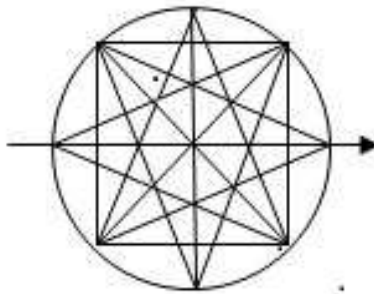


Chairs:

Sam Navarria: Mob: 0432 975 558
 Cynthia Shaw: Mob: 0466 157 906



P O Box 94
 Forest Hill VIC 3131
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

May 3, 2019

**Whitehorse Community Centre, Level 1 Conference Room,
 79 Mahoneys Road, Forest Hill.**

1. Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country

The Acknowledgement of Country was undertaken by Gina Etienne, Manager, Consumer and Community Engagement, Eastern Health. Flora Blaik volunteered to undertake the Acknowledgement of Country at the next meeting.

2. Present

Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Sally Brooks	MIC, Strategic Engagement Coordinator
Gitta Clayton	Links – CHBC, Community Engagement Coordinator
Mervat Dahdoule	MIC
Geoff DeYoung	DHS, MSO
Gina Etienne	Eastern Health, Manager Consumer/Community
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff Office Eastern, Sheriff Officer – Koori and Multicultural Liaison
Rose Juan	Latrobe Community Health Services Ringwood
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc.
Ben Lam	CPSSN, Volunteer
Katrina Myers	Box Hill Institute, Program Manager, AMEP & SEE
Raini Nailor	Knox City Council CD Officer
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Madeleine Parker	DET, Senior Project Officer EAL
Ada Poon	Centre for Holistic Health Service Coordinator
Rafek Mikhail	
Vicki Selimi	DHS, Centrelink, Multicultural Services Officer
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	Victoria Police Eastern Region Multicultural Liaison Unit, MLO
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University. CCOEI
Johnny Tran	Victoria Police MLO
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI, President
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI
Apologies	
Krishiani Dassanayake	CCOEI
Jacquie Arulanandam	MIC, Settlement Support Worker
Jenny Mitchell	Whitehorse Manningham Libraries, CALD Branch Manager
Penny Moore	City of Maroondah, Community Development Officer
Joan Pepi	Knox City Council Multicultural Communities
Barbara Reeckman	Melbourne Polytechnic, AMEP, Pathways Guidance Coordinator,

Robin Steward

ATO Migrant Education

Guest

Professor Andrew Markus

Monash University

3. **Minutes of the April 2019 meeting** - Moved Cynthia Shaw and Seconded by Gina Etienne. Accepted
4. **Business Arising** – incorporated in the agenda
5. **Correspondence.** Information circulated via email. A number of events were promoted during the month of April/May to date. The most recent:
 - Swinburne: Bwe provided hard copies of two courses Aged Care and Bricklaying
 - LMCC: Peace Garden – launch event Thursday 9th May 2019
 - Whitehorse National Sorry Day Flag Raising event Friday 24 May 2019
 - Knox Sorry Day: Sunday, May 26, 2019

6. **Presentation on Eastern Health:** Gina Etienne, Manager, Consumer and Community Engagement, Eastern Health [See Eastern Health Power Point presentation](#)
The Vision of Eastern Health is “Great care, everywhere, every time”. The Mission is “Together we care, learn, discover and innovate”. Eastern Health has grown significantly since establishment 19 years ago and now has around 9500 staff with services located across a large geographical area. Larger sites include: Angliss, Box Hill and Maroondah hospitals as well as Healesville & Yarra Valley, Peter James Centre, Wantirna Health and Yarra Ranges Health. State-wide services are Spectrum and Turning Point.

Consumer population groups include those born in non-English speaking countries (25%). The top 10 languages spoken by consumers (measured by interpreting services demand) are Mandarin, Cantonese, Greek, Vietnamese, Italian, Macedonian, Lao, Persian (excl. Dari) Hindi and Arabic. They employ an in-house team of NAATI accredited interpreters and were the first (2016-2017) to employ a Chin Hakha interpreter when the number of patients with that language began to increase. Other in-house interpreters include Burmese, Italian, Chin languages, Persian, Khmer, Korean, Spanish and Arabic.

7. **Meeting focus: Mapping Social Cohesion, Professor Andrew Markus, Monash University.**
Sam introduced Professor Markus and referred to biographical data on the Monash University website.

Andrew spoke about Australia’s immigration policies, public perceptions and media content analysis where the number of feature articles has increased in both The Australian and The Age in 2018 compared to 2017. He spoke about the importance of media to have a reference point, e.g. when the Guardian in an article stated that “50% think immigration should be reduced” there was no reference point to put this figure in perspective. He noted that some media organisations, such as News Corp Australia, are driven by a political agenda, and media quality is going downhill where media organisations can no longer afford specialist journalists to write well informed and highly researched articles. Currently many journalists do not have the training required. In addition newspapers are looking for headlines that sell, and there is a saying in the media world that “if it bleeds it reads”.

