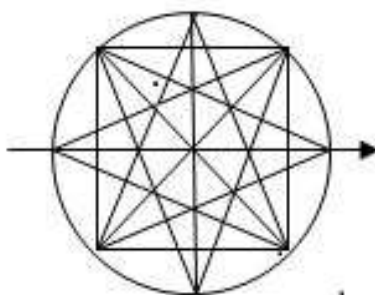


**Chairs:**

Sam Navarria: Mob: 0432 975 558

Cynthia Shaw: Mob: 0466 157 906



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, February 1, 2019

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

1. **Welcome** – Cynthia and Sam welcomed MSC members and guests.
2. **Present**

Dilnaz Billimoria	Interfaith network
Jacque Arulanandam	MIC, Settlement Support Worker
Marisa Briant	Career Seekers
Iresha Butngamwa	ECLC, Community Development Coordinator
Gitta Clayton	Links – CHBC, Community Engagement Coordinator
Julie Conan-Davies	Swinburne University, AMEP Coordinator
Lidija DeKoning	AtWork Australia Senior Job Coach
Kate Jeffery	Link Health and Community, Senior Research and Planning Officer
Rose Juan	Latrobe Community Health Services, Community Development Officer
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc
Pamela Kosij	City of Monash Multicultural Community Development Officer
Cindy Kung	Louise Multicultural Community Centre, Program Coordinator
Ben Lam	Chinese Parents Special Support Network, Volunteer
Sarah Martinelli	Whitehorse Council, Diversity Officer
Jenny Mitchell	Whitehorse Manningham Libraries, CALD Branch Manager
Penny Moore	City of Maroondah, Community Development Officer
Katrina Myers	Box Hill Institute, Program Manager, AMEP & SEE
Raini Nailor	Knox City Council, CD Officer
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Madeleine Parker	DET, Senior Project Officer EAL
Joel Polkinghorne	AtWork Australia Job Coach
Carole Pondevie-Lay	Melbourne AMEP, Melbourne Polytechnic, Community Liaison & Engagement Manager
Gianluigi Rotondo	Monash University, PHD Student
Vicki Selimi	DHS, Centrelink, Multicultural Services Officer
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	Victoria Police Eastern Region Multicultural Liaison Unit, MLO
Robin Steward	ATO, Migrant Education Project Officer
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI, President
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI
Zhera Yalcin	Kara House, Case Worker
<b>Apologies</b>	
Sally Brooks	MIC, Strategic Engagement Coordinator
Krishiani Dassanayake	CCOEI
Gina Etienne	Eastern Health, Manager Consumer Community
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff Office Eastern, Sheriff Officer – Koori and Multicultural Liaison
Marilyn Gurry	CCOEI

Belinda Haydon	Link Health and Community, Community Partnerships Officer
Alex Mills	Link Health and Community, Opening Doors Coordinator
Barbara Reeckman	Melbourne Polytechnic, AMEP, Pathways Guidance Coordinator,
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University. CCOEI
Johnny Tran	Victoria Police MLO
<b>Guests</b>	
Michael Cresham	AMES Australia, Team Leader, Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP)
Josh Power	AMES Australia, Senior Manager, Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS)

3. **Minutes MSC December 2018** – moved Clary Verbunt, seconded Marylyn Gurry. Accepted.

4. **Business Arising** - Incorporated in the agenda.

5. **Correspondence.** Information circulated via email and noted at the meeting:

**6. Meeting focus: Humanitarian Settlement Services**

Sam introduced Michael Cresham, Team Leader, Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) and Josh Power, Senior Manager, Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS), both from AMES Australia.

Michael gave background information on AMES Australia

- 70 years' experience working with newly arrived communities;
- Initially established to provide English language classes to migrants, later expanded to provide Settlement and Employment services to refugees, newly arrived migrants and asylum seekers;
- The largest settlement provider in Australia.

**AMES Australia Settlement and Asylum Seeker Programs**

AMES delivers two major services under the National Humanitarian Program:

- Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP);
- Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS).

HSP addresses Offshore Resettlement (refugees); SRSS Onshore Protection (asylum seekers).

Michael provided statistical data for the last 5 years of the Humanitarian Program Grants:

Category	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Total	13,747	17,555	21,968	16,250	18,750

In 2015 an additional 12,000 humanitarian visas (those displaced by conflicts in Syria and Iraq) were issued. 99% of grants went to family groups and included 4550 children.

**Visa Categories** (Offshore Resettlement – Refugee Category)

Two categories of permanent visas:

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Subclass 200 - Refugee visa</b></li> <li>• Subclass 201 - In country Special Humanitarian</li> <li>• Subclass 203 - Emergency Rescue</li> <li>• Subclass 204 - Women at Risk</li> </ul>                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Subclass 202 - Global Special Humanitarian Program visa (SHP).</b><br/>Applications for entry under the SHP must be supported by a Proposer who is an Australian citizen, permanent resident</li> </ul> |

Michael provided MSC Members with a link to access data and demonstrated how to use the data. Link to data: <https://www.data.gov.au/dataset/settlement-reports> He presented data for the Eastern corridor which predominantly includes those from Burma/Myanmar, Chin (Haka and other dialects), Iranian, Syrian/Iraqi.

