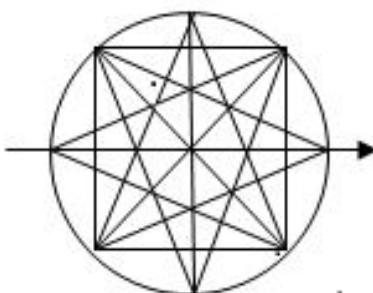


Chairs:

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Cynthia Shaw: Mob: 0466 157 906



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Email: chair.msc@gmail.com**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, August 3, 2018****Whitehorse Community Centre, Level 1 Conference Room,
79 Mahoneys Road, Forest Hill.**1. **Welcome** – Sam welcomed MSC members and guests.2. **Present**

Sally Brooks	MIC, Strategic Engagement Coordinator
Iresha Butngamnwa	ECLC, Community Development Coordinator
Gitta Clayton	Links – CHBC, Community Engagement Coordinator
Elspeith Colлие	Melbourne Polytechnic Melbourne AMEP Volunteer Tutor Scheme
Julie Conan-Davies	Swinburne University, AMEP Coordinator
Kate Jeffery	Link Health and Community, Senior Research and Planning Officer
Pamela Kosij	City of Monash, Multicultural Communities Development Officer
Margeaux Loos	ATO, Migrant Education
Katrina Myers	Box Hill Institute, Program Manager AMEP & SEE
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Vicki Selimi	DHS, Centrelink, Multicultural Services Officer
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Rosemary Sheehan	Whitehorse Council, Diversity Officer
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	Victoria Police, Eastern Region Multicultural Police Unit, MLO
Vijay Susaria	Louise Multicultural Centre, Peace Garden Project
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University. CCOEI
Johnny Tran	Victoria Police MLO
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI, President
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI
Chris Walsh	ECLC, Director Partnerships and Community Development
Fred Warren	Holmesglen TAFE, Acting Program Coordinator
Emma Wilkinson	City of Boroondara, Social Inclusion Policy and Project Officer
Apologies	
Rick Comfort	DHS Centrelink MSO
Rayce Coyte	IMVC, National Disability Coordinator Officer
Halime Duzen	NEAMI National, Partner in Recovery
Dr Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Vincent Hu	Chinese Community Social Services Centre, Community Services Worker
Saba Irfan	Women's Friendship Group Inc
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc
Digna Libera	Holmesglen TAFE
Jenny Mitchell	Whitehorse/ Manningham Libraries, CALD Branch Manager
Madeleine Parker	DET, Senior Project Officer EAL
Barbara Reeckman	Melbourne Polytechnic, Pathways Guidance Coordinator, AMEP
Lyudmila Theodore	Holmesglen TAFE, AMEP Coordinator
Rebecca Wickes	Monash University, Associate Professor

Zehra Yalcin

Kara House

Guests

Wendy Blakis

Yarra Ranges Council, Best Start Community Facilitator

Rakhi Khanna

Yarra Ranges Council, Supported Playgroups and EYCS Team Leader

Penny Moore

City of Maroondah, Community Development Officer

Joan Pepi

Knox City Council, Multicultural Communities Officer (apology)

3. Minutes MSC June 2018

Moved Gitta Clayton, seconded Sui Ting Tse. Accepted.

4. Business Arising

Incorporated in the agenda.

5. Correspondence. Information circulated via email or noted at the meeting, including:

1. **Guide to Australian Government payments.** (Circulated at the meeting)

2. **Zone-In. Action on Social Housing** (Circulated at the meeting)

3. **ECCV – Position papers** (Circulated at the meeting)

- Child and Family Welfare Services
- Life in Retirement
- Falling through the cracks – Asylum seekers and refugees mental health

6. Meeting focus: Cultural responsiveness of Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in the Eastern Metropolitan Region – LGA projects

(a) **Knox City Council, Joan Pepi, Multicultural Communities Officer.**

Project: Working in the Multicultural Space – Joan Pepi unable to attend.

(b) **Maroondah City Council, Penny Moore, Community Development Officer.**

Project: Nurturing Partnerships between Sport and Newly Arrived Communities

Penny spoke about a project to engage with the local community and include new emerging migrant communities. Maroondah is home to 3800 plus migrants from Myanmar including Falam, Hakha, Karen, Mizo, Zo & Zomi.

