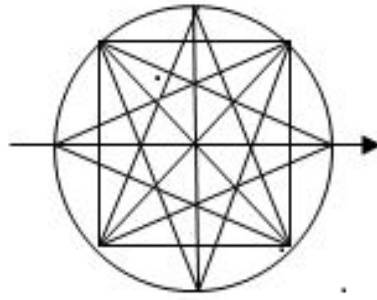


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Forest Hill VIC 3131**Email:** chair.msc@ccoEI.org.au**Website:** www.ccoEI.org.au**MIGRANT SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (Eastern Region)**

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

Reg. No. A0017562S

Minutes – Friday 6 October 2023
Whitehorse Community Center
Mahoneys Road, Forest Hill, Vic 3131
 Chairperson: Daniele Noel - President

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

2. ATTENDEESIresha Buthgamuwa-ECLC
Krishani Dassanayake-SMRC

Dilnaz Billimoria – CCOEI

Chris Cosgriff – MMIGP

Ding Cai, VICPOL

Heather Cosgriff – MMIGP

Con Pagonis – CCOEI

Deepak Joshi – The Humanism Project

Helen Jurcevic – Women's Friendship Group

Kass Halastanis – Knox City Council

Baz Luke, Yarra Valley Water

Sally MIC

Kate Wijeyesinghe, Monash Council

Angie: AMEP

Dana: NDIS

3. REPORTS**Chair/President Daniele:** Welcomed all attendees.**Chris Cosgriff:** Acknowledgement To Country**Chair/President Daniele:**

AGM date for Friday 3 Nov. Venue to be determined. Eventbrite Registration will be organized. Chris advised Yeng Gali Mullum Choir will be performing. Connect with everyone to include geographic representation of all 7 LGAs. Discussion on Keynote speaker options.

Multicultural Framework Review submission date extended to 13 Oct. CCOEI/MSc thanked Kas and team in Knox for the excellent arrangements for Sept monthly meeting. MFR discussed at that meeting and Knox on behalf of a group of LGAs, submitted a joint MFR submission. This was much appreciated by all.

Voice Referendum 14 October. ECCV commended for organising Town Hall meetings to raise awareness for promoting YES campaign. Early Voting Centres opened. CCOEI team will promote at different locations in Socials. \$3000 Monash Council Grant received by CCOEI/MSc for Refugee Week 2024. All 5 Partners who provided Letters of Support will be advised and consulted for future planning. Due to unsavoury attendance at Council Meetings by those against Immigration, LGBTIQ+, etc, safety of Multicultural Multifaith events is a priority.

Strategic Relationships: ECCV welcomed Chairs/Presidents of Regional Communities Councils along with Con P to a F2F meeting where challenges, successes, opportunities, were discussed. It was found that there are many similarities. ECCV gave a commitment to support CCOEI in the East. Discussion also took place on applying for a combined grant and then allocating resources of funding, people, etc. The common goal of Unity and shared vision of Harmony was appreciated.

Dilnaz Billimoria: As 21 Sept is UN International Day of Peace, Dilnaz mentioned:

St Kilda Healing the Spirit Peace Festival. She thanked Chris and Heather Cosgriff, Aunty Irene Norman and Yeng Gali Mullum All Australian Choir for accepting her invitation and performing beautifully at the event. Boroondara Council organized a wonderful event with Sarah Saroni, OAM, a child Holocaust Survivor, now aged 97, speaking of her positivity, courage and 'Live and Let Live' lifelong motto. Courage to Care, a Jewish charity, spoke of visiting educational institutions, Seniors, etc to speak out against Racism, Discrimination, Bullying by being Upstanders, not mere bystanders. Creative poetry through word artist Michelle Hamer followed where audience was asked to create their own poetry from existing 9 renowned poems.

The Whitehorse Interfaith Network WIN Peace Banner that was launched on Harmony Day, 21st March, was completed in a record 6 months, to be presented at the Whitehorse Council to the Mayor, all Councillors and Executive Leadership Team on UN International Day of Peace. 10 metres of cloth has been covered by words, art, messages of what Peace and Harmony mean to our diverse communities.

Con Pagonis:

Con reiterated Daniele's comments about last week's historic first ever meeting of Melbourne's metropolitan ethnic communities' councils (CCOEI, WRECC, DECC, VOSE & WMCC). After much consultation and deliberation over the past year or so, the meeting was convened by the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV). In addition to Daniele and Con attending, the ECCV's Chairperson (Eddie Micallef) and Deputy Chairperson (Jill Morgan AM) participated; and the meeting was chaired by the ECCV CEO (Mo Elrafhi). It bodes well for better collaboration going in to 2024 when the ECCV will be marking its 50th Anniversary. All CCOEI MSC members are encouraged to explore the ECCV's resources and opportunities, [click here](#).

Con commended the four CCOEI local councils of Knox, Manningham, Maroondah and Monash for making a joint submission to the federal Multicultural Framework Review. This followed the September MSC meeting held at Knox Council where CCOEI, council and other members' submissions were workshopped. Submissions close next Friday, October 13th; for details [click here](#).

