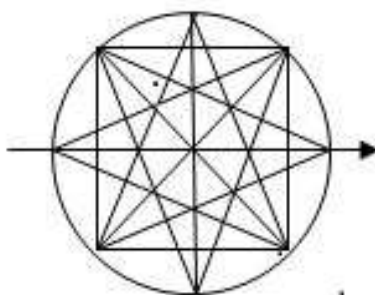


**Chairs:**

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****August 2, 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 Cumle Adegbola, Swinburne University and CCOEI

**2. Present**

Kunle Adegbola,	Swinburne University and CCOEI
Marisa Bryant	Link Health and Community, Project Officer - Opening Doors
Ash Chand	LOTE, Client Services Manager
Linda Chen	Community Member
Gitta Clayton	Links – CHBC, Community Engagement Coordinator
Mervat Dahdoule	MIC
Geoff DeYoung	DHS, MSO
Gina Etienne	Eastern Health, Manager Consumer/Community
Rose Juan	Latrobe Community Health Services Ringwood, Community Development and Capacity Building Coordinator
Ben Lam	CPSSN, Volunteer
Yakiko Li	Centre for Holistic Health, Placement Student
Raini Nailor	Knox City Council CD Officer
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Justine Negus	Melbourne Polytechnic, Hub and Innovation Manager
Osman Osman	Cancer Council Victoria, Community Engagement Specialist
Duleep Pereira	Volunteer
Ada Poon	Centre for Holistic Health Service Coordinator
Chris Rainbow	Centre for Holistic Health, Placement Student
Jacqui Robson	Foundation House, Coordinator Eastern Region
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University. CCOEI
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI, President
Kaming Wan	Centre for Holistic Health, Placement Student
Sherman Wong	Volunteer
<b>Apologies</b>	
Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Flora Blaik	Swinburne University, Migrant Students Placement Officer
Rick Comfort	DHS Centrelink, MSO
Krishani Dassanayake	CCOEI
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff Office Eastern, Sheriff Officer – Koori and Multicultural Liaison
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc.

Bronwyn Morphett	City of Manningham
Katrina Myers	Box Hill Institute, Program Manager, AMEP & SEE
Madeleine Parker	DET, Senior Project Officer EAL
Carole Pondevie-Lay	Melbourne Polytechnic, Community Liaison and Engagement Manager
Barbara Reeckman	Melbourne Polytechnic, AMEP, Pathways Guidance Coordinator,
Vicki Selimi	DHS, Centrelink, Multicultural Services Officer
Robin Steward	ATO Migrant Education
Thong Tawng	Foundation House, Community Liaison Worker
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community Nieuw Holland Dutch Club, CCOEI

**Guests and presenters**

Gitta Clayton	Winter Shelter Project, CHBC LINKS
Chris Christoforou	ECCV, Executive Officer
Geoff Marsh	Elisha Care
Kris Pavlidis	ECCV, Chairperson

3. **Minutes of the May 2019 meeting** – Moved Bwe Thay, seconded Sui Ting Tse. Accepted

4. **Business Arising** – incorporated in the agenda

5. **Correspondence** – various; circulated via email.

6. **Meeting Focus - Homelessness: programs and services.**

6.1 **The Winter Shelter Program, presented by Gitta Clayton, Croydon Hills Baptist Church, Winter Shelter Program Coordinator.**

The program by-line is: *'A warm meal, a safe place to sleep and a welcoming smile'*. Gitta said that the program started in June 2018. The program runs in the winter months. Seven churches open their doors to homeless men one night a week each. Men are referred to the program by Uniting Wesley. A bus picks them up and takes them to the host church for that night. A team of volunteers set everything up for that night. A trailer with a hot shower and generous towels is available and often the men will queue up for their shower. A three course meal is prepared by volunteers. Participants are called 'guests'. Guests and volunteers all sit down to eat the evening meal together. Although the program is delivered through churches it is not evangelistic in nature.

Gitta showed a video of the guests and volunteers.

