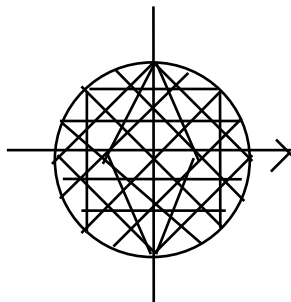


Chairperson:
Sam Navarra



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MIGRANT SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (EASTERN REGION)

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

Inc

Reg. No. A0017562S

Migrant Settlement Committee Meeting Minutes – March 5th 2010

1. **Welcome** – Sam welcomed MSC members and guest speakers Panchol, Mervat, Malou

2. **Attendance**

Guests:

Malou Pascual-Anes Manager, AMES Community

Mervat Dahdoule, Settlement Worker and Volunteer Coordinator, MIC

Panchol Ayoul, President of the Bor Association

Present:

Diana Bell

City of Maroondah

Leonie Burnham

Eastern Community Legal Centre, Coordinator Inner East Office

Chris Cosgriff

Victoria Police, Inspector, LPPINSP Region 4; CCOEI President

Glenis Crocker

CCOEI Secretary

Maria De Los Reyes

DPCD, Community Engagement Officer

Inge Fernando

CCOEI member

Leigh Gilmore

Sheriff Office Box Hill, Sheriff Officer

Lois Gijbsbers

Swinburne, AMEP Program Coordinator

Jack Intziadis

Centrelink, Multicultural Services Officer

Suzette Kabaila

Box Hill AMES, Education Unit Manager

Kiri McKendrick

Sheriff Office Ringwood, Sheriff Officer

Kaled Mohamoud

Centrelink MSO Ringwood

Jasmina Mulugeta

Foundation

Sam Navarra

AMES, CCOEI

Meg Scolyer

Eastern Access Community Health, Health Promotion Officer

Cynthia Shaw

CCOEI, Ashburton Support Services, Louise Multicultural Community Centre

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos

VicPol MLU, Region 4 MLO

Vivian Tee

City of Whitehorse, Community Development Officer

Apologies:

Joseph Agwalaha

Department of Justice

Nick Butera

Centre for Multicultural Youth, Sector Development

Jeska Chemberlain

VicPol MLO

Sally Chan

Centrelink, Multicultural Services Officer (MSO)

Jeanet Coomara

ACFE, Program Officer

Mark Davies

Centrelink, Multicultural Services Officer (MSO)

Belinda Gillam

Knox City Council, Community Development Officer

Marilyn Gurry

Community member

Julia Lee

Holmesglen TAFE, Manager, Language Centre

Maureen McConnell

CHAOS and EVAC

Robyn Powell

DIAC, Coordinator Settlement Planning

Kirsten Reedy

City of Manningham

Vivien Smale

Consumer Affairs, Regional Manager EMR

Meryl Spratling
Clary Verbunt
Fred Warren
Nick White

EACH
CCOEI, WOPAG, NHSC
Holmesglen TAFE AMEP Coordinator
Shire Yarra Ranges

3. Minutes of February 6th meeting

Minutes circulated prior to the meeting. Amendment received from Robyn Powell. Change "Students International on new DIAC webpage" to "Information on legislative changes affecting international students is available under "News" on the DIAC website". Minutes moved Cynthia, seconded Sam. Accepted.

4. Business Arising:

Business arising incorporated in the agenda.

5. **Settlement Needs in your Area** – MSC members were reminded to use this form to highlight unmet settlement needs for discussion at MSC and to forward to DIAC.

6. Discussion items

6.1 Social Enterprises: Mervat and Panchol presented information on the African Community Shop social enterprise being established in the Latrobe Valley. Malou presented the extensive work on social enterprises that has been done by AMES over a number of years. Both presentations were excellent. The summary of the presentations are on separate documents circulated with the minutes.

6.2 Launch of CCOEI Website: Lyndall Thomas, Information Access Group.

Lyndall provided information on the development of the CCOEI website, and information on the work of the Information Access Group. Lyndall circulated contact details on the Information Access Group, which tailors website development to individual needs.

7. Networking and refreshments

8. MSC Calendar 2010 and forum reports

- **Refugee Health Forum in EMR** – Going ahead as planned. Flyer promoting event circulated electronically. Forum is on the 20th April. Refugee health is being looked at as a process beginning with arrival. Social model of health is being used which is based on involving a broad range of agencies.
- **Employment Expo and Forum 2010:** the first forum to be held in Ringwood on 29/4. Focus: youth.
- **Family violence** forum task group meeting on 18/03. Will report at the next MSC meeting on April 9. Task group members: Glenis, Alicia, Judy, Leonie, Meg, Jasmina, Lisa (Others welcome to join).
- **Refugee week: task group** – Leonie, Lois, Mervat, Thomas, Liz, Panchol, Stuart Sorel, BELS rep, Suzette,

9. Agency Reports

MIC (Mervat)

- Homework program at Great Ryrie Primary School commenced on Tuesday March 2nd 2010. The response has been very positive with approximately 24 students from a refugee background attending

- MIC has successfully obtained funding for the Diverse Australia Program. The MIC will work with the Sudanese, Burmese, Iranian, Muslim and Liberian communities to identify their experience of racism and from this to develop activities to reduce racism.
- MIC has also successfully obtained funding for the Refugee Action Program. Previously known as Refugee Brokerage, this program is funded by VMC. Consultations with the identified communities will commence shortly.
- MIC Harmony Day Event – Saturday 20th March at Maroondah Secondary College
- Employment Expo for refugee youth on 29th April 2010 at Ringwood Central Community House.

Local Government (City of Whitehorse - Vivian)

- The annual Festival of Refugees will be held on Sunday 5 September this year at the Box Hill Town Hall. This is the fourth festival organized by the Victorian Council of Churches, in partnership with Whitehorse City Council. The event has been very successful in the past, with over 500 people attending and participation by a diverse spectrum of refugee communities.
- If any one from the community or service organizations would like to be on the planning committee for this event, please contact Vivian Tee on 9262 6101 or Vivian.tee@whitehorse.vic.gov.au the first planning committee meeting is on 25 March in the CBD.

Department of Justice – Sheriff's Office (Kiri and Leigh)

- Infringement support fees waived - amnesty to the 19th March.

Eastern Community Legal Centre (Leonie)

- Workshop on international students. Everyone welcome to support the development of the workshop. Contact Leonie.

Foundation House (Jasmina)

- Refugee settlement in the Eastern Region slowed down: reason is the entrants from Christmas Island who are settling more in the southern suburbs.

10.Date of Next Meeting: Friday 9th April 2010

Focus: Municipal Association of Victoria – multicultural focus. Con Pagonis presenter, along with local council representatives on the MSC.