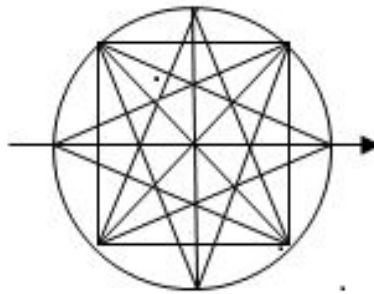


Chairs:

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

February 7, 2020

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

- Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country** - Sui Ting Tse CCOEI President on the occasion of Chinese New Year said "I wish everyone a happy and prosperous Chinese New Year. The Chinese celebrate Chinese New Year for a period of 15 days. The first full moon, that is the 15th day of the first moon, is equivalent to the western Valentine's Day, and is known as Lantern Festival. Tomorrow (8th February 2020) is the 15th day of the Chinese New Year. However, Monash City Council has cancelled the Lantern Festival celebration at Kingsway, Glen Waverley, this year due to health reasons."

2. Attendance

Present

Kunle Adegbola	Swinburne University Community Development Worker
Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Sally Brooks	MIC Strategic Engagement Coordinator
Iresha Butthagmwa	Eastern Community Legal Centre, Community Development Coordinator
Trish Cameron	Eastern Community Legal Centre Coordinator Partnerships and CD
Ash Chand	LOTE Client Services Manager
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI, Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place Ambassador
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI, Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place Ambassador
Mervat Dahdoule	Migrant Information Centre (MIC East Melbourne)
Krishiani Dassanayake	CCOEI, Community member
Gina Etienne	Eastern Health, Manager consumer/community
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff's Office Eastern Koori and Multicultural Liaison
Anthony Huber	Eastern Community Legal Centre Project Officer
Helen Jurcevic OAM	Women's Friendship Group Manningham President
Ben Lam	Chinese Parents Special Support Network Volunteer
Jacinta Maloney	Eastern Community Legal Centre Manager Partnerships and CD
Sarah Martinelli	City of Whitehorse, Community Dev. Officer - Diversity
Daniel Martinez	Silver Dollar Media Managing Director
Jenny Mitchell	Whitehorse Manningham Libraries CALD Branch Manager
Sam Navarria	MSC/CCOEI
Osman Osman	Cancer Council Victoria Community Engagement Specialist
Saarah Ozeer	Bounce Refugee Youth Mentoring Program Director
Madeleine Parker	DET Senior Project Officer EAL
Con Pagonis	CCOEI, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria Senior Volunteer
Carole Pondevie-Lay	Melbourne Polytechnic Community Liaison and Engagement Manager
Som Sengmany	Deakin University, PHD Research Student
Vicki Selimi	Services Australia Multicultural Services Officer

Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI Secretary, MSC
Robin Stewart	Australian Taxation Office Migrant Education
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University, Community Liaison Officer
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI President
Clary Verbunt	Nieuw Holland Dutch Elderly Social Club, CCOEI
Zehra Yalcin	Kara House Case Worker

Apologies

Gitta Clayton	CHBC/Winter Shelter and Sharing Hope
Rick Comfort	Services Australia Multicultural Services Officer
Geoff de Young	Services Australia, Multicultural Services Officer
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Katrine Gabb	City of Manningham
Rose Juan	Latrobe Community Health Community Dev. Capacity Building Co-ord.
Bronwyn Morphett	Manningham Social Planning and Community Development
Barbara Reeckman	Melbourne Polytechnic, AMEP

3. Minutes MSC December 2019 meeting

Moved Clary Verbunt, seconded Chris Cosgriff.

4. Business Arising – incorporated in the meeting agenda.

5. Correspondence – circulated via email to members of the MSC and at the meeting. Items to note:

- (i) Multicultural Hub - Refugee Council of Australia Launch 8/2 at 10:30 am
- (ii) Cultural Diversity Week is celebrated by many organisations such as the Scanlon Foundation - event *A Taste of Harmony* celebrating foods of the world
- (iii) ECCV Annual Report – circulated;
- (iv) International Women's Day (Women in Whitehorse International Women's Day Devonshire Tea 4th March 2020, 4-5pm Hosted by Whitehorse Manningham Libraries. Venue Box Hill Library. Free event.
- (v) Open Mosque Day Sunday 15th March 2020;
- (vi) Global Fiesta – City of Whitehorse. Venue Box Hill Gardens Sunday 15th March 12-4:00 pm;
- (vii) Next MSC meeting proposed for the 6th March at MMIGP 47 Patterson St Ringwood East;
- (ix) **Together in Harmony event (Chris Cosgriff)** 21st March 2020 at MMIGP. This will be a family friendly event with activities for children, Didgeridoo class, Hip-hop dancing and Indigenous dancing class. Prizes for children's activities and a raffle. Refugee groups (Chin, Karen and many others) will demonstrate their culture and traditions through song, dance and stories. Indigenous Smoking Ceremony will start the day. All welcome.

