

Model Notice of Motion – Anti-Racism Strategy

This is a template for councillors. Choose Version A or Version B, replace the text highlighted in yellow, delete anything that does not apply, and lodge the motion in the form your council requires. Many councils need the motion and supporting statement copied into their own form. Delete this page before lodging.

There are two versions:

Version A asks officers for advice before Council commits to anything.

Version B commits Council to preparing a draft strategy, which comes back to Council for a decision on public exhibition.

	Version A: Request an officer report	Version B: Prepare a draft strategy
What it does	Asks officers to report on whether and how to use the model, with costs, staff time and a consultation approach	Resolves to prepare a draft strategy based on the model, for a later decision on exhibition
Choose it when	Colleagues want more information first; council's rules discourage motions with resource implications without officer advice; council has little existing anti-racism work	There is already broad support; council has existing work to build on; you want to set a timeframe
What happens next	Officer report to Council by [date]. Council then decides whether to prepare a strategy	Draft strategy to Council by [date], for endorsement for public exhibition

Both versions leave the final decision with Council. Adopting a strategy, and any additional funding, is decided at a later meeting.

Before you lodge

- **Check your council's rules.** Notices of motion are governed by council's Governance Rules (Victoria), Code of Meeting Practice (NSW), or meeting procedures or standing orders (other states and the Northern Territory). Check the lodgement deadline, the required format, and whether a motion with resource implications needs officer comment first.
- **Talk to the CEO or governance officer early.** They can advise on wording and timing, and on whether officers would prefer to report first (Version A).
- **Find a seconder, and brief every councillor.** Share the two-page Councillor Briefing with all your colleagues, not only likely supporters.
- **Expect questions and amendments.** Colleagues may want to change the scope, the cost or the definition. That is a normal part of the process, and the model is designed to be adapted. The Officer Guide sets out how officers can assess amendments impartially.
- **If council is considering a strategy for one community,** optional item 7 in Version B shows how the two can sit together. The paper *Choosing a Model Strategy* sets out which approach may suit different councils.
- **Connect with the community.** Local organisations can support the motion by writing to councillors with the Model Letter to Council, or by speaking at public forum.
- **If the motion is carried,** point officers to antiracismstrategy.org. The strategy, Guideline, Model Council Report and Action Planner are free to download.

Version A: Request an officer report

Notice of Motion No. [number]

Councillor: Cr [name]

Meeting: [Council meeting and date]

Subject: Anti-racism strategy for [LGA name]

Motion

That Council:

1. Notes that racism affects people of many backgrounds in [LGA name] and across Australia, and that most racism goes unreported.
2. Notes the Australian Human Rights Commission's *National Anti-Racism Framework* (2024), which recommends that governments support local anti-racism action.
3. Notes the Model Anti-Racism Strategy for Local Government, a free template for Australian councils that covers racism in all its forms, including racism against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, antisemitism and Islamophobia.
4. Requests the [Chief Executive Officer / General Manager] to provide a report to Council by [date] on:
 - (a) council's existing policies, plans and activities that address racism
 - (b) whether the model is suitable for [LGA name], and any changes needed
 - (c) the indicative cost and staff time needed to prepare and deliver a strategy
 - (d) a proposed approach to consultation, including with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and faith communities
 - (e) how a strategy would relate to council's [Reconciliation Action Plan, multicultural plan and any previously adopted positions].

Supporting statement

[Two or three sentences on why this matters locally: what residents or community organisations have raised with you, or local events.]

Racism is widespread and mostly unreported. In 2025, two in five people in Australia born in Africa or Asia reported experiencing discrimination in the previous year, and only about 15% of people who experience racism report it to an organisation. The Model Anti-Racism Strategy gives council a complete, free starting point, with actions rated for councils of different sizes and an indicative cost for each. This motion asks officers to advise on whether and how to use it before Council makes any commitment.

Resource implications. Preparing the report will need officer time. The motion does not commit Council to further expenditure.

Version B: Prepare a draft strategy

Notice of Motion No. [number]

Councillor: Cr [name]

Meeting: [Council meeting and date]

Subject: Anti-racism strategy for [LGA name]

Motion

That Council:

1. Notes that racism affects people of many backgrounds in [LGA name] and across Australia, and that most racism goes unreported.
2. Notes the Australian Human Rights Commission's *National Anti-Racism Framework* (2024), which recommends that governments support local anti-racism action.
3. Resolves to prepare a [LGA name] Anti-Racism Strategy addressing racism in all its forms, using the Model Anti-Racism Strategy for Local Government as its starting point.
4. Requests the [Chief Executive Officer / General Manager] to:
 - (a) prepare the draft in consultation with [Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and multicultural advisory committees] and local community organisations
 - (b) select actions suited to council's size and capacity, identifying for each the lead team, timeframe, indicative cost and staff time
 - (c) report the draft strategy to Council by [date] for endorsement for public exhibition.
5. Notes that any additional funding will be considered through council's [annual budget process].
6. [Optional] Notes that policies, statements and positions previously adopted by Council will continue to apply, and will be listed in the strategy.
7. [Optional] Notes that a whole-of-racism strategy can include a targeted response for any community experiencing a rise in racism, and can sit alongside [name of existing strategy or plan].

Supporting statement

[Two or three sentences on why this matters locally: what residents or community organisations have raised with you, or local events.]

Racism is widespread and mostly unreported. In 2025, two in five people in Australia born in Africa or Asia reported experiencing discrimination in the previous year, and only about 15% of people who experience racism report it to an organisation. The Model Anti-Racism Strategy gives council a complete, free starting point, with actions rated for councils of different sizes and an indicative cost for each. Using it means officers adapt a tested template rather than starting from scratch, and Council will decide on exhibition and adoption at later meetings.

Resource implications. Preparing the draft will need officer time, estimated at [number] days. Adopting the strategy, and any additional funding, will be decided by Council at a later meeting.