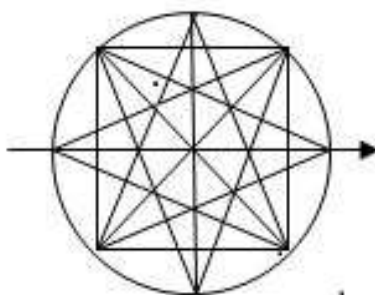


**Chairs:**

Sam Navarria: Mob: 0432 975 558

Cynthia Shaw: Mob: 0466 157 906



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**Email:** chair.msc@gmail.com**Website:** www.ccoei.org.au**MIGRANT SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (Eastern Region)**Standing Committee of the Communities' Council on Ethnic Issues (Eastern Region)  
Inc.

Reg. No. A0017562S

**Minutes****March 1, 2019****Whitehorse Community Centre, Level 1 Conference Room,  
79 Mahoneys Road, Forest Hill.**1. **Welcome** – Cynthia welcomed MSC members and guests.2. **Present**

Sally Brooks	MIC, Strategic Engagement Coordinator
Karen Burton	Uniting
Gitta Clayton	Links – CHBC, Community Engagement Coordinator
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI
Krishiani Dassanayake	CCOEI
Geoff DeYoung	DHS, MSO
Gina Etienne	Eastern Health, Manager Consumer/Community
Tessa Hughes	AMES Australia
Kate Jeffery	Link Health and Community, Senior Research and Planning Officer
Rose Juan	Latrobe Community Health Services, Community Development Officer
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc
Rakhi Khanna,	Yarra Ranges, Team Leader, Supported Playgroups & Early Years Community Support
Cindy Kung	Louise Multicultural Community Centre, Program Coordinator
Sarah Martinelli	Whitehorse Council, Diversity Officer
Raini Nailer	Knox City Council, CD Officer
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Madeleine Parker	DET, Senior Project Officer EAL
Ada Poon	Centre for Holistic Health, Service Coordinator
Barbara Reeckman	Melbourne Polytechnic, AMEP, Pathways Guidance Coordinator,
Som Sengmany	Deakin University
Vicki Selimi	DHS, Centrelink, Multicultural Services Officer
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	Victoria Police Eastern Region Multicultural Liaison Unit, MLO
Robin Steward	ATO, Migrant Education Project Officer
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University. CCOEI
Johnny Tran	Victoria Police MLO
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI, President
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI
Rafek	Mikhail (Mr Creator – video business)

**Apologies**

Jacque Arulanandam	MIC, Settlement Support Worker
Dilnaz Billimoria	Interfaith network
Jessica Bishop	MIC Settlement Community Development Officer
Iresha Butngamwa	ECLC, Community Development Coordinator
Julie Conan-Davies	Swinburne University, AMEP Coordinator

Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI
Chris Christoforou	ECCV
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff Office Eastern, Sheriff Officer – Koori and Multicultural Liaison
Belinda Haydon	Link Health and Community, Community Partnerships Officer
Judy McDougall	MIC, Senior Project Officer
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Alex Mills	Link Health and Community, Opening Doors Coordinator
Jenny Mitchell	Whitehorse Manningham Libraries, CALD Branch Manager
Penny Moore	City of Maroondah, Community Development Officer
Katrina Myers	Box Hill Institute, Program Manager, AMEP & SEE
Carole Pondevie-Lay	Melbourne AMEP, Melbourne Polytechnic, Community Liaison & Engagement Manager
Zhera Yalcin	Kara House, Case Worker
<b>Guests</b>	
Aunty Irene Norman	Elder, Mullum Mullum Community Member, Member of Yeng Gali, Talented Artist and Weaver
Jill West	Indigenous Service Officer, DHS
Leigh Gilmore (apology)	Koori Liaison Officer, Sheriff's Office, Department of Justice & Community Safety

