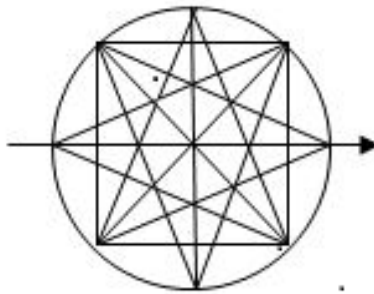


Chairs:

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Cynthia Shaw: Mob: 0434 080 977



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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 2nd 2016

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

1. **Chair:** Cynthia Shaw and Glenis Crocker

2. **Present**

Leonie Burnham	Doncare, Manager DV Assessment and Support Services
Iresha Butngamnwa	ECLC, Community Development Coordinator
Glenis Crocker	CCOEI Projects
Krishani Dassanayake	CCOEI Event Administration
Lillian De Bortoli	CCOEI Co Convenor Grants Committee, Reports and Submissions
Rebecca Dunsdon	Migrant Information Centre
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff Office – Eastern, Sheriff Officer Koori & Multicultural Liaison
Kelly Alfris	Department of Social Services, Settlement Grants Manager
Dianne Godfrey	Department of Human Services, Centrelink, MSO
Suzi Hayes	Knox City Council, Multicultural Communities Officer
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Manningham
Ellen Kimball	Whitehorse City Council, Community Development - Diversity
Madeleine Parker	Department of Education and Training, Senior Project Officer, ESL
Mhisti Rele	CCOEI Research and Resources Manager
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI Secretary
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI President
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI
Jacqueline Verlin	Holmesglen TAFE AMEP Counsellor
Angela Tee	Community Volunteer
Nildhara Gadani	RAC Interfaith and WIN Group

Apologies

Rebecca Wickes, Dilnaz Billimoria, Zion Lo, Alex Mills, Edmond Wong, Digna Libera, Teena Lee, Clive Williams, Twanny Farrugia, Bwe Thay, Zeenat Khan, Jack Intziadis, Zehra Yalcin, Kelly Alfris, Cindy Kung, Sam Navarria, Chris and Heather Cosgriff, Kate Jeffrey

3. **Minutes November 2016.** Minutes circulated. Moved Suzie Hayes, Seconded. Clary Verbunt. Accepted.

4. **Business Arising** – no business arising.

5. **Correspondence** – Correspondence and notices folder circulated. Item of note: Folder for the financial year's work of the Migrant Settlement Committee with photographs kindly provided by Chris and Heather Cosgriff.

Meeting Focus:**6.1 Review MSC 2016**

Questions are placed on a survey (through Survey Monkey) each year in October/November to assist with reviewing the Migrant Settlement Committee (MSC). The tables below are the outcomes from the 2016 survey which were discussed at the December meeting. Results assist in the strategic planning and development of the Calendar of Events for the following year. Ideas in relation to future speaker topics, as well as forums and workshops, stem directly from members themselves in two ways: 1) through the survey and 2) from information on identified issues contributed through their expertise and local experience in the community.

SURVEY QUESTIONS:**Q1 Migrant Settlement Committee:**

How long have you been a member of the MSC? (Please note: if you are on the mailing list then you are a member)

1 Year or less	47.6.2%
2-4 years	23.81%
5-10 years	19.04%
Over 10 years	9.52%

Q2 Your participation on Task Groups and Steering Committees.

The Migrant Settlement Committee task groups organise a number of forums per year. Would your organisation be prepared to allow you to participate on a Steering Committee?

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	39% 7
Maybe - as long as it falls within my position description and organisation's Mission Statement	56% 10
No - we are unable to assist	6% 1

Q3: Migrant Settlement Committee meeting topics- Calendar for 2016/2017

Which of the following the topics would you be interested in hearing more about at MSC meetings?

	Responses score
Immigration matters including the Humanitarian Settlement Services	65%
Health matters - includes mental health	80%
Disability	50%
Education	50%
Settlement stories	40%
Family Violence - and related matters	80%
Current or future service innovations	80%
Racism, prejudice, discrimination	50%

Q4 Forums and Expos:

Which of the following would be your choice of forums, expos or workshops to prioritise?

Answer Choices	Responses score
Health related matters	90% 17
Family Violence	65% 12
Jobs and careers	58% 11
Torture and Trauma services	55% 10
Self-harming and suicide in the CALD community	55% 10
Youth and Students - Education Expo	53% 10
Forced marriages	45% 9
Modern slavery / human trafficking	40% 8
Female cutting also known as Female Genital Mutilation	15% 3

Q5 Migrant Settlement Committee:

What do you value the most in your participation of the MSC?

Answer Choices	Responses
Working collaboratively to enhance services to migrants and refugees	75%
Sharing my knowledge and expertise to assist others	60%
Expanding my own knowledge through specialist speakers and presentations at meetings	80%
Building partnerships that enhance services across the Eastern Region	90%
Participating on Steering Committees to deliver innovative projects	60%
Being part of a team that provides positive outcomes for migrants and refugees in the Eastern Region	75%

Q6 How satisfied are you with MSC meeting procedures?

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Some small changes required	Unsatisfied
Meeting documentation (Minutes and Agenda)	72.22%	22.22%	5.56%	0.00%
Start and end times of meetings	64.71%	23.53%	11.76%	0.00%
Procedures and reporting	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%

Q7 In relation to MSC meetings are there any changes or improvements you can suggest?

