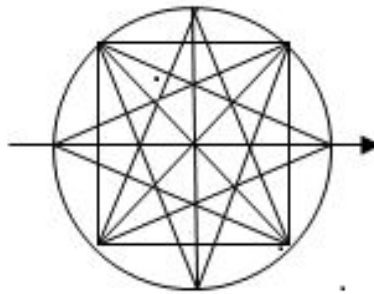


**Chairs:**

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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 5, 2021**

**Zoom meeting – 9:30 am – 11:00 am**

**Chair Chris Cosgriff**

1. **Welcome** – Ken Pang acknowledged the hosting by Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering place,
2. **Acknowledgement of Country** – Aunty Irene Norman, acknowledged the elders of the land of Australia and paid respect to the elders of the lands on which we are meeting, the elders of everyone attending, and those who are emerging.

**3. Attendance**

**Present**

Tina Andriotis	BH Institute
Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Iresha Butthagamwa	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, CCOEI Secretary
Katrine Gabb	Manningham Council, Community Development Officer, Access and Inclusion
Cindy Kung	LMCC
Sam Navarria	MSC/CCOEI
Tamika O'Brien	NEAMI National, Peer Support Worker
Saarah Ozeer	Bounce
Con Pagonis	CCOEI, ECCV Senior Volunteer
Ken Pang	CCOEI
Madeleine Parker	DET Senior Project Officer EAL
Vicki Selimi	Services Australia Multicultural Services Officer
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI, MSC
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI President
Varvara Yoannou	Food for Thought Network, Founder and Chair

**Apologies**

Gitta Clayton	CHBC/Winter Shelter and Sharing Hope
Krishiani Dassanayake	CCOEI, Community member
Helen Jurcevic OAM	Women's Friendship Group Manningham, President
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Associate Professor Sociology
Sarah Martinelli	City of Whitehorse, Community Development Officer - Diversity
Carole Pondevie-Lay	Melbourne Polytechnic Community Liaison and Engagement Manager
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	MLO VicPol
Robin Steward	ATO
Carly Donaghey	Australian Electoral Commission
Irani	Services Australia, Financial Service Information officer

### Guests

Aunty Irene Norman	Elder and Artist
Elkie M Smirl	CEO, MMIGP
Henry Nguyen	MMIGP
Lisa Grey	Victoria Police

#### 4. Minutes - MSC February 2021 meeting

Moved Dilnaz Billimoria, seconded Sam Navarria.

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

#### 6. Correspondence – various. Circulated to members of the MSC

#### 7. MSC 2021 Calendar (Sam Navarria)

The Harmony Day CCOEI and MMIGP event in March postponed to a later month (TBA). Convenor Chris Cosgriff. Working party members are listed in the MSC calendar. May focus: education, training and community engagement, hosted by Melbourne Polytechnic. To host a meeting contact Ken or Sam.

#### MSC Calendar 2021

MSC meeting dates	Focus, organisation(s) and speaker(s)	Host organisation and chair	Forums/events convenors and working groups
04 Jan	No meeting		
05 Feb	Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) in Eastern Melbourne. • MIC – Settlement in the EMR, Trends and MIC Program highlights - Judy McDougall, Senior Project Officer • AMES – Impact of COVID 19 on the HSP and Australian refugee intake – Christina Shi, AMES HSP Team Leader	Migrant Information Centre (MIC). Chair: Jessica Bishop, MIC Manager.	
05 March	Indigenous cultural traditions and history: Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place (MMIGP): a cultural perspective through art and craft. Presenter: Aunty Irene Norman, Elder and Artist	MMIGP. Chair: Chris Cosgriff	Harmony Day event – CCOEI and MMIGP. Event postponed to a later month Covid-19 restrictions permitting. Convenor: Chris; working group: Heather, Cynthia, Gitta, Dan, Howard Tankie (Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation), Tom (Maroondah Movement for Reconciliation) Thong Tawng (Foundation House)
02 April	No meeting (Easter)		
07 May	Education, training, employment pathways and community engagement: a collaborative approach. Melbourne Polytechnic and Melbourne AMEP providers: Carole Pondevie-Lay, Barbara Reeckman.	Melbourne Polytechnic. Chair: Carole Pondevie-Lay	
04 June	Mental Health, CALD youth and families – the impact of Covid-19 on families, recovery and support: Jacqui Robson, Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) and Maria Loupetis, Refugee Health Nurse Program (RHNP) - shared presentation.	TBA	
02 July	NO MEETING		
06 August	<b>LGAs and engaging CALD communities.</b> Speakers: Welcoming Cities CEO Aleem Ali, and Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA) Inclusion and Diversity Lead Deborah Wu.	TBA	

