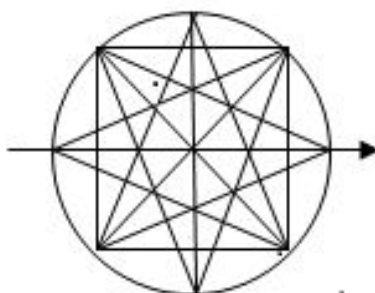


Chairs:

Sam Navarria: Mob: 0432 975 558

Cynthia Shaw: Mob: 0434 080 977



P O Box 94
 Forest Hill VIC 3131
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 5th 2016

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

1. Present

Kelly Alfris	Department of Social Services, Settlement Grants Manager
Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Leonie Burnham	CCOEI committee
Gitta Clayton	AMES Australia, Volunteer Tutor Program
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Dianne Godfrey	DHS, MSO
Marilyn Gurry	CCOEI
Suzi Hayes	Knox City Council, Multicultural Communities Officer
Kate Jeffery	Link Health and Community, Senior Research and Planning Officer
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc.
Ellen Kimball	Whitehorse Council, Community Development Officer
Sang Lian	Chin Community Support, Volunteer
Tina Mifsud	NEAMI Organisation, CRSW Community Rehab Support Worker
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Andree O'Donnell	AMES Settlement, HSS Case Worker
Saturnino Onyala	MIC, Settlement Support Worker
Saarah Ozeer	Bounce, Refugee Youth Mentoring Program, Director
Alana Philtrip	YSAS, Youth and Family Worker
MitraRonagh	AMES, Case Manager
Sue Rosenhain	Women's Health East, Health Promotions Manager
Gianluigi Rotondo	Monash University, PhD Candidate
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Sarah Smethurst	ECLC, Family Violence Team Coordinator
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University, AMEP Pathway Counsellor/CCOEI
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI
Heidi Tucker	Anchor, Chief Executive Officer
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI
Sonia Vignjevic	ECLC, Director Partnerships and Community Development
Amanda Wiggs	Knox Council, Senior Support Officer
ZehraYalcin	Kara House, Case Worker
Apologies	
Sandy Ashton	Eastern Health, Diversity Coordinator, Consumer Participation & Patient Experience
Glenis Crocker	CCOEI
Jacqui D'Sylva	ECLC, CD Worker
Belinda Haydon	Women's Health East, Opening Doors, Health Communication Officer
Filomena Mamouney	DHS
Madeleine Parker	Department of Education and Training, Senior Project Officer, ESL
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	VicPol, MLO

Guests

Jelena Djurdjevic	EMR Regional Family Violence Partnership, Regional Integration Coordinator, Eastern Metropolitan Region
Kaz Mackay	Eastern Elder Abuse Network, Elder Abuse Prevention Coordinator, ECLC

2. **Minutes June 2016.** Moved Chris Cosgriff. Seconded. Clary Verbunt. Accepted.
3. **Business Arising.** Incorporated in the agenda.
4. **Correspondence.** Various items of information circulated electronically.
5. **MSC Calendar.** Calendar is on track.
6. **Meeting focus - Family violence prevention**
 - (a) **EMR Regional Family Violence Partnership, Jelena Djurdjevic, Family Violence Regional Integration Coordinator, Eastern Metropolitan Region.**

An overview of the EMR Regional Family Violence Partnership was provided, including current strategic priorities and work/projects. The presentation also highlighted some of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence. The presentation can be accessed on [PowerPoint presentation](#) and information on the partnership on [EMR Regional Family Violence Partnership - General Information](#) Summary of a forum held in May 2016 by the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health titled 'What does the Royal Commission into Family Violence mean for Multicultural Communities? Can be accessed on [Royal Commission on Family Violence Panel - Summary](#) and a synopsis of the Royal Commission into Family Violence report on [RFVP Report and Recommendations Synopsis](#)

Established in 2007 as part of the state-wide family violence reforms, the RFVP is a partnership of organisations committed to working together to address family violence in the Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR). Through collective effort they build a system that provides safety and justice to all women and children experiencing family violence in the region. Their work includes building an equitable society that prevents violence against women and their children, their families and the communities in all its forms.