Answer Choices	Responses
Venue related	25%
Time or date related	50%
Subject or topics related	0%
Outcomes related	25%
New innovations you can suggest	12.50%

Comments (6)

1. Steering Committee meetings quite long and often go off topic, meaning they go over time and become longer.

2. Satisfied - No changes

3. Sharing stories: At commencement of each meeting if someone could provide a story - good, bad or otherwise about a migrant experience for themselves, someone they know or a client. It's a great way to learn about what is really happening for all of us.

4. Venue getting too small.

5. To become more effective in related discussion-more practical information. I found the discussion and presentation are wonderful but outcomes I can see need follow up.

6. Regular specific reports/updates from humanitarian settlement service providers to assist in service planning at the participating agencies.

6.2 MSC 2016 Calendar

The calendar is a flexible document that responds to developing issues and situations through the year.

MSC meeting dates	Meeting focus	Forums/functions/events dates and working groups	International Multicultural events Calendar
01 Jan	No meeting		
03 Feb	The Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV): overview, achievements over the past year, and priorities in 2017. Marion Lau, Deputy Chair ECCV.		February 1-7 United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week
03 March	Indigenous history and culture: from the perspective of historian and novelist. Mick Woivod	Harmony Day events.	March 21: <u>Harmony Day</u>
07 April	CALD from Burma: a focus on needs and services. Current and future services and innovations. Speakers TBC		April 7 – World Health Organisation <u>World Health Day</u>
05 May	The interfaith network: its achievements, and challenges. Speakers OR The Australian Multicultural Foundation (AMF) in 2017: priorities, challenges and key events (AMF Executive Director, Dr Hass Dellal AO)	Family violence forum: theme – culturally sensitive approaches.	May 21 - <u>World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development</u> ,
02 June	CALD from Syria – a focus on needs and services. Current and future services and innovations. Speaker TBC		June 20 – UN <u>World Refugee Day</u> , June 26 – UN <u>Day - Support of Victims of Torture</u>
01 July	No meeting		
04 Aug	What is happening in Shepparton? – a research study of successful settlement, Dr Helen Forbes-Mewett, Monash University	Refugee health forum: theme – mental health?	
01 Sept	CALD from Iran; Afghanistan and Iraq: focus on needs and services. Current and future services and innovations. Speakers TBC		
06 Oct	CALD from Sudan: needs and services. Current and future services and innovations Speakers TBC. CCOEI AGM	CALD Youth Forum: employment, training and community engagement.	October 17- <u>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</u> , UN calendar
03 Nov	Australian Refugee and Humanitarian Program 2017 -2018: Community views, current challenges, and future directions. Asher Hirsch, Policy Officer, Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA). MSC review of 2017 activity.		November 16 - <u>International Day for Tolerance</u> November 25 - <u>International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</u> ,
01 Dec	Finalize 2018 MSC Calendar.		Dec 3 rd : <u>International Day for People with a disability</u> http://www.idpwd.com.au/

Other areas:

- Meet and greet your new neighbours and get to know your changing community.
- Human Rights Law Centre – a focus on CALD;
- Cultural responsiveness of LGAs in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.
- Community safety and security

Additional discussions and issues raised by MSC members for consideration of future speakers and/or forums:

1. Housing:
 - Issues where homes are very crowded being shared between 2-3 families especially in the case of newly arrived refugees.
 - Lack of privacy, crowding resulting in marriage breakup and family violence
2. Health and Health Literacy
3. Employment
 - Unscrupulous employment practices preying on vulnerable people (e.g. underpayment of wages). This also affects the health and wellbeing of victims.
 - Migrants and refugees who have overseas qualifications reduced to driving a Taxi as unable to get work in their field of expertise (Example provided by Leigh).
 - Reasons for rejections given by prospective employers: they are not qualified for the position; however, when qualifications are acquired the reason given is that the person is overqualified!
 - Another common reason given is that the person has no local experience
 - Getting to the interview stage is found to be very difficult
 - Leonie suggested that a speaker addresses issues and then this is built into a forum
 - Rebecca said that people with Bachelor Degrees are then not eligible for a Diploma course

Action: There will be a call for key stakeholders to participate on a working group
4. "Whiteness and a sense of entitlement". Suzie suggested this might be a forum or workshop for 2017. Suzie also said she may have a speaker for this topic. Helen Forbes-Mewett offered to speak on the subject at an MSC meeting providing food for thought to be taken further if desired..
5. Family Violence Forum – Rebecca spoke about a proposed future forum/partnership with Judy McDougall and the Migrant Information Centre.
 - The Cultural Partnerships Working Group is a working group established through the Eastern Regional Family Violence Network and its main aim is to advise the network on issues related to cultural diversity and family violence.
 - *[More recently the group decided they would like to hold a forum on prevention strategies and culturally appropriate responses to family violence in CALD communities.*
 - *It was later noted that the findings of the DV project undertaken by Deakin Uni with the Indian and Chinese communities is pending a launch in December 2016.*
 - The MSC membership indicated their interest in working with this group to develop a CALD Forum. It was felt that a February delivery date would be out of the question due to Harmony week and other activities already planned. The MSC Calendar has indicated a speaker on Family Violence prevention in August 2017.

Action: The MSC will call for interested parties for a Steering Committee early in 2017.

Next MSC Meeting

Friday 3rd March, 9.30am – 12.00 noon

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

Meeting Focus: Indigenous history and culture: from the perspective of historian and novelist. Mick Woiwod

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