



# OUR MULTICULTURAL CITY

A COLLECTION OF POEMS BY STUDENTS  
IN THE CITY OF BELMONT



## **Introduction**

The City of Belmont is one of the most diverse local government areas within Western Australia.

One in four people living in Belmont are from a culturally and linguistically diverse background. Based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics from 2011, one in three people in Belmont were born overseas and one in four people are from a non-English speaking background and speak a non-English language at home. The majority of the population are under the age of 45 years, and are highest within 0-4 years and 20-24 years age groups

The City has responded to its diverse community by developing the Multicultural Action Plan 2016-2018: Connecting, Celebrating & Growing (MAP), through a process of consultations and partnerships with stakeholders and community groups.

The MAP is the first for Belmont, the East Metropolitan Regional area, and only one of a few in Western Australia. Multiculturalism is about all Australians and for all Australians. Multiculturalism has been and is important to Belmont. It's about fairness and inclusion. It enhances respect and support

for cultural, religious and linguistic diversity. It is about shared experiences and the make-up of our neighbourhoods and acknowledges the benefits and potential that diversity brings.

The MAP captures our community's and the City's unique values, cultures and experiences and integrates and focuses our efforts in all areas of multiculturalism that affect quality of people's lives.

## **About the Poems**

To further engage with the community, an Expression of Interest for poetry for the MAP was distributed and advertised to local schools during December 2015 to February 2016.

Students from City of Belmont schools were offered an opportunity to write poems that would capture their perceptions of their multicultural world: their hopes and aspirations, their families, their culture and traditions.

Five poems were chosen by the City to include within the MAP and to further acknowledge and recognise the work of all of the students who have submitted their poems, the City has put together this poetry booklet that contains all of the submitted poems.

Hawa Hassan and Zamzam  
Mohamed at the City's  
Harmony Week concert.



## BELMONT CITY

*Belmont is my City,  
It's always had the ability  
To make better changes  
And put a smile on people's faces.*

*My house, my school, my family and friends  
Have always been here  
It's always been the trend.*

*It's got great development,  
And totally weights ton heavier than an elephant,  
The library's always been my fave,  
For the books, I'm always there to save.*

*I'll always give a hand to community,  
Whether it's that I'm bored or want to help or even curiosity  
To upcoming event,  
I'll always to be there in 1 - 2 seconds.*

Poem by: Aafia Umer  
Year 6, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)



## FAMOUS NAMES

*Famous names such as Martin Luther King  
Famous names such as Nelson Mandela  
Both men knew equality, creating  
A new nation that was more better.*

*Other famous names such as Malcolm X  
A coloured, educated Muslim man  
Who after began Muslim Mosque inc.  
Expects to make famous the message of Islam.*

*Famous names such as Mahatma Ghandi  
Who brought equality to India  
He did this by protesting silently  
Now the place is a peaceful area.*

*All of these people fought for their country  
All these people fought for equality.*

Poem by: Abdullahi Abdullah  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)





## FAIR GO FOR ALL

*Welcome to the City of Opportunity  
Where it is a 'fair go' for everyone.  
A city full of joy, laughter and unity,  
Where the people are second to none.*

*This is the people's city,  
A big family.  
The foundation for a better world  
Can be summed up in one word.  
Community.*

*Even if you do not know what to say  
We will still stay.  
We understand, but the fact that you can set it right  
Gives us the reason to stop the fight,*

*This is the people's city, and no one can change that.*

Poem by: Abdelrahman Elsir  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)



## TWO FACES

*A mono-culturalism society  
The exclusion of external culture  
Preservation of Internal culture  
Beloved with the utmost of loyalty  
Ruled, solely, entirely by royalty  
Controlled by and evasive culture  
Prohibiting any counter-culture  
That may disrupt daily unity*

*Change has finally come: Diversity  
Although it is a change for the better  
The response as of now has been bitter  
Still, there is a lot of Adversity  
But the best thing is happiness and smiles  
From each and every corner of the Globe.*

Poem by: Ahadnoor Malik  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)





## AN ARAB WESTERNISED

*The soldiers of the devil were unleashed  
Onto my beloved Arab land of peace  
Where the tall trees grew and the skies they reached  
Forever they stand, in one big piece*

*We lived in the undead lands of bloodshed  
Agony and fear made us look hollow  
With nowhere to hide, this is where it led  
To the Palestinian land of sorrow*

*Then I arrived at these golden soils  
And felt the love they shared with true passion  
They honoured the new-comers like royals  
And united with us with no ration*

*It is this land that I find unity  
And practise my faith in real purity*

Poem by: Ahmad Essarras  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)



