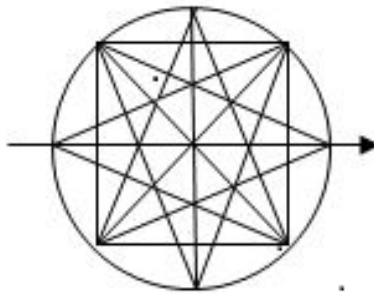


Chairs:

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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, February 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
Sandy Ashton,	Eastern Health, Diversity Coordinator, Consumer Participation & Patient Experience
Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Linda Chen	Mental Health Support Worker
Gitta Clayton	AMES Australia, Volunteer Tutor Program
Glenis Crocker	CCOEI
Mervat Dahdoule	MIC, Volunteer Coordinator
Jennifer Fagarasan	AMES Australia, Box Hill, AMEP Counsellor
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff Office Ringwood, Sheriff Officer, Multicultural and Koori Liaison
Marina Grishina	Holmesglen TAFE, Chadstone/Waverley
Mohit Gupta	Swinburne University, Team Leader
Margot Hennessy	AMES Australia, Young Adult Program Manager
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc.
Yan Ma	AMES Australia, HSS Ringwood
Jasmina Mulugeta	Foundation House
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Madeleine Parker	Department of Education and Training, School Development Officer, ESL
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	VicPol MLO
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University, AMEP Pathway Counsellor; CCOEI
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI
Apologies	
Leonie Burnham	ECLC, Manager Inner East Office
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI
Twanny Farrugia	DonateLife
Jenelle Kelly	VicPol Community Engagement, Acting Inspector
Andree O'Donnell	AMES Australia, Settlement Services (HSS), Case Manager/Team Leader
Jules Piccinin	City of Whitehorse, Youth ConneXions
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI
Yolanda Zhang	AMES Australia, Box Hill, AMEP Counsellor

2. Minutes December 2015. Minutes circulated electronically. Moved Cynthia Shaw, Seconded Leigh Gilmore. Confirmed.

3. Business Arising – incorporated in the agenda.

4. **CCOEI Issues and concerns Reporting Template:** The document is being reviewed by the CCOEI Committee of Management and will be circulated when completed.
5. **Correspondence.** Relevant correspondence (initiatives, services, programs, etc.) circulated to MSC. Item of note: IELTS - IDP email response to request for information. IDP will be invited to provide a brief information session for interested members – 5 have showed interest. Cynthia will notify members of the date and time of session. The purpose of the session is to find out more about the IELTS, what it is, how it works and appeal/complaints mechanisms. Previously the MSC had called for case studies of people with complaints about results of the tests and having to re-sit the test many times. Thanks to Helen who provided a case study.
6. **Meeting Focus: presentations from service providers** (this replaces the AMF presentation due to a late cancellation by AMF. Presenters thanked for their contributions provided at a very short notice).

Swinburne University of TAFE (Bwe Thay)

- **Welcome Tree Planting ceremony:** Tuesday 3rd March at 9:40. Wakefield Gardens, Wakefield Street Swinburne University of Technology Hawthorn campus. MSC members invited to attend the planting which symbolises Swinburne's continued commitment to refugee, migrant and asylum seeker communities. There will be a multifaith blessing of the tree. Registration essential. To register go to <http://www.swinburne.edu.au/corporate/careers/welcome-tree/>
- **Swinburne World Kitchen** – 21st March 10:30 – 2:30pm. This year the focus will be on how food connects people and their culture. Benefits: help to celebrate diversity and learn from other cultures; great entertainment and free event. This event was very successful and popular last year. Lots of culture, colour and food. **Location:** Swinburne Hawthorn Campus **Contact:** Bwe Thay (bthay@swin.edu.au or 0416 726 951)

AMES Australia services (Gitta Clayton, Margot Hennessy, Jennifer Fagarasan, Yan Ma, Yolanda Zhang)

Volunteer Tutor Program (Gitta Clayton)

- Volunteer Tutors help with learning English, improving understanding of Australia and confidence, as well as settling into daily life in Australia such as helping pay bills, using public transport, finding a job etc. A very practical approach where tutors are matched to clients and locations are arranged to suit. Tutors are fully trained, and are from diverse backgrounds and different walks of life;
- A video was shown with people talking of their experiences with the Volunteer Tutor Program. Students and teachers provided valuable insights. The video is well worth watching – video can be accessed on <http://www.ames.net.au/learn-english/volunteer-tutor-program.html>

Young Adult Program (Margot Hennessy)

- The Young Adult program is a holistic program that caters to youth between the ages of 18 and 25;
- The program is multifaceted and is based on active learning to improve social connections, employment, education, etc;
- Some program activities include AFL training, netball, swimming (Aqualink) Skilled based program, Try a Trade with TAFE colleges and an annual camp;
- 14 classes across Melbourne, including classes at Box Hill AMES, supported by Pathways Councillor. Run job clubs with some involvement by employment services and employers;
- Held Alumni event with past and present students.