To carry out this purpose, the RFVP works with the following key principles:

1. Safety of women and children; ensuring the needs and independent rights of children who live with or experience family violence are upheld
2. Women's right to access information enabling them to make informed decisions; providing choice, control and agency over their lives and future
3. Strengthening risk management and accountability mechanisms for perpetrators
4. Acknowledgement and recognition of the distinctive rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; the importance of cultural safety and the right to work within culturally relevant frameworks
5. Recognition of the diversity of individuals and communities; promoting inclusion and cultural safety
6. Recognition of a human rights approach including a gendered analysis
7. Preventing violence before it happens; including a commitment to applying a prevention lens to all elements of our partnership's work
8. In the spirit of partnership; collaborating to achieve a coordinated response to family violence and sexual assault

The RFVP also works closely with other key state wide and regional partners including Victoria Police, Magistrates' Court, Safe Steps, and Victorian Women with Disabilities Network.

Structure of the Regional Family Violence Partnership

The RFVP consists of Partnership Members and Associate Members that participate at various levels of the work undertaken through the Strategic Plan.

The Executive Committee

The following sectors are represented:

- Women's Specialist Sector
- Eastern Men's Behaviour Change Consortium
- Children's Services Sector
- Victoria Police Family Violence Advisor Inner and Outer East

Current and planned initiatives:

- Children's Feedback Tool Project
- Disability Accessibility - Partnering with Metro Access Workers
- Safer Together Protocol

Jelena highlighted a number of **recommendations from the Royal Commission:**

No 139: People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The Victorian Government fund Seniors Rights Victoria, InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence and Women with Disabilities Victoria (within 12 months) to:

- Provide training to equip specialist family violence service providers & universal services to recognise and provide appropriate services to older Victorians, people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and people with disabilities who experience family violence
- Build partnerships with & provide advice to specialist family violence service providers and providers of universal services to enable them to respond effectively

No 157 & 160 Updated guidelines for use of interpreters and translating/interpreting courses require family violence components

No 162 Broaden the definition of family violence in the Migrations Regulations 1994 to be consistent with the Family Violence Protection Act 2008

No 163 Faith communities. The Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Multifaith Advisory Group and Victorian Multicultural Commission, in partnership with expert family violence practitioners, develop training packages on family violence and sexual assault for faith leaders and communities.

Jelena then spoke about the overarching areas of cross sector intersect;

1. Risk Assessment and Management Panels (RAMP)
2. Central Information Point
3. Support and Safety Hubs
4. National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

For further information contact Jelena Djurdjevic Family Violence Regional Integration Coordinator 9259 4200 or email jelena.rfvp@edvos.org.au

(b) Eastern Elder Abuse Network, Kaz Mackay, Elder Abuse Prevention Coordinator, ECLC

Kaz highlighted many issues in the Eastern Metropolitan Region and beyond in terms of elder abuse.

What is the difference between family violence and elder abuse?

- Perpetrators are generally sons and daughters as well as other relatives;
- Men are also being abused and it is harder for older men to find assistance;
- Older people say it isn't easy to leave as one cannot divorce one's children or grandchildren;
- Victims do not wish to sever connections with their family;
- Disclosure is hard to obtain:
 - There is a culture of "put up or shut up"
 - Don't air your dirty washing in public

- Victims are trapped as they have less years to adapt if they were to leave;
- Very few cases go to Intervention Orders;
- Services can't send an 80 year old woman to a Family Violence councillor;
- The abuse is often very subtle and hard to detect;
- When there is physical abuse it is often just rough treatment;
- Dementia may be a factor:
 - police are then unable to take a statement from the victim
 - relatives mark the older person as just being "a bit paranoid"
 - relatives make up stories about the victim "he always falls and hits his head"
- Assets are commandeered for use by unscrupulous individuals who are often relatives;
- Carte blanche use of Power of Attorney – older people get tricked into signing a POA. Most don't understand what it means;
- Police cannot remove a carer even if the carer is the abuser;
- Emotional abuse of elderly not treated as a crime.

Family Violence Services don't:

- Support male victims;
- Not set up to deal with complex assets and capital issues;
- There are no shelters for men.

Kaz provided the following food for thought: "Can we address elder abuse if we see it through a feminist or gender lens"?

Kaz promoted a collaborative collective response as there is a lot of work to do in this sector:

- Training;
- The need for data specific to elder abuse (separate from the family violence data);
- Creation of an age specific organisation to tackle the issues;
- Education of GPs.

