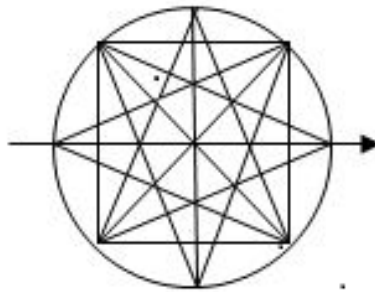


Chairs:

Sam Navarria: Mob: 0432 975 558

Cynthia Shaw: Mob: 0434 080 977



P O Box 94

Forest Hill VIC 3131

Email: chair.msc@ccoehi.org.au**Website:** www.ccoehi.org.au**MIGRANT SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (Eastern Region)**

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

Reg. No. A0017562S

MinutesFriday, March 7th 2014**The Courtyard Room, City of Whitehorse, 379 Whitehorse Road Nunawading. 9.30-12.00**

Sam welcomed guest Anna Hughes, Manager Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Grants Program, Department of Social Services, and members of the MSC.

1. Present

Jessica Bishop	Migrant Information Centre, Settlement Community Development Officer
Leonie Burnham	ECLC, Manager Inner East Office
Jeska Chamberlain	Victoria Police, Multicultural Liaison Officer
Maria deMonte	DHS Centrelink Multicultural Services Officer
Gaylene Donaldson	Anchor, Housing Support Case Manager
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff Office Ringwood, Sheriff Officer
Michael Hardie	International Students, Administrator, Box Hill Office
Slavica Jurcevic	Department of Social Services
Sarah Lausberg	Inner East Melbourne Medicare Local, Primary Health Integration Officer
Teena Lee	Eastern Health Child Youth Mental Health Services, Promotions Officer
Jaya Manchikanti	City of Knox, Multicultural Community Officer
Kiri McKendrik	Sheriff Office Ringwood, Sheriff Officer
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Sarah Nichols	MIC, Case Manager
Andree O'Donnell	AMES Settlement
Sarah Reid	Maurice Blackburn, Lawyer
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI
Clary Verbunt	CCOEI, Dutch Community

Apologies

Linda Boyd	Swinburne University, Operations Manager
Mark Butler	MIND, Nunawading Community Team
Linda Chen	CCOEI, Community Member, ESL Teacher
Gitta Clayton	AMES Outer East Volunteer Tutor Program Coordinator
Karen Connolly	Swinburne University, Team Leader CALD
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI; Anchor; Coranderrk
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI; Coranderrk
Glenis Crocker	CCOEI, Secretary
John Devine	Anchor, CEO
Twanny Farrugia	CCOEI Treasurer, DonateLife Community Champion
Sally Hall	Inner East Melbourne Medicare Local, Primary Health Integration Program Officer
Margot Hennessy	AMES Youth Coordinator
Cindy Kung	Louise Multicultural Centre
Deborah Lawrence	Eastern Health Child Youth Mental Health Services, Promotions Officer
Jade O'Keefe	Anchor, Case Manager
Madeleine Parker	DEECD EMR, School Development Officer ESL
Fred Warren	Holmesglen TAFE

2. Minutes February 7, 2014 meeting

Minutes circulated electronically. Moved Clary Verbunt, seconded Maria deMonte. Accepted.

3. Business Arising – Incorporated in the agenda

4. Settlement Needs in your Area

The form has been used to highlight unmet needs in the EMR and forwarded to vic.settlement.planner@immi.gov.au Anna Hughes will check the status of the form and, if still current, the receiving location and will inform Sam.

5. Correspondence.

- (a) Coranderrk Festival flyer - circulated electronically to members
- (b) SPU February Edition – circulated electronically to members

6. Meeting focus

**Department of Social Services (DSS): an overview and update of migrant and refugee services.
Anna Hughes, Manager, Multicultural Affairs & Settlement Grants Program, DSS**

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is a newly created department which is responsible for administering some of the functions of the former department of Immigration and Citizenship (for the latest DSS news visit the [policy and programs page](#)).

The department was set up 5 months ago and staff are coming to terms with major changes. In Victoria there are about 200 staff over 3 sites in the CBD. DSS plans to house all staff in one location in Collins Street by May. There are many challenges such as 4 different IT systems!

The functions being administered by DSS include:

- Settlement services and multicultural affairs
- Ageing and aged care (this is the biggest area in Victoria)
- Income security, support policies and programmes and services for families with children, carers, the aged, people with disabilities and people in hardship
- All Social Security Act income support payments
- Disability employment services
- Community mental health
- Social housing, rent assistance, homelessness and housing affordability
- Not for profit and volunteering

The settlement services and multicultural affairs function includes:

- Humanitarian Settlement Services
- Settlement Grants Program
- Complex Case Support
- Diversity and Social Cohesion Program
- Empowering Local Communities Program
- Multicultural Arts and Festivals Grants
- Building Multicultural Communities Program
- Community Hubs Program

DSS is responsible for administering community grants with over 14,000 grants across the Commonwealth. It is looking at where there may be synergies in funding to get the best outcomes for clients.