Guests comments:

- Feeling welcome
- Having a safe place and a good sleep is priceless
- Getting my self-esteem back
- Food in my stomach and a roof over my head means one less thing to worry about
- Good conversation and have a laugh

Volunteers/organiser comments:

- Many volunteers – a huge response
- Feels like Christianity has become practical
- Excellent training for volunteers
- Churches pulling together to accomplish this goal.

Gitta said that the program has over 300 volunteers and it is often quite challenging to give each volunteer a job. There are 3 shifts each night starting at 5:30 pm and ending after the breakfast shift the next morning. After breakfast the bus then drops the guests off in Ringwood.

6.2 **Elisha Care, presented by Geoff Marsh**

**Beginnings.** Around 2005, with drugs and heroin and so many damaged people who felt they had no hope and nowhere to go, a small group started in a small way in Croydon, gathering at a café meeting people and talking.

It wasn't long before these meetings grew as people enjoyed having a chat and a coffee and talking about their struggles. This is how 'Elishacare' started. It has also spread to Lilydale to help people change their lives.

Engagement with homeless people was 'on the ground' trying to help individuals one by one to change their life. Mental health was at the centre of the overall problem. Many of the men felt they were unemployable. Support was provided in a number of ways such as going to court with people. The next step was housing, so they set up some homes. Then people had time on their hands and no work. Geoff saw an opportunity with members of the community needing some help with gardening or cleaning or rubbish removal. Geoff said that they did this work together and they grew organically together.

A Social Enterprise business was set up serving the community and building momentum. Through a generous benefactor with a cheque for \$25,000 they were able to purchase a bus. They set up one team – got work, then set up another team and so on. Now there are 3 garden teams. Their work has even extended to house painting and car detailing. The business is now supported by Council, the police and others.

Clients needed someone to believe in them, not just to get sober but to find life and a purpose. Geoff said that it was a privilege to bring hope to desperate people. Walking with them and watching them grow into people learning to care for others, whilst building relationships, their confidence and their skills.

He described how he helped a group of homeless Burmese men who lived in a park. He invited them to come and stay. One is now undertaking a carpentry apprenticeship. A Chin driver now takes other Chin people to work in the community.

Geoff said that Elisha Care are registered for the NDIS for gardening and house cleaning.

Sam thanked Gitta and Geoff for their inspirational presentations.

#### **7. Working locally: Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV), Kris Pavlidis (Chair) and Chris Christoforou (Executive Officer)**

Kris said that the ECCV is the peak body in Victoria for ethnic community organisations. It is an advocacy body and provides no direct service. She is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year with ECCV and has also been Mayor of City of Whittlesea a number of times. The ECCV has a 14 Member Board with 3 co-opted members.

The ECCV is also a member and Victorian representative of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA). Its mission is *"to work to ensure that we remain a member driven peak body committed to empowering people from culturally diverse backgrounds. We strive to give voice to multicultural Victoria. We strive to advocate for human rights, freedom, respect, equality and dignity for ethnic and multicultural communities and in building a socially cohesive and inclusive Victorian community"*.

Kris said that the ECCV is member-based with over 220 organisation members.

The MSC brought to Kris' attention some issues of concern including Robodebt and Australian Citizenship. As these are federal issues, she is escalating them to FECCA. The Federation has access to political and other organisations and is in a better position to progress these issues.

Chris Christoforou joined the ECCV at the start of 2019. He said he was very impressed with relationships in the Eastern Region. He said it was important to engage to get good outcomes that lead to social cohesion. In order to have the power to influence politics ECCV works with the system. He said there would be a Members Forum on the 6<sup>th</sup> September. Invitations would go out shortly. The forum is action oriented with discussion. Issues are fed up to the Federation of Ethnic Community Councils Australia.

Sam thanked Kris and Chris and wished the ECCV continuing success in its advocacy role.

