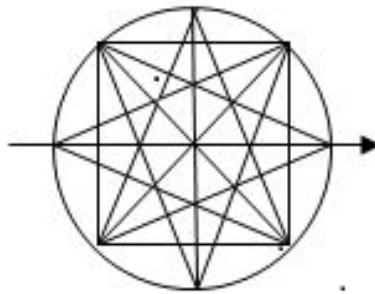


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MIGRANT SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (Eastern Region)

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

Reg. No. A0017562S

Minutes

Friday, April 1st 2016

**Whitehorse Community Centre, Level 1 Conference Room,
79 Mahoneys Road, Forest Hill.**

1. Present

Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Leonie Burnham	ECLC, Manager Inner East Office
Linda Chen	NEAMI, Mental Health Support Worker
Gitta Clayton	AMES Australia, Volunteer Tutor Program
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI
Mervat Dahdoule	MIC
Dianne Godfrey	DHS, MSO
Ross Graham	Victoria Police
Emma Griel	Anchor Inc, Case Manager
Marilyn Gurry	CCOEI, Grants Coordinator
Suzi Hayes	Knox City Council, Multicultural Communities Officer
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc.
Isaiah Muchoki	Anchor Inc, Opening Doors team
Jasmina Mulugeta	Foundation House, Eastern Region Team Coordinator
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Jane Ormonde	DSS
Saarah Ozeer	Bounce, Director
Madeleine Parker	Department of Education and Training, Senior Project Officer, ESL
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	VicPol MLO
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI
Apologies	
Kelly Alfris	Department of Social Services, Settlement Grants Manager
Sandy Ashton,	Eastern Health, Diversity Coordinator, Consumer Participation & Patient Experience
Glenis Crocker	CCOEI
Kate Jeffery	Link Health and Community, Senior Research and Planning Officer
Andree O'Donnell	AMES Australia, Settlement Services (HSS), Case Manager/Team Leader
Heidi Tucker	Anchor CEO

2. Minutes March 2016. Minutes circulated. Moved Sam Navarria, Seconded. Chris Cosgriff. Confirmed,

3. Business Arising. Incorporated in the agenda.

4. Correspondence. Various items of information circulated electronically.

5. Meeting Focus: IELTS, Stéphanie Béthencourt, Stakeholder Engagement Officer, External Affairs Group, IDP Education

Stephanie gave an overview of IELTS

- IELTS is the world's most popular English language test, opening doors to academic and professional opportunities in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK, USA and many other places globally where English is the language in the workplace or the classroom;
- The IELTS test is co-owned and was co-created by a global partnership of education and language experts: IDP IELTS Australia, the British Council and Cambridge English Language Assessment. These organisations are dedicated to cultural understanding, student placement and enabling success worldwide;
- IDP IELTS Australia manages IELTS test centres in more than 50 countries, supporting thousands of organisations including universities, professional associations, employers and governments around the world that use IELTS in selecting people.

IELTS test format

IELTS tests Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. Students take the Listening, Reading and Writing tests one after the other on the same day, with no breaks in between. The Speaking test may be on the same day as the other three tests, or up to seven days before or after that. The total test time is under three hours: Listening (30 minutes) Reading (60 minutes) writing (60 minutes) Speaking 11 – 14 minutes).

There are a wide range of test resource tools to help prepare students for their IELTS test. Preparation is the key to success and IDP have provided support tools to help build communication skills:

IELTS offers two types of test – IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training.

The test students take – and the score they need – depends on visa requirements and the organisation where students plan to study or work.

Academic Test

IELTS Academic is designed for people planning to study in higher education or those seeking professional registration. It assesses student readiness to begin studying or training in an environment where English is the language used. Students may take IELTS Academic if they wish to:

- Study or train at a university or college as an undergraduate;
- Study or train at a university or college as a postgraduate;
- Join a professional association;
- Gain registration in a professional organisation (e.g. medical, nursing, accounting, engineering).

General Training Test

IELTS General Training measures English language proficiency in a practical, everyday context. Students may take IELTS General Training test if they want to:

- Study or train in secondary education;
- Study or train at a college or training centre below degree level;
- Migrate to an English speaking country.

All test takers take the same listening and speaking tests, regardless of which version they take.

Question: How many times can a student sit a test? Students may sit the test as many times as they wish however doing it multiple times is not recommended.

Question: How long are the test results valid for? Test results are generally valid for 2 years however, sometimes the registered organisation has other requirements.