The needs of the groups from Myanmar were specified as:

- Large meeting space 180-200 sq.m
- Small meeting place 40 sq.m
- Office space 30-40 sq.m
- Kitchen, toilets, storage

Funding: Council funds and funds from the Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund.

Venue: the underutilized Coopersmith Pavilion East Ringwood Reserve, home to East Ringwood Cricket Club, East Ringwood Football Club, Ringwood District Cricket Association, Eastern Football League and Maroondah Sports Club. Utilisation of the grounds low at about 25 hours per week (mostly weekends).

A Memorandum of Understanding was developed through 10 extensive sessions which covered Objectives, Roles and Responsibilities, Governance, meeting frequency, decision making, bookings and hours of use, equipment, fixtures and fittings, public and media relations, dispute, conflict resolution, termination, review and evaluation.

Following a period of about 2 years for the upgrade of buildings/facilities:

- Increased usage from 25 to about 80 hours per week across all the days of the week.
- Groups now meet regularly with a range of activities such as sport, dancing and women's groups meet for sewing and other activities.

Feedback from groups using the facilities:

Existing partners: (football and cricket clubs)

- Multifunctional groundbreaking facility compared to what was there in the past
- Opportunity to engage with a new community
- Potential to use the facilities in different ways
- Multicultural sports day a great success with Aussie games and the Chin community demonstrating some of their traditional games.

Chin Community of Victoria

- Now have the ability to organize activities such as: music, dance, computer classes and English classes
- With over 500 active members they can now meet often with better facilities, activities for women's groups and elderly group
- Feelings of being welcome
- Have a range of family friendly activities they can access
- Feeling of being part of the community and not isolated
- The Chin and other new community will benefit a lot from these facilities, and feel safe and relaxed and welcome.

Achievements & Learning

- Working in partnership with 3 tiers of government to achieve substantial benefits for the community
- Fulfilment of Council's pledge to make all facilities multi-use
- Greater use of Council facility and greater respect for an important asset
- Integration of newly arrived communities into organised sports like AFL and Cricket
- Flagship project - Best Practice Model
- Change of culture – family friendly and inclusive

Go to this link to view the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9IIGYDuR2M&feature=youtu.be>

Cynthia and Sam congratulated Penny on an outstanding project and outcome.

(c) Yarra Ranges Council, Wendy Blakis, Best Start Community Facilitator, & Rakhi Khanna.

Project: Stepping stones to service connections and engagement for CALD Communities (Refugees)

Wendy and Rakhi gave an overview of the **CALD Early Years Network:**

Established in February 2015 to support early years professionals to engage and increase the participation of CALD families in their services.

Projects since 2015

- Translated Kindergarten Information Booklet (Chin Hakha)
- Bilingual resources to support Early literacy and language (Chin Hakha)
- Kids Own Publishing – *"Imagine this place"*.

Aims of the CALD Network

Place-based Network to support

- Inclusive work practices
- Service connections and referral pathways
- Information sharing and planning
- Access to professional development training and resources

Community around the family and child

A 'spider web' graphic was used to describe the visual relationship of the key players providing services:

Yarra Ranges Council, Family Support Services, Maroondah Council, Regional Libraries, Primary schools, Supported play groups, Maternal and Child Health, and the Migrant Information Centre.

Some of the questions asked by/of Early Years Professionals informed the development/approach of services

- How do I access support? Where do I start?
- What are the costs? Who do I call? Who can offer support?
- What services have families receive?
- What if I don't speak the language?
- What fee subsidies are families eligible for?
- What support services are available CALD families?

Professional Development played an important role in improving awareness and quality of provision

- Cultural Awareness training
- Identification of support services and referral pathways
- Impact of Trauma on refugee children, families and communities
- Refugee Health Program
- Working with interpreters

Best Start Program – ideas tested

- Translated Kindergarten information sessions
- Remind App
- DETSP promote attendance at “Open days”
- ECE teacher visits SPG
- Take home play kits
- MIC case workers promote Maternal and Child Health

Current projects in progress

- Bilingual book project “Whose Animals” 200 translated into Hakha Chin and 50 into Zomi
- Ongoing Advocacy for CALD families and children
- MIC/YRC Community Partnership grant to support transitions kinder to school

DET Supported Playgroup - Multicultural

- Delivered in partnership with MIC and YRC since 2016
- Offered at MCH service with a Bilingual support worker
- In-home support is available for families
- 18 families currently registered and engaged in the program
- Objective of the program is to enhance child-parent interactions, parenting confidence and provide community connectedness

Sam and Cynthia thanked Wendy and Rakhi for their valuable and insightful work with the CALD community, families and children.

