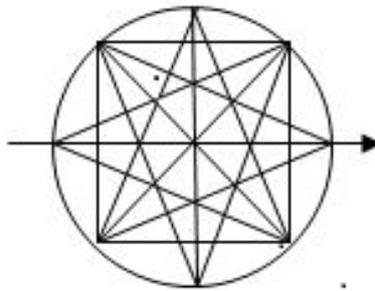


Chairs:

Sam Navarria: Mob: 0432 975 558

Cynthia Shaw: Mob: 0434 080 977

P O Box 94
Forest Hill VIC 3131**Email:** chair.msc@ccoel.org.au**Website:** www.ccoel.org.au**MIGRANT SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (Eastern Region)**

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

Reg. No. A0017562S

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

Sam welcomed guests and members of the MSC.

1. Present

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Leonie Burnham | ECLC, Manager Inner East Office |
| Mark Butler | MIND, Nunawading Community Team |
| Gitta Clayton | AMES Outer East Volunteer Tutor Program Coordinator |
| Chris Cosgriff | CCOEI, Anchor |
| Heather Cosgriff | Community |
| Glenis Crocker | CCOEI, Secretary |
| Cam Crome | Kildonan, HESS Program Manager |
| Belinda Dawson | VicPol Community Engagement, SC PALO/MLO |
| Maria deMonte | DHS Centrelink MSO |
| Kachel Hanley | MIC, Student |
| Margot Hennessy | AMES Youth Coordinator |
| Slavica Jurcevic | Department of Social Services |
| Cindy Kung | Louise Multicultural Community Centre, Admin/Program Coordinator |
| Teena Lee | Eastern Health Child Youth Mental Health Services, Promotions Officer |
| Jaya Manchikanti | City of Knox, Multicultural Community Officer |
| Penny Moore | Maroondah City Council, Community Development Officer |
| Sam Navarria | CCOEI |
| Stephen Noy | Victoria Police Eastern Region, Inspector Community Engagement |
| Andree O'Donnell | AMES Settlement |
| Saturnino Onyala | MIC, Settlement Support Worker |
| Madeleine Parker | DEECD EMR, School Development Officer ESL |
| Mehul Patel | MIC, Project Worker |
| Teresita Romero | AMES, Senior Manager Education and Training |
| Kirsten Reedy | Manningham City Council, Planning and Development Officer |
| Cynthia Shaw | CCOEI |
| Bwe Thay | Swinburne University, AMEP Pathway Counsellor |
| Sui Ting Tse | CCOEI |
| Clary Verbunt | CCOEI, Dutch Community |
| Megan Woods | Foundation House, Counsellor/Advocate |

Apologies

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Katerina Bletsas | Yarra Valley Water, Program Manager Strategy & Communications |
| Linda Chen | CCOEI, Community Member, ESL Teacher |
| Karen Connolly | Swinburne University, Team Leader CALD |
| Twanny Farrugia | CCOEI Treasurer, DonateLife Community Champion |
| Deborah Lawrence | Eastern Health Child Youth Mental Health Services, Promotions Officer |
| Clarice Lim | MIND Australia, PHaMs |
| Merilyn Spratling | EACH, Refugee Health Nurse, RHN Program |
| Evie Thomas | Eastern Health CYMHS, Senior Clinical Advisor |
| Fred Warren | Holmesglen TAFE |

2. Minutes December 6, 2013 meeting

Minutes circulated electronically. Moved Chris Cosgriff, seconded Maria deMonte. Accepted.

3. Business Arising – Incorporated in the agenda

4. Settlement Needs in your Area

MSC members can use the Department's form for unmet needs in the EMR and send to CCOEI or the Department. CCOEI provides opportunities for discussion of unmet needs at MSC meetings and forums.

5. Correspondence – nil.

6. Meeting focus

(a) Government policy on Refugees and Asylum Seekers and its impact on the ground, Louise Olliff, Settlement Policy Coordinator, Refugee Council of Australia

Louise provided an overview of the work of the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA), a National umbrella body for refugees and the organisations and individuals who support them. There are over 180 organisational and 700 individual members. The RCOA promotes the adoption of flexible, humane and practical policies towards refugees and asylum seekers both within Australia and internationally through conducting research, advocacy, policy analysis and community education. They have a small team in Melbourne and Sydney and like to see issues taken all the way to the Federal level where relevant.