## BOLD JOURNEY

*Arriving here brave and bold.  
Never experienced winter, felt quite cold.  
Red and white written all over my name.  
Not knowing anything, found myself quite land.  
Stepping to a whole new world, no stories to be told.  
From sand and rocks to solid grounds.  
Learning adjectives, verbs and mainly nouns.  
Arrived from a foreign country I go into what seemed to be the wild.  
I mumbled stuttered and shivered in frights.  
Not fluent in the language, God please show some light.  
Friday night people drinking whisky.  
I know this part might be risky.  
But I finally fitted in.  
Just like squeezing inside a tin.  
We shopped all night for furniture and food.  
With a difference currency, I never understood.  
I fitted in just fine.  
With different skin tones and nationality  
But we are all united in the Belmont community.*

Poem by: Ayra Delfina  
Year 6, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)





## MULTICULTURAL TOWN

*I live in a country full of diversity  
During my daily dealings, with much strife  
I face such amazing adversity  
Always wondering why I have this life  
But this is a multicultural town  
With people from around and everywhere  
All races are living here black, white and brown  
Attracting the attention of much stares  
With bonds to their culture extremely strong  
For them diversity has little charm  
And faiths that they bring with them all along  
When I think about it, I am alarmed  
I am a migrant to this country  
Looking to hills where there's not one tree*

Poem by: Benaldy Merdi  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)



## VARIOUS SHADES

*In a place full of very various shades  
People wonder around and socialise,  
Although each other they do not despise,  
And at each other they don't throw grenades.*

*But they love and cherish each other  
Although to different gods they pray  
And portray their life in different ways,  
Yet they still love each other like brothers.  
This is the power of diversity.*

*Making us accept people's differences,  
Seeing them as a good rather than bad,  
Which will make us the best in the city,  
Because we accept people's differences.  
And we all love each other like comrades.*

Poem by: Bothayna Ibrahim  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)





## MULTICULTURALISM

*I travel from suburb to suburb, city to city,  
And what my country Australia unfolds,  
The colours of the world in front of my eyes,  
The diversity of what Australia holds.*

*The nationalities surrounding me  
A great mixture in society  
Introduced to many kinds of cultures  
Asia, India, Africa all these identities.*

*Languages and backgrounds  
Foods and festivals,  
Chinese, Italians and Arabians,  
Sharing the benefits all around.*

*My hope for the future is to stay united  
The right to accept the right of others.  
To respect to the demand of social justice.  
Standing shoulder to shoulder with one another.*

*We are all Australians no matter what,  
Enjoying the beach surf and seas  
Green gardens, birds and trees,  
Perth, Western Australia what a beautiful spot.*

Poem by: Faizaan Khan  
Year 6, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)



## HARMONIOUS SOCIETY

*The large screens blared the news of great hatred  
From very far and also very near  
Obvious or not but indeed we hear  
Our freedom casually debated.  
Whether we belong is not very clear  
The population deeply divided  
With thoughts all collided and misguided  
Or those who appear trembling full of fear.  
Saving my soul's imaginary sight  
Of what life beholds in the near future  
And adventure that is full of humour  
And makes the dull night as bright as daylight  
A sight that dreams of a nation of peace  
And promotes love, harmony to increase.*

Poem by: Fatimah Ahmadi  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)





## I DON'T BELONG

*Living in a world where I don't belong.  
Constantly having to change who I am.  
Where race and culture do not get along.  
Stopping me from happiness like a dam.  
Where ever I go, I am chased by hate.  
That follows me like a happiness killer.  
That can make me nervous like a first date.  
As my joy can be crushed like a pillar.  
As I go to my room and cut my skin.  
I scream in pain with my blood on the floor.  
I remember how screwed up my life has been.  
And all the words that can shake up my core.  
Black, terrorist these are the words I hear  
Did you know that these are my biggest fears?*

Poem by: Hala Salih

Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)



## PROUD RACES

*Our time of the year has finally returned  
Where our people will all gather and cheer  
Waiting for new memories to be earned  
And all that mattered was us being here*

*But our people were not always so keen  
It was once all about race and colour  
Up until someone brave made quite a scene;  
We had enough of them shunning our colour*

*But as time went on and people aged  
Differences were now appreciated  
Having our freedom, finally not cased  
Seeing our differences celebrated*

*As days go by the world is finally evolving  
So we all get to work and start solving*

Poem by: Idman Mohamed  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)





## A PALATABLE PROSPECT

*It would start in the wee hours of the morn;  
When I would switch the television on  
And hear it speak truthfully; free of scorn  
And discrimination, at last, long gone.*

*I would be able to walk confidently,  
With no worries clouding my anxious mind.  
Screaming: "You look different and ghostly!"  
And that first impressions forever bind.*

