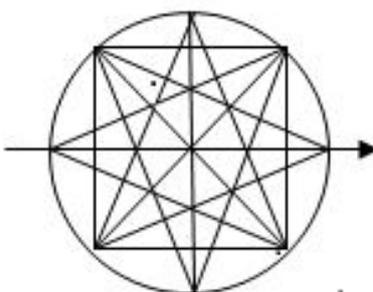


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Standing Committee of the Communities' Council on Ethnic Issues (Eastern Region)

Inc.

Reg. No. A0017562S

Minutes**November 2, 2019****Whitehorse Community Centre, Level 1 Conference Room,
79 Mahoneys Road, Forest Hill.****1. Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country**

Mahsa Hesampour, Community member – acknowledgment of country.

2. Present

Kunle Adegbola,	Swinburne University Student
Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Sally Brooks	Migrant Information Centre
Iresha Buthgamnwa	Eastern Community Legal Centre, Community Development Coordinator
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI, Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI, Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place
Rayce Coyte	IMVC, National Disability Coordinator Officer
Mervat Dahdoule	MIC
Krishiani Dassanayake	CCOEI, Community member
Geoff de Young	Dept. of Human Services, MSO
Gina Etienne	Eastern Health, Manager consumer/community
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior lecturer and researcher
Helen Jurcevic OAM	Women's Friendship Group Manningham
Cindy Kung	Louise Multicultural Community Centre, Program Coordinator
Sarah Martinelli	City of Whitehorse, Com. Dev. Officer - Diversity
Sam Navarria	MSC/CCOEI
Justine Negus	Melbourne Polytechnic, Education and Innovation Hub Manager
Madeleine Parker	DET Senior Project Officer
Jenny Seddon	Louise Multicultural Community Centre, President CoM
Vicki Selimi	Dept. of Human Services, MSO
Rachel Soh	Women's Health East, Health Promotion Officer
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University, Community Liaison Officer; CCOEI
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI, President
Clary Verbunt	Nieuw Holland Dutch Elderly Social Club, CCOEI

Apologies

Gitta Clayton	CHBC/Winter Shelter and Sharing Hope
Rick Comfort	DHS Centrelink MSO
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff's Office – Eastern
Jenny Mitchell	Whitehorse Manningham Libraries, CALD Branch Manager
Bronwyn Morphet	Manningham Social Planning and Community Development
Barbara Reeckman	Melbourne Polytechnic, AMEP
Jaqui Robson	Foundation House
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI

Guests and presenters

Frank Yaman
Owen Butler
Natasha Wills

Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB), Multicultural Liaison Officer (MLO)
Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB), Multicultural Liaison Officer (MLO)
Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA), Senior Fisheries Officer

3. Minutes MSC September 2019 meeting

Moved Chris Cosgriff, seconded Iresha Buthgamnwa. Minutes accepted.

4. Business Arising – incorporated in the November meeting agenda.

5. Correspondence – WIN *Faith and our Environment* forum promoted by Bwe Thay and Dilnaz Billimoria. Flyer circulated.
Correspondence circulated by Cynthia Shaw.

6. Meeting Focus - Laws and dangers (fires and fisheries) and newly arrived communities

Members of the MSC briefly introduced themselves.

Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) – Frank Yaman, Multicultural Liaison Officer (MLO) and Owen Butler, MLO Northern District.

Frank outlined the role and responsibilities of the Multicultural Liaison Officer (MLO) particularly in relation to the work with CALD communities, engaging them to be actively involved in fire safety.

He described the work of the MFB as multifaceted, and one that responds to local, national and international needs. The MFB MLOs perform an educational role - developing fire awareness and prevention strategies and practices in communities. They also attend to fires on shore (in homes) and on boats, such as at marinas, medical emergencies and contingencies. They are involved internationally sharing knowledge, skills, resources and expertise about fire management.

Frank highlighted the *Home Fire Safety*, a key resource preparing for the prevention of fires in the home and managing incidents. The resource is educational and has been used extensively, building up expectations and awareness of communities and the MFB.

Frank spoke about the hesitancy of some refugee and migrant groups to engage with 'uniforms'. The MFB and the CFA are open organisations aware of cultural sensitivities and are welcoming, non-threatening and ready to share and engage with communities. The MFB practice is to engage, educate, and inform. Community is seen as a partner in such engagement.

