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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 2 September 2022

Zoom meeting 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Chairperson: Nora Fernandes - CCOEI Committee

1. **Acknowledgement of Country** – Chris Cosgriff (Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place).

2. Attendance

Present

Anissa Gracie	Manningham City Council
Benjamin Lam	Chinese Parents Special Support Network
Brooke Trevorah	Eastern Health
Celia Chang	Hume City Council
Chris & Heather Cosgriff	Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place and CCOEI
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI Life Member and Committee of Management
Dilnaz Billimoria	CCOEI Committee of Management and Multi-faith volunteer
Emma Wilkinson	Boroondara City Council, Social Inclusion and Policy Project Officer
Ezgi Ihan	MIC Eastern Melbourne
Geoff de Young	Services Australia
Gina Etienne	Eastern Health,
Heather Willison	COOEE! Newsletter Editor
Iresha Buthgamuwa	Eastern Community Legal Centre
Krishani Dassanayake	CCOEI, Community member
Julie Vermay	CCOEI Secretary
Lisette Pine	Knox City Council
Madeleine Parker	Dept. of Education & Training Victoria
Mervat Dahdoule	MIC Eastern Melbourne
Nada El-Masri	CFA
Nora Fernandes	Palliative Care Victoria
Osman Osman	Cancer Council Victoria
Paul Croft	Eastern Regional Libraries
Saarah Ozeer	Bounce and CCOEI Committee of Management
Sameera Abdeen	Yarra Valley Water
Tamika O'Brien	Neami National
Wazed Ali	Whitehorse City Council

Apologies

Sam Navarria	CCOEI Life Member – Previous MSC Chair
Daniele Noel	CCOEI President
Liz Sidiropoulos	Victoria Police
Bec Patterson	Foundation House
Carole Pondevie-Lay	Melbourne Polytechnic
Katrine Gabb	Manningham City Council
Megan Cook	Services Australia

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** Moved by Cynthia Shaw. Seconded by Chris Cosgriff
4. **Business arising:** Incorporated into the Agenda when and as required
5. **Correspondence:** Correspondence regularly forwarded to MSC members.

6. REPORTS:

Osman Osman – Cancer Council of Victoria

- Cancer Council Victoria launched two important campaigns in 2022- the Get2It bowel cancer screening campaign and the self-collection cervical cancer screening campaign. See email sent on the 29th August for further information.

MIC Eastern Melbourne

- **Ezgi Ilhan** – spoke about her role working on the Safer Communities Project. Ezgi said they are working with young people aged 12-25. Ezgi invited questions/ideas and can be contacted at MIC Eastern Melbourne.
- **Mervat Dahdoule** – Mervat informed that MIC are accepting referrals for their family counselling service and employment programs. MIC is currently working on a holiday program and youth program with Bounce over the holidays.

Anissa Gracie – Manningham City Council

- Anissa reported that each local government area is working on initiatives to welcome international students to the inner east. The Whitehorse & Boroondara event is coming up. Please inform people about this event.
- Katrin Gabb will speak about the Welcoming Cities project at the next MSC meeting.

Wazed Ali – Whitehorse City Council

Wazed informed that a free event for international students will be held on Saturday 8 October, 12.30pm-4.00pm at Aqualink Box Hill in partnership with Rotary. Activities include a BBQ. Aqualink will organise a tour of the facilities and offer discounts [see flyer emailed on 21 September].

Dilnaz Billimoria – introduced the speakers for the next part of the meeting:

1. **Brooke Trevorah** is Project Director for the Implementation of the Royal Commission Recommendations in the Mental Health Program. Brooke spoke about Eastern Health implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations in Mental Health program. The report puts consumers, carers and their families at the centre of implementation. The project will focus on providing services in the community.

Eight priority areas will be covered: embed lived experience in the leadership, design and delivery of services; establish two Area Mental Health and Wellbeing services; expand core clinical services; offer after hours clinical services; develop models of shared care; partner with an NGO provider; integrate mental health with alcohol and other drugs treatment and support services for older adults.

Brooke informed that the services will seek to meet community needs. If anyone has any ideas about helping to shape the policy and delivery, please contact Brooke (brooke.trevorah@easternhealth.org.au). [Please see the attached slide show provided by Brooke].

2. **Dilnaz** described the partnership between Eastern Community Legal Centre, Communities' Council on Ethnic Issues (CCOEI), IndianCare and Centre for Holistic Health. Councils of Knox, Boroondara, Whitehorse, Manningham and Maroondah joined the steering committee. A final event was held at the Box Hill Town Hall with about 100 people attending. Dilnaz suggested *Racism ends with ME* should be instead *Racism ends with WE* – it is the responsibility for everyone to take action on racism.

Saarah Ozeer, (representing CCOEI) facilitated the panel discussion with the five ACVE anti-racism advocates, Dr Chris Mallika Bhadra, Eva Lam, Dr Neha Gogia, Ritu Dahiya and Houng Yu Ngee. The panel shared personal experiences and outcomes of the project, acknowledging that racism exists across many sectors. They suggested the need to: listen, investigate and educate ourselves around racial prejudice and discrimination; meaningfully involve the voices of the people who experience racism every day in decision-making; take positive action to report discriminating practices.

Iresha informed that ECLC will include anti-racism elements in future project submissions. The video recommends action such as reporting it to the local police station, conciliation or using the community online tool. Dilnaz said that video is available in Hindi, Punjabi, Cantonese Mandarin and Farsi. Community organisations could help support people to report complaints of racism/discrimination.

Meeting wrap up:

Nora thanked Paul Croft for his assistance with the technical parts of Zoom helping with sharing PowerPoint slides as well as video content. Nora also warmly thanked all participants for their attendance at the session today.

Next meeting: Friday 7 October 2022

Chair: Nora Fernandes