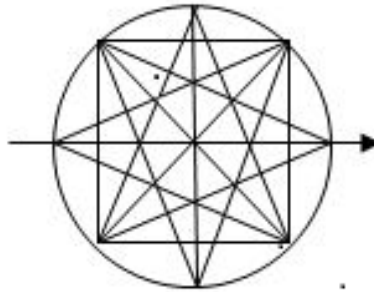


Chairs:

Sam Navarria: Mob: 0432 975 558
Cynthia Shaw: Mob: 0466 157 906



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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

September 4, 2020

Zoom meeting – 9:30 am – 11:00 am

- 1. Acknowledgement of Country – Krishiani Dassanayake**
- 2. Welcome – Sui Ting Tse**
- 3. Attendance**

Present

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| Dilnaz Billimoria | Whitehorse Interfaith Network |
| Iresha Butthgamuwa | Eastern Community Legal Centre |
| Gitta Clayton | CHBC/Winter Shelter and Sharing Hope |
| Chris Cosgriff | CCOEI, Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place Ambassador |
| Heather Cosgriff | CCOEI, Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place Ambassador |
| Caity Cox | Headspace, Community Engagement Coordinator |
| Mervat Dahdoule | MIC |
| Krishiani Dassanayake | CCOEI, Community member |
| Helen Forbes-Mewett | Monash University, Associate Professor Sociology |
| Marilyn Gurry | CCOEI |
| Belinda Haydon | Link Health and Community |
| Prya Hewage | ATO, Migrant Education |
| Varvara Ioannou | Food for Thought Network Inc. |
| Helen Jurcevic OAM | Women's Friendship Group Manningham President |
| Sarah Martinelli | City of Whitehorse, Community Dev. Officer - Diversity |
| Dan Martinez | Silver Dollar Media |
| Jenny Mitchell | Whitehorse Manningham Libraries CALD Branch Manager |
| Sam Navarria | MSC/CCOEI |
| Tamika O'Brien | NEAMI National |
| Saarah Ozeer | Bounce |
| Con Pagonis | CCOEI, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria Senior Volunteer |
| Ken Pang | CCOEI Volunteer |
| Madeleine Parker | DET Senior Project Officer EAL |
| Meghana Patel | Community |
| Carole Pondevie-Lay | Melbourne Polytechnic Community Liaison and Engagement Manager |
| Ada Poon | Centre for Holistic Health, Service Coordinator |
| Vicki Selimi | Services Australia Multicultural Services Officer |
| Cynthia Shaw | CCOEI Secretary, MSC |
| Dalal Smiley | Wellsprings for Women, CEO |
| Rachel So | Women's Health East |
| Robin Steward | Australian Taxation Office Migrant Education |
| Bwe Thay | Swinburne University, Community Liaison Officer |
| Sui Ting Tse | CCOEI President |

Apologies

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| Jessica Bishop | MIC East Melbourne |
| Marisa Bryant | Link Health and Community |
| Gina Etienne | Eastern Health, Manager consumer/community |
| Clary Verbunt | Nieuw Holland Dutch Elderly Social Club, CCOEI |
| Rebecca Wickes | Monash University |
| Elizabeth Sidiropoulos | Victoria Police (unable to attend Zoom meetings – VicPol policy) |

Guests

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| Emeritus Prof. Bruce Tonge | Mental Health Foundation Australia, Patron |
| Aisha Usman | Mental Health Foundation Australia, Manager |

3. Minutes MSC 7 August 2020 meeting

Moved Cynthia Shaw, Seconded Sam Navarra.

4. Business Arising – incorporated in the meeting agenda.

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

6. MSC 2020 Calendar

Updated/reviewed in the light of CoVid-19 restrictions and event cancellations. Suggestions have been included in new calendar: Mental health (this meeting), Covid-19 and social inclusion (October meeting), Education and Employment (November), Digital Divide/CoVid-19, and LGAs supporting communities during and post Covid-19 – months to be confirmed.