3. **Minutes MSC February 2019** Moved: Clary Verbunt. Seconded Robin Steward. Accepted.
4. **Business Arising** - Incorporated in the agenda.
5. **Correspondence.** Information circulated via email and noted at the meeting.
6. **Meeting focus: Indigenous Welcome and Traditions Explained, Aunty Irene Norman**, Elder, Mullum Mullum Community Member, Member of Yeng Gali, Talented Artist and Weaver  
**Indigenous Servicing - stories and examples: Jill West**, Indigenous Service Officer, Department of Human Services.  
**Leigh Gilmore**, Koori Liaison Officer, Sheriff's Office, Department OJ & Community Safety (apology)

Chris Introduced Auntie Irene Norman, a proud Wailwan woman, Elder from the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, and well known in the community for her weaving and artistic skills. Aunty Irene is also a member of the Yeng Gali Indigenous Choir.

Aunty Irene said that she supported the Reconciliation Australia Factsheet on "Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country", which was circulated at the meeting. She explained the difference between a *Welcome* and an *Acknowledgement*. She said that a 'Welcome to Country' can only be performed by a Traditional Owner of the land or a person from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background who has been given permission from Traditional Owners to welcome visitors to their country. Visitors who wish to come onto their land request permission and when granted the hosting group welcome the visitors, offering them safe passage and protection.

A *Welcome to Country* occurs at the beginning of a formal event and can take many forms such as a Smoking Ceremony. The "*Acknowledgement of Country*" is an opportunity to show respect. There are no set protocols in respect of wording of an *Acknowledgement*, however, it might take the following form:

*'I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the [people] of the [nation] and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging'.*

Aunty Irene explained the use of "Aunty" and "Uncle" is a sign of respect. This could also be respect for a skill that person has and may not relate to the person's age or relationship.

Aunty Irene explained the function of a message stick which is carried from one place to another (the message stick shown at the MSC was made by Chris). The message stick is a symbol of sharing water, food, shelter, and is similar to knocking on a door – a sign of respect and welcome.

Questions and answers:

- Gitta asked about the number of times during an event that the *Acknowledgement* should take place. Aunty Irene answered by saying once is OK, however, others may also wish to pay their respect.
- A member asked about a school concert and whether it was OK for students to dress up as an Aboriginal person in a play. Aunty Irene said that she thought this was perfectly acceptable as long as faces and bodies were not painted black.
- Another question related to the cost of someone performing a *Welcome*.  
Answer: Many Elders make their living performing Welcome ceremonies. The cost would include their time and other expenses such as transport to and from the event. If assistance is needed to source an elder, it is best to approach the Wurrangeri Council who may have a list of Elders willing to officiate.
- Question about the purpose of a Smoking Ceremony. Aunty Irene explained that the smoke is used as a cleansing ceremony.
- Statement: In Yeng Gali there are no personal pronouns – all welcome and points to overall inclusiveness.

**Jill West, Indigenous Service Officer, Department of Human Services.**

Jill: provided family background. She spoke about her father who was the first aboriginal academic. She said that it was her last day in the role of ISO after 4 years of service working in the North East and South including Healesville and the Peninsula. Jill would be going into a new role as a Team Leader to help both staff and customers.

She said that members of the Indigenous Servicing Unit for Victoria must be Aboriginal or TS Islanders. Proving Aboriginal heritage requires that the community identifies them as such and confirms their aboriginality and then presented to the department for recruitment. The role is essentially indigenous strategy reach: support role of vulnerable people. Jill said that DHS is looking for motivated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with an interest in joining the Australian Public Service. People were encouraged to apply for the 12 month Indigenous Apprenticeships Program.

Jill provided a case study of an indigenous person who needed help to bury her partner. Jill was able to advocate with DHS staff to achieve a payment for a proper burial. In this way she was able to influence the outcome through her role which produced a positive result.

**7. 2019 MSC calendar of meetings, events and forums.**

The updated version of the calendar notes a change in the delivery of the Mapping social cohesion focus from April to May, and human rights and family violence focus from May to April.

