

Business in the morning, party in the afternoon, Centacare FNQ's Harmony in Action day a hit with Cairns multicultural community



Getting ready for job fair speed dating event marrying employers with job seekers [Click here](#) for image library by Paul Furse, Frontrow Foto.

Monday 7 April 2025. Last month, over 300 job seekers gathered at Far North Queensland's pinnacle shopping and social hub, Cairns Central, for Centacare FNQ's inaugural Harmony in Action event, combining a Jobs Fair, Skills Audit and cultural showcase into one inclusive, immersive and spectacular first of its kind event.

From novel, albeit compelling, speed dating interviews for jobs (not love) to taking advantage of having free professional photographs taken for establishing a LinkedIn profile to listening to panels of local guest speakers on getting started in their job search and one on their experiences, job seekers had much to gain from attending Centacare FNQ's full-day Harmony in Action event.

Centacare FNQ's Manager of Multicultural Services, Andrea Obeyesekere, said last month's Harmony in Action Day was an absolute hit with the community, achieving some remarkable outcomes, not the least of which was a big group of local employers seizing the opportunity to meet and chat with job hunters from cultures across the globe, many of whom received job offers on the spot.

"While Centacare FNQ is renowned for its Harmony Day event, which showcases the rich melting pot of our community through performances and food, Harmony in Action added another layer that fulfils our commitment to a thriving and inclusive multicultural community where everyone can participate," Ms Obeyesekere said.

There was no shortage of colour and spectacle in cultural performances, with a program of 15 professional dance and music groups spanning more than 50 performers showcasing their heritage and talents on stage to the applause and adulation of Cairns and Far North's vibrant community.

Performance groups included Miriki Performing Arts, Cairns Natya Crew, Te Hau Maru Dance Group, Nga Matawaka Maori Cultural Group, CADCAI – Cairns & District Chinese Association, Samoana, Mahamuni Buddhist Society and Drum ∞ Infinity Mugendai.

According to Ms Obeyesekere, the success of Centacare FNQ's first Harmony in Action event far exceeded the organisation and team's expectations but achieved precisely its aim: providing a formative platform to connect job seekers with employers while highlighting a variety of skills and training pathways for individuals from diverse backgrounds.

"It was wonderful to experience the magic of everyone coming together for this day of celebration, collaboration and knowledge sharing.

"While Harmony in Action was a pilot event, its success means it will be an annual fixture on our calendar and will be rolled out across Queensland. However, it is also essential to remember that our team works hard year-round to achieve employment and training outcomes for our communities, fostering participation, productivity, and a sense of belonging. I am so proud of our team and grateful to our stakeholders and community for making this happen.

"In the meantime, we urge Far North Queensland's job seekers to visit Centacare FNQ's website, register their details or visit our Multicultural Services hub at 212 McCormack Street, Manunda," she said.

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About Centacare FNQ Multicultural Services

Centacare FNQ is the lead provider of multicultural services in Far North Queensland. For over 40 years, we have delivered programs that promote a safe, welcoming, and supportive space for newly arrived refugee and migrant communities and those seeking asylum.

Centacare Multicultural Services operates from our Multicultural Services Hub located at 212 McCormack Street Manunda, and our primary focus is on:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Employment & Training
- Social Cohesion

Centacare FNQ's Multicultural services team focuses on supporting newly arrived migrants and refugees in settling into the community.