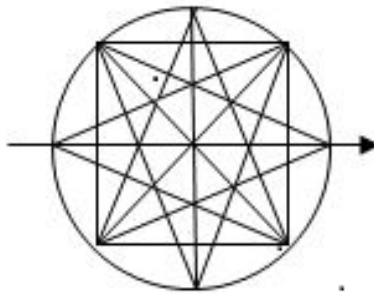


Chairs:

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, December 4th 2015

**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	CCOEI
Gitta Clayton	AMES, Volunteer Tutor Program
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI
Glenis Crocker	CCOEI
Mervat Dahdoule	MIC, Volunteer Coordinator
Miriam Decker	Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network (EMPHN), Project Officer, Vulnerable Groups, Access and Diverse Communities
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff Office Ringwood, Sheriff Officer, Multicultural and Koori Liaison
Dianne Godfrey	DHS Centrelink - MSO
Mohit Gupta	Swinburne University, Team Leader
Michael Hardie	Dorish Maru College, Box Hill, Rector
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc.
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Andree O'Donnell	AMES Settlement, Case Manager/Team Leader
Railey Orger	City of Whitehorse, Community Development Officer, Diversity
Saarah Ozeer	Bounce - Director
Madeleine Parker	Department of Education and Training, School Development Officer, ESL
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University, AMEP Pathway Counsellor; CCOEI
Sophie Todorov	VicPol, Youth Resource Officer
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
Twanny Farrugia	CCOEI, DonateLife
Marilyn Gurry	CCOEI, Swinburne University
Jenelle Kelly	VicPol Community Engagement, Acting Inspector
Jasmina Mulugeta	Foundation House
Jane Ormonde	DSS
Jules Piccinin	City of Whitehorse, Youth ConneXions
Tahseen Qadeer,	Multicultural Communities Officer, Knox City
Ume Qulsoom Mazahir	CCOEI Volunteer Support
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	VicPol MLO
Jessica Thompson	Migrant Information Centre, Settlement Community Development Officer
Guests	
Hassira Barakzai	MIC student on placement

2. **Minutes November 2015:** Minutes circulated electronically. Moved Chris Cosgriff, Seconded Sui Ting Tse. Confirmed.
3. **Business Arising** – incorporated in the agenda.
4. **Issues and concerns:** Concerns re IELTS referred to CCOEI. (Note post MSC meeting: CCOEI has arranged for IELTS provider to present information on the test at a date to be notified. To facilitate and focus discussion, MSC members should provide questions and comments in advance). In the meantime, agencies may wish to follow up on specific IELTS matters with service providers.
5. **Correspondence** – relevant correspondence (initiatives, services, programs, etc.) circulated to MSC.

6. **Meeting Focus**

MSC Review and MSC calendar of meetings, events and functions in 2016

Following the evaluation results of the MSC via Survey Monkey, and input at MSC at meetings, the MSC 2016 draft calendar was developed and circulated for discussion. The new calendar, see table below, was then modified with further input from the meeting. With regard to forums and events, the majority want a focus on refugee week, a forum on youth, a forum on refugee and CALD health, and there was some support for an expo on employment and training. The calendar is flexible to respond to developing issues and situations.

MSC 2016 CALENDAR

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).		February 1-7 United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week
04 March	Youth - emerging concerns - CMY? City of Whitehorse OR Disability and CALD: how are CALD with a disability faring under the NDIS? (Tahseen and Miriam, speaker from NDIS and the NDIS Agency)	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.	Refugee health, inc. mental health forum/workshop (EACH; Refugee Health Nurse Program; Eastern Health; Cynthia, Glenis, MIC, Victorian Health Network; Miriam, others; TBC. Willis Room, Whitehorse, booked.	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 Chair: 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.	Refugee Week: celebrating our diverse community through the arts: exhibition of stories, photos, art and craft, video, entertainment, etc. Guest speakers: CALD artists: the exhibition could travel monthly to different venues. Working party: Saarah, Dianne, Miriam, Glenis, Railey? Reps from Yarra Ranges and Monash? Whitehorse venue? Whitehorse: refugee welcome zone?	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 – Leonie and Kaz ECLC; OR Domestic Violence and its relationship to other social issues. Leonie, Miriam, 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) with a focus on services, access, successes and challenges; and CCOEI AGM 12.00.- 12.30		October 17- International Day for the 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.	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.	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.idpwd.com.au/

Notes:

- Homelessness and its impact on CALD was offered as a potential forum (check 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.

7. **MSC 2015 Calendar:** The 2015 calendar was noted – see table. The year has been intensive with forums and functions, e.g. series of forums on CALD elderly guarantors (part of the State Government DOJ community safety crime prevention program) and elder abuse, domestic violence, the refugee and migrant Refugee Week welcome function, the youth forum, as well as key focus meetings. Sam thanked MSC members for their excellent contribution and active participation throughout the year.