## 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 <sup>th</sup> March.	<b>Harmony Day events – Mullum Mullum and CCOEI Harmony Day Celebration.</b> (Working Group: Chris; Heather; Gitta; Felicity, Thong, Leigh, Bwe and Cynthia). Speakers, participants and activities to be explored by the working group. <u>Venue:</u> Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place. <u>Date</u> 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; 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. Refugee stories: song, dance and crafts. TBA.	
01 July	No meeting	
02 Aug	<b>Homelessness.</b> The Winter Shelter Project (Gitta Clayton) Elijah Care (Geoff Marsh)	
06 Sept	<b>Overseas supported initiatives:</b> The Hope Project – Thai/Burma Border (Gitta Clayton); 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	Proposed (to be confirmed): Youth Education Training and Employment forum and expo. A separate Eastern Region event.
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; OR gambling <b>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**

## 9. Reports

**CCOEI (Bwe Thay)** Bwe played a video made during Refugee Week by EACH for their rebranding of their Service Principle: "Welcome, Empathy and Hope".

Bwe reminded members that the CCOEI Excellence Award for 2019 would be announced at the AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019. He called for nominations from members by the next MSC meeting. All nominations to go to either Bwe Thay at email [bthay@swin.edu.au](mailto:bthay@swin.edu.au) or Cynthia Shaw at email [chair.msc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.msc@gmail.com)

**Melbourne Polytechnic (Justine Negus)** Melbourne Polytechnic delivers the AMEP in metro and regional Victoria. AMEP flyer distributed. Noted the AMEP Volunteer Tutor Scheme looking to recruit volunteers. 1-2 hours per week commitment required.

**Link Health and Community (Marisa Bryant)** The 6 month Opening Doors program is open to new emerging leaders. Flyer distributed. Program aims to build skills of emerging and current leaders. There is a 3 day retreat with workshops. For some communities it is a struggle to find work and this program provides a good starting base. Cynthia said that we know of many leaders who have completed this program in the past and have come away having completed excellent grass roots projects.

**Latrobe Community Health Services (Rose Juan)** NDIS \$400M. Any organisation can apply for these capacity building money. Funding application open September 9 and close 19 October. For the Information Linkages and Capacity Building grants – go to [www.communitygrants.gov.au](http://www.communitygrants.gov.au)

LCHS is looking to employ a support coordinator who speaks Nepalese. Contact Rose at [rose.juan@lchs.com.au](mailto:rose.juan@lchs.com.au)

**Cancer Council (Osman Osman)** Osman will send written information about the Multicultural Bowel cancer media campaign. *(Subsequently information was forwarded to MSC Members about the newly launched Arabic & Mandarin Bowel Cancer Awareness media campaigns 2019. The campaign consists of print, radio and digital media components targeting the Arabic-speaking and Mandarin-speaking communities).*

**Eastern Health (Gina Etienne)** Gina informed members that Eastern Health had won an award for the *Most outstanding Metro Hospital*.

**Regional Advisory Council (RAC), Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) – (Bwe Thay)** Bwe reported that RACS have been extended by 6 months. The Eastern RAC has three members from the MSC (Bwe Thay, James Tungman, and Helen Forbes-Mewett).

**Swinburne University (Bwe Thay)** – looking for work placement for students enrolling in the Diploma of Community Services. September to November.

**Foundation House (Jacqui Robson and Thong Za Tawng)** The Foundation are seeing people from the following backgrounds in their office: Chin, Persian and Iranian communities. There has been a cut to funding for asylum seekers. Issues include barriers to employment.

**Knox City Council (Raini Nailer)** Local Treaty Conversation evening will be held on the 9th August 6:30 pm. The purpose of the Local Treaty Conversation evening is to support and facilitate deeper local conversations with the non-Aboriginal community.

**CPSSN (Ben Lam)** The Lanyard initiative has now been extended to include the elderly and anyone with a disability.

**Migrant Information Centre (Mervat Dahdoule)**

- Volunteers, particularly those with community languages, still needed for a program which assists people who suffer loneliness and isolation;
- MIC is supporting people to enter the rental market;
- The MIC has a range of “business as usual” programs such as the Homework program, Play groups including the Grandparents group (Ringwood, Croydon and Box Hill);

**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: Project Hope, CHBC LINKS, Gitta Clayton**

**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)