**2019 MSC CALENDAR**

MSC meeting dates	Meeting focus	Forums/functions/events dates and working groups
04 Jan	No meeting	
01 Feb	Humanitarian Settlement Services - focus on Victoria & Eastern Metropolitan Region: overview of services; recent changes and data on new arrivals (country of birth, ethnicity, faith, gender, age, etc.), who is settling in the Eastern Region, and where, what are their needs and aspirations?	

	Michael Cresham, Team Leader HSP, AMES Australia; Josh Power, Senior Manager SRSS, AMES.	
01 March	Indigenous Welcome and Traditions Explained: what is a Welcome Ceremony, who can officiate, what is the difference between a Welcome Ceremony and an Acknowledgement of Country, what is the correct wording to use when making a speech etc. Aunty Irene Norman, Elder, Mullum Mullum Community Member, Member of Yeng Gali, Talented Artists and Weaver; Jill West, Indigenous Service Officer, DHS The MSC meeting focus will lead into the Mullum Mullum CCOEI Harmony Day celebration planned for Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March.	<b>Harmony Day events – Mullum Mullum and CCOEI Harmony Day Celebration.</b> (Working Group: Chris; Heather; Gitta; Felicity, Leigh, Bwe and Cynthia). Speakers, participants and activities to be explored by the working group. <u>Venue:</u> Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place. Date Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March.
05 April	Law Week: Human Rights with a focus on CALD and family violence: ECLC, Marika Manioudakis, Senior Manager SAGE and MABEL program, and Anika Koochew, managing lawyer; VicPol FV Unit. Senior Sergeant Fiona CALKIN, VicPol Family Violence Regional Training Officer	
03 May	<b>Mapping Social Cohesion</b> Professor Andrew Markus, Monash University	
07 June	Refugee Week event will replace the normal MSC meeting. <u>Venue:</u> Willis Room, Whitehorse Civic Centre, 397 Whitehorse Road Nunawading. A focus on tracing refugee families through the Red Cross. Suggested presenter: Ivana Demasi. Refugee stories: song, dance and crafts. TBA.	
01 July	No meeting	
02 Aug	<b>Homelessness.</b> The Winter Shelter Project (Gitta Clayton) Suggested additional presenters Elijah Care Uniting Wesley. TBA	
06 Sept	<b>Overseas supported initiatives:</b> The Hope Project – Thai/Burma Border (Gitta) Other projects – TBA.	
04 Oct	MSC meeting and CCOEI AGM <u>Venue:</u> Willis Room, Whitehorse Civic Centre 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading Victoria Police – Youth Initiatives TBA	<b>Youth Education Training and Employment forum and expo.</b> A separate Eastern Region Event. Steering Committee to be set up. TBA
02 Nov	<b>Safety and the environment with a focus on CALD:</b> flood, fire, water (swimming) awareness and behaviour. Essential services (MFB, SES, Fisheries). Concerns for new migrants who are unaware of the law/environmental dangers; <b>OR gambling and CALD</b> <b>MSC review</b> of 2019 and plan 2020 activity.	
06 Dec	Planning and celebration: Finalize 2020 MSC Calendar. End of year celebration.	

Other MSC Calendar Topics suggested: Emerging communities in the EMR; people seeking asylum and Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) holders; Refugee Health Nurse Service.

**World special days & local events to note:** (relevant to the work of the MSC for 2019)

**21 March: Harmony Day** (also the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination)

**13-19 May: Law Week Victoria**

**21 May: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**

**20 June: World Refugee Day**

**10 October: World Homeless Day**  
**16 November: International Day for Tolerance**  
**25 November: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**  
**3 December: International Day of Persons with Disabilities**  
**10 December: Human Rights Day**  
**18 December: International Migrants Day**

## **8. Reports**

### **Women's Friendship Group Inc (Helen Jurcevic)**

- Upcoming event - the International Women's Day lunch at Council 8<sup>th</sup> March
- Showed scarves produced by Cambodian women – fund raising