Fire awareness, and prevention and managing fires, involves the identification of risks – this is central in fire safety education. In developing awareness of fire safety, the MFB uses scenarios that contextualize fire emergencies and accessing of services. Fire usage practices centre on engaging, educating, and informing and seeing communities as partners. The work of the MFB is to raise awareness of risks and identifying risks, and educate on fire prevention practices.

Frank noted the fires that have occurred over the last few years with a tragic toll on communities, e.g. bushfires, and fires caused by materials such as flammable cladding in apartment towers. He singled out tragedies involving fires and international students, where one of the issues has been the language barrier. The work with specific language groups, not necessarily limited to international students, has been with Asian communities, e.g. the Chinese speaking communities of Box Hill. In relation to international students the language barrier, overcrowding and cultural aspects have been issues, but the approach has not been one of blaming but identifying problems and finding solutions. These issues indicate a lack of compliance with laws. Schools have welcomed the fire safety awareness presentations in relation to international students.

The education and awareness of fire safety has been promoted at stalls at fairs and festivals; a fire truck display has been an attraction for children and adults and has contributed to building relationships.

Questions and comments

Does MFB get to meet rooming house agencies? – No because of privacy issues. Communication is via community and faith leaders (through interfaith networks).

Issues of MFB/CFA (paid workers, full time and part time volunteers). Fire safety education and services constitute a full time job requiring the workforce to respond quickly to emergencies. Only two fire service locations in the MFB are staffed by volunteers. The response time is critical and the response time where staff is full time and paid is faster than where staff is only volunteers. Ongoing study on population density indicates that fire stations are to be manned permanently by fire officers. New suburbs are popping up in the Melbourne Metro areas. Crucial that response time is reduced so that safety can be heightened. In the Melbourne Metro there have been fire explosions, hazard activities and environmental fires that require immediate response.

Community education: MLOs will get to any community groups and provide a one hour presentation with interpreters and using multilingual booklets. Example of community engagement *Taste of Harmony* where the community is invited to the fire station for a bbq and meet fire safety staff. Members of communities are welcome to become volunteers.

Box Hill high rise towers: people are not evacuating buildings when warning bells are activated so multilingual messages are used to educate tenants. Frank noted that the Box Hill Fire Station has more trucks and staff because Box Hill is a mini city hence evacuation measures are of a greater scale. Sprinkler systems are in all high rise buildings. Cladding on outside of buildings but aerial systems go up only to the seventh floor. Fire services are giving information to tenants in apartments, rental agencies, real estate agents, landlords etc.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA), Natasha Wills, Senior Fisheries Officer

Natasha has been a VFA Officer for the last 10 years in NW Victoria. She spoke of the stewardship role of the VFA, whose focus is more on crime prevention than law enforcement (enforcement is mainly on marinas and jetties). The VFA's job is to manage fish stock in Victoria; ensure sustainability and access to the recreational sector (fun, network, eating fish). Access to the commercial sector is governed under different laws. Currently there are 78 VFA Fisheries Officers (FO), and more are needed in the NW.

The key role for the FOs is education, law enforcement and management. FOs are seen in the field, and are open and approachable reducing the anxiety that CALD people may feel about 'uniforms'.

People breaking the law in relation to fisheries could face significant fines and other consequences. With regard to people who hold refugee and temporary visas going to court may affect their visa status. The FOs crime prevention work is helpful to communities before they go fishing. Other aspects of the role which are just as important are to instil values, stewardship and compliance.

To assist its work, the VFA has produced fishing manuals in community languages. Work with CALD communities is year round, particularly October-April, participating in community events such as lunar festivals.

The VFA has developed ESL materials that have been used in primary, secondary and language schools. It has also provided presentations and hands on fishing activities to students. They educate children and the public in relation to water and fish management; size and measurement of fish; water safety, etc. For school activities and for community education and engagement activities, bait and rods are supplied by VFA. Such activities are well attended, for example the Education Day youth and senior citizens stewardship which covers why it is important to obey rules and regulations, followed up by fishing day for families and kids.

The law requires that except for seniors, those who are 18+ must have a fishing licence that they carry at all times when fishing: one year licence \$34; 3 year licence \$90. Visitors need to buy a 1-2 day FL \$5 approx.

