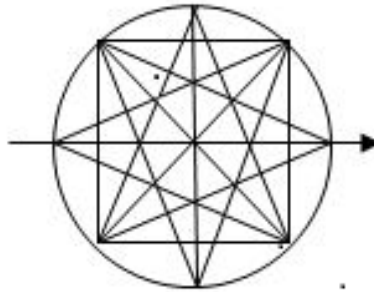


**Chairs:**

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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**

**March 06, 2020**

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

1. **Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country.** After the Acknowledgement of Country, Sam welcomed everyone.

2. **Attendance**

**Present**

Natalie Areyanda  
Dilnaz Billimoria  
Iresha Butngamnwa  
Chris Cosgriff  
Heather Cosgriff  
Mervat Dahdoule  
Geoff de Young  
Gina Etienne  
Marilyn Gurry  
Kate Jeffery  
Helen Jurcevic  
Emily Ma  
Kelly Maughan  
Sam Navarria  
Saarah Ozeer  
Con Pagonis  
Madeleine Parker  
Vicki Selimi  
Cynthia Shaw  
Robin Steward  
James Thangman  
Bwe Thay  
Sui Ting Tse  
Clary Verbunt

Cancer Council Victoria Community Engagement Officer  
Whitehorse Interfaith Network  
Eastern Community Legal Centre, CD Coordinator  
CCOEI, Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place  
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Migrant Information Centre  
Services Australia Multicultural Services Officer  
Eastern Health Manager consumer/community  
CCOEI Community Member and Grants Coordinator  
Inner East PCP Access and Inclusion Coordinator  
Women's Friendship Group Manningham President, OAM  
Chinese Parents Special Support Network Chairperson  
Melbourne Polytechnic  
MSC/CCOEI  
Bounce Refugee Youth Mentoring Program Director  
Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria Senior Volunteer  
DET Senior Project Officer EAL  
Services Australia Multicultural Services Officer  
CCOEI Secretary  
Australian Taxation Office Migrant Education  
ZCA  
Swinburne University, Community Liaison Officer  
CCOEI President  
Nieuw Holland Dutch Elderly Social Club, CCOEI

**Apologies**

Gitta Clayton  
Rick Comfort  
Julie Conan-Davies  
Krishiani Dassanayake  
Helen Forbes-Mewett  
Jane Gachicugu  
Leigh Gilmore  
Cindy Kung

CHBC/Winter Shelter and Sharing Hope  
Services Australia Multicultural Services Officer  
Swinburne University AMEP Co-coordinator  
CCOEI, Community member  
Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher  
Settlement Services International Administration Assistant  
Sheriff's Office Eastern Koori and Multicultural Liaison  
Louise Multicultural Community Centre Programs Coordinators

Sarah Martinelli  
Daniel Martinez  
Christina Shi

City of Whitehorse, Com. Dev. Officer - Diversity  
Silver Dollar Media Managing Director  
Humanitarian Settlement Program Team Leader

**Guests**

Daphne Milward  
David Spitteler

Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place Elder  
Asylum Seeker Centre

**3. Minutes MSC February 2020 meeting**

Moved: Cynthia Shaw Seconded: Sui Ting Tse.

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

**5. Correspondence** – previously circulated via email to members of the MSC.

**6. Meeting Focus – Indigenous Cultural Traditions and History - Speaker: Aunty Daphne Milward, Elder MMIGP.**

Chris Cosgriff introduced Aunty Daphne, a member of the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place. Aunty Daphne spoke about her family. She was born Atkinson but raised by the Cooper side (William Cooper). Her family is spread far and wide all over Australia. Relatives married into Italian and Greek families and also into Middle Eastern cultures.

What is important to Indigenous and Torres Strait people is connection to land – the land is their mother. They generally have no religion as such, but have more of a spiritual connection. Stories and legends are an important way of passing on laws and about their creator Bunjil, who is often depicted as a wedge-tailed eagle. Aunty Daphne provided an in depth presentation on Indigenous traditions and history.