MSC 2018 Calendar

The 2018 Calendar is on track. The calendar is flexible, driven by MSC input.

MSC 2018 Calendar

MSC meeting dates	Meeting focus	Forums/functions/events dates and working groups	International Multicultural events Calendar
01 Jan	No meeting		
02 Feb	Settlement services and programs - focus on Victoria & Eastern Metropolitan Region: who is settling in the Eastern Region, and where, what		February 1-7 United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week

	are their needs and aspirations? Sarah Daly, Settlement Senior Manager, AMES; Judy McDougall, Senior Project Officer, MIC.		
02 March	Celebrating harmony and inclusiveness - CALD choir (Karen) and the Mullum Mullum Choir combine to tell stories through song and music. (Working Group members include: Chris; Heather; Gitta; Jasmina and Cynthia). Venue Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, Ringwood.	Harmony Day events.	March 21: Harmony Day
06 April	Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) of the VMC: <i>RACs progressing the Victorian multicultural agenda - key developments and projects</i> : RAC Commissioner Sonia Vignjevic presented with RAC members James Thangman and Bwe Thay. Helen Forbes-Mewett (apology).		April 7 – World Health Organisation World Health Day
04 May	The NDIS and CALD communities – access and participation in the EMR, and exploring the need for a forum in the EMR. Panel of speakers: Chris Cahill and Sharna Goulding, NDIA; Megan Kearney and Eli Niall (NDIS); ADEC; Sophie Dutertre, (CEH); Olivia Killeen, (ECCV); Emily Ma, Chairperson, Chinese Parents Special Support Network (CPSSN).		May 21 - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development ,
01 June	Adult education and training: progressing social and economic inclusion: AMEP, SEE, Skills First; pre-accredited to accredited training: Rochelle Beatty (unable to attend) Barbara Reeckman (MP) and Sally Brennan (Swinburne University); Karen Sims My Health Record (MHR).		June 20 – UN World Refugee Day , June 26 – UN Day - Support of Victims of Torture
01 July	No meeting		
03 Aug	Cultural responsiveness of LGAs in the Eastern Metropolitan Region – focus on a project. Knox City Council, Joan Pepi, Multicultural Communities Officer. Project: <i>Working in the Multicultural Space</i> Maroondah City Council, Penny Moore, Community Development Officer. Project: <i>Nurturing Partnerships between Sport and Newly Arrived Communities</i> Yarra Ranges Council, Wendy Blakis, Best Start Community Facilitator, & Rakhi Khanna. Project: <i>Stepping stones to service connections and engagement for CALD families.</i>	Working Group(s) for 2nd half of 2018: CALD NDIS access and participation Working Group. First meeting held 10 August 2018. Participating organisations include NDIS, NDIA, CEH, ECCV, ADEC, Link Health and Community, Latrobe Community Health Service, Uniting Care Life Assist, MIC, Neami National and Local Government organisations. The first meeting hosted by Manningham City Council. Upcoming Forums: Migrant Information Centre: Living in Two Worlds - Family Violence forum. Will take place on 27 Nov 2018 at Box Hill Town Hall – Whitehorse Room. 10.00-3:00 pm. Hear from young people from refugee backgrounds and learn about programs that support disengaged youth and prevent Family Violence. Register at http://bitly/micyf2018 . Cost \$25 Lunch and snacks provided. Any questions: Judy McDougall or Randika Wijekoon on 03 9285 4888	

		Youth Forum 2019. Working group to be set up to develop program and theme (working group possible composition CMY, DET Victoria, IMVC, AMEP, Foundation House, ATO (Margeaux), Madeleine. For more information contact Bwe Thay on 0416 726 951	
07 Sept	Social cohesion in multicultural Australia – stats and stories: findings from qualitative and quantitative research. Speakers from Monash University including Dr Helen Forbes-Mewett		
05 Oct	CCOEI AGM and a focus on emerging CALD groups in Eastern Metropolitan Region.		October 17- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, UN calendar
02 Nov	Australian Refugee and Humanitarian Program 2019 - 2020: Community views, current challenges, and future directions. Asher Hirsch, Senior Policy Officer, Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA). MSC review of 2018 and plan 2019 activity.		November 16 - International Day for Tolerance November 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women,
07 Dec	Finalize 2019 MSC Calendar. Some suggestions to date: (a) Human Rights Law Centre – focus on refugees and asylum seekers in offshore processing centres; (b) Victorian Fisheries Authority		Dec 3 rd : International Day for People with a disability http://www.idpwd.com.au/