Natasha noted that at times language gets in the way and the meaning is lost in translation, e.g. fishing for abalone requires the use of a blunt tool, but in Chinese this has been translated as 'knife' – a sharp tool! The phrase 'bag limit 5' means 5 fish in a bag not 5 bags. (For carp no bag limit).

Some multilingual booklets are available, e.g. *Go Fishing* in Chinese. Part of the work of the VFA Officers is to get community feedback and incorporate it in their work.

To assist their work, the VFA have also developed a series of animations/cartoons for youth and families, and a video was shown which conveyed the messages without the use of language. The videos explore a variety of situations, including cultural aspects of fishing and common threads with different cultures, e.g. why fishing is important for different groups. Natasha gave an example of an activity based approach that works very well with people of different backgrounds, e.g. cultural, specific education and fishing day Marina and fresh water discovery Centre – Queenscliff Vic Mini aquarium; beach walks, marine pools, snorkelling, people taken on boats for a fishing experience.

Quiet times for the VFA are the winter months.

Sam thanked Frank, Owen and Natasha and wished them well in their work with communities.

7. 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, Thong, Leigh, Bwe and Cynthia). Speakers, participants and activities to be explored by the working group. Venue: 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. Venue: 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	Homelessness. The Winter Shelter Project (Gitta Clayton) Elijah Care (Geoff Marsh)	

06 Sept	Overseas supported initiatives: The Sharing Hope Project – Thai/Burma Border (Gitta Clayton, Dianna Thomas & Julie McLean); IAAAS & Multilingual Disability Hub (Melinda Mann – Program manager)	
04 Oct	MSC meeting and CCOEI AGM Venue: Willis Room, Whitehorse Civic Centre 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading Victoria Police – Youth Initiatives	Youth Education Training and Employment forum and expo. Will not take place this year but has been deferred to 2020 (See Bwe Thay)
02 Nov	Safety and the environment with a focus on CALD: Fire and Fisheries. The law and dangers. Concerns for new migrants who are unaware of the law/environmental and dangers; Frank Yaman, MFB and Natasha Wills VFA MSC review of 2019 and plan 2020 activity.	
06 Dec	Planning and celebration: Finalize 2020 MSC Calendar. End of year celebration.	

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. MSC Calendar review and planning 2020

The following suggestions will be considered further at the December MSC meeting for finalisation of the 2020 MSC calendar of meetings and forums/events. The December meeting will also identify events/forum convenors, organisations and speakers.

2020 MSC CALENDAR - suggested

MSC meeting dates	Suggested topic	Organisation and speaker(s)	Forums/events convenors and working groups
04 Jan	No meeting		
07 Feb	Settlement Services – focus on rural and regional communities. Overview of services; recent changes and data on new arrivals (country of birth, ethnicity, faith, gender, age, etc.), who is settling in country Victoria, where, what are their needs and aspirations? (BELS Wodonga campus has highlighted settlement issues with Congolese settling in Wodonga area.) Monthly presentations on new and emerging communities throughout the year, with a demonstration of cultural artefact, dress, etc. Bwe/Sam to develop.	AMES? Others? Michael Cresham, Team Leader HSP, AMES Australia; Josh Power, Senior Manager SRSS, AMES (TBC)	
06 March	Indigenous cultural traditions and history: Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place.	MSC meeting and speakers from Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place at Mullum Mullum Ringwood	Harmony Day event – Mullum Mullum. Date TBC. Coordination: Chris and Cynthia, working

