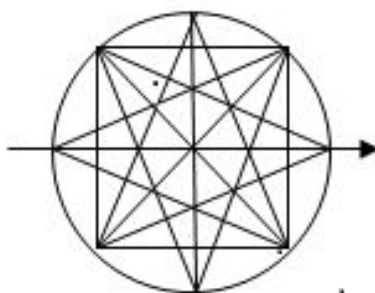


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## **MIGRANT SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (Eastern Region)**

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

Reg. No. A0017562S

### **Minutes**

**Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 2014**

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

#### **1. Present**

Leonie Burnham	ECLC, Manager Inner East Office
Linda Chen	ESL Teacher, CCOEI
Chris Cosgriff	Anchor Chair, CCOEI
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI
Glenis Crocker	CCOEI
Maria deMonte	DHS Centrelink, Multicultural Services Officer
Akon Dhieu	MIC, Student Placement
Serren Duyal	DHS Centrelink, Multicultural Services Officer
Leigh Gilmore	DOJ, Sheriff Office Ringwood, Senior Sheriff Officer and Multicultural and Indigenous Liaison Officer
Michael Hardie	Dorish Maru College Box Hill, Rector
Belinda Haydon	Women's Health East, Health Communication Officer
Rebecca Hennessy	MIC, Student Placement
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Saturnino Onyala	MIC, Settlement Support Worker
Madeleine Parker	DEECD EMR, School Development Officer ESL
Joan Pepi	Knox City Council, Multicultural Communities
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University, AMEP Pathway Councillor, CCOEI
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI

#### **Apologies**

Linda Boyd	Swinburne University
Jeska Chamberlain	Victoria Police, Multicultural Liaison Officer
Gitta Clayton	AMES Outer East Volunteer Tutor Program, VTP Coordinator
Karen Connolly	Swinburne University
Donna Di Martino	DHS, Northern Vic
Twanny Farrugia	DonateLife Community Champion, CCOEI
Inge Fernando	Community
Jack Intziadis	DHS Northern Vic, Centrelink MSO
Teena Lee	Eastern Health Child Youth Mental Health Services, Promotions Officer
Fiona Nicholls	Anchor, Acting CEO
Stephen Noy	Victoria Police, Inspector, Community Engagement, EMR
Alaine Prime	Victoria Legal Aid, Community Educator
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Fred Warren	Holmesglen TAFE, AMEP Coordinator

#### **2. Minutes November 2014 meeting**

Minutes circulated electronically. Moved Chris Cosgriff, Seconded: Bwe Thay. Accepted.

#### **3. Business Arising – incorporated in the agenda**

#### 4. Issues and concerns template

MSC members/organisations were reminded to use the form for issues for the attention of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) and the Regional Advisory Council (RAC). A covering letter from CCOEI will be attached to the form. An annual summary report listing issues during the year and those still outstanding will be sent to the VMC. One current issue is the lack of/reduction in bilingual information available on the internet and in hard copy - essential information in community languages would ensure that the information has a greater chance of reaching communities.

#### 5. Correspondence

Correspondence relating to initiatives, AGMs, services and programs has been circulated to MSC.

#### 6. Meeting focus: Review of MSC activity in 2014 and planning 2015 calendar

Sam circulated findings of the 2014 MSC survey and invited input. The survey results and other input from MSC members will be used to plan the MSC 2015 calendar of meetings and events.

#### Members of the MSC expressed satisfaction with MSC meetings:

- *"I can't see anything that needs changing. You have already standard agenda items to enable key stakeholders to provide updates to the forum regarding DHS Centrelink, Department of Social Services and ESL providers and the ECCV. I want to congratulate you on having this embedded as a regular process of the agenda".*
- *"No. Love the simplicity of the meetings"*
- *"The meetings are conducted well and do not require any changes".*
- *"Possibly extend the meeting time which would enable to have more informed reports after the guest speaker".*
- *"More open meetings (i.e. open discussions on various topics and have appropriate member responding)"*
- *"Happy with current model"*
- *"I believe this Committee works exceptionally well and is an important service for providers of assistance and training to new migrants and refugees".*
- *"Love the meetings as they are. The MSC allows input from everyone and the model works very well".*
- Regular item on the agenda: Share a case study with a positive outcome – (focus on what was learnt from the experience, where the information can be found and shared, e.g. online Elder Abuse Network; publication on foster parenting and the video produced by Anchor in 2014)

#### Forums

In relation to 2015 forums, MSC members voted Health highest, followed by Refugee Week, Education, Disability and Youth all at the same level, closely followed by Family Violence and Older Australians in the same order. They also noted for attention issues regarding ageing communities, impact of culture on enjoyment of life and human rights in our community.