Intake Submission: In October and November 2013, RCOA conducted 47 face-to-face and teleconference consultations with service providers and refugee community representatives across Australia. Over 845 individuals and representatives from 195 organisations participated. The findings were presented to the Minister and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) in January 2014, and will be publicly released shortly. There is also ongoing follow-up and advocacy. Further detail can be obtained by visiting the RCOA website www.refugeecouncil.org.au/r/isub.php

Key issues of concern

- Size of Humanitarian Program: Increase to 20,000 in 2012-13 and back down to 13,750 in 2013-14;
- Community Proposal Pilot (costs, implementation, within existing 13,750);
- Family reunion (delays, limitations and closing off pathways);
- Asylum policy:
 - Focus on deterrence over protection;
 - Lack of communication and transparency;
 - Longer term impacts of harmful policies on people;
 - Asylum seekers in the community: Lack of work rights and meagre income payments; access to services, education and housing and changes to policies uncertainty and delays;
 - Offshore processing (capacity of PNG and Nauru, poor conditions, legality and RSD, cost);
 - Immigration detention (conditions, children in detention);
 - Young people in community detention; etc.
- Settlement issues:
 - Employment, education, housing, health, young people, disability, Women at Risk;
 - Coordination and planning mechanisms;
 - Funding and eligibility; (no Family Reunion rights and if they leave they are not allowed to return)
 - Currently 35,000 in the community
- **What can you do? Support "A New Approach" joint statement (13 August 2013):**
 - Maintain Australia's position as a world leader in resettlement;
 - Abandon offshore processing;
 - Redouble efforts to build regional cooperation on refugee protection:

- Ensure prompt access to permanent protection;
- Commit to a sustainable model of community-based processing;
- Maintain a timely and fair system of refugee status determination;
- Provide access to timely and realistic family reunion opportunities;
- Abandon policies which pit onshore protection against resettlement

(For further detail visit www.refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/130813-NewApproach.pdf)

Louise finished by explaining how people can get involved:

- Join RCOA monthly Bulletin mailing list - contact info@refugeecouncil.org.au
- Become an organisational or individual member;
- Participate in RCOA's Settlement or Asylum Policy Networks (www.refugeecouncil.org.au/a/pn.php);
- Participate in annual intake submission community consultations;
- Contact RCOA directly if you would like to raise specific issues or concerns.

Louise's role at RCOA is changing as she will be working on international issues.

Questions and comments:

Q: Does RCOA link with International Organisations?

A: Yes – RCOA puts Australian policies in new light and engages internationally, e.g. Geneva.

C: Thai/Burma camps marked for closure in 2015 and refugees/asylum seekers have been encouraged to return home. However people in those camps are too frightened to return because they don't think it is safe due to landmines, misappropriation of their lands and other factors.

On behalf of the MSC, Sam thanked Louise for a comprehensive and succinct presentation and wished the RCOA much success.

(b) Coranderrk - Keeping Barak's Dream Alive, Brooke Collins, Coranderrk

Brooke is one of the organisers of the Coranderrk 150th (and now the upcoming 151st [Coranderrk Festival](#) to be held on Saturday the 15th March 2014) – for further detail access the Coranderrk Festival flier http://gallery.mailchimp.com/76f0a79ba9a8ee892acb475b4/files/Coranderrk_walk_2014.pdf. She works as a Cultural Strengthening Youth Worker and recently as Program Coordinator at Healesville Indigenous Community Services Association (HICSA). Chris Cosgriff introduced Brooke by saying that there are many similarities in relation to how refugees are being treated now compared with what Indigenous people have had to endure over the years.

Brooke stated that she had very strong links to the land at Coranderrk. Her family name is Wandin and she has lived in Healesville all her life. She showed us many interesting photos such as that of her grandparents, and through the photos provided a brief historical picture of Coranderrk and the indigenous community.