### **La Trobe Community Health. (Rose Juan)**

- Sent a link to a DV app: <https://www.1800respect.org.au/> The Sunny app was developed (in consultation with Women with Disability) to support them if they were to experience any form of violence or abuse. Rose recommended that MSC members read more about it as well as share it with their networks and the community. In addition Rose provided a People with Disability brochure in an email which was subsequently shared with MSC members on the mailing list. This was developed by the Regional Family Violence Partnership which Rose is a part. Feedback about the brochure would be most welcome. [People with Disability brochure](#)

**Yarra Ranges (Rakhi Khanna).** Yarra Ranges are providing a free supported playgroup.

**Eastern NDIS CALD Network (Rose Juan)** Rose provided a report on behalf of the network which meets monthly. Discussions are taking place about a possible event to deliver information sessions to specific CALD communities. More information will be provided at future MSC meetings.

**AMES Australia (Tessa Hughes)** Working with a number of communities to increase access to NDIS. Community champions are identified that will help improve awareness of their community re NDIS.

**Centre for Holistic Health (Ada Poon)** Ada introduced two of their projects:

#### **1. Family Violence Prevention Project for the Chinese community**

The project integrates preventive, early intervention and community building approach to reduce the stigma of FV in the Chinese; encourage help seeking from formal services; and increase the knowledge of the community leaders to identify potential risk of FV and make necessary referrals. The project conducts community education sessions in the wider Chinese community to raise their awareness about the impact of FV, the cultural stigma toward FV, and as well Australia Family Law and support services for victims of FV. The project facilitates workshops for couples to enhance their skills to improve communication, relationship and deal with family conflicts. The workshops successfully engage men. We provide DV awareness training to community and faith group leaders to enhance their knowledge about the referral pathway and what they can do to support families

#### **2. Mental Health project for international post-secondary students from a Chinese speaking background**

This project provides support to international students who experience adjustment stress, mental health issues and social isolation. We provide mental health first aid training to student leaders, emotional management workshop to help students to deal with negative emotions, individual counselling and therapeutic groups to support students to overcome their psychological and mental health issues. We also have a student ambassador scheme to support students to promote mental well-being in their campus.

**DHS (Vicki Selimi)** Vicki asked services to pass on important information to clients namely that Child Care Subsidies require updated estimates or debts may be incurred.

**Debts:**

- Bwe raised issue of debts (and particularly errors) causing great hardship in the community, family violence, marriage breakup, suicidal thoughts
- A MSC Member said that the Senate Estimates revealed that over 2000 people died after receiving a debt. Of the 2000 over 400 were 'vulnerable', with complex needs like mental illness, drug use or were victims of domestic violence. See this link: <https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/2030-people-have-died-after-receiving-centrelink-robodebt-notice/10821272>

**Melbourne Polytechnic (Barbara Reeckman)**

- AMEP new contract model being reviewed with organisations approached for comment. Focus is on the AMEP model and not the provider;
  - Volunteer Tutor Service: available to students who cannot attend classes. The training of volunteers is ongoing.
- 9. Initiatives and innovations (for noting) – incorporated in the 2019 MSC calendar.**

**10. Next MSC Meeting: Friday 5 April 2019, 9.30 –12.00.**

**Focus:** Law Week: Human Rights with a focus on CALD and family violence: Marika Manioudakis, Senior Manager SAGE and MABEL program, and Anika Koochew, managing lawyer ECLC; VicPol FV Unit. Senior Sergeant Fiona CALKIN, VicPol Family Violence Regional Training Officer

**Venue:** Conference Room, Level 1, Whitehorse Community Resource Centre, 79 Mahoney's Rd, Forest Hill.

**NOTES: (1)** For past and current CCOEI and MSC documents, including meeting papers and guest presentations, visit [www.CCOEI.org.au](http://www.CCOEI.org.au) **(2)** To contact Cynthia Shaw or Sam Navarria on matters relating to the MSC please use [chair.msc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.msc@gmail.com)