Kaz informed members of the MSC that the Eastern Elder Abuse Network (EEAN) meets bi monthly. She also spoke about the video *Ghost Train*, a documentary about an elderly man and his wife's decline into dementia. The video is about 15 minutes and forms part of her program for professional development training she conducts with agencies on request. For information about the video contact Kaz. Lastly Kaz stated that "elder abuse is family violence"!

Jelena commented that faith communities are a good way to seek help for victims of elder abuse.

Suzi commented that the fear of disconnection from not only their abusive relative but also from their community stops the older victim from leaving.

Bwe commented that men also experience family violence in terms of emotional abuse by women. This is not often spoken about or disclosed by victims.

On behalf of the MSC, Sam thanked the presenters for their excellent presentations.

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); and Intercultural practices and support services relating to migrants and refugees in Australia and Italy, Gianluigi Rotondo PhD, Monash University		May 21 - <u>World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development</u> ,
03 June	Focus on community safety and security (VicPol), and family support programs (Anchor).		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	Family violence prevention: EMR Regional Family Violence Partnership, Jelena Djurdjevic Family Violence Regional Integration Coordinator, Eastern Metropolitan Region; Eastern Elder Abuse Network, Kaz Mackay, ECLC's Elder Abuse Prevention Coordinator		
02 Sept	Mapping Social Cohesion – The Scanlon Foundation (Professor Andrew Markus, Monash University)	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) with a focus on services, access, successes and challenges; and CCOEI AGM 12.00.- 12.30 OR Disability and CALD: how are CALD with a disability faring under the NDIS? (Tahseen and Miriam, speaker from NDIS and the NDIS Agency)	CALD Youth and community engagement: BELS (youth ambassadors), CCOEI, DHS Centrelink, Swinburne, Bounce, MIC, ECLC, VicPol, AMES, LGAs, Foundation, CMY, OELLEN, DOJ?)Focus: Pathways, active participation	October 17- <u>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</u> , 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: Chris, Heather, Saarah, Dianne, Suzi, Glenis, Sam, Cynthia, and reps from Whitehorse Knox, Maroondah Manningham.	November 16 - <u>International Day for Tolerance</u> November 25 - <u>International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</u> ,
02 Dec	Finalize 2017 MSC Calendar (meetings, forums and events).		Dec 3 rd : <u>International Day for People with a disability</u> . 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

CALD Exhibition (Chris Cosgriff) – Unable to progress this initiative until there is news about the Festivals and Events grants outcomes.

Refugee Health Forum (Cynthia Shaw) - Report being prepared taking into account forum feedback and consultations with Steering Committee members.

Agency and individual reports

Humanitarian Settlement Services (Andree O'Donnell – AMES)

Arrivals in July have decreased between 12-15 families. Expecting about 20 families in August: from Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, Syria, Iraq, Burma (Chin, Karen). New arrivals are traumatized

Department of Human Services (Dianne Godfrey - DHS Centrelink)

- Expect that people on the Disability Payment will be require to provide more medical evidence due to DSP reviews taking place
- Scam – phone call asking for I Tune vouchers for “back pay”. If anyone receives these calls to report to the ACCC

Department of Social Services (Kelly Alfris – DSS)

- New Assistant Minister fro Social Services and Multicultural Affairs appointed
- DSS has a Family Safety Pack in 46 languages. There is also a low literacy story board. (Kelly will send out a link)
- Settlement newsletter: Cynthia sends it out when it is received, however, members may also request to receive it directly to their email if they wish (contact Kelly)

Migrant Information Centre (Saturnino Onyala, MIC) – various programs and activities:

Multicultural Program – Ringwood playgroup; Social event; Iranian women group; Career expo; AMES referrals; Servings Plus – meet needs (e.g. school); Sewing Class – learning to sew clothes for the family; Swimming Program.

Update on the Census:

- Sang, Dilnaz, Suzi and Cynthia attended a community training session with Robert Hughes – ABS in Box Hill
- Over reliance on technology especially for CALD community with low English language skills
- Dilnaz provided an overview of the dissemination she has conducted to get the message out
- Suzi has provided some filling the form sessions for Chinese speakers in Knox
- Sang and Cynthia provided a filling the form session to Hakha Chin speakers in Croydon
- Tial from MIC also provided a filling the form session for Hakha Chin speakers in Croydon

Next MSC Meeting: Friday 2nd September, 9.30– 12.00.

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

Focus: Mapping Social Cohesion research – Professor Andrew Markus, 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 Navarria on matters relating to the MSC please use chair.msc@gmail.com