MSC 2015 CALENDAR

MSC meeting dates	Meeting focus	Forums/functions/events dates and working groups	International Multicultural events Calendar
02 Jan	No meeting		
06 Feb	Part A: Settlement Services in Victoria: Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) and the Settlement Services Grants (SSG)– panel of speakers from HSS and SSG providers (Teresa Lee and ToriDensley AMES; Judy McDougall MIC), the Department of Social Services (Josh Presser, DSS), and the Department of Human Services (Jack Intziadis and Maria deMonte DHS).	Forum: Community Safety and Crime prevention: Financial risks, elderly guarantors from Chinese background 10/02, Manningham. Forum: Domestic Violence 19/02. (Leonie, Jeska, Glenis, EACH, Foundation House).	February 1-7 United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week
06 March	Part B: Refugee and asylum seekers: the policy landscape and its challenges for advocacy organizations – Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre (RILC). Speaker: David Manne, Executive Director, Principal Solicitor and Migration Agent, RILC, and a RILC lawyer.	Harmony Day events. Forum: Community Safety and crime prevention project: Elderly guarantors from Indian background and financial risks, late March.	March 21: Harmony Day

03 April	Good Friday – no meeting.	Forum: Community Safety and crime prevention: Elderly guarantors from Greek background and financial risks, late April (Effie, Athena/Adonis)	April 7 – World Health Organisation <u>World Health Day</u>
01 May	Part A: Refugee Women’s Health: how are services responding to the needs of refugee women, particularly young women? Part B: Refugee Men’s Health: what are the main areas of concern and are men accessing available health services? Speakers: Merilyn Spratling (Refugee Health Nurse Program, Refugee Health Nurse Coordinator, Clinical Services) and Dr Marion Bailes, Specialist GP.		May 21 - <u>World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development</u> ,
05 June	Initiatives and innovations that make a difference: brief presentations across sectors: Settled and Safe: Elaine Prime, Community Liaison Educator, Victoria Legal Aid Women’s Friendship Group: Helen Jurcevic, President, Women’s Friendship Group Inc. AMES Youth Program: Margot Hennessy, Manager Youth Programs, AMES MIC Access and Support Program: Wanling Zhang, Access and Support Program, MIC Safe Futures Foundation, Jin Jin Minehane, Gen Man Innovation & Foundation Development TAFE Taster and Transition to Higher Education, Bwe Thay, Project Officer/AMEP Pathways Counselor, Swinburne Uni. of Tech. The VTP Program: Gitta Clayton, Volunteer Tutor Coordinator, AMES – <i>deferred to Nov meeting</i>	Refugee Week: celebration of settlement in EMR. MSC/CCOEI, City of Manningham (Convenor: Kirsten; Cynthia, Sam, Bwe, Saturnino, Gitta Clayton, Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Jasmina Mulugeta).	June 20 – UN <u>World Refugee Day</u> , June 26 – UN <u>Day - Support of Victims of Torture</u>
July 3	No meeting		
07 Aug	Australian Refugee and Humanitarian Program 2015-2016: Community views, current challenges, and future directions. Asher Hirsch, Policy Officer, Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA)	CALD and mental health (postponed to 2016) and working group to be formed to include, Leonie and Railey).	
04 Sept	Assisting refugees through the everyday life maze (i.e. open a bank account; enrol kids in school, public transport, etc.). Hamidullah Nida, AMES Settlement (HSS), Manager Orientation.	Education and Training expomoved to 2016: invitations to working group: LLEN, AMEP and VET providers, Centrelink.	
09 Oct	CALD elderly signing as guarantors for family members and the risks: <i>A Matter of Trust</i> project (Glenis Crocker, CCOEI) – a snapshot of the project and outcomes); CCOEI AGM 12.00.- 12.30	Refugee health forum proposed Thursday 25 February 2016, Willis Room, COW, Nunawading. Services for refugee/humanitarian entrants (EACH; Eastern Health; Cynthia, Glenis, Belinda, Refugee Nurse. MIC – Participating organizations to be confirmed).	October 17- <u>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</u> , UN calendar
06 Nov	1. Update on the Thai Burma Refugee Camps – Gitta Clayton; 2. AMES Volunteer Tutor Program – overview of the program and “Meet a Volunteer” – Gitta Clayton; 3. Review of the Migrant Settlement Committee 2015 program and the Strategic Plan for 2016 (calendar of speakers, forums and events) – Sam and Cynthia.	Refugee & CALD Youth Event/My choice – My Life Venue: Swinburne University of Technology Croydon campus, 12/11/2015, 9:30am – 2:00 pm Conveners: Bwe Thay and Saarah Ozeer. Organisations participating include: CCOEI, DHS Centrelink, BELS, Swinburne, Bounce, MIC, ECLC, VicPol, AMES, Maroondah Council Youth Team, Foundation House and	November 16 - <u>International Day for Tolerance</u> November 25 - <u>International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</u> ,

