



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

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# Media Statement

February 14, 2019

### Local Groups Open Arms to Help Migrants Settle in Maranoa

Maranoa MP David Littleproud has secured \$95,260 - through the Fostering Integration Grants initiative - to support migrants as they establish their new lives in Maranoa.

"I'm happy to announce that Balonne Shire Council and the Dalby Welcoming Community will each receive funds that help to engage with and support migrants as they transition to setting up their lives in Maranoa," Mr Littleproud said.

An allocation of \$50,000 will be used to create the role of Multicultural Development Officer at Balonne Shire Council.

The Multicultural Development Officer will be responsible for educating locals about different cultures prevalent in the region through community events and campaigns at school.

The Balonne Shire Council's primary goal is to create a welcoming space and sense of inclusion for migrants by facilitating understanding of different cultures.

Dalby Welcoming Community will use their allocation, \$45,260, to build social connections that support integration.

Their primary goal is to have migrants get involved with management and support at Dalby's Delicious and Delightful Festival.

"Local community groups play an important role in understanding the challenges associated with settling into a new community and they will utilise funds to the best of their ability to make sure migrants feel welcome and have opportunities to reach their potential in Maranoa," he said.

"The unity, prosperity and security of our nation is derived from how well formed and trusting communities are."

"These funds go a long way to setting up a structured base that meets those big picture goals while showing our newest arrivals true country hospitality."

"Distance can be challenging and these funds are also vested in empowering female migrants to get involved with local life - professionally and socially."

The Fostering Integration Grants initiative includes:

- Teaching migrant women living in isolated areas how to drive
- Providing female migrants with entrepreneurial skills
- Assisting mothers caring for young children to increase their English language skills and social participation
- Supporting migrants who have moved from cities to develop social ties with their new communities.

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