Test Taker Resources:

1. IELTS Essentials website: www.ieltsessentials.com/prepare
2. IELTS Assist products: www.ieltsessentials.com/assist
3. IELTS Essentials Facebook: www.facebook.com/ieltsessentials
4. IELTS Essentials You Tube: www.youtube.com/user/IELTSEssentials
5. Masterclasses (face to face and webinars): www.ieltsessentials.com/global/prepare/freepracticeevents
6. Official IELTS websites: www.ieltsessentials.com and www.ielts.org

Information for Candidates leaflet: <https://www.ielts.org/~media/publications/information-for-candidates/ielts-information-for-candidates-2015-english-uk.ashx>

6. MSC 2016 Calendar - The calendar is flexible to respond to developing issues and situations.

MSC meeting dates	Meeting focus	Forums/functions/events dates and working groups	International Multicultural events Calendar
01 Jan	No meeting		
05 Feb	The Australian Multicultural Foundation (AMF) in 2016: priorities, challenges and key events (AMF Executive Director, Dr Hass Dellal AO) – replaced by a focus on programs and services – various presenters.		February 1-7 United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week
04 March	Youth programs: (a) MYSPIN (Maroondah Youth Services Providers Network): an introduction to the network; (b) Youth programs and services, gaps and challenges for service providers in Maroondah; (c) Consultation with CALD youth project Speaker: Heather Cummings (Youth Planning and Policy Officer, Maroondah City Council; and MYSPIN Co-ordinator)	Harmony Day events.	March 21: <u>Harmony Day</u>
01 April	Australia's asylum seeker and refugee policies and programs (DIBP, DSS and service providers) - focus on refugees and asylum seekers from Syrian; Iranian; Afghani, Iraqi and Sudanese backgrounds – replaced by a focus on IELTS presented by the provider IDP.	Refugee health forum (EACH; Refugee Health Nurse Program; Eastern Health; Cynthia, Glenis, Sam, MIC, Victorian Refugee Health Network; Francisco, others; Willis Room, Whitehorse. 22 April)	April 7 – World Health Organisation <u>World Health Day</u>
06 May	The Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) in 2016: priorities, challenges and key events (VMC Chairperson: Helen Kapalos).		May 21 - <u>World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development</u> ,
03 June	Initiatives and innovations in education, health, the law, community safety and security, community access: presenters may include VICPOL, BELS, Bounce, Anchor, and ECLC. OR Disability and CALD: how are CALD with a disability faring under the NDIS? (Tahseen and Miriam, speaker from NDIS and the NDIS Agency)		June 20 – UN <u>World Refugee Day</u> , June 26 – UN <u>Day - Support of Victims of Torture</u>
01 July	No meeting		
05 Aug	The Family Violence Network in East Melbourne – Kaz ECLC; OR Domestic Violence and its relationship to other social issues. Leonie, VicPol, Others (this idea was also noted as a potential forum)		
02 Sept	Mapping Social Cohesion – The Scanlon Foundation (Professor Andrew Markus TBC)	Employment and Training expo: working group: OELLEN, AMEP, VET, and Jobactive providers, Centrelink, others?	
07 Oct	Older people from migrant and refugee backgrounds - age related concerns: MIC, ECLC, EMPHN (Miriam)	CALD Youth and community engagement: BELS (youth	October 17- <u>International Day for the</u>

	with a focus on services, access, successes and challenges; and CCOEI AGM 12.00.- 12.30	ambassadors), CCOEI, DHS Centrelink, Swinburne, Bounce, MIC, ECLC, VicPol, AMES, LGAs, Foundation, CMY, OELLEN, DOJ?)Focus: Pathways, active participation	Eradication of Poverty , UN calendar
04 Nov	Australian Refugee and Humanitarian Program 2016 - 2017: Community views, current challenges, and future directions. Asher Hirsch, Policy Officer, Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) TBC Review of the Migrant Settlement Committee 2016 program and develop 2017 calendar of speakers, forums and events) – Sam and Cynthia.	Exhibitions: Celebrating CALD communities - stories, photos, art and craft, video, entertainment, etc. Guest speakers: CALD, indigenous artists, leaders. Exhibition located in different venues at different times. Working party: Saarah, Dianne, Suzi, Glenis. Reps: Whitehorse Knox, Maroondah Manningham?	November 16 - International Day for Tolerance November 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women .
02 Dec	Finalize 2017 MSC Calendar (meetings, forums and events).		Dec 3 rd : International Day for People with a disability . http://www.idp.wd.com.au/

Other areas:

- Homelessness and its impact on CALD - a potential forum (refer the Villa Maria Forum on Homelessness, the work of Anchor with families, the work of the Salvation Army, and that of the MIC);
- Meet and greet your new neighbours and get to know your changing community.
- Human Rights Law Centre – a focus on CALD;
- Amnesty International – its work locally and globally;
- How culturally responsive are LGAs in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

7. Forum Reports and events

Refugee Health Forum (Cynthia Shaw) Cynthia reported that there has been a very large response to attend the forum on Friday the 22nd April 2016. Forum attendance is now closed and Cynthia has commenced a waiting list in case of any cancellations. The last Steering Committee meeting will take place on the 12th April. Due to the popularity of this event members of the MSC were supportive of a 2nd event to be held later in 2016 or early 2017. Chris spoke about the video he made with Jasmina with a young family from Burma. Cynthia also thanked Gitta for assisting the contact with the family.