This coming Sunday afternoon the ECCV is partnering with the City of Greater Dandenong and Bunurong Land Council to hold a Multicultural Communities for the Voice Forum: Sun, 8 Oct 2023 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM at the Dandenong Civic Centre. All welcome. Details at this link: [click here](#).

On Thursday, 26 October Deakin University will be holding a FREE one-day forum 'Appraising Multiculturalism: Politics, Policy and Practice' from 9:30 AM to 3:00 at Deakin Downtown (Level 12, Tower 2 727 Collins Street, Melbourne. Details at this link: [click here](#).

The Boite is a multicultural arts organisation that regularly puts on culturally diverse concerts in Box Hill. The next one will be on Friday 27 October 2023 from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM at the Box Hill Community Arts Centre, 470 Station St, Box Hill. This performance features Punto Caramelo (which means 'Just Right' in Spanish); it is an innovative duo performing Bolero, Bossa Nova, Tango and South American folk music. For details and tickets: [click here](#).

The 2023 National Settlement Conference 'Building the future together' will be held in Melbourne on 23-24 November. Organised by the Settlement Council of Australia, you can find details at this link: [click here](#).

Chris and Heather Cosgriff: Urging all to check veracity and integrity of information as misinformation abounds, IN SUPPORT OF yes Campaign.

Angie AMEP:

- MFR Submission: Gap for under 18s migrants: issues related to access High School, language barriers, etc.
- YES Vote promoted. Referred to 'Life Without Barriers' campaign with information in languages, videos, etc.
- AMEP celebrating 75 years. 'More Than Worth' Campaign brochure, videos, etc available
- Volunteers required for students, for study and navigating processes, systems, etc.
- Angie invited to present at a future meeting for role of AMEP.

Sally MIC: advised short notice replacement for MIC.

- Employment Jobs Victoria funding over.

- Family Violence programs with Fvree
- Looking for Volunteers

Dana: Link Health and Community, Early Childhood:

- Education Presentations for children with developmental concerns. First Nations, CALD, All Early Childhood Years.
- NDIS Info Sheet for young children to access support. Children under 6 do not need a Formal Diagnosis. Qualified Educational Counsellors can work with families for Skills Development Plan.

Kate, Monash Council: CALD Engagement Community Outreach Co-ordinator

- Resilience Racism Workshop Series
- 2 Active Bystander sessions run by WHE
- October is Safety Month and Seniors Month
- Aboriginal Awareness Training

Baz Luke, Yarra Valley Water:

- Walk For Water Event raised \$23K for charity.
- Hardship Brochures updated in 23 languages with hard/soft copies.
- Div Manager and Hardships Team attending Financial Counsellors State Meeting next week to better understand current scenarios.
- YVW will pay for Interpreters, for customers.
- Whittlesea Food Collective: To help with operational needs of customers facing hardships, cannot make water payments.

Krishani, SMRC:

- 30 Years celebration with Unity in Diversity Fiesta in Dandenong
- \$10 Raffle Tickets

Iresha, ECLC:

- Running Legal Education Programs.
- Multicultural Committees, both internal and external
- Support YES Vote
- Multicultural Leaders Advisory Group

Lilydale Voices: For Mental Health and Well Being, Multicultural priority area. Activities with Artists, Museums, including Indian Artist exhibiting 'Home' theme exhibition.

Deepak:

- Bahai event to commemorate the Torture and Execution of 10 brave Bahai women in Iran who sacrificed their lives to keep steadfast in their faith as well as condone what is currently happening to women, and all genders protesting tyranny in Iran.
- Social Justice: Focus on Indian diaspora, continuous engagement.

Ding Cai, VICPOL: Multicultural Liaison Officer [MLO], Forest Hill Station

- Road, Home, Personal, Community Safety issues.
To receive information from individuals, groups, networks and to share information with the public.
- More cases of Racism/Vilification reported for people of Multifaith and Multicultural backgrounds. Neo Nazis creating chaos. Any such crime will not be tolerated by VICPOL who will act. To report any such incidents immediately.

STRATEGIC PLAN DRAFT 2023-2024 [Daniele has presentation]

- Daniele clarified CCOEI/MSC Strategic Vision. Engaged Richard Dent, External Management Consultant to brainstorm with Committee of Management. 10-year Plan till 2030.
- Our Mission is on our website.
- Our Purpose.
- Actions to date: Advocacy, Hosted significant events like YES VOTE Campaigners, MFR Discussion, Refugee Week Partnership, Organisational Membership Invitations, Reinforce Allyship.
- Strategic Focus: Volunteer led organisations; Bystander/ Upstander; Trusted source as access to diverse communities, based on genuine direct Community Leaders led voices.
- What are our other opportunities?

Questions to be asked in brief Survey.

- 3 Things CCOEI/MSC does well
- 3 Improvements
- 3 Priorities in next 3 years
- Are U a CCOEI/MSC Member

Next MSC meeting: The AGM on 3 November.