Anna spoke about a number of programs within the settlement services and multicultural affairs function. She noted that in **Multicultural Affairs**, DSS has state and territory-based Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) who engage and support communities through:

- Supporting the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary in their engagement with multicultural communities
- Supporting communities and monitoring community relations and tensions
- Managing grants programmes that address issues of cultural, racial and religious intolerance and encourage social cohesion outcomes.

The CLOs in the former DIAC worked in the grants program and with diverse communities. Their focus was social cohesion. They worked with specific CALD groups, and provided DIAC with valuable input. In DSS, CLOs still focus on social cohesion but have been given regions rather than CALD groups. The DIBP also have officers, Ethnic Liaison Officers (ELOs) who focus on immigration issues.

Settlement Grants program is continuing. The grants funding round usually occurs in September/October but there was no funding round in 2013 and existing contracts were extended. Grants are currently under review through the Commission of Audit, a process set up by the government to review discretionary grants (most grants fall into this category). The Federal budget in May 2014 may provide details about the future of specific programs, but most grants are expected to continue at least for the life of the contracts with some expiring in June 2014.

Complex Case Support is an uncapped program for high needs clients. Program numbers fluctuate depending on need. There are around 60 recipients of Complex Case Support services across Australia and agencies deliver the service for 3 months to each individual although extensions have been granted.

The Diversity and Social Cohesion Program is continuing. Twenty grants have been provided in Victoria. The grants, which are up to \$50,000 and target multicultural communities under stress, focus on capacity building projects. Smaller grants of up to \$5,000 are for Multicultural Arts and Festivals.

The **Community Hubs Program**, established in 2013, targets isolated women who lack confidence to access services including the AMEP. Anna noted two hubs: one in the City of Greater Dandenong and another in the City of Brimbank. The Community Hubs Program is supported by the Scanlon Foundation whose research found that women suffer significant isolation. The aim of the program is to break isolation and open up opportunities. Anna will provide information and links to the Community Hubs program for circulation to MSC.

Anna invited MSC members to contact her if they wanted to clarify or discuss any matters. Slavica Jurcevic, Settlement Grants Manager with DSS, will continue to attend MSC meetings.

Anna could not address questions about immigration as this area is the responsibility of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

Sam thanked Anna for bringing the MSC up to date and wished her and her team the best for the future.

7. MSC Calendar 2014 - The calendar is a flexible program developed in consultation with MSC members.

MSC 2014 Calendar

MSC meeting dates	Meeting focus	Forums/functions/events dates and working groups	International Multicultural Calendar events in 2014
January	No meeting		
07 Feb	Refugee Council of Australia – Australian Government policy on Asylum seekers and refugees and its impact on the ground (Louise Olliff, Settlement Policy Coordinator, RCOA); Brooke Collins - Coranderrk and community involvement: Keeping Barak's dream alive		February 1-7 United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week
07 March	Multicultural Affairs & Settlement Grants Program, Department of Social Services: an	Harmony Day – support activities including soccer	Sat March 15 th Coranderrk (Aboriginal Station) Festival Healesville

	update on the changes from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) to the Department of Social Services (DSS). (Multicultural Affairs & Settlement Grants Program, DSS – Manager Anna Hughes).	harmony events (Australia Burma Society and others).	March 21: Harmony Day
04 April	Foundation House – its work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers in 2014, (Jasmina Mulugeta, Eastern Region Team Coordinator, Foundation House)	Building cultural competence: requisite skills and tools. Leonie (convenor), Railey, Maria, Rebecca (MIC Diversity training), AMES, Linda, Teena.	April 7 – World Health Organisation World Health Day
02 May	Red Cross and its work with asylum seekers and refugees in 2014 Or CAV - focus on key areas of activity and concerns	DV: theme TBC. Leonie (convenor) Glenis, Jasmina, Judy (MIC) Jeska.	May 21 - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development ,
06 June	Human Rights Law Centre or RILC. (Leonie to contact Human Rights Law Centre)	Refugee Week – MSC/CCOEI in partnership with an LGA	June 20 – UN World Refugee Day , June 26 – UN Day - Support of Victims of Torture
July	No meeting		
01 Aug	Domestic Violence Victoria OR Organisations servicing CALD: What do they do? What are the limitations/barriers? (Leonie to contact <i>In Touch</i> or/and EDVOS for speakers)		
05 Sept	Holistic support for youth (e.g. Anchor services and programs; specific programs and services provided by JEM, NAPCAN; CMY, Life Without Barriers); OR VMC and RACs – achievements and challenges		
03 Oct	Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria – the multicultural landscape: ECCV's place in it.	Education and Training expo;	October 17- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty , UN recognized
07 Nov	Amnesty International – its work locally and globally. Review MSC 2014 program; plan MSC 2015 program; CCOEI AGM	Refugee health forum (cultural perspectives on mental health?)	November 16 - International Day for Tolerance November 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women ,
05 Dec	Meeting to be advised.	CCOEI Birthday Celebration?	Dec 3 rd : International Day for People with a disability . http://www.idpwd.com.au/

