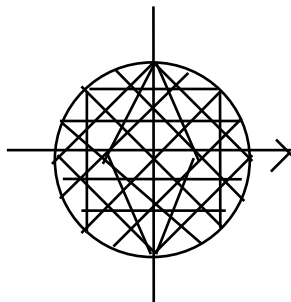


Chairperson:
Sam Navarria



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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 – February 5th 2010

1. **Welcome** – Sam welcomed MSC members and guest speaker Leah Nichles, Director Settlement and Multicultural Affairs Branch, DIAC.

2. **Attendance**

Guest:

Leah Nichles

Director Settlement and Multicultural Affairs Branch, DIAC.

Present:

Alicia Allen

VicPol, New and Emerging Community Liaison Officer

Nick Butera

Centre for Multicultural Youth, Sector Development

Jeanet Coomara

ACFE, Program Officer

Chris Cosgriff

Victoria Police, Inspector, LPPINSP Region 4; CCOEI President

Glenis Crocker

CCOEI Secretary

Mervat Dahdoule

MIC, Settlement Worker and Volunteer Coordinator

Mark Davies

Centrelink, Multicultural Services Officer (MSO)

Inge Fernando

CCOEI member

Belinda Gillam

Knox City Council, Community Development Officer

Leigh Gilmore

Sheriff Office Box Hill, Sheriff Officer

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

Sam Navarria

AMES, CCOEI

Robyn Powell

DIAC, Coordinator Settlement Planning

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

Vivien Smale

Consumer Affairs, Regional Manager EMR

Vivian Tee

City of Whitehorse, Community Development Officer

Clary Verbunt

CCOEI, WOPAG, NHSC

Fred Warren

Holmesglen TAFE AMEP Coordinator

Pallavi Yagnik

Outer East Primary Care Partnership

Apologies:

Joseph Agwalaha

Department of Justice

Diana Bell

City of Maroondah

Leonie Burnham

Eastern Community Legal Centre, Coordinator Inner East Office

Jeska Chamberlain

VicPol MLO

Sally Chan

Centrelink, Multicultural Services Officer (MSO)

Maria De Los Reyes

DPCD, Community Engagement Officer

Twanny Farrugia

Pro Ability and CCOEI

Lois Gijsbers

Swinburne, AMEP Program Coordinator

Marilyn Gurry

Community member

Julia Lee

Holmesglen TAFE, Manager, Language Centre

Maureen McConnell

CHAOS and EVAC

Thomas Mung

Foundation House

Merilyn Spratling

EACH

Nick White

Shire Yarra Ranges

Frank Yaman

Melbourne Fire Brigade

3. Minutes of November 5th 2009 meeting

Minutes circulated prior to the meeting. No amendments received. Moved Cynthia, seconded Mark. Accepted.

4. Business Arising:

Business arising incorporated in the agenda. Acronym list circulated with the minutes. Reports to be emailed to Sam for inclusion in the minutes. Brief description of organizations and their role to be emailed to Sam for collation.

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 Presentation: DIAC Settlement Services and Programs 2010. Leah Nichles, Director, Settlement and Multicultural Affairs Branch, DIAC.

Leah spoke of the range of programs and services supported/funded by DIAC including:

Harmony Day (21 March)

- Harmony Day products available such as posters, balloons, tattoos etc. (see attachment: "harmony-day-products") and/or go to www.harmony.gov.au. This website link will assist you to register events with ability to obtain products you may need.
- The theme for Harmony Day is "Everybody Belongs" and that for Harmony Day 2010 "Express Yourself"

IHSS Tender

- Request for Tender (RFT) to be released in February. Watch the DIAC website for the release.
- Accent is now on more effective casework and early intervention
- New contract will be up and running by October and there will be a transitioning process from the old to the new. If anyone observes or knows of any gaps or issues let DIAC know.