		YMCA, OELLEN, DOJ, <u>Purpose:</u> Pathways to further study and employment, innovative services and activities including sport (AFL and soccer).	
04 Dec	Finalize MSC Calendar (meeting and events) for 2016.	Disability forum: how are CALD with a disability faring under the NDIS? – postponed to first half of 2016.	Dec 3 rd : <u>International Day for People with a disability</u> . http://www.idp.wd.com.au/

Other areas of interest: 1) Human Rights Law Centre – a focus on CALD; 2) Amnesty International – its work locally and globally; 3) How culturally responsive are LGAs in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

8. Forum Reports

Refugee and CALD Youth forum (Bwe Thay, Dianne Godfrey, and Sam Navarria): forum delivered as scheduled. In excess of 300 young people attended. Feedback has been positive. All workshops/presentations and activities were well attended and interest was high. Information stalls of key services, education, employment, and local government were also successful. All presentations - transition to higher education and pathway options, employment and legal rights, choosing vocational providers and courses wisely, and health – received praise, as did the activities provided by the AFL, Melbourne City Soccer, and Manningham YMCA Youth Services. The hip hop was mesmerising, and the prizes were fun. The placing of more leaves on the welcome trees from the Refugee and Migrant Welcome function was also moving. A Swinburne University produced video of the event gave an idea of the positive atmosphere and the interest shown. Running the forum again in 2016 was supported. Bwe noted that the Vice Chancellor of Swinburne University has offered his support to resource future youth forums. Sam thanked everyone involved in the forum, and noted the team effort that made the forum a success.

Agency and individual reports

DHS Centrelink (Dianne Godfrey)

- Changes to immunization requirements: no vaccination translates in no eligibility to receive payments (no vaccination no payment). No conscientious objections allowed;
- Centrelink holiday hours - customers informed to report early to be paid on time.

DOJ Sheriff Office (Leigh Gilmore): noted youth forum in South East and Job Expo in Doveton. Offered to present information to groups.

CCOEI: (Sui Ting Tse and Sam Navarria)

- CCOEI has received a Bendigo bank community grant to deliver a Refugee Health Forum in 2016. MSC members interested in the working group include Glenis, Miriam, Dianne, and ECLC. Refugee Health Nurse Program will be invited on the working group (Marilyn Spratling). It is expected that the forum will be held in the first half of 2016 in the City of Whitehorse, although the venue and location could change;
- Whitehorse Community Centre tenants AGM: Sui Ting attended the AGM for CCOEI and reported on tenants' obligations re use of meeting rooms, protocols and requirements, including leaving place clean and tidy and furniture returned to appropriate locations. Rules posted on walls through the building. Remember signing in book inside the front doors on the first floor;
- Thanked all for their contribution to the work of the MSC – an excellent team effort.

ECLC (Leonie Burnham)

- Women Safety Packages – Leonie has invited input from the community and various agencies on gaps, resources e.g. social workers, legal support, etc. consultations with community agencies taking place;
- Finance Management Counsellor (FMC) – financial counsellor for women only service from Box Hill ECLC site. Part of the service is to train workers to understand finance and support women; basic awareness of money and family violence.

Women's Friendship Group (Helen Jurcevic)

- Issue of immunization has been brought to the attention of Mary Woolridge and discussed in Parliament, also State health minister Jill Hennessy has been made aware;
- Grant from Manningham Council sewing machines to make garments for women in developing countries.

NEAMA (Linda Chen) - NEAMA is a mental health service which has national reach. Refer to website for details of support services. The model used is collaborative recovery one to one and Linda has begun work with the organisation. www.neamanational.au

Migrant Information Centre (Mervat Dahdoule)

- Noted new MIC office in Ringwood, operating Tuesday to Friday 9-5, additional to the delivery of services from Box Hill and Croydon;
- Case work re migration support on Mondays from BH office from 5-7 for those people who cannot come during standard working hours.

Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network (Miriam Decker)

- The service has now relocated from Ringwood to Box Hill, but also operates from Croydon and Bundoora; new CEO appointed;
- Network aims to build practice in GPs through various means, e.g. Webinar on child health, training medics.

Swinburne University of TAFE (Bwe Thay)

- Noted achievements, e.g. World Kitchen Event to celebrate diversity through food - to be run again in March 2016;
- The welcome tree team was highly commended for the vice chancellor's award;
- Professional development for staff training with the RCOA;

Interfaith Network (Dilnaz Billimoria)

- Noted Victorian Interfaith Conference and partnerships with CALD communities;
- Faith Communities Council of Victoria interested in working with CCOEI (Sandy to contact CCOEI).

TLC (Gitta) – postcard photographs and calendar sales to support Hope project in Burma/Thai refugee camps.

Lilydale Community Workers Network - working with newly arrived communities. Dates of meetings in 2016: 24/2; 25/5; 24/8; 23/11 time 9.30-11. Contact Santha Press at Yarra Ranges.

Next MSC Meeting:

Friday 5th February, 9.30 – 12.00

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

Focus: the work of the Australian Multicultural Foundation (AMF)

Presenter: Dr Hass Dellal AO, Executive Director AMF.

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