Coranderrk had a short life – 61 years, from 1863 to 1924 where the beginning was quite humble with basic living quarters in huts ranging to more modern accommodation as years went on. The community became self-sufficient in many ways and started to thrive with their own dairy, orchards, cattle and pigs and they had more success growing hops than other farmers in the State. There was a lot of pride in what they did. However, all of that was taken away through the Coranderrk closure in the 1920s.

The 2013 Coranderrk Festival celebrated its 150th anniversary. Brooke said: "After the success of our festival in March, we have thought and talked a lot about how to confirm our goals about Coranderrk. We want to tell the Coranderrk story, what happened here, both good and bad, especially the 'human' stories of people who lived in what was once a thriving village. We also want to rejuvenate Coranderrk as a productive welcoming place that shows both the resilience of indigenous people and honours our ancestors".

Another celebratory initiative is the Coranderrk Walk. The 2nd Annual Walk to Coranderrk will take place on Saturday 1st March 2014. The 5km walk will begin at Coronation Park, Healesville, and finish at Coranderrk Station, Barak Lane, Healesville. The annual walk commemorates the long trek from the Acheron made by William Barak, Simon Wonga and others as they searched for a permanent home for their people.

Brooke has been very active in promoting both the Coranderrk Walk and the Coranderrk Festival through interviews and public speaking, e.g. interviewed on the ABC's Jon Faine radio program with Jill Singer, Matthew Condon and Mick Woiwod. <http://www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2013/03/19/3718875.htm>

Brooke encouraged members of the MSC to help keep Barak's dream alive by joining in at the Coranderrk Festival Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/211983658931298/> There will be over 40 stalls, and a wonderful day out with a music festival with many famous bands. The venue is a working paddock so it would be sensible to wear appropriate footwear.

A video of Brooke's presentation at the MSC can be accessed on you tube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1VjnwlnYDQ>

Chris thanked Brooke for her presentation and wished her well for the festival and her work with Coranderrk.

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 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 Day – support activities including soccer harmony events (Australia Burma Society and others). | Sat March 15 th Coranderrk (Aboriginal Station) Festival Healesville March 21: <u>Harmony Day</u> |
| 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 <u>World Health Day</u> |
| 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 - <u>World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development</u> , |
| 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 <u>World Refugee Day</u> , June 26 – UN <u>Day - Support of Victims of Torture</u> |
| 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 (part of June meeting?)
4. ACT for Peace
5. Refugee Minors Program: – changes to support clients turning 18

8. Forum and agency reports

Forum reports

Health Forum: *Disability and Cultural Diversity – Challenges* (Sam Navarria) – Forum Working Group will meet to evaluate the forum and a forum report will be provided.

Building Cultural Competence – Forum to be delivered by end of June, 2014. Convenor: Leonie

Domestic Violence – Forum to be delivered by end of June 2014. Convenor: Leonie

Agency Reports

AMES Box Hill Education (Margot Hennessy and Teresita Romero)

- Youth program at Box Hill AMES continues from 2013. Key aspect of the program is UCan2 which features study, work and mentoring support. Program is in partnership with Foundation House and CMY;
- Vocational programs run at Box Hill include Aged Care and Children Services;
- Apart from the AMEP Box Hill delivers the Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) program (Department of Industry). This program is for registered unemployed and addresses language, literacy, and numeracy training and is employment focused.

HSS Services – AMES Consortium (Andree O'Donnell)

- HSS continues to shrink - very low number of arrivals compared to the same time in 2013 (10 cases in Jan; 4 in Feb; last year Feb had 27 cases)
- 2 case managers and a team leader are located at Dandenong and at Ringwood - Lack of interview rooms.
- The HSS Community Guides are employed for 3 days per week;
- The service is now funded by DSS, a newly created federal department.

Swinburne University AMEP (Bwe Thay)

- AMEP programs now running at all Swinburne sites;

- AMES VTP Coordinator (Gitta Clayton) has arranged for tutors to support AMEP clients and Swinburne is most grateful for this assistance;
- High number of clients ready for work skills programs (also run by AMES) - encouraging Karen group to train as family day care workers (LGAs support training for family day care).

Department of Human Services – Centrelink (Maria deMonte) Noted the Refugee and Asylum Seeker (RAS) teams delivering streamlined services to refugee and humanitarian entrants for 12 weeks from the moment of arrival, includes income support, assessments, Medicare enrolments, etc.