**The Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP):**

- provides support to humanitarian entrants;
- Builds the skills and knowledge they need to become self-reliant and active members of the Australian community;
- Needs-based case management approach.

Michael provided information on HSP Contact Regions Australia wide. AMES operates from multiple service locations in the Melbourne region, and Regional Victoria (Mildura; Shepparton; Geelong; Wodonga).

**Needs and Aspirations – key areas**

Orientation, accommodation, health, Case Management, education, employment, Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS)

**Specialised and Intensive Services (SIS)**

The HSP provides Specialised and Intensive Services (SIS) to humanitarian entrants and other eligible visa holders who have complex needs. People holding one of the following visas may be eligible for SIS:

- Refugee (subclass 200, 201, 203 and 204)
- Global Special Humanitarian (subclass202)
- Protection (subclass 866)
- Temporary Protection (subclass 785), Temporary Humanitarian Stay (subclass 449), Temporary Humanitarian Concern (subclass 786) and Safe Haven Enterprise (subclass 790).

Anyone can refer a person to the Department for Specialised and Intensive Services using the referral smartform available from the Department’s website.

**Eligibility for SIS** – all visa subclasses noted above for up to 5 years after arrival in Australia, although flexibility may be shown to the timeframe and for other visa subclasses in exceptional circumstances.

**Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS), Josh Power, Senior Manager SRSS**

The SRSS supports asylum seekers waiting for the Australian government’s decision on their visa application.

For many years, the Australian Red Cross was the sole service provider of the program that preceded the SRSS, the Asylum Seekers Assistance Scheme. From 2012, the Department has contracted more service providers across the country. For SRSS eligible clients, income support payments are 89% of the Newstart payment a fortnight. Clients have access to a Case Manager with monthly contact, regular welfare checks, housing checks and referral to mental health support. In addition, the SRSS program provides access to torture and trauma counselling.

**7. 2019 MSC calendar of meetings, events and forums.**

The MSC Calendar is a dynamic living document that changes/expands over the course of the year due to circumstances such as emerging urgent topics or the availability of speakers/subject matter experts. The latest version of the calendar is attached to the minutes of meetings and sent out once a month. Relevant international multicultural events (such as Refugee Week) are featured below the calendar.

**2019 MSC CALENDAR**

<b>MSC meeting dates</b>	<b>Meeting focus</b>	<b>Forums/functions/events dates and working groups</b>
04 Jan	No meeting	
01 Feb	Humanitarian Settlement Services - focus on Victoria & Eastern Metropolitan Region: overview of services; recent changes and data on new arrivals (country of birth, ethnicity, faith, gender, age, etc.), who is settling in the Eastern Region,	

	and where, what are their needs and aspirations? Michael Cresham, Team Leader HSP, AMES Australia; Josh Power, Senior Manager SRSS, AMES.	
01 March	Indigenous Welcome and Traditions Explained: what is a Welcome Ceremony, who can officiate, what is the difference between a Welcome Ceremony and an Acknowledgement of Country, what is the correct wording to use when making a speech etc. The MSC meeting focus will lead into the Mullum Mullum CCOEI Harmony Day celebration planned for Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March.	<b>Harmony Day events – Mullum Mullum and CCOEI Harmony Day Celebration.</b> (Working Group: Chris; Heather; Gitta; Felicity, Leigh, Bwe and Cynthia). Speakers, participants and activities to be explored by the working group. <u>Venue:</u> Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place. <u>Date</u> Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March.
05 April	<b>Mapping Social Cohesion</b> Professor Andrew Markus, Monash University	
03 May	Law Week: Human Rights with a focus on CALD. Suggested presenters: Human Rights Law Centre/Victoria Legal Aid, ECLC, Law Institute of Victoria. Proposed focus – Family Violence. Suggested involvement by VicPol FV Unit and a local project such as Centre for Holistic Health. TBA.	
07 June	Refugee Week event will replace the normal MSC meeting. <u>Venue:</u> Willis Room, Whitehorse Civic Centre, 397 Whitehorse Road Nunawading. A focus on tracing refugee families through the Red Cross. Suggested presenter: Ivana Demasi. Refugee stories: song, dance and crafts. TBA.	
01 July	No meeting	
02 Aug	<b>Homelessness.</b> The Winter Shelter Project (Gitta Clayton) Suggested additional presenters Elijah Care Uniting Wesley. TBA	
06 Sept	<b>Overseas supported initiatives:</b> The Hope Project – Thai/Burma Border (Gitta) Women’s Friendship Group – the Cambodia children’s project (Helen J) Other projects – TBA.	
04 Oct	MSC meeting and CCOEI AGM <u>Venue:</u> Willis Room, Whitehorse Civic Centre 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading Victoria Police – Youth Initiatives TBA	<b>Youth Education Training and Employment forum and expo.</b> A separate Eastern Region Event. Steering Committee to be set up. TBA
02 Nov	<b>Safety and the environment with a focus on CALD:</b> flood, Fire, water (swimming) awareness and behaviour. Essential services (MFB, SES, Fisheries). Concerns for new migrants who are unaware of the law/environmental dangers; <b>OR gambling and CALD</b> <b>MSC review</b> of 2019 and plan 2020 activity.	
06 Dec	Planning and celebration: Finalize 2020 MSC Calendar. End of year celebration.	

