge, and experience, and are appointed in their personal capacity.

While members may draw on their lived experience and community connections to inform their contributions, they are not expected to speak on behalf of any specific group. The role requires independent thinking, critical reflection, and a willingness to consider a range of perspectives in the collective interest of multicultural communities across Ōtautahi.

4. Time Commitment & Meeting Frequency

- **Term:** 2 years
- **Meetings:** bimonthly, approximately 6-8 meetings per year
- **Duration:** 2-2.5 hours per meeting, evenings
- **Additional commitments:**
 - Occasional workshops, consultations, or community events
 - Preparation or reading materials before meetings (approx. 30–60 minutes)

5. Skills and Experience Sought

Formal qualifications are not required. Applicants may be existing or emerging leaders.

MAG members are selected based on a combination of the following:

Core Capabilities

- Strong intercultural awareness and cultural sensitivity
- Ability to think strategically and contribute to complex discussions
- Confidence in expressing ideas clearly and respectfully
- Willingness to listen, collaborate, and engage with differing viewpoints

Knowledge & Experience

- Understanding of multiculturalism and inclusion in a Tiriti-based context
- Insight into challenges and opportunities affecting diverse communities
- Interest in civic participation and local decision-making
- Awareness of local government processes (or willingness to learn)

Selection will also consider how applicants contribute to a balanced mix of perspectives, including diversity of ethnicity, gender, age, lived experience, newcomer status, and intersectional identities.

5. Support Offered to MAG Members

To ensure equitable and meaningful participation, Council will provide:

- Governance, civic, and capacity-building training
- Secretariat and facilitation support
- Culturally safe and inclusive meeting environments

Members will also receive recognition for their time and contribution, in line with Council policy.