SPEAKERS:

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| 7. | <p>Bwe Thay - Upcoming events VMC Commissioner, Eastern Region Victorian Multicultural Commission</p> <p>Bwe provided an overview of the upcoming Multicultural Community Concerts. For more information please link to CCOEI website or CCOEI Victoria Facebook. Bwe said that there would be four concerts. On 6 September; 20 September; 4 October and the Finale on 18 October 2020. The 1st event will celebrate Father's Day in lockdown. There will be a range of speakers and performances. Bwe encouraged family members and friends to log in to watch these free online grass roots events. Performers are welcome to approach Bwe if they play an instrument, sing or dance.</p> |
| 8. | <p>Meeting Focus – Meeting Focus: <i>Mental Health through the lens of CoVid-19</i> Speaker: Emeritus Professor Bruce Tonge, Monash University, Patron, Mental Health Foundation Australia (MHFA) CoVid-19 Response</p> <p>Professor Tonge assisted by Aisha Usman provided a PowerPoint presentation. This will be attached to the meeting minutes.</p> <p>Points to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevalence of mental health in the population is 1 in 4 people• Exacerbated by CoVid anxiety and fear, substance abuse, stigma (especially for migrant communities), lack of health literacy, racism (barrier to seeking help), religious affiliation, being ostracised by their family, isolation etc. <p>Please see the attached PowerPoint for the full presentation (kindly supplied by Professor Tonge)</p> |

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| <p>9. Reports:</p> <p>1. Gina Etienne – Eastern Health Sent the following update: a reminder for everyone to go to the Eastern Health website for visitor restrictions - https://www.easternhealth.org.au/media-events/latest-news/item/1004-corona-virus-covid-19-visitor-restrictions-now-in-place. Very important, please note the Visitor Exemption Form.</p> <p>2. Vicki Selimi – MSO Services Australia (report provided by email dated 4.9.2020) Changes from 25 September 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coronavirus Supplement will change from \$550 to \$250 per fortnight. Customers will get this supplement until 31 December 2020 if they're getting an eligible payment, this is not counted as income. • The income free area for JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance for job seekers will increase to \$300 per fortnight, except if the customer gets JobSeeker Payment as a principal carer. • If a customer gets JobSeeker Payment, we've temporarily increased the amount their partner can earn before their payment will stop. • Assets testing will come back into effect from 25/9/20. Customers need to update their asset details before 24 September 2020. • Waivers to some waiting periods for new claims will continue until 31 December 2020. • Due to COVID19 the seasonal work preclusion period from 25 March to 31 December 2020 has been removed for some payments. <p>In summary, from 25/9/2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extending the Coronavirus Supplement • increasing the income free area for JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance for job seekers • bringing back asset testing for <i>all</i> payments • bringing back the Liquid Assets Waiting Period for <i>new</i> claims • changing the partner income testing limit and reduction. |
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Other Reports:

| Representative and Agency name | Overview & resources |
|---|---|
| Robin Steward - Migrant Education, Australian Taxation Office | <p>Australian Tax Office - Migrant Education program</p> <p>Robin introduced his colleague Priya Hewage. Robin said that one of them will be attending MSC meetings in future.</p> <p>The Tax Help program is free for people with low incomes \$60,000 or less. More information about webinars and a range of free presentations being conducted in other languages and for brochures in other languages, please contact Robin Steward on 03 9247 0917 or robin.steward@ato.gov.au</p> |
| Carole Pondevie-Lay Melbourne Polytechnic | <p>Carole talked about the announcement by Minister Alan Tudge in relation More class hours available to help migrants learn English. She said this program will be very meaningful for many people who in the past have had to complete their AMEP within 5 years during a period of settlement challenges such as looking for accommodation, job hunting, getting their children into school etc. Carole said that they are waiting for more details about what it means and how it will operate.</p> |

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| Mervat Dahdoule - MIC | Please contact the MIC in relation to information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Visitor's Scheme (due to CoVid there are many isolated people with limited contact at this time)• Openings for volunteers• Homework programs• CoVid-19 Services |
|-----------------------|---|

Next MSC Meeting: Friday 2 October 2020

Focus: Social inclusion and Covid-19

Speaker: [Chin Tan](#), Race Discrimination Commissioner – Australian Human Rights Commission

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