Refugee Celebration (Sam Navarria) Sam reminded members that this event will be different to previous years as it will celebrate community diversity through art; stories; photos; craft; video and entertainment. Chris and Heather Cosgriff; Suzi Hayes, Saarah Ozeer, Steven Lim expressed interest in the Steering Committee to develop the event. Sam said it would be good to work with local councils who are Refugee Welcome Zones.

A matter of Trust (Leonie Burnham) Leonie reported on the *Matter of Trust* project at ECLC which continues the CCOEI project which took place last year. She talked about having a range of events for ethno specific communities on elder abuse. Sam said that it was really good that the first project had a start and end date which was then taken on by the ECLC to further the excellent work that was undertaken.

Harmony Day events

1. **Whitehorse – Global Fiesta.** Dilnaz Billimoria said it was really great to see so many diverse groups taking part. Sui Ting Tse, Cynthia Shaw and families attended and represented CCOEI.
2. **World Kitchen at Swinburne in Hawthorn.** Saarah Ozeer (Bounce), Dilnaz Billimoria (Interfaith) and Cynthia Shaw (CCOEI) attended. Dilnaz told a story about one of the participants who said that her mother had passed on various recipes that now live on which is better than jewellery that sits in a box.
3. **Louise Multicultural Community Centre event:** Sui Ting Tse represented CCOEI. He reported that he attended a very good event with morning tea. He said that it was well supported by local government – Manningham and Monash - with two mayors attending.

Agency and individual reports

Migrant Information Centre (Mervat Dahdoule)

- New office in Ringwood in Pitt Street;
- Access and Support Program – supports older people to access services they may be eligible for;
- Arabic speaking women (55 plus) social group in Manningham – objective to create recreational opportunities, spread knowledge of local services, issues etc. Contact MIC for more information;
- Community Visitor's Scheme. Brochures circulated about the MIC and the Access Support Program.

Knox City Council (Susi Hayes) Notified of a Knox Open Day – Isomer Mosque

VicPol (Ross Graham and Liz Sidiropoulos)

- Liz will deliver "Building resilience in the community", a 2 hour train the trainer program. The program was developed by Hass Dellal from the AMF. Liz has contacted a range of service providers and schools not just about radicalisation but any youth susceptible to risk;
- Manningham Youth Council - VicPol is working with local councils. The program targets young from 14-20s who want to be connected with services and programs. Funding from this program is through Victoria Police.

City of Knox (Suzi Hayes) Notified members of a Knox Open Day – Isomer Mosque

AMES Australia (Gitta Clayton) – ESL tuition at Dollar Curtains. This is the 3rd time AMES has held classes there. The program is about mentoring and helping people to speak out about injustices, e.g. bullying, OHS.

Interfaith network (Dilnaz Billimoria) Royal Commission on Child Sexual Abuse. Holding a multicultural forum on 12 April to understand how the Royal Commission works and how they can help. Reassuring people that because they report abuse it does not affect their visa.

DSS (Jane Ormonde)

(1) Multicultural Arts and Festivals Grants up to \$5000 closing date Thursday 28th April.

(2) Senate Estimates: Syrian streams: only 30 out of the 12,000 refugees from the Syrian conflict have arrived so far. The annual intake of 13,750 is separate to the special Syrian intake, and that will be delivered within the year, with 4850 earmarked from that region of the world to be delivered by June 30th. Visas need to be granted by that date but not necessarily arrive by that date. Jane to send link to Hansard.

Justice System Reform (Clary Verbunt) Clary reported on the rally in Wangaratta on the 6th March led by Derryn Hinch about Justice System Reforms. Over 2,000 people took part. Clary will attend the rally in Perth scheduled next week.

ECLC (Leonie Burnham) Leonie noted that the Royal Commission Report on Family Violence is a lengthy comprehensive report. The Executive Summary is about 200 pages long. A lot of work is happening arising from the report. Sam offered CCOEI resources to Suzi Hayes who expressed interest.

Sui Ting Tse reminded everyone to fill in attendance sheet in foyer – an OHS requirement.

Next MSC Meeting - Friday 6th May, 9.30 – 12.00

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

Focus: The Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC): 2016 priorities, challenges and key events.

Speaker: VMC Chairperson, Helen Kapalos.

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 Navarria on matters relating to the MSC please use chair.msc@gmail.com