7. Reports

CCOEI/MSO Forums and Events update

- (a) **Family Violence Forum (Judy McDougall).** The MIC (in partnership with CCOEI) have organized a forum on 27th November on Respectful Relationships and Disengaged Youth. Flyer will be sent out soon.
- (b) **Eastern CALD NDIS Network.** First meeting on 10th August in Manningham. This Network is in response to the May Migrant Settlement Committee meeting where members unanimously agreed that a CALD Network would be beneficial. Members are: NDIS related agencies, ECCV, CCOEI, CEH, Inner Melbourne VET cluster, Whitehorse and Manningham Metro Officers, MIC, DHS, ADEC, LAC, Link Health and Community, DHHS and Neami National
- (c) **Harmony Week – March 2019** (to be advised)
- (d) **Youth Forum – Nov 2019** (to be advised). Youth forum is run every second year.

Organisations update

Swinburne University of Technology (Bwe Thay)

- (a) **Expo: Transition to Higher Education. *Take a step toward your dream career.*** Expo targets new and emerging communities. Showcasing what can be achieved. **Venue:** Hawthorn Campus BA201 and Foyer, BA Building. **Date:** Tuesday 11 September 2018 10:30-1:30pm. For further information and group bookings contact bthay@swin.edu.au 0416 276 951
- (b) **World Kitchen event – connecting with Community Partners.** **Venue:** Hawthorn Campus; **Date:** 4th September 2018; **Lunch** - national dishes will be cooked on site by 4 groups. **The Community Round Table** will be facilitated by Professor Glen Bates. Focus on gaps and barriers and empowering students.

Louise Multicultural Community Centre "[Peace Garden](#)" project (Vijay Susaria).

The Garden project is focusing on engaging migrants and refugees in a peaceful horticultural environment. The project is located at the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre (KHGC), 29 Wetherby Road, Doncaster, which is a renowned therapeutic garden for more than 30 years serving diverse local

communities. KHGC and LMCC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the development of a Garden in a predefined space within KHGC. Contact Louise Multicultural Community Centre 9285 4850 or louisemcc@aanet.com.au

Migrant Information Centre

Judy McDougall

- (a) **Cool Kids and Rainbows.** Program is for children between 7 and 12 years of age from refugee backgrounds. Children speak about their feelings and experiences. 8 sessions in term 4, 2018. This program picks kids up from school and sees them safely back at home. [More](#)
- (b) **Alcohol Train the Trainer Program.** The MIC in partnership with Turning Point are facilitating a train the trainer program for Pastors and community leaders from Hakha Chin, Falam Chin and Zomi communities. The program aims to increase the capacity of faith and community leaders to better support members of their respective communities who are experiencing alcohol related harm and drinking excessively.
- (c) **Tennis Coaching.** In partnership with Tennis Australia. 35 children and 12 Adults from newly arrived communities participating. Tournament to be held. Participants will attend the Australian Open for finals.

Sally Brooks

- (d) MIC will hold sessions for people seeking asylum who are on bridging visas or Temporary Protection Visas (TPV) or Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEV) Holders living in the Eastern Region. Contact Sally or Houra at MIC on 9285 4888 (Subsequently Sally sent a flyer for an event to be held on the 13th August. ***“Working with asylum seekers and refugees in the Eastern metropolitan region”***).

Victoria Police (Elizabeth Sidiropoulos)

- (a) VicPol working with interfaith networks. Knox running an interfaith network event – Liz to send information;
- (b) Working with ECLC on elder abuse – focus on the Greek community in the eastern region;
- (c) Thanked the MIC for the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Forum.