Christmas Island

- Humanitarian entrants from Christmas Island have changed the landscape/climate. DIAC trained staff interview asylum seekers for refugee status on Christmas Island. More staff is being trained to address the volume. The numbers on Christmas Island are significant and the numbers that are coming to Australia from Christmas Island are also significant. A considerable logistical exercise: travel arrangements, frequent and short notice embarkation, determining family friends connections in Australia or elsewhere make this very complex. This has resulted in additional pressures on everyone including service providers.
- A number of Christmas Island exits are unaccompanied minors. Issues include a lack of available carers. A group house model has been explored with some of these entrants to provide better more focused support.
- Life Without Barriers provider working on Christmas Island to support ongoing daily needs
- Christmas Island entrants are counted in the target number of refugee and humanitarian entrants set by the Government.
- IHSS provider looking at different approaches to accommodating entrants: for example refurbishing a decommissioned nursing home in Maidstone to house entrants. The Maidstone model allows for information sessions including financial and accommodation information, orientate entrants to community and services, transport them to various places of need and interest, establish and maintain links with the community. DIAC is also working with DHS re accommodation and financial issues.

Oceanic Viking – of the 78 entrants only 13 have come to Melbourne.

Refugee and Humanitarian entrants

- between 1/7/2009 and 31/01/2010 there have been 934 entrants
- A lot of secondary migration has occurred - not able to be recorded on data base. Efforts to articulate and interface databases to capture latest in-country migration movements and resettlement being explored.

Complex Case Support – Leah will provide **Complex Case Support** document for circulation with the minutes.

Information provided by Leah included:

- Program has been running for just over a year: 62 active cases; 4 cases in process of being assessed; 39 cases exited; 2 cases withdrawn
- Providers getting the largest number of referrals are New Hope (largest), AMES, Diversitat, Spectrum, VASS.
- DIAC tougher in accepting referral, e.g. housing issue not enough to accept a referral but if there are underlying causes then referral may be accepted
- Acute mental health referrals are around 25%. Higher % for less acute mental health referrals

Leah will provide **Tips on preparing referrals for Complex Case Support** document for circulation with the minutes.

Settlement Grants Program: focus is to integrate service delivery better.

LEAD Project partnership with DIAC and Vic Health: focus on how to prevent racism - 10th March at Shepparton and 21 March Whittlesea

VicPol and DIAC partnership: collaboration on the issue of attacks on Indian nationals – education strategy.

7. Networking and refreshments

8. MSC Calendar 2010 and forum reports

- **Calendar 2010:** revisited and confirmed with minor changes. Working parties/task groups and convenors established – see updated calendar
- **Refugee Health Forum in EMR (Pallavi)** - Meeting held. Planning to deliver forum on 20th April. Chronological settlement process focusing on refugee health. Social model of health – involve others.
- **Employment Expo and Forum for skilled migrants 2009 (Belinda):** successful expo, very well attended'

9. Agency Reports

AMEP Holmesglen (Fred)

- AMEP delivered at three Holmesglen campuses, with 200 AMEP enrolments in full time and part time classes
- Focus on English for employment - Specific courses include English for accountants, health professionals, customer service, and skills for business.
- Bilingual Mandarin English class

AMEP Swinburne University (via email from Lois post meeting)

- 2010 AMEP classes have commenced at each of the 4 Swinburne campuses – Croydon, Hawthorn, Wantirna and Prahran. Numbers are good although many Chinese clients have not yet re-commenced due to Chinese New Year and many parents wait until the start of the school year. Numbers should grow in late February, early March.
- A youth class has commenced at Croydon and 99% of these students are Karen and Chin men. Foundation House using the UCan2 program and staff from the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) work with youth on a Thursday. This program provides a very structured 16 week program also using volunteers for 2 hours. The program involves work experience and hopefully will lead to part time work whilst continuing to be engaged in further training in TAFE. Interested in finding more young people to volunteer with this program.
- All campuses currently delivering introductory and orientation settlement program highlighting Swinburne services and bringing in guest visitors from public transport, police and Emergency Services, and Centrelink.
- In mid February DIAC funded Employment Pathways Program in Carpentry at the Croydon campus will commence. This is a 10 week program of ESL and carpentry units also incorporating work experience.
- In term 2 the second DIAC funded Employment Pathways Program in an ESL plus units from Certificate 3 in Health Assistant will commence. Work outcomes could include assisting in aged care facilities or working as a hospital orderly. Flyers are available for this course. Clients have to be AMEP eligible. There will be opportunity for students to complete the Certificate 3 in Health Assistant course in Semester 2 paying fees.