	Monthly presentations on new and emerging communities throughout the year, with a demonstration of cultural artefact, dress, etc. Bwe/Sam to develop.		group Gina, Gitta, others?
03 April	Refugee Health Nurse Program – an overview of the program, its achievements and plan for the future. Monthly presentations on new and emerging communities throughout the year, with a demonstration of cultural artefact, dress, etc. Bwe/Sam to develop.	Marilyn Spratling; others?	April/May Disability focus – CALD and Disability: Theme: Engagement and Good Practice with CALD communities. Coordination Rayce Coyte
01 May	Communication with CALD in LGAs: barriers and how to overcome them (input from a community group and/or council(s) – communication tools: social media, Apps, interpreting services; LGAs Monthly presentations on new and emerging communities throughout the year, with a demonstration of cultural artefact, dress, etc. Bwe/Sam to develop.	Speakers: LGAs and community groups	
05 June	Refugee week: a celebration of refugee resilience and strength through storytelling. Monthly presentations on new and emerging communities throughout the year, with a demonstration of cultural artefact, dress, etc. Bwe/Sam to develop.	MIC (Sally Brooks and Mervat Dahdoule) TBC	
01 July	No meeting		
07 Aug	Volunteering and new and emerging communities: understanding the value of volunteering Monthly presentations on new and emerging communities throughout the year, with a demonstration of cultural artefact, dress, etc. Bwe/Sam to develop.	Speakers from the community volunteer sector and CALD organisations	Youth forum: Coordinator: Bwe Thay. Workshop format: education, employment, volunteering, displays, stalls, sporting clubs, police, lifesaving skills, MIC - Sally; AMEP/SEE; Employment.
04 Sept	The Royal Commission on Aged Care: findings and applications Monthly presentations on new and emerging communities throughout the year, with a demonstration of cultural artefact, dress, etc. Bwe/Sam to develop.	Gina Etienne, Eastern Health	
02 Oct	Community Emergency Agencies and Services CCOEI AGM Monthly presentations on new and emerging communities throughout the year, with a	SES; MFB Frank Yamen: Victoria Police	

	demonstration of cultural artefact, dress, etc. Bwe/Sam to develop.		
06 Nov	November 2020: Australia's Social Cohesion research Review of MSC Calendar 2020 and planning 2021 Monthly presentations on new and emerging communities throughout the year, with a demonstration of cultural artefact, dress, etc. Bwe/Sam to develop.	Scanlon Foundation Professor Andrew Markus	
04 Dec	Planning and celebration: Finalize 2021 MSC Calendar. End of year celebration		

9. Agency reports

MIC (Mervat Dahdoule): MIC 20th anniversary on the 20th of November;

Department of Education (Madeleine Parker): schools (and churches) series of activities and events both for mainstream and international students commenced with Hakka Chin students.

Women's Friendship Group (Helen Jurcevic): received grant from Bendigo Bank – women's water aerobics.

ATO (Robin Stewart): scam warning flyer; sham contracting; lodging tax returns; multilingual download PDFs; ATO will circulate copies of links. ATO presentations on scams are ongoing.

DHS Centrelink (Geoff and Vicki):

- Job seeker payments category 25/26/27 December and 1 January 2020 closed. Eligibility will remain same;
- Jobactive arrangements will change for newly arrived refugees from 1 January 2020 - If the newly arrived refugee's exemption period ends on or after Wednesday 1 January 2020 (arrived in Australia from early October 2019), the customer will only need to be compulsorily referred to Jobactive once they've been in Australia for 12 months. Customer can still choose to access Jobactive services once they've been in Australia for 6 weeks. The service will be aligned to their level of disadvantage. If the newly arrived refugee's exemption period ends on or before Tuesday 31 of December 2019, the customer will continue to be compulsorily referred to Jobactive once they've been in Australia for 6 months.

Victorian Multicultural Commission - VMC (Bwe Thay): VMC small grants for small community groups \$2K. New and emerging communities' workshop to assist with grants application and translation services. Professionals from the VMC to assist.

Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place (Chris and Heather Cosgriff) – Silent Auction Charity Ball \$150 per head MMIGP – contact Chris/Heather.

ECLC (Iresha Buthgamnwa). ECLC partnership project with Parliament of Victoria to enhance community engagement in the Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR) - Engaging Communities in Democracy Project.

Interfaith network (Dilnaz Billimoria) Happy Diwali! WIN *Faith and our Environment* community forum.

LMCC (Cindy Kung) Eastern Metropolitan Loneliness Dialogue at the Louise Multicultural Centre

CCOEI (Sam Navarria) Congratulations to Bwe Thay on becoming a VMC commissioner.

Sharing Hope (Gitta Clayton) 2020 Sharing Hope Calendars will be available for sale (\$10 cash only) at the December meeting of the MSC.

10. Initiatives and innovations (for noting) – incorporated in the 2019 MSC calendar and new suggestions will be incorporated in the 2020 calendar.

Next MSC Meeting: Friday 6 December 2019, 9.30 –12.00.

Focus: finalise Calendar of MSC 2020 meetings and events; and EOY celebration.

NOTES: To contact Cynthia Shaw or Sam Navarria please use chair.msc@gmail.com