

President's Report

I am very pleased to have reached our first AGM for our committee. Our inaugural event at the Queensland Parliament House in August last year was attended by over 150 guests including Members of Parliament and various community representatives.

Our incorporation is aimed at being the primary body in Queensland to support Japanese nationals and residents in this state. Working closely with entities such as ECCQ (Ethnic Community Council QLD), MCCGC (Multicultural Community Council of Gold Coast) and MFO (Multicultural Families Organisation), we will provide extensive support networks throughout Queensland. We will work in corporation with Queensland government bodies including the Department of Multicultural Affairs QLD, Department of Community, Department of Queensland Health and QPS to ensure Japanese nationals are able to live comfortably. We will also strive to provide update and accurate information by maintaining close connections and communication with the Consulate-General of Japan.

I was honoured to represent the committee at various events such as the Brisbane Port of Call reception for the Japanese Government's Ship for World Youth Program, the last Emperor's Birthday Reception of the Heisei era and the New Year's Reception hosted by the Consulate-General of Japan in Brisbane as a member of the Japan-related community.

Support wise, we have conducted DV victims' support seminars together with local NPOs, already providing several Japanese victims with the correct care and support.

This year we have joined forces with aged care organization, Diversecare, in starting up a new project called 'Speak My Language'. This is the first ever initiative in Australia that will provide support for elderly Japanese people in Japanese, through radio.

For our members we have started up a "Japan's 47 prefectural groups" page. We hope this will encourage everyone to connect with people from the same prefecture in Japan, in Queensland. Prospectively speaking it would be nice if we can instigate interaction between the different prefectural groups in Queensland. From this, exchange between each prefecture and Queensland could be invigorated both economically and culturally. We also support a range of social clubs, such as Awaodori and the Brisbane Idol Project.

We have many people in Queensland who have goodwill and interest towards Japan. In the Language Speech Contest, the Japanese sector has the largest number of entries. To show our support towards Japanese language education we have teamed up with MLTAQ (Modern Language Teacher's Association QLD) with a Recycle Project.

In our first year we have strived to set up a solid foundation, networking with others and trying to establish our goals and vision. With your active engagement, I believe JCQ will continue growing and reaching new heights.

This time we have suggested if we should make minor adjustments to our terms so that it enables JCQ to collect charity. We are taking small but positive steps and will continue to do so in moving forward.

Thank you to all members, both private and corporate, for your warm support and we look forward to working with you all this year.