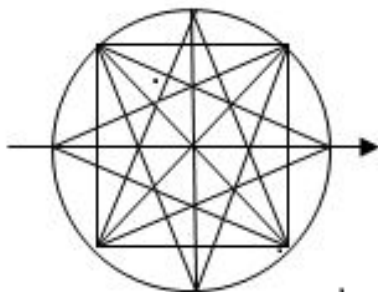


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MIGRANT SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (Eastern Region)

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

Reg. No. A0017562S

Minutes – Friday April 01, 2022

Zoom meeting 9:30 am – 11:00 am
Meeting Host: Boroondara City Council
Chairperson: Emma Wilkinson

1. Acknowledgement of Country – Emma Wilkinson

2. Attendance

Presenter

Emma Wilkinson

Social Inclusion and Policy Project Officer, Boroondara

Present

Con Pagonis	COOEE eNews Editor
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI Committee of Management Member
Ken Pang	CCOEI and MSC
Iresha Butngamuwa	Eastern Community Legal Centre
Madeleine Parker	Department of Education
Tamika O'Brien	Neami National
Megan Cook	Services Australia, MSO
Geoff de Young	Services Australia, MSO
Annisa Gracie	Manningham City Council, CDO
Nora Fernandes	Palliative Care Vic
Jess Ness	Centre Ringwood Community Centre
Wesley Bawia	Central Ringwood Community Centre
Hayfa Kaassami	Darebin City Council
Emma Wilkinson	Social Inclusion and Policy Project Officer, Boroondara
Mervat Dahdoule	MIC Eastern Melbourne

Apologies

Sam Navarria	CCOEI and MSC
Daniel Noel	CCOEI President
Chris and Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI and MMIGP
Sally Brooks	MIC Eastern Melbourne
Bec Patterson	Foundation House
Sarah Martinelli	City of Whitehorse
Katrine Gabb	Manningham City Council
Dilhaz Billimoria	CCOEI, Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Gitta Clayton	CHBC
Paul Croft	Your Library Team Leader - Digital Literacy
Vicki Selimi	Services Australia, MSO
Krishani Dassanayake	CCOEI, Community member
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group

Acknowledgement of Country. Emma Wilkinson acknowledged the original custodians of the lands of those attending the MSC meeting, their elders past present and emerging.

Minutes - MSC March 2022

Moved Cynthia Shaw, Seconded Sally Brooks.

Business Arising – incorporated in the meeting agenda when required

Correspondence – circulated via email to members of the MSC (often on a daily basis)

MSC 2022 Calendar (see attached calendar). The Calendar was fully endorsed at the December Review and Planning meeting.

Next meeting:

- 6 May 2022: Host – Dilnaz Billimoria (replacing Sarah Martinelli) Focus: *Anti- Racism initiatives*
- 3 June 2022: Host - Carole Pondevie-Lay. Focus: *Pathways to Employment via education, work placement and volunteering.*

Report from Con Pagonis:

- **COOEE! eNews Update:**

The next edition #65 will be out on April 11th. Contributions by next Friday.

Handover of the Editor position: CCOEI is advertising for a new Editor to take over from Con. Advice to the new Editor will be to move to MailChimp also to dramatically reduce the length of the newsletter, concentrating on the Eastern Region of Melbourne. We will continue to rely on the MSC community for content. Anyone interested in the Volunteer Editor position to contact The Editor at email chair.msc@gmail.com

- **FECCA Conference:**

Con reminded members of the upcoming [FECCA 2022 Conference – Advancing Multicultural Australia, 16-17 June](#) to be held at the Sofitel – Melbourne

- **Welcoming Cities:** Con recommended that members look at these two webpages

- [Welcoming Cities:](#)
- [Welcoming Australia – cultivating a culture of welcome](#)

Reports:

- **Wesley Bawia, CRCC**

Wesley said he was very happy to be part of the Local Community Access Grant Program..

Local Community Access Grants Program (LCAGP) funds community organisations and neighbourhood houses to deliver activities that:

- reduce COVID-19 vaccine misinformation and hesitancy
- remove practical barriers to accessing vaccines, and
- support increased uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine amongst priority groups.

Last year he was involved in a similar project. They engaged with community members, organised various info sessions and built confidence and trust in the vaccine. He said his new role is one day per week at CRCC (with 4 days per week with the Migrant Information Centre). He has found that newly arrived communities do not have much vaccine experience from their past in their home countries. There is also a lot of misinformation in the community occurring through social media. He found some mothers in the community are reluctant to have their children vaccinated.

With this new project Wesley said that he will be organising a range of group sessions. Wesley also requested MSC members who may be organising any information sessions where he could speak to contact him on email wesleybawi@gmail.com

- Refugee Week. – Cynthia Shaw CCOEI**
Cynthia reminded members that it was time to start planning their Refugee Week events. Refugee Week is between 19 June 2022 and 25 June 2022. CCOEI and partners Jess Ness at CRCC and Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place and others will be planning an event to promote harmony and togetherness. Post the pandemic we now all understand the importance of human connections. The idea is to introduce refugees to the Indigenous community to promote greater understanding. Cynthia will provide more information later.
- Services Australia – Megan Cook and Geoff de Young**
Please see the written report forwarded to members on the 2nd April “Follow up from the Migrant Settlement Committee”. There is important information in this report such as news about Afghani evacuees and Ukrainian Australians overseas as well as Ukrainian arrivals in Australia. News about visas and other requirements and changes.
Geoff also told us about his visit to assist with flood recovery initiatives in QLD and Northern NSW. He was located in Recovery Centres with many other organisations working 12 hour days to help people affected. Working with people experiencing extreme crisis taught them how the combined efforts of many can make a difference.
- Central Ringwood Community Centre – Jess Ness**
New programs coming up for Term 2. Also offer many English classes, weekdays and Saturdays. Migrant Barista program to support people to learn English and to build confidence and new skills. Program for families with children. Anyone who may be interested please contact Jess Ness at CRCC
- Migrant Information Centre – Mervat Dahdoule**
MIC offices are now fully open every day Ringwood and Box Hill for appointments and walk-ins. The School holiday programs, organising a camp and excursions for asylum seekers. Programs for children, homework support programs Primary and Secondary. Advertising for volunteers, need more people onboard to help with all their programs.
- Palliative Care Victoria - Nora Fernandez**
Many people think that palliative care is for end of life only. People with serious illness can also be assisted. Her role is to engage with ethno specific communities. This is a free service for the journey of serious illness. Many new communities struggle alone with illness such as cancer, stroke etc. Palliative Care can help with all sorts of services.

MEETING FOCUS:

Knowing your Council.

A snapshot of the Boroondara community and Council, focusing on local community programs, the opportunities and barriers to access or engaging with Council.

Presented by, Emma Wilkinson - Social Inclusion and Policy Officer.

The presentation includes a range of information and examples of initiatives and programs that support multicultural communities.

- Boroondara demographics.
- The Boroondara Community Plan 2021-2031
- Grants supporting a Sense of Belonging and Wellbeing
- Sharing Stories – Neighbours in Harmony
- List of Services for people who need extra support
- Community Centres

- Boroondara Libraries
- Outreach to Engagement
- Networks and Partnerships

Please see the presentation which was sent to members on 02 April 2022 in the email "Important Follow up from MSC meeting 01.April 2022". For more information about this presentation please contact Emma Wilkinson on Emma.Wilkinson@boroondara.vic.gov.au

Next meeting: 06 May 2022:

Meeting Focus: Anti-Racism initiatives and experiences

Chair: Dilnaz Billimoria.