6. Meeting Focus – Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) Services in the Eastern Metropolitan Region. AMES Settlement, speaker Jessica Ferguson (Golnaz Baktiari from AMES apology)

In her presentation, Jessica noted that AMES has over 70 years' experience in settlement services which are delivered with the assistance of a range of stakeholders such as:

EACH – Refugee Health Nurse (dental, maternity, counselling services etc.); Foundation House; Migrant Information Centre for the first 5 years of HSP arrivals in Australia

Jessica gave an overview of the HSP delivered across Victoria, by AMES and consortium of agencies/organisations which specialise in services. AMES prepares an on arrival plan to facilitate and support settlement beginning with reception at the airport, e.g. Redback collects settlement entrants at the airport and organises any special assistance such as ambulance, wheelchairs, etc. Jessica noted that there are instances where the plan could not have prepared for issues like family violence and when a Proposer refuses to provide accommodation.

Complex needs. Some clients have complex needs, e.g. disability and are supported for testing their eligibility for the NDIS. Others may have mental health issues.

Some clients present with legal issues with the Police, Courts, Myki fines, parking fines, etc. Assistance is sought from Victoria Legal Aid, Community Legal Centres, etc. Intensive Support is also provided, e.g. 18 months in cases such as homelessness, needing to go to Court, family violence etc.

Basic household package and other assistance

The package includes a linen pack, white goods, etc. The Housing team conduct the household assessment, and use interpreters to ensure clients understand. Package based on individual circumstances.

Other assistance is provided, e.g. helping with job seeking, preparing a resume. She noted that refugees have 12 months exemption from looking for work. Volunteering is encouraged. Help is provided with job interview practices, internships, part-time and casual work.

Entrants are encouraged to attend preparation for work programs, and AMEP English classes. Some AMEP subprograms, including work focused programs such as SLPET provide additional hours and work placement. Recently an Alumni was formed for support.

Jessica reiterated that clients cannot be exited from the HSP until they have an awareness of services. This is done through orientation information sessions. Their awareness of services is tested to ensure they have an adequate level of knowledge and independence.

Online information and support, e.g. AMES have developed an easy to understand App about Australia, pre-arrival information witch also deals with expectations.

Victorian arrivals in the last three years:

2018-2019 18,750

2019-2020 21, 000

2016-2017 (additional 12,000 above normal intake)

Staff credentials/Qualifications: Case Managers require an Undergrad degree. Senior Case Managers a Post Grad.

Sam extended an Invitation to AMES Settlement Team to attend MSC meetings with a view to networking and ensuring key messages are delivered. Sam thanked Jessica and AMES for her presentation.

7. 2020 MSC CALENDAR

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 regional Victoria. 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? Monthly presentations on a CALD (new and emerging community) communities. Focus on the diversity of the Burmese community – Gitta Clayton to organise	AMES Settlement (Jessica Ferguson – team leader Eastern Region)	
06 March	Indigenous cultural traditions and history: Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place. Monthly presentations on new and emerging	MSC meeting and speakers from Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place. MSC	<i>Together in Harmony Day event – Mullum Mullum.</i> Date 21 March 2020. Working Group:

	communities throughout the year, with a demonstration of cultural artefact, dress, etc. Bwe/Sam to develop.	meeting is planned to be held at MMIGP Ringwood East	Chris, Heather, Cynthia, Gitta. Thong (Foundation House) Leigh Gilmore (Sheriff's office), Members of MMIGP. Chris to convene meetings.
03 April	Refugee Health Nurse Program – an overview of the program, its achievements and plans 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.	EACH - Marilyn Spratling; Eastern Health- Gina Etienne	Either April or May Disability forum – CALD and Disability: Theme is Engagement and Good Practice with CALD communities. Convenor TBP; Working Group Gina, Cynthia.
01 May	Communication with CALD in LGAs: barriers and how to overcome them (input from a community group and LGAs – 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. Som (Deakin University) to present PHD research on LGAs communications with CALD using social and other media. LGAs invited TBC Sarah Martinelli or Chae Parker (W); Emma (B); Bronwyn (Manningham/Monash);	Either April or May Disability focus – CALD and Disability: Theme: Engagement and Good Practice with CALD communities. Convenor TBC; Working Group Gina, Cynthia.
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. Other suggestions welcome – forward suggestions to Sam and Cynthia	
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; Volunteering Victoria; Eastern Volunteering? AMES? Volunteer Tutor Program (AMEP) Kelly/Carole? Kate? Mervat (MIC); Vicki (Services Australia)	Youth forum workshop format: education, employment, volunteering, displays, stalls, sport clubs, police, lifesaving skills, Convenor Bwe; working group: Leigh, Dilnaz, Saarah (Bwe to contact those taking part in the workshop format (MIC - Sally; AMEP/SEE – Sally; Employment, SES, VicPol, DHS, Sport, etc..)
04 Sept	The Royal Commission on Aged Care: impact of the report - findings and actions Monthly presentations on new and emerging communities throughout the year, with a demonstration of cultural artefact, dress, etc.	Gina Etienne and Iresha Buthgamnwa (ECLC)	