Department of Social Services (Slavica Jurgevic)

- The new department and its functions in relation to multicultural affairs and the settlement of refugees and its services will be the focus at the next MSC meeting. Settlement services and multicultural affairs officially moved from DIAC to DSS on 7 November 2013. To view the DSS website go to: <http://www.dss.gov.au/>
- The SPU continues to be published.

ECLC (Leonie Burnham) noted the ECLC office in Healesville opening in February.

City of Knox (Jaya Manchikanti) noted the Knox Festival 1-2 March, refer to website for up to date details. <http://www.knox.vic.gov.au/knoxfestival>

City of Maroondah (Penny Moore) noted the Maroondah local government Community Safety Expo in partnership with various organisations and providers. The expo is part of the Harmony Day events on 21 March. The expo targets people studying English at Swinburne TAFE. Services that are taking part include State Emergency Services, Country Fire Authority, and the police. One aspect of the expo is to educate the public on uniformed emergency staff.

Manningham City Council (Kirsten Reedy)

- Cultural Diversity Week 2014 is being held from 15 to 23 March and provides an opportunity for residents to come together to share aspects of their culture, faith and language, and to celebrate the benefits that multiculturalism brings to our community;
- Harmony Day Celebration Wednesday 19 March, 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm Manningham Function Centre. For more information go to the website. The local Interfaith Network will celebrate with an evening of performances by Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh communities and local school children. To RSVP to the event, please email dothaynes041@gmail.com
- Access and Equity Committee seeking new members and updating terms of reference.

MIC (Saturnino Onyala)

- Community education re uniformed agencies – Community Safety and Emergency Services Expo. The expo to celebrate Diversity Week will be held on Harmony Day. The expo is organised by Swinburne University and the MIC and focuses on safety. It brings together organisations providing safety services and organisations with a broader range of responsibilities including Ambulance Victoria, Australian Red Cross, Country Fire Authority, Department of Human Services (Centrelink), Department of Environment and Primary Industries – Fisheries and Land and Fire, Maroondah City Council, Melbourne Fire Brigade, Parks Victoria, State and Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, Department of Justice, Victoria Police and Yarra Valley Water. The expo will highlight how to identify uniforms SES officers wear;
- Karen Community Information session to learn about Australian services. Sessions on 12 and 26 of February and in March in Ringwood. Check with MIC for further information or visit MIC website <http://www.miceastmelb.com.au/forthcoming.htm>
- Use of tap water in partnership with Yarra Valley Water information session on 14 February for African communities.

Victoria Police (Stephen Noy)

- RESPECT soccer tournament: This initiative is a joint project with Manningham Council, Manningham Interfaith Network, Veneto Club and Victoria Police. It is being held on the 23rd of February 2014 at the Veneto Club on Bulleen Road. Expecting to have 144 participants registered to play, ages 13 - 30. The participants will be from different cultural and religious backgrounds coming together to play a friendly round robin. The games are 2 x 10 minutes halves and each team will play two games. The referees will then choose one player from each game to enter the 'big' 11 a side game against Manningham Police, the CEO and Mayor of the local council;
- Community Consultation Report - This is a 3 year plan to address concerns of discriminatory policing and racial profiling released on 31 December 2013. A copy of the report, as well as other relevant reports, i.e. *'Equality is not the same'* report and two other accompanying consultant reports are available at www.police.vic.gov.au Four Forums have been planned by community groups in the north west and south and police will simply attend as part of the panels. The police will be conducting its own forum in the East - venue and date will be advised.

Kildonan (Cam Crome) noted the HESS which is an energy saving program which will end in June. Flyer and brochure circulated.

Foundation House (Megan Woods) noted that the service is open for HSS referrals.

9. Projects and Ideas – incorporated in the MSC 2014 calendar.

Next MSC Meeting: Friday March 7, 2014, 9.30 - 12.00

Focus: Multicultural Affairs & Settlement Grants Program: an overview and an update on its work since its relocation to the Department of Social Services (DSS).

Presenter: Anna Hughes, Manager, Multicultural Affairs & Settlement Grants Program, DSS.

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

NOTES:

- 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.