03 Sept	Opening Doors. Speakers/presenters Alex Mills and Opening Doors graduates	TBA	
01 Oct	Covid-19 Recovery and CALD communities ECCV – Chris Christoforou Executive Officer (TBC); VMC - Hakan Akyol, Director (TBC)	ECCV (TBA)	
05 Nov	Digital Literacy: a human rights issue. Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission. Australian Digital Inclusion Index.  CCOEI AGM		
03 Dec	Review of MSC Calendar 2021 and planning 2022. End of year celebration		

## 8. Meeting Focus: Indigenous arts and culture: Aunty Irene Norman, Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place (MMIGP), elder and artist

Prior to Aunty Irene's talk Elkie Smirl, CEO of MMIGP, gave an overview of MMIGP. The organisation was established 12 years ago as an indigenous meeting place to practice culture and traditions. MMIGP provides various services including family violence, a food bank for around 70 families, health and youth services. Services and programs are designed to address the needs of the whole of the indigenous community.

**Indigenous arts and culture – Aunty Irene Norman.** A video was shown of the recent exhibition at the *Realm* in conjunction with Maroondah Council, "*Before Time*" *Angkamuthi meets Gunditjmara*. The exhibition featured works by indigenous artists, including exhibits and poems by Aunty Irene.

Aunty Irene said that across Australia there were once over a 1000 languages and dialects, and spoke of indigenous languages as languages of symbols, used to communicate across groups. She gave the example of the message stick, or talking stick, which symbolises the meeting of two groups and was carried when seeking access to another group's country. The purpose of seeking to go into another's country was drawn on the message stick. She stated that many symbols are universal and understood across groups and countries.

Currently there is much effort to educate students and teachers in government schools about aboriginal culture and traditions, and create awareness and understanding of the First Nation's people. It is important for the indigenous story to be part of the curriculum. (Madeleine from DET commented on the amazing work indigenous are doing in schools, e.g. Ringwood Secondary, Millgate Primary, to teach Koori culture).

She noted that the *Acknowledgment of Country*, which is as recent as 2005, came well after the *Welcome to Country*. Anyone regardless of background can do the acknowledgement but only a person of that country can do the welcome. The acknowledgement is used to show respect being in someone else's country.

Aunty Irene also spoke about the Yeng Gali Mullum Mullum choir which has received a grant for a voice coach and to finance a studio to produce a CD.

On behalf of the MSC, Chris thanked Aunty Irene for her presentation.

## 9. Agency reports and information

**9.1 "Cooee!" (Con Pagonis):** the 42 page first edition for 2021 under the new title *Cooee!* was published March 1. The number of people opening the newsletter is trending upwards. Readership is local, state, Australia wide and even global. Much positive feedback, including from the chair of the VMC, Contributions, photos welcome. Deadline for contributions: last Friday of the month, and the letter is published on the first Monday of the new month. Email address for contributions is in the newsletter.

**9.2 Services Australia (Vicki Selimi):** Clarified Services Australia supporting role in relation to vaccine. Grateful for the information that has been provided in indigenous languages to acknowledge country.

Services Australia encourages staff to do the acknowledgment in their own language. Suggested that the acknowledgement of country in different languages should be widely circulated, including in Cooee! News.

**9.3 ECLC (Iresha Butthagamwa):** (i) two forums on scams in CALD communities - 29/3 and another in April. ECLC is working with the ATO, Services Australia, Centre for Holistic Health. Everyone welcome. ECLC are holding sessions for community groups.

(ii) Organising with MIC Harmony Day event.

**9.4 Eastern Health (Gina Etienne):** National Strategy for Vaccine rollout

<https://www.ealth.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021/01/covid-19-vaccination-australia-s-covid-19-vaccine-national-roll-out-strategy.pdf>

**9.5 CCOEI (Dilnaz Billimoria):** (i) suggested Aboriginal cultural sensitivity training for the MSC (welcome, acknowledgment, reconciliation, sorry week, etc.) Suggestion referred to CCOEI Committee of Management.

(ii) Making a video engaging communities in democracy - short 30 second videos on what cultural diversity means, etc. and send to Iresha [ireshab@eclc.org.au](mailto:ireshab@eclc.org.au) to compile video which will be sent to the Victorian Parliament.

**General note: MSC members were asked to submit brief written reports to ensure accuracy.**

**10. Next MSC Meeting Friday May 7: Education, Training and Community Engagement: a collaborative design and delivery approach in partnership with CALD communities, service providers and industry. Melbourne Polytechnic, Carole Pondevie-Lay and Barbara Reeckman.**

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