	Bwe/Sam to develop.		
02 Oct	State Emergency Services (SES) and CALD communities CCOEI AGM Monthly presentations on new and emerging communities throughout the year, with a demonstration of cultural artefact, dress, etc. Bwe/Sam to develop.	SES; MFB Frank Yamen; Victoria Police; Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA)	
06 Nov	Mapping Social Cohesion research: findings of the Scanlon Foundation/Monash University 2020 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 and Monash University Professor Andrew Markus	
04 Dec	Finalize 2021 MSC Calendar. End of year celebration		

8. Agency Reports

- i. **Cancer Council of Victoria (Osman Osman).** The Cancer Council Victoria's Multicultural Communities Grants provides funding up to 5000AUD for community-led initiatives which increase bowel or cervical cancer screening awareness and participation. **Applications opened on Monday 3 Feb 2020 and close on Monday 9 March 2020 at 9:00am.**
<https://screeningresources.cancervic.org.au/communities/culturally-and-linguistically-diverse-communities/multicultural-communities-grants>
- ii. **Silver Dollar Media (Dan Martinez).** Silver Dollar Media is an independent media organisation assisting Not for Profit and charitable organisations with their media requirements. Recently they assisted the Manningham Women's Friendship Group develop a video – video screened. Dan is Managing Director – contact 0431039010
- iii. **Services Australia (Vicki Selimi)** DHS has been renamed Services Australia. This change came into effect on 1st Feb 2020. Services for Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support will continue through the agency. The Minister responsible for Services Australia is the **Hon Stuart Robert MP**
- iv. **Australian Taxation Office (Robin Steward).** Free education sessions available with multilingual literature. Information about a range of scams. Contact: Robin.Steward@ato.gov.au
- v. **City of Whitehorse (Sarah Martinelli)** – applications for the 2020/21 Whitehorse Community Grants will **open Monday 10 February** and **close at 12.00 noon on Friday 13 March**. Grant information sessions will take place on **25 February for anyone requiring assistance with their application. For further information:**
<https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/events/community-grants-information-sessions>

(Dilnaz noted that many councils have opened their community grants programs for 2020 including Manningham City Council).

Global Fiesta: Sunday 15 March 2020 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm. celebrate cultural diversity at Global Fiesta, Whitehorse Council's Harmony Day event.

- vi. **Regional Advisory Council, Victorian Multicultural Commission (Bwe Thay – VMC Commissioner).**
Premier Gala Dinner to be held on the 21st March 2020.
Bush Fires – volunteer efforts acknowledged.
- vii. **Whitehorse Manningham Libraries (Jenny Mitchell)** — received a grant to work with Mandarin speaking carers about health and wellbeing. Cynthia noted that a good contact in this field would be Ben at CPSSN.
- viii. **Department of Education and Training (Madeleine Parker)** Reported that during this period parents were self-selecting to keep children at home, schools are finding that children overseas cannot return, teachers are also impacted, myths and misinformation rife. Accuracy and understanding are needed. Also some schools have been impacted by fires.
- ix. **MIC East Melbourne** (Sally Brooks and Mervat Dahdoule)
Sally noted a number of events and initiatives:
- New Arabic Healthy Lifestyle program in Manningham
 - Fundraiser Sat. 20 June
 - Emergency procedures for people from CALD backgrounds
 - English and Employment network 18th Feb 2020
 - Asylum Seeker Support Program – advice and information. Temporary Protection visa, Bridging visa, Safe Haven visa
- Mervat noted a number of programs:
- Indian Playgroup – Boroondara for pre-schoolers
 - Driving Mentoring Program. 6 mandatory information sessions, driving instruction, volunteer mentors
 - Community Visitors Scheme - a volunteer run program. Volunteers help people who are isolated, particularly elderly with mobility issues. Mervat circulated “*Enrich Your Life – share your time with an older person, a couple of hours a fortnight is all it takes*” info sheet.
- x. **Eastern Community Legal Centre (Iresha Buthgamnwa and Anthony Huber).** New program: *Engaging Communities in Democracy* project. First meeting on 20 Feb 2020. Question: What does the East want out of Parliament? Rights, roles, responsibilities.
- xi. **AMEP Melbourne Polytechnic and partners (Carole Pondevie-Lay)** AMEP classes at Box Hill Institute have been disrupted due to the virus health issue, with Chinese students likely to return on 17/2. Online resources have been provided for these students. Volunteers continue to be sought.
9. **Initiatives and innovations (for noting)** – incorporated in the 2020 MSC calendar.

Next MSC Meeting: Friday 6 March 2020: focus Indigenous cultural traditions and history.

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