In relation to the [2018 Scanlon Mapping Social Cohesion Surveys](#) there is a great deal of interest in other overseas surveys. Andrew mentioned the PEW Research Centre of public opinion. He also spoke about findings from the Canadian Environics Institute in relation to their survey on [Public Opinion of Immigration and Refugees](#). In Canada this survey demonstrated a positive attitude to immigration where the annual intake is 300,000, a much larger program than Australia, which has the public support of Canadian citizens.

The Science of Surveying – survey construction: Andrew outlined some survey methods, their strengths and limitations. Aspects of survey methods include questionnaires structure; wording; placement; survey mode; random sample (or opt in); sample size; margin of error, and reference point. The Scanlon Foundation is strong on quality and ensures that its surveys have a reference point. People reading these surveys can look at issues critically.

The 2018 Surveys had 77 questions (56 substantive and 21 demographic). Surveys were administered in two modes (a first in social cohesion surveys):

- Mode RDD 9 July - 11 August administration by Interviewer with a sample size of 1500.
- Mode LinA 16 July – 29 July administration by Panel and Interviewer (12%) with a sample size of 2,260.

Andrew noted that population growth - between 2012 – 2017 in Victoria has been significant (2.3%) compared to NSW (1.50%) and Australia wide (1.59%)

He also highlighted the magnitude of change which has tested Australia’s social cohesion since 2007:

- the Global Financial Crisis,
- declining manufacturing industry,
- heightened cost of living,
- sustained population growth,
- increasing cultural and ethnic diversity,
- political instability with six Prime Ministers in ten years.

Despite these changes, Australians remain overwhelmingly supportive of the multicultural character of their nation and of the value of immigration. Indeed, over the course of a period of dramatic change, the Scanlon Foundation research has found that a large majority of Australians have demonstrated a remarkable resilience and optimism about the future.

On behalf of the MSC Sam thanked Professor Markus for his presentation and wished him continuing success with his work on mapping social cohesion.

8. MSC 2019 Calendar of meetings, events and forums.

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 th March.	Harmony Day events – Mullum Mullum and CCOEI Harmony Day Celebration. (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 th March.
05 April	Law Week: Human Rights with a focus on CALD and family violence: ECLC, Marika Manioudakis, Senior Manager SAGE and MABEL program;	

	VicPol FV Unit. Senior Sergeant Fiona CALKIN, VicPol Family Violence Regional Training Officer	
03 May	Mapping Social Cohesion 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	Homelessness. The Winter Shelter Project (Gitta Clayton) Suggested additional presenters Elijah Care Uniting Wesley. TBA	
06 Sept	Overseas supported initiatives: The Hope Project – Thai/Burma Border (Gitta) Other projects – TBA.	
04 Oct	MSC meeting and CCOEI AGM Venue: Willis Room, Whitehorse Civic Centre 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading Victoria Police – Youth Initiatives TBA	Youth Education Training and Employment forum and expo. A separate Eastern Region Event. Steering Committee to be set up - TBA
02 Nov	Safety and the environment with a focus on CALD: flood, Fire, water (swimming) awareness and behaviour. Essential services (MFB, SES, Fisheries). Concerns for new migrants who are unaware of the law/environmental dangers; OR gambling and CALD MSC review 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

9. Reports

Women's Friendship Group (Helen Jurcevic) Helen said that loneliness and isolation continue to be issues in the community. A lack of companionship leads to illness that can be deadly. Helen said that there is consideration for a Federal Minister for Loneliness. Dilnaz said that many countries overseas already have a Minister with the portfolio responsibility of loneliness. Members thought this would be a very good initiative.

DHS (Vicki Selimi) – Participation and reporting requirements in 4 languages online – visit Centrelink website.

Knox City (Raini Nailer) – For National Sorry Day, Knox City invitation to its Sorry Day 26 May at the Knox Civic Centre Flag raising ceremony. Further information link <https://www.knox.vic.gov.au/sorry>

Box Hill Institute (Katrina Myers) Food Handling Certificate course offered to AMEP students at Lyildale campus.

VicPol (Johnny Tran) - Online reporting – uses a central number to get assistance.

Links CHBC (Gitta Clayton) - Winter Shelter project: needs volunteers – time commitment and different shifts.

Interfaith Network (Dilnaz Billimoria) Four governments in Inner East working on preventing family violence with a focus on what people could do to identify and act on family violence.

Migrant Information Centre (Mervat Dahdoule)

- Mervat said that volunteers are needed for their program which assists people who suffer from loneliness and isolation. Volunteers who are able to visit someone just once a week would find they could make a big difference in the life of a vulnerable person, alleviating loneliness and alienation. Flyer distributed;
- MIC have recently experienced a significant change in that they are no longer able to access free interpreters;
- The MIC has a range of “business as usual” programs such as the Homework program, Play groups including the Grandparents group. The MIC newsletter contains information about programs and news. If anyone would like to be on the mailing list please contact the MIC.

10. Initiatives and innovations (for noting) – incorporated in the 2019 MSC calendar.

11. Next MSC Meeting: Friday 2 August 2019, 9.30 –12.00.

1. Focus: programs and services

**The Winter Shelter Project, CHBC LINKS, Gitta Clayton
Elisha Care, Geoff Marsh.**

2. Working locally: Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV), Kris Pavlidis (Chair) and Chris Christoforou (Executive 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 **(2)** To contact Cynthia Shaw or Sam Navarria on matters relating to the MSC please use chair.msc@gmail.com