#### Meeting Topics

The topics for 2015 that received most support were Initiatives and Innovations Making a Difference, which topped the list, closely followed by Immigration Matters, Asylum Seekers, Refugee Health, Employment and Migrants. Other areas of interest: Humanitarian Settlement Services, Disability, and Family Violence.

**Members felt significant areas undergoing change should also be given attention, including:**

- Policy changes in DHS services and payments to CALD resulting from the last Federal Budget;
- Disability services that support CALD in Employment and Education sectors in the EMR;
- Assisting older migrants and refugees in general through the every day life maze (i.e. how to open a bank account, how to enrol kids in school, public transport, etc);
- Understanding the paths for refugees through the visa system;
- Current visa types (i.e. T.P.V., Bridging Visa, etc.) and the implications for refugees.

**MSC should also consider:**

- How it can support the work of agencies and encourage positive action;
- Vary the calendar each year but also revisit topics to evaluate how things have progressed;
- Informing/educating older migrants/refugees on Australian laws that effect their every day life;
- Loss and grief for CALD people;
- Assisting older migrants and refugees to raise social awareness and achieving social competence;
- Gender quality;
- Rights of the individual;

**Input from MSC members has been included in the Draft 2015 MSC Calendar.**

**DRAFT MSC 2015 CALENDAR**

MSC meeting dates	Meeting focus	Forums/functions/events dates and working groups	International Multicultural events Calendar
January 2	No meeting		
06 Feb	Part A: <b>Settlement Services in Victoria:</b> Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) and the Settlement Grants Program (SGP) – panel of speakers from HSS and SGP providers, the Department of Social Services (DSS), and the Department of Human Services (DHS) re SRSS payments.	<b>Forum:</b> Community Safety and Crime prevention: Financial risks, elderly guarantors from Chinese background 10/02, Manningham. <b>Forum: Domestic Violence</b> 19/02. (Leonie, Jeska, Glenis, EACH, Foundation House).	February 1-7 United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week
06 March	Part B: <b>the settlement policy landscape and its challenges</b> – Speakers from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), and advocacy organisations including RCOA, ASRC, RILC.	<b>Harmony Day events.</b> <b>Forum:</b> Community Safety and crime prevention project: Elderly guarantors from Indian background and financial risks, late March.	March 21: <u>Harmony Day</u>
03 April	Good Friday – no meeting.	<b>Forum:</b> Community Safety and crime prevention: Elderly guarantors from Greek background and financial risks, late April (Effie, Athena/Adonis)	<b>April 7</b> – World Health Organisation <u>World Health Day</u>
01 May	<b>Part A: Refugee Women’s Health:</b> how are services responding to the needs of refugee	<b>Refugee youth:</b> (Maria, Margot, CMY, BELS, Gateway LLENS):	<b>May 21</b> - <u>World Day for Cultural Diversity</u>

	women, particularly young women? <b>Part B: Refugee Men's Health:</b> what are the main areas of concern and are men accessing available health services? Speakers from EACH, GPs, hospitals.	policy, programs, services, sharing good practice & opportunities.	for <u>Dialogue and Development</u> ,
05 June	Initiatives and innovations that make a difference: examples of programs and services from LGAs, community centres, health providers, employment education and training, holistic family programs with a CALD focus. <b>Opportunity at every meeting rather than a focus – further discussion required.</b>	<b>Refugee Week:</b> celebration of settlement in EMR. MSC/CCOEI, City of Manningham (Kirsten, Cynthia, Sam, Belinda H., Bwe, Saturnino, others?)	<b>June 20 – UN World Refugee Day, June 26 – UN Day - Support of Victims of Torture</b>
July 3	No meeting		
07 Aug	Assisting older migrants and refugees in general through the every day life maze (i.e. how to open a bank account, how to enrol kids in school, public transport, etc);	<b>CALD and mental health:</b> (Leonie, Maria, Teena, Railey). Further discussion required.	
04 Sept	Employment and training programs for CALD: do they respond effectively to needs. Speakers from JN providers, TAFE, ACE, employers and providers of settlement/education programs.	<b>Education and Training expo:</b> Gateway LLEN, Providers of the AMEP and VET (TAFE, AMES, Centrelink. (Centrelink, Bronwyn Henry, Outer Eastern LLEN – Maria to enquire with Gary)	
02 Oct	Understanding the paths for refugees through the visa system; Current visa types (i.e. T.P.V., Bridging, etc.) and the implications for refugees.	<b>Refugee health forum:</b> services for refugee and humanitarian entrants (EACH; Eastern Health; Glenis, Belinda, Refugee Nurse. MIC?)	<b>October 17- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, UN calendar</b>
06 Nov	Refugee Council of Australia – the Refugee Communities Network;  Review MSC 2015 program and plan 2016 calendar of speakers, forums and events.	<b>Disability forum:</b> how are CALD with a disability faring under the NDIS? (Knox, Twanny, Cynthia, others)	<b>November 16 - International Day for Tolerance November 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women,</b>
04 Dec	Finalize meeting and events calendar 2016. Meeting focus to be advised.		Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> : <u>International Day for People with a disability.</u> <a href="http://www.idpwd.com.au/">http://www.idpwd.com.au/</a>

