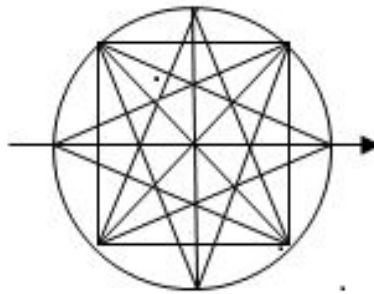


**Chairs:**

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**MIGRANT SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (Eastern Region)**

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

Reg. No. A0017562S

**Minutes**

**December 4, 2020**

**Zoom meeting – 9:30 am – 11:00 am**

1. **Welcome** – Sam Navarria
2. **Acknowledgement of Country** – Ken Pang

3. **Attendance**

**Present**

Tina Andriotis	Box Hill Institute
Donna Askew	ECLC
Jessica Bishop	MIC East Melbourne
Iresha Buthgamnwa	ECLC
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI, Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place Ambassador
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI, Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place Ambassador
Gina Etienne	Eastern Health, Manager consumer/community
Marilyn Gurry	CCOEI Life Member
Helen Jurcevic OAM	Women's Friendship Group Manningham President
Jenny Mitchell	Whitehorse Manningham Libraries CALD Branch Manager
Sam Navarria	MSC/CCOEI
Saarah Ozeer	Bounce
Con Pagonis	CCOEI, ECCV Senior Volunteer
Ken Pang	CCOEI
Madeleine Parker	DET Senior Project Officer EAL
Carole Pondevie-Lay	Melbourne Polytechnic Community Liaison and Engagement Manager
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI Secretary, MSC
Surmeli Aydogan	ECCV, Disability Project
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University, Community Liaison Officer; VMC
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI President
Emma Wilkinson	Boroondara Council

**Apologies**

Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Marisa Briant	Link Health and Community
Gitta Clayton	CHBC/Winter Shelter and Sharing Hope
Krishiani Dassanayake	CCOEI, Community member
Damien Finette	CCOEI
Kate Jeffery	Inner East Primary Care Partnership
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Associate Professor Sociology
Belinda Haydon	Link Health and Community
Sarah Martinelli	City of Whitehorse, Community Development Officer - Diversity
Dan Martinez	Silver Dollar Media

Vicki Selimi	Services Australia Multicultural Services Officer
Rachel So	Women's Health East
Robin Steward	ATO
Clary Verbunt	Nieuw Holland Dutch Elderly Social Club, CCOEI
Rebecca Wickes	Monash University

**Guests**

Jacinta Maloney	ECLC
Ruth Howland	ECLC
Dr Lillian De Bortoli	MSC

**4. Minutes - MSC 6 November 2020 meeting**

Moved Cynthia Shaw, Seconded Sam Navarra.

**5. Business Arising** – incorporated in the meeting agenda.

**6. Correspondence** – circulated to members of the MSC

**7. MSC 2020 Calendar**

Reviewed and updated due to CoVid-19: Mental Health (September); Covid-19 and social inclusion (October), Education and Employment (November), Family Violence services (December). LGAs supporting communities during and post Covid-19 (to be considered in 2021 calendar); Digital Inclusion (to be considered in 2021 calendar). A review of the 2020 MSC program and a survey to plan the 2021 calendar is being done.

**8. Meeting Focus: Family Violence Services through the lens of CoVid-19**

Jacinta Maloney, Manager Partnerships and Community Development Inner East, ECLC;  
Ruth Howland, Program Coordinator, SAGE Family Violence Team, ECLC

Key points from the presentation:

- 16 days of action from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December - A global awareness raising campaign promoting collective action to challenge and prevent violence against women and girls;
- The ECLC provides support and assistance in the Inner East, Outer East and Yarra Ranges through lawyers, client advocates, intake and administrative officers and financial counsellors;
- ECLC has adapted its service delivery during Covid-19 using phone and online platforms
- ECLC assists with legal issues: Family Violence and Intervention Orders; Personal safety and victims of crime assistance; Family law; Criminal law; Fines and Infringements; Debt and other civil matters. Family or domestic violence orders constituted the biggest area during Covid-19;
- Family violence integrated practice programs implemented at ECLC include: SAGE (Support, Advice, Guidance and Empowerment); MABELS (Mothers and Babies Engaging and Living Safely); WELS (Women Engaging and Living Safely)
- SAGE is an integrated model of co-case management, where a lawyer, financial counsellor and an advocate work together to provide intensive legal and family violence support to women experiencing family violence or at risk of family violence. The ECLC SAGE team offers intensive legal and family violence support; case management and strong referral pathways; 'wraparound' support with inclusion of additional services.