Aunty Daphne spoke on Naidoc Week, Sorry Day, reconciliation, and the Stolen Generation, She said that it was important that many stories are told and action taken to further the healing process through awareness and understanding.

Bwe Thay thanked Aunty Daphne on behalf of the MSC and the CCOEI.

**7. Monthly presentation: Video – Thai Burma Border refugee camps (sourced by Gitta Clayton)**

Bwe spoke about and showed the Karen flag, and 9 refugee camps on the Thai Burma border. The video of refugee camps on the Thai-Burma border was shown to the MSC. Bwe said that it is important to remember where you come from. He noted that people from Burma have successfully settled in many parts of Melbourne and Victoria and gave an example of the enterprise shown by Karen in Nhill where they have been key in local industries.

**8. Reports**

**Together in Harmony - Chris Cosgriff** spoke about the upcoming “Together in Harmony” event on 21/3. Many groups participating, including indigenous, Karen, Maori.

**Asylum Seeker Centre – David Spitteler** provided an overview of the Asylum Seeker Centre which has been active over many years assisting some of the most vulnerable people in the community, both family groups and individuals. He noted that many of those helped are children. Everyone in the community can help and invited members of the MSC to contact him.

**Swinburne World Kitchen – Bwe Thay** noted that the event will be on 25/3 at Swinburne

**Welcoming cities and other events – Con Pagonis** noted for the attention of the MSC harmony day events including one in Brunswick on 16/3 with a focus on welcoming migrants. He also noted the ECCV state wide conference in Shepparton later in the year and spoke of the CCOEI E-newsletter with the first newsletter published – the E-newsletter covers local, state and national subjects.

**MIC various – Mervat Dahdoule** spoke of the playgroups being run, of a fund raising initiative in Knox on the 20/6 and of youth workers in various schools, for example Mooroolbark and Ringwood

**Melbourne AMEP – Kelly** spoke of the Volunteer Tutor Scheme running under the AMEP program, with the program in the east trying to support people from Burma who cannot attend classes, Encouraged people to become tutors – training is 9 hours online and 2-3 on site.

**CLC - Iresha Buthgamnwa** spoke of the Democracy project, with the ECLC funded to run the project.

**International Women’s Day – Dilnaz Billimoria** reported on the day,

**Elder abuse - Information for elders in hospitals on elder abuse across all cultures – Gina Etienne** spoke of this initiative, which builds on the work that has been done in the Eastern Region on elder abuse.

### 9. Future Events

Victorian Mosque Open Day, 15 March 2020

Global Fiesta 15 March 2020

### 10. 2020 MSC CALENDAR

**NB: The MSC calendar has been interrupted by Covid-19.**

*A review of the calendar will take place with input from MSC members and the CCOEI Committee of Management. It is expected that CCOEI will begin MSC meetings online. The first meeting is being organised for 07 August with a focus on CALD health and the pandemic, with various reports from key organisations working with CALD during this pandemic. Details of the meeting will be made available a couple of weeks before it is held.*

*In the meantime, in the absence of MSC meetings, the CCOEI hopes that MSC members are well and keeping in touch via the CCOEI eNews put together by Con Pagonis on a weekly basis. CCOEI is most grateful to Con for connecting everyone via the letter.*

*The MSC calendar (now interrupted due to the pandemic), put together at the end of 2019 from MSC and CCOEI input is reproduced below.*

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 communities throughout the year, with a	MSC meeting and speakers from Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place. MSC meeting is planned to be held at MMIGP	<b>Together in Harmony Day event – Mullum Mullum.</b> Date 21 March 2020. Working Group: Chris, Heather, Cynthia, Gitta. Thong

	demonstration of cultural artefact, dress, etc. Bwe/Sam to develop.	Ringwood East	(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. Bwe/Sam to develop.	Gina Etienne and Iresha Buthgamnwa (ECLC)	

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

**Next MSC Meeting:** Friday 3 April 2020. *(Please note: meetings April, May and June did not take place due to the Coronavirus and restrictions).*

**NOTES:** To contact Cynthia Shaw or Sam Navarria please use [chair.msc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.msc@gmail.com)