**Other areas of interest:**

- (a) Human Rights Law Centre – a focus on CALD;
- (b) Amnesty International – its work locally and globally
- (c) How culturally responsive are LGAs in the Eastern Metropolitan Region

**7. MSC Calendar 2014** of meetings and events - The calendar documents the work of the MSC in 2014.

**MSC meetings and events calendar 2014**

MSC meeting dates	MSC Meeting focus	MSC Forums/functions/events dates and working groups	International events in 2014 (multicultural calendar events of note)
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 - Coranderk and		February 1-7 United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week

	community involvement: Keeping Barak's dream alive		
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 <sup>th</sup> 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)		<b>April 7</b> – World Health Organisation <u>World Health Day</u>
02 May	" <b>Equality is not the same...</b> ". Leanne Sargent will speak to the outcomes of the Community Consultations undertaken by Victoria Police in 2013 and the way forward for Victoria Police. Leanne will provide a brief overview of the newly created Priority Communities Division which has been established in recognition that Victoria Police must do more to engage effectively and purposively with the diverse communities of Victoria.	May 6: Building cultural competence: <b>Mind Your Language</b> Forum Leonie (convenor), Railey – City of Whitehorse, Maria DHS - Centrelink, Teena-Eastern Health and Linda	<b>May 21</b> - <u>World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development</u> .
06 June	MSC - .30 minutes with a focus on Forums and Agency Reports, followed by Refugee Week event – see forums/events and function column	Refugee Week forum/event – working group: Cynthia (convenor), Michael, Maria. Jeska, Gitta, Jasmina. Event title: <b>Refugee Celebration</b> .	<b>June 20</b> – UN <u>World Refugee Day</u> , <b>June 26</b> – UN <u>Day - Support of Victims of Torture</u>
<b>July</b>	<b>No meeting</b>		
01 Aug	VMC and RACs – achievements and challenges. Speaker, Rudy Monteleone, Director VMC		
05 Sept	Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery – A snapshot. Speaker – Ann Sathasivam, Community Organiser Coordinator, The Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery, The Salvation Army		
03 Oct	CAV - focus on key areas of activity and concerns, Suzie Su, Consumer Affairs Victoria.	<b>DV:</b> Leonie (convenor), Jeska Jasmina, Judy (MIC). Event title: <b>Breaking the cycle. Spring Festival</b> City of Whitehorse 19 <sup>th</sup> October; <b>Crime prevention (DOJ)</b> project CCOEI 28 <sup>th</sup> October City of Whitehorse	<b>October 17-</b> <u>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</u> , UN recognized
07 Nov	Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria – the multicultural landscape: ECCV's place in it, Eddie Micallef, Chair ECCV.	Refugee health forum (cultural perspectives on mental health?)	<b>November 16</b> - <u>International Day for Tolerance</u> <b>November 25</b> - <u>International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</u> ,
05 Dec	Review of MSC activity in 2014 and planning 2015 calendar	Crime prevention (DOJ) project: forum with interfaith and seniors citizens groups Friday December 2, 2014 City of Manningham	Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> : <u>International Day for People with a disability</u> . <a href="http://www.idpwd.com.au/">http://www.idpwd.com.au/</a>

## 8. Forum and Agency Reports

### Forum Reports

#### Domestic Violence Forum (Teena Lee)

Forum rescheduled for 19/02/2015. Mental health remains the focus. The name of the forum is *Tip Toeing Around*. The flyer to be circulated.