Other areas of interest:

1. How LGAs in the Eastern Metropolitan Region address the needs of cultural minorities in their area
2. The law – magistrates court/Sheriff office
3. Human rights and culture (could be part of the MSC June meeting)
4. ACT for Peace
5. Refugee Minors Program: – changes to support clients turning 18

8. Forum and agency reports

Forum reports

Building Cultural Competence (Leonie Burnham) – Forum Working Group (Teena, Maria, Riley) has met and is developing the program. Likely delivery of the forum will be in May. Forum format is interactive and designed to be both instructive and entertaining – based on similar approach of the television program *Mind Your Language*. At present exploring a suitable forum presenter.

Domestic Violence (Leonie Burnham) – The Forum Working Group has met a couple of times. The forum focus will be on breaking the cycle of violence. The forum will be delivered by end of June 2014.

Agency Reports

HSS Services – AMES Consortium (Andree O'Donnell)

- The total refugee arrivals in the area for February is 5 – well down from 27 for February in 2013
- 7 proposals in February – not known when these will arrive

Department of Human Services – Centrelink (Maria deMonte)

- The department has the responsibility to administer Asylum Seeker payments for Victoria
- Circulated flyer re employment opportunity for Indigenous Apprentice
- Men's Network meeting scheduled on 28 March

ECLC (Leonie Burnham) noted the ECLC 40th birthday on the 23rd of May and the Louise Multicultural Centre 30th birthday on the 9th of March at the City of Whitehorse, Box Hill Town Hall.

City of Knox (Jaya Manchikanti)

- noted the City of Knox Harmony Festival to be held on 29/30 March and lead by community members;
- MSC members can access the City of Knox E Bulletin.

MIC (Jessica Bishop)

- Encouraged members to join the MSC newsletter by joining the mailing list online;
- Working with Burma communities at Federation Estate on 25th March – flyer to be circulated;
- 30th March fund raising film – Jessica to circulate flyer
- For upcoming events visit the MIC website at <http://www.miceastmelb.com.au/forthcoming.htm>

Victoria Police (Jeska Chamberlain)

- Burma communities being assisted in relation to the drowning of a 20 year old Burmese in the Yarra;
- Issues with 15-16 year old Burmese boys disengaged from education, the police and other agencies and who are involved in a range of petty crime. Jeska following up individual boys;
- Elder abuse is a significant issue with multicultural communities who are under represented in the statistics – working to engage multicultural communities including long established groups;
- Driving program still going strong – Community Connections, Vic Roads, MIC and others participating.

Sheriff Office Ringwood (Leigh Gilmore) – presentation to Greek community on elder abuse re financial matters and in dealing with vehicle fines. Requests for presentations to other communities are welcome.

Eastern Health Child Youth Mental Health Services (Teena Lee) – noted changes to the community engagement team working with disadvantaged groups. The changes are due to reduction in funding. There are now fewer hours available for service delivery.

Inner East Melbourne Medicare Local, Primary Health Integration (Sarah Lausberg) – Sarah works with refugees and migrants (Sally Hall with Indigenous community). The Iranian group is receiving attention.

International Students (Michael Hardie) – Michael administers the Box Hill Office of international students and is responsible for their study, work and volunteering (in shelters and refuges, etc.) program.

9. **Projects and Ideas** – Leonie noted the importance of the MSC as a network for sharing resources and good practice, and a source of support including letters of support for funding submissions. Noted that it would be advantageous for the MSC to encourage and develop more partnerships on projects and for agencies to explore funding opportunities and the funding landscape collaboratively, particularly at this time of funding reductions and cutbacks. Funding bodies also encourage partnerships.

Next MSC Meeting: Friday April 4, 2014, 9.30 - 12.00

Focus: Foundation House – its work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers in 2014

Presenter: Jasmina Mulugeta, Eastern Region Team Coordinator, Foundation House

Venue: The Courtyard Room, City of Whitehorse Civic Centre, 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

NOTE:

- For past and current CCOEI and MSC documents, including meeting papers and guest presentations, visit www.CCOEI.org.au
- To contact Cynthia Shaw or Sam Navarria on matters relating to the MSC please use chair.msc@gmail.com.