AMEP AMES Box Hill (Suzette)

2010 has started off being very busy and now that schools are back there is plenty of activity. Currently running:

- 27 AMEP classes at Box Hill,
- 2 Refugee Parents' classes in Ringwood. Should soon start a parents' class at Great Ryrie Primary School.
- Cert 3 in Aged Care
- 5 ILC classes
- Distance Learning
- 3 DIAC Employment Pathways Programs in Retail, Hospitality and Starting a Micro Business
- Volunteer Tutor Program running a sewing group in Croydon and gardening plot groups in Box Hill and Croydon.

DIAC (Robyn)

- Students International on new DIAC webpage
- Settlement Planning Update to restart
- Diversified Summer Edition distributed – many articles of interest.

MIC (Mervat)

- A new homework program will be delivered to refugee students enrolled at Great Ryrie Primary School. Parental involvement will be actively encouraged to engender greater community engagement and stronger ties to their children's learning. The program will be facilitated by the MIC with the assistance of volunteer tutors. Starting on Tuesday 2nd March 2010, the program will be held from 3:30pm to 5:00pm every Tuesday during school term.
- The MIC has received funding for the Refugee Action Program. Consultations with targeted community groups will commence in March. Chin, Sudanese, Liberian, Karen, Iranian, Afghani and Iraqi communities will be consulted.
- The MIC, as the auspice agency for the Bor Community Association of Australia, has obtained funding to undertake a business plan for an African Community Shop Social Enterprise in the La Trobe Valley. This follows from the feasibility study undertaken in 2009.

Local Government (City of Knox - Belinda)

- Knox City Council has just received its first ever grant from the Victorian Multicultural Commission, to support multicultural activities at the Knox Festival, Sat 27 and Sun 28 February. Activities include a multicultural stage, community kitchen and Living Library

Local Government (City of Whitehorse - Vivian)

- Harmony Day events
 - a. The Box Hill Community Arts Centre will exhibit a collection of artwork produced by students at an art school in East Timor from 15-25 March. The collection represents the students' interpretation of Harmony. The exhibition opening on 19 March will include drumming demonstrations and workshops by four of the student artists.
 - b. Council is hosting a Harmony Day concert on Sunday 21 March at Box Hill Gardens from 1-8pm. Concert will feature dance and music performances by community groups from 1-4 pm and world music from headline artists from 4-8pm. The Harmony Day Village area will feature community stalls providing activities, food and arts/crafts. Non-profit groups interested in hosting a community stall can contact Vivian by 11 February – Vivian.tee@whitehorse.vic.gov.au or phone 9262 6101.
- Deakin University Intercultural Engagement Program (Geelong & Burwood campuses) – program designed to develop events and activities to bring students from all walks of life together (including international and local students), as well as linking students with the wider community. A number of events and activities have been proposed.

Consumer Affairs Victoria Dept of Justice (Vivien)

- Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) in the Eastern Metropolitan Region is located at the Box Hill Justice Centre. The service covers the Cities of Boroondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash and Whitehorse and the Shire of Yarra Ranges.
- CAV promotes and protects and promotes the interests of consumers through information, advice and education. Educational presentations cover a range of topics including renting, product safety, credit etc. If your group would like a guest speaker, please contact us to arrange a presentation. We will tailor the presentation to your group's interests and needs based on the following topics
- Contact the Box Hill Justice Centre on 8803 8444 or at 703 Station Street Box Hill to speak to CAV.

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

- Enforcement arm of the police force
- Amnesty has been declared on fines active from 2nd February to 19th March. State Government agencies have waived all their fees. Infringement support fees waived.

CMY (Nick)

- Maroondah Refugee Youth Action Group meeting.
- Surf Life Saving Australia program for young Karen. Training young people to be water safe, as well as life saving training.

EACH (Meg)

- Meg recently started at EACH. Looking at policies re inclusiveness.

Vic Police (Liz and Alicia)

- Safety forum on international students
- Alicia working with emerging communities
- Cross cultural training for police officers

10. Other business

- Holland Festival (Clary) – 20th February at Sandown from 10am. Everyone welcome.
- Reminder to send Sam a brief description of your organization for collation and circulation.

11. Date of Next Meeting: Friday 5th March 2010

Focus: Social Enterprises – African Shop, Gippsland, MIC; AMES Social Enterprises