#### Refugee Celebration 2015 (Sam Navarra)

As per entry in November 2014 MSC meeting minutes - *The event is a partnership of the City of Manningham, and CCOEI and will involve MSC members. The working group is yet to be established. Kirsten has approached the office of the UNHCR for Australia and the Pacific region and has invited Thomas Albrecht the UNHCR Representative for the region to be guest speaker. Awaiting a response. Date to be confirmed once keynote speaker is verified. Manningham is to celebrate adopting Refugee Welcome Zone policy at the Refugee Week celebrations in 2015.*

At the December meeting the following MSC members volunteered to be on working group with Kirsten (City of Manningham), Cynthia and Sam (CCOEI): Belinda (Women's Health East), Bwe (Swinburne University), Saturnino (MIC)

#### Conversations: Seeking the Answers (Glenis Crocker)

Glenis is completing the Report on refugee youth participation in education, training and employment forum. The next conversation in the series will be on women's health with a focus on Female Genital Mutilation. Contact with various hospitals but in particular the Royal Women's Hospital may provide data on this issue. This conversation may be incorporated in a health forum in 2015, or in the MSC monthly meeting focus.

The question of why a significant number of refugee girls do not complete school beyond compulsory schooling age is one area of interest that will be addressed in 2015. This too could be part of a forum on refugee youth.

#### Crime Prevention Community Safety CCOEI project (Glenis Crocker)

The CCOEI DOJ funded project has delivered the second phase of the project: a forum involving members of the interfaith networks in the EMR and representatives from Senior Citizen Clubs. The forum was held at the City of Manningham in December. Participants discussed the ways and means that money is managed in some CALD communities, as well as issues related to financial abuse of elders including fraudulent practices, limited understanding of being a guarantor. CCOEI aims through the series of forums to encourage discussion about the risks faced by elderly CALD acting as financial guarantors and put together an information package for educational purposes. The plan for 2015 is to run ethno specific forums beginning with one focusing on people from Chinese background, followed by Indian and Greek communities.

### Agency and individual reports

#### Wurrunjari book and other news (Chris Cosgriff)

- Chris promoted the newly published *Wrath of the Myndie* by Mick Woiwood, a history of the Yarra Valley. The book was launched by the Hon Jenny Macklin on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November.
- Chris noted that Robert Colla, Principal of BELS has retired and is joining the CCOEI and the MSC.
- As well, John Devine has moved on from the position of Anchor CEO. Fiona Nicholls is Acting CEO.

#### ECLC (Leonie Burhnam)

- Legal service project between ECLC and Maternal and Child Health Nurse. Support worker from EDVOS is involved in the project.
- Louise Multicultural Community Centre has a strong culturally diverse volunteer base, with many volunteers supporting students. Those interested to volunteer contact Leonie.

#### City of Knox (Joan Pepi)

- Knox Multicultural Festival
- Knox City declaring it to be a Refugee welcome zone, and signing on 16/12/2014

**Women's Health East (Belinda Haydon)** – noted work being undertaken with benevolent society.

**Swinburne University (Bwe Thay)**

- Received the Vice Chancellor Award. Bwe acknowledged the people that have been crucial in his life and his work which has led to the recognition award and thanked them. He noted Andree O'Donnell who has been a mentor to him. He noted that 5 years ago he was a refugee and to have come so far is a credit to many people and to Australia. He thanked CCOEI and the MSC for the part they played. On behalf of the MSC, Sam congratulated Bwe on his achievement that recognises his work with refugee communities.
- Successful transition program – 150 participants expected but around 250 came from all over Melbourne.

**Communities Council on Ethnic Issue (Sui Ting Tse, Glenis Crocker)**

- CCOEI is delivering a Community Safety DOJ funded project – see entry under forum reports.

**Migrant Information Centre (Saturnino)**

- Fewer refugees are settling in the area.
- Noted swim safe program for refugee children.
- African community information session on road rules

**Next MSC Meeting: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014, 9.30 – 12.00**

**Focus: Humanitarian Settlement Services and the Settlement Grants Program in the EMR in 2015.**

**Speakers from DSS, DHS, providers of services including AMES and the MIC.**

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

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