On behalf of the MSC, Sam thanked the ECLC and presenters and wished them well in 2021.

**9. MSC survey - analysis: Dr. Lillian De Bortoli**

Lillian provided an overview of the survey, its design and findings.

Key points:

- 26 MSC members took the survey
- Over half of survey participants longer than 5 years in MSC

- Charts show good diversity from different sectors
- 50% members are full time employed
- 92% find the MSC very useful
- Value of MSC: being part of a team; build partnerships; promoting their organisations' services; good networking opportunity
- Most topics are interesting to members, particularly those about Covid recovery, settlement stories and mental health topics. Possibly more about these next year
- Members are keen to assist in forums
- Comments: tighter time keeping, mix of online and in person meetings.

#### **Strategic Planning: Dr Lillian De Bortoli**

MSC survey findings indicated interest in spread/shared ownership of MSC chair by member organisations. Hosting the MSC with support from CCOEI and MSC received wide acceptance, with organisations such as the MIC, Melbourne Polytechnic, ECLC, and Eastern Health expressing interest. The MIC will host the first meeting in 2021 with a focus on Humanitarian Settlement Services as part of the Humanitarian Settlement Program. Some organisations expressed interest in planning forums, and assisting with tasks like writing funding submissions. The 2021 MSC calendar will be circulated with the February 2021 MSC meeting papers.

Sam thanked Lillian for her contribution to the MSC survey, her presentation of findings and facilitating the strategic planning discussion.

<p><b>10. Agency reports and information</b></p>	<p>Time did not allow for agency reports, and members were encouraged to provide written reports post meeting or through the chat function. Information below was received, the first via chat and the second via email. In future it would improve accuracy and facilitate write up if agencies provided a written report prior to the meeting or soon after the meeting. A brief, dot point report would be most welcome.</p> <p>(a) Covid translated materials have been consolidated into one government site (Madelaine Parker) – click link or paste in browser <a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translated-information-about-coronavirus-covid-19https://www.vic.gov.au/supporting-multicultural-communities-through-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translated-information-about-coronavirus-covid-19https://www.vic.gov.au/supporting-multicultural-communities-through-coronavirus-covid-19</a></p> <p><b>(b) Services Australia (Vicki Selimi)</b>  <u>Reporting your employment income is changing</u>          How you report your employment income will change from 7 December 2020          From 7 December 2020, you'll have to report the gross income your employer <b>paid you in your reporting period</b>.</p> <p>You can find your gross income on your payslip. If you don't get a payslip, you can ask your employer.</p> <p>This change will affect you, if you or your partner get employment income and any of the following payments:          Abstudy; Age Pension; Austudy; Carer Payment; Disability Support Pension; Farm Household Allowance; Jobseeker Payment; Partner Allowance; Parenting Payment (single &amp; partnered); Special Benefit; Status Resolution Support Services; Widow Allowance; Youth Allowance</p> <p>If your reporting date falls between 7 and 18 December 2020, you may need to make a one-off calculation.</p> <p>When you report, you'll be asked some extra questions to help you do this one-off calculation. The easiest way to do this is by using either your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centrelink online account through myGov</li> </ul>
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- the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app

You can also use our online calculator to help you. The calculator will be available from 7 December 2020.

You can find out more about these changes by listening to the audio available on Services Australia website.  
([Transcript](#))

For more information go to **[servicesaustralia.gov.au/incomereporting](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/incomereporting)**

Next MSC Meeting: Friday 5 February 2021 - Focus: Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) in Eastern Melbourne. Host: MIC; Chair: Jessica Bishop, Manager, MIC.

**NOTE:** To contact Ken Pang or Sam Navarria use [chair.msc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.msc@gmail.com)