*Lo, I am content with my way of life,  
In spite of it drawing odd perceptions.  
I just hope we learn to love, without strife  
Then we would have a mighty inception.*

*It would be a life-changing beginning,  
With bright faces of all races, grinning.*

Poem by: Israa Ahmed  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)



## THE DAYS OF PROTEST

*A period of chaos, anarchy and stress,  
The people of the city unite and protest,  
An evil tyrant was their leader,  
One which they have planned to overthrow.*

*We cannot be intimidated by threats,  
We shall all fight until our demands are met.  
We should not be misled and deceived,  
Protesting is our only hope.*

*People filled the city and rallied for support,  
While some protested their innocence on St Court,  
Carrying banners, chanting at once,  
'Give us all our freedom and rights!'*

*The outcome of the protest would horrify,  
Soldiers swarmed the city, it would be best to lie,  
About the events that had occurred,  
On the sad, long hours of darkness.*

*In the search for light, we watched, we waited, we fled,  
We fled to escape the very horrors that we dread,  
A door shut and another opened,  
A very joyous life to look for.*

Poem by: Khadra Duale  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)





## A FATHER'S SPEECH

*Twenty years ago he came to this land  
Escaping the war and terror he faced  
Arriving in Perth with nothing planned.  
Memories of the past will not be erased.  
Slowly adjusting to the racial diversity  
Feeling nostalgic for friends and Family  
Soon to be enrolled in University  
A Muslim bound in Christianity*

*Never take things for granted  
He warned me  
Do not waste your freedom in this Country  
Many like us only dream to be free  
Child give generously and live humbly,  
This opportunity is very rare  
Very few Advance Australia fair.*

Poem by: Marwa Idris  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)



## I LOVE TO LIVE IN BELMONT

*I love to live in Belmont  
It's not boring at all,  
I am from Australia  
The country big and tall.  
My parents migrated from China,  
And now Christian.*

*I love to live in Belmont,  
It's not boring at all.  
I love all of the nature,  
The small trees and the tall.  
I just love to sit by the fragile trees,  
Moaning away in the wind.*

*I love to live in Belmont,  
It's not boring at all.  
We stand on holy ground,  
The ground of the Noonsar people,  
Belmont is so multicultural,  
You'll feel like you belong here.  
And that is why I love to live in Belmont.*

Poem by: Matthew Han  
Year 6, Carlisle Primary School



## LIVE LIFE AT BELMONT

*The view and the height, the beautiful light,  
The sunshine is cool  
The beautiful girls and the fun men will join together and make good friends.  
Some may be smart but others have talents.  
Don't be shy, just say hi.  
Everyone is friendly; don't be scared we have your back.  
Don't forget where you are.  
Belmont is nice and helpful place.  
Come on down without a frown.  
Live life at Belmont.*

Poem by: Rangī Smith  
Year 6, Carlisle Primary School



## THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE

*She came to the land of wealth,  
Across the tides they sailed  
Her home, a boat for months,  
Till it hit the land they trailed.*

*Her feet embraced the sand,  
Her freedom hers to show,  
Her worries far behind  
Resting by her friends below.*

*In the distance came running,  
The men in uniform,  
Who sent her to a place,  
A place of families torn.*

*Each morning she awoke,  
To the light of the day.  
And ran outside to hear  
Mysterious voices play.*

*The sound of children playing  
If only she could see  
And join them, the voices.  
Such a pleasant harmony.*

*She stood upon her toes,  
And saw glowing faces,  
Their freedom made her think,  
Back to her steps. Their traces.*

*Now looking back she conceived,  
The struggles that were made,  
Were worth it, all of them.  
Even the pains found to fade.*

*At last, a new life, on the  
Other side of the fence,  
Where grass was greener where  
Living was not an offence.*

Poem by: Razanne Al-Abdeli  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College  
(Kewdale)



## A NATION IN THE MAKING

*Have I ever been so freely conscious,  
have I ever been so lively bethought.  
Never in life have I been courteous,  
nor have I been so competently taunt.*

*Thinking on unity and harmony,  
it is so filled with utter sanctity.  
Bethought of diversity, for it is,  
made to make a nation greater than 'twas.*

*Regardless of gender race or colour,  
for then all humans can have ever more.  
Nothing like this can be ever obtained,  
With stains of judge mentality safeguarded.*

*Having to ponder on such great border  
We'll all have a day of national wonder.*

Poem by: Safwat Tasneem  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)



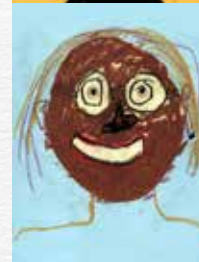
*A white man is no better than a black,  
A black man is no better than a white,  
If we could all cut the black man some slack,  
Equality will invade, shining bright.*