Educational Counselling (Jennifer Fagarasan and Yolanda Zhang)

The educational counselling service focuses on providing information and advice on education pathways to clients enrolled in the AMEP and other relevant programs, e.g. youth programs, specialist programs such as IELTS, VET, Ucan2, and the SLPET (this program makes available 200 extra hours

beyond the AMEP to support students with employment skills, job search, work placement and supervised work experience).

Humanitarian Settlement Services (Yan Ma)

The service provides comprehensive initial settlement services to refugees settling in Victoria. The service is based in various regions, and in the east it is located in Ringwood and Croydon. Refugees settling in the east are from many backgrounds but particularly from Chin and Karen backgrounds, and Iranian. Syrian entrants expected but to date only a handful out of the 12,000 have arrived.

Foundation House (Jasmina Mulugeta). The Foundation provides various services:

- Counselling to refugees and asylum seekers who have suffered torture and trauma, and to those who join families in Australia who may have suffered from the separation;
- Psycho-social support
- Some psychiatry support;

The Foundation works with specialist and generalist organisations to optimise results, and refers clients to specialist services. Organisations and individuals can use the referral forms on the Foundation webpage

Women's Friendship Group (Helen Jurcevic)

- The group is active locally and provides social justice/empowerment focused programs and activities;
- The Group is also involved in an international program, and works to support development and self sufficiency in a village in Kenya. The involvement has seen improvements in water, agriculture; education (kindergarten and building a primary school); health (building a dispensary).

Whitehorse Interfaith Network (Dilnaz Billimoria). The network is very active – for interfaith harmony week calendar of events visit VMC website. The network conducts practical hands on friendship and community connecting activities such as the recent excursion to the Victoria Market Night Market followed by a visit to Lygon Street Carlton. Also noted the Darebin Council interfaith youth event: a story of hope and success told from the people who have lived it. Please note: Dilnaz will send information about upcoming Interfaith events when available.

MIC (Mervat Dahdoule). The MIC delivers various services including:

- Settlement Support; Casework, and Information sessions;
- Swimming Program: adults and children in partnership with Live Saving Victoria;
- Homework Programs and Playgroups;
- Community Visitors Scheme for older persons
- Access and Support Program

Eastern Health (Sandy Ashton)

Eastern Health has a new program working with LGBTI people. Eastern Health has over 10,000 staff. It is working on consumer engagement strategies for 2016.

Department of social services (Kelly Alfris)

The Minister for Social Services announced on the 17th of December the launch of the Youth Transition Support Pilot. This programme is aimed at helping young humanitarian entrants and vulnerable migrants participate in work and education. This programme intends to improve workplace readiness, provide access to vocational opportunities, and create strong social connections through education and

sports engagement. In Victoria, the Victorian Foundation for the Survivors of Torture (Foundation House) is funded to deliver the pilot in the Local Government Areas of Greater Dandenong and Casey. The Brotherhood of St Laurence is funded to deliver the service in Hume.

The Minister's media release can be accessed at: <http://christianporter.dss.gov.au/media-releases/support-for-young-refugees>

Further information about the Youth Transition Support Pilot Programme is also available on the DSS website at: <https://www.dss.gov.au/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/programs-policy/settlement-services/youth-transition-support-pilot-programme>

7. MSC 2016 Calendar

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) – replaced by a focus on programs and services – various presenters.		February 1-7 United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week
04 March	(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.	Refugee health, inc. mental health forum/workshop (EACH; Refugee Health Nurse Program; {Marilyn} Rebecca, Cynthia, Glenis, Miriam, Jasmina, Sandy, 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. OR Disability and CALD: how are CALD with a disability faring under the NDIS? (Tahseen and Miriam, speaker from NDIS and the NDIS Agency)	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, 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.idp.wd.com.au/

Notes:

- Homelessness and its impact on CALD was offered as 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.

8. Forum Reports

Refugee Health Forum steering committee has met and the forum program is developing. The forum is scheduled for the 22nd of April in the city of Whitehorse.

Agency and individual reports

These have been incorporated in the presentations outlined above.

Australia Day Awards – Menzies Community Australia Day Awards.

Members of the Migrant Settlement Committee proudly congratulated:

1. **Dilnaz Billimoria on her Menzies Community Australia Day Award** it was well deserved for her work in the Interfaith community.
2. **Helen Jurcevic - Women’s Friendship Group:** For building friendship and harmony through compassion

Next MSC Meeting

Friday 4th March, 9.30 – 12.00

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

Focus: MYSPIN (Maroondah Youth Services Providers Network):

- (a) 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)

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