ECLC (Iresha Butngamwa) Matter of Trust Project - The Matter of Trust program is a Financial Elder Abuse awareness raising project. It is delivered in partnership with CaLD Community Advisers, Victoria Police, the Sheriff's Office, Family Relationship Centre/Family mediation centre, Centrelink, Carers Victoria and other organisations in the EMR. The program has worked with the Greek, Chinese, Indian, Italian and faith communities. The next session on Tuesday 25th September at Knox Civic Centre is for faith communities coordinated in partnership with Knox Council and Knox Interfaith network.

Swinburne University of Technology (Julie Conan-Davies) Saturday English class 9.30-12.30 Croydon campus 12–50 Norton Road, Croydon for AMEP SEE and Skills First eligible students [flyer](#)

Australian Taxation Office (Margeaux Loos) margeaux.loos@ato.gov.au

- (a) ATO training centre staff and volunteers to help with tax returns;
- (b) ATO Scams: Margeaux reported that there are many scams this time of the year. In some cases targeting the CALD community. Agencies should inform clients to hang-up the phone if they are not sure; not to download documents online and not to return calls as the number may have been set up by the scammers; and never give personal information such as bank account numbers, passwords or pins. Margeaux will forward information to Sam and Cynthia when a resource has been developed.

Link Health and Community (Kate Jeffery)

As mentioned at the meeting, Victorian Multicultural Commission now have community profiles derived from the 2016 Census available on their website. See 2016 Census Publications under Population and Migration <https://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/population-and-migration>. The reports include four page Community Fact Sheets for each of the top 100 overseas birthplaces in Victoria. More comprehensive

community profiles are also available. In addition Local Government Area reports can be accessed on <https://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/population-and-migration/victorias-diversity/population-diversity-in-local-councils>

CHBC (Gitta Clayton)

Men's Winter Shelter program. 7 different churches participating. 27 men have participated so far. Program from mid-June to end August during the coldest winter months. Accommodates up to 10 people per night. Some from CALD backgrounds. So far the project caters for men over the age of 24 however there may be scope to extend the program next year to include those from 18 years up.

Boroondara City Council (Emma Wilkinson)

- (a) Welcome Dinner Project. Objective is to connect newly arrived with mainstream community. Sunday 16th September 2018 12:00 – 2:30pm Auburn Bowls club. Come along, bring a favourite dish to share! Booking <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-welcome-dinner-project-in-hawthorn-tickets-47605699930>
- (b) Outreach program for Chinese speaking people.

Melbourne AMEP (Elsbeth Collie) Reported on the Volunteer Tutor Program, a sub program of the AMEP. Volunteer tutors are available to people eligible for the AMEP.

AMEP Box Hill TAFE (Katrina Myers)

- (a) AMEP delivered at Box Hill, Lyildale and city campus. Box Hill AMEP is very large. Developing program specific for youth at Flinders Lane in the city venue of Box Hill TAFE;
- (b) Term 4 Lyildale campus childcare centre opening soon. Great support to parents who want to attend AMEP but require childcare.

Department of Human Services

Geoff de Young

- (a) Focus on Child Care changes - additional Child Care Subsidy for Grandparents;
- (b) Activity requirements - changes to Voluntary Work provisions;
- (c) Assisting people to reduce debts and informing people of their rights and reviews;

Vicki Selimi

- (d) The National Redress Scheme is in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Applications can be made any time before 30 June 2027. The National Redress Scheme will provide support to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse. The Scheme:
 - Acknowledges that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions;
 - Holds institutions accountable for this abuse. and
 - Helps people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse gain access to counselling and psychological services, a direct personal response, and a monetary payment.

The Scheme started on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years.

Applications for the National Redress Scheme can be made from 1 July 2018.

Link to the DHS site for the National Redress Scheme for the survivors of institutional child sexual abuse: <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/support>

8. Initiatives and innovations (for noting) – none noted.

9. Next MSC Meeting: Friday 7th September, 2018, 9.30 –12.00.

Venue: Conference Room, Level 1, Whitehorse Community Resource Centre, 79 Mahoney's Road, Forest Hill.

Focus: Social cohesion in multicultural Australia – stats and stories: findings from qualitative and quantitative research

Speaker: Dr Helen Forbes-Mewett, Senior Lecturer and Researcher, School of Social Sciences, Monash University

NOTES: (1) For past and current CCOEI and MSC documents, including meeting papers and guest presentations, visit www.CCOEI.org.au **(2)** To contact Cynthia Shaw or Sam Navarra on matters relating to the MSC please use chair.msc@gmail.com