*Shortcomings continue year after year,  
Amazing, good intentioned people,  
But it doesn't take demographers near  
To see that this system is divergent.*

*Reform never gets any real attention,  
Good actions are ignored and aren't see as  
the essential answer our solution.  
A little bit of love adds a lot of space.*

*Racism is no accident for us,  
It is white people's social insurance.*

Poem by: Samia Omar  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)





## THE CITY OF COLOURS

*From Turkey to Australia we have come  
To start a new life and see what's in Perth,  
Tough start in Belmont, we search for a crumb  
We are looking for our place on the Earth.*

*Father has passed and mother is learning  
Children of four working hard to survive.  
Family saved, our life is now turning  
Multiculturalism should now strive.*

*People of many races share this land.  
We search for equality and have found.  
We want to display our culture first hand,  
And our beautiful religious background.*

*Amazing cultures share love and don't taunt,  
Oh how great is our City of Belmont.*

Poem by: Serdar Kalkanci  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)



## BELMONT

*B*elmont is a great place

*E*specially the beautiful parks

*L*ovely gardens and surroundings

*M*arvellous fun and other experiences

*O*ther beautiful places to go

*T*otally awesome activities

Author: Shamika Lazic

Year 5, Carlisle Primary School







## MULTICULTURALISM

*As many as the stars in the haven  
From far distant land we have run  
To find a home of safety  
Far from the sound of guns.*

*A land where people embrace us  
A home that doors open wide  
A place where children play safely  
No longer do we have to hide.*

*The smiles shine on our faces  
We now know what it means to belong  
Proud of our homes and new places  
We united in this brand new song.*

Poem by: Ashley Worth  
Year 9, Belmont City College



## SOMETHING SPECIAL

*All of us are part of something special,  
A community to love and cherish.  
Where everyone is caring and gentle  
And racism of skin is to perish.*

*With the acceptance our foundations are laid,  
And all people of colours stay to dwell,  
And people live at all times unafraid,  
In our city unharmed, happy and well.*

*So let us come forth together as one  
As a diverse home and city for all  
With harmony and peace we all have fun  
And live as one whether black, fat or tall.*

*Belmont, our multicultural, wide City of Belmont  
With people and nature oh so pretty.*

Poem by: Shimma Hamed  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)



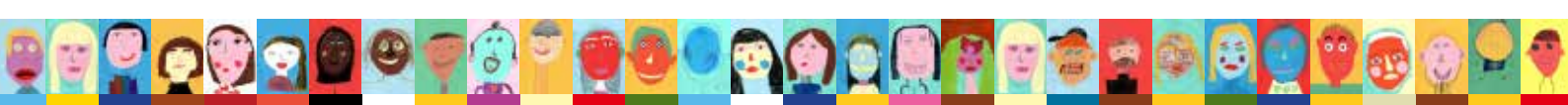


## JUST REMEMBER

*Watching afar, how I wish I could help.  
Oh why am I amongst the forgotten?  
The missiles go off as I hear them yelp,  
Attempting to take over at the inn.  
No longer is there a town full of life,  
Rather there is a town full of dark death.  
Through the ruined rubble there is strife.  
At further inspection I held my breath  
As the worst of the worst enemy came.  
It goes by the name Hatred and pours hate  
Into human souls to light its bad flame,  
Once, I was more popular than the Hate.  
But times have changed and I've had to cease.  
Just remember that my name was once Peace.*

Poem by: Yusra Kirsten  
Year 10, Australian Islamic College (Kewdale)





## About the Redcliffe Park Wall Artwork

Gateway WA and Main Roads WA engaged artist Leanne Bray to collaborate with the community of the Redcliffe area to develop this mural project on the Redcliffe Park Wall, the graphics of which are used throughout the poetry booklet.

The Redcliffe Park Wall involved the design and application of painted artwork on the side of a six metre high wall constructed as part of the Gateway WA project, which is located at the Tonkin Highway/Dunreath Drive interchange.

This artwork is a celebration of community. The inspiration behind the piece of art came predominantly from the children of the Redcliffe area and their insight into what community means to them. Starting with their own family, they expanded it to include all members of their extended family and what is important to them.

Through workshops and communication, the community also highlighted the following as important to them in order of priority, which is also reflected in the artwork:

- People/family
- Connections to land
- Environment
- Multiculturalism
- Activities in the community

The artwork is a mural piece divided into three sections on the wall. Individual panels are made up of traditional ethnic designs representing various multicultural groups in the community. The panels are framed by a top border of portraits created by children in the community and a chain of dancing figures along the bottom of the wall that represent an active community.



Provided by Gateway WA and Main Roads WA  
Artist – Leanne Bray

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