

GCHCA meets Hon. Glen Elmes at the Gold Coast Community Cabinet Meeting:

The Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association met with Hon. Glen Elmes, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister assisting the Premier, at the Gold Coast Community Cabinet Meeting, held on Sunday, 23 March 2014 at the St Andrews Lutheran College, Tallebudgera. It was a lively and positive meeting and included four committee members and the minister and his colleagues. The minister listened with interest and was very appreciative of the progress GCHCA has made in such a short period. He specifically mentioned our achievement related to obtaining a land from the Gold Coast City Council, obtaining Charity status, obtaining DGR status for the building fund and collecting half-a-million dollars from the community in such a short time. The minister was genuinely interested in the welfare of the community and agreed that the proposed Hindu Education and Cultural precinct in Gold Coast would greatly enhance the cultural experience of Queenslanders and increase the economic activity in this great state of ours. The GCHCA outlined some of the activities that will be held at the new Cultural and Educational Centre:

- Training opportunities classical dance, music and other performing art forms
- Classes to learn Indian language for people of all ages
- Workshops and seminars on spirituality and cultural awareness
- Yoga and meditation classes
- Community events and celebrations
- Library facilities and resources for learning Indian music, dance, languages, culture, heritage, religion, history etc.
- Practical assistance and support for people from disadvantaged backgrounds - legal services, employment, accommodation, counseling, free medical services etc.
- Youth group activities
- Weddings and other ceremonial rites
- Cultural, spiritual and linguistic research
- Facilitate tourism in Gold Coast and Queensland by becoming a must-see location Promoting Queensland during the commonwealth games in 2018 & provide support to visitors from the Indian sub-continent
- Facilitate international student recruitment by catering for the cultural needs of students from the Indian sub-continent, thereby contributing to the economy of Queensland

We have an update on the DA process. The GCHCA is pleased to announce that we have received permission from the Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) to submit a Development Application (DA). This is an important step as GCCC is the owner of the land. The next step is to get the Queensland state government permission and GCHCA has already made the application to the state government. We hope to receive state government permission in the not so distant future, following which we will lodge the development application.

To those who may not be aware of our project, the GCHCA is in the midst of building the Hindu Education and Cultural Precinct in the Gold Coast with the intention to fulfill the religious, educational and cultural needs of the emerging Hindu community. If you would like to support this initiative, you are welcome to join the team --- please send your expression of interest to gchcan@gmail.com or discuss over the phone +61 7 5571 5808. The GCHCA invites the wider community in Australia and elsewhere to join as Life members, if you are not a member yet, and engage in its noble cause and activities. Make your tax-deductible donations through credit card or bank transfer to the GCHCA Building Donation Account: BSB: 064---474 Account: 1048 8900. More information can be found at <http://culture.goldcoasthindu.org/donations/>