Other MSC Calendar Topics suggested: Emerging communities in the EMR; people seeking asylum and Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) holders; Refugee Health Nurse Service.

**World special days & local events to note:** (relevant to the work of the MSC for 2019)

**21 March: Harmony Day** (also the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination)

**13-19 May: Law Week Victoria**

**21 May: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**

**20 June: World Refugee Day**  
**10 October: World Homeless Day**  
**16 November: International Day for Tolerance**  
**25 November: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**  
**3 December: International Day of Persons with Disabilities**  
**10 December: Human Rights Day**  
**18 December: International Migrants Day**

## 8. Reports

**Back Your Neighbour** campaign is run by the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum, a group of Australian Councils who are speaking out against Federal Government cuts to the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) program leaving thousands of asylum seeker families living in Australia destitute and homeless. For more information about the Taskforce see <http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/32480/local-government-mayoral-taskforce-supporting-people-seeking-asylum>

**At Work Australia.** (Lidija DeKoning and Joel Polkinghorne). Through the AMEP they are assisting Chin and Hakha clients into employment. There is further support for 53 weeks which may include modification of the workplace and up-skilling when required. They are seeing stronger more confident workers. Their contact details are [dekoning@atworkaustralia.com.au](mailto:dekoning@atworkaustralia.com.au) and [jpolkinghorne@atworkaustralia.com.au](mailto:jpolkinghorne@atworkaustralia.com.au)

**Victoria Police** (Elizabeth Sidiropoulos). The police are seeing young people struggling at school. Youth Careers Forum at Holmesglen on 16 May 2019

**Women's Friendship Group** (Helen Jurcevic)

- Success with IELTS advocacy case
- International Women's Day event (previously circulated, Cynthia will resend)
- New program assisting people in Cambodia especially those affected by landmines

**Department of Human Services** (Vicki Selimi MSO, Oakleigh, Glen Waverley and Cheltenham)

**Increase to the Newly Arrived Resident's waiting period:**

- From 1 January 2019, the Newly Arrived Resident's Waiting Period (NARWP) will increase from two years to four years for most existing affected payments.
- A new NARWP will be introduced to the following payments:
  1. 2 year NARWP for Parental Leave Pay and Dad and Partner Pay
  2. 1 year NARWP for Carer Allowance
  3. 1 year NARWP for Family Tax Benefit Part A, with no waiting period for Part B
- The NARWP for Carer Payment will remain as two years
- This will affect newly arrived residents who are granted a permanent resident visa, or some temporary visas such as temporary partner visas, on or after 1 January 2019.
- There will also be an increase to the Assurance of Support period from two years to four years. This will affect Assurance of Support applications lodged on or after 1 January 2019.
- New Zealand citizens who hold a Special Category Visa (SCV) subclass 444 will be exempt from the NARWP for Family Tax Benefit, Parental Leave Pay and Dad and Partner Pay, and will continue to have a two year NARWP for Low Income Card and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.

For more information go to:

[humanservices.gov.au/newresidentswaiting](http://humanservices.gov.au/newresidentswaiting)  
[humanservices.gov.au/assurance](http://humanservices.gov.au/assurance)

**Whitehorse Manningham Libraries** (Jenny Mitchell CALD / Branch Manager)

Whitehorse Manningham Libraries Chinese Reading and Writing Festival. This festival which runs Friday 22 February – Friday 8 March 2019 across our branch network, celebrates Chinese and Chinese-Australian literature with an exciting program of events and activities aimed at encouraging cultural understanding, community connection and promoting the power of reading and literature to enrich lives.

The two-week program includes a diverse range of events to engage audience in Chinese Reading and Writing in its many forms including author talks, writing workshops, poetry readings, calligraphy demonstrations, book recommendations and discussion panels. Guest presenters include Benjamin Law, Elizabeth Chong, Alice Pung, and Melanie Cheng. Bookings required via our website [www.wml.vic.gov.au/chinese\\_reading\\_writing\\_festival](http://www.wml.vic.gov.au/chinese_reading_writing_festival)

**Box Hill TAFE** (Katrina Myers)

- Running the SEE and AMEP programs;
- Certificate 2 in Horticulture at the Lyildale campus. Connections with nurseries and gardens likely to result in employment outcomes. Course has attracted people from Burmese background.

**Swinburne University** (Julie Conan-Davies) – Bricklaying Course has attracted people from Burmese background. Good prospects of work in an industry that is expanding.

**Australian Taxation Office** (Robin Steward) ATO continues to offer free presentations re tax services such as returns, superannuation, scam alerts, etc.

**9. Initiatives and innovations (for noting)** – incorporated in the 2019 MSC calendar.

**10. Next MSC Meeting: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019, 9.30 –12.00.**

**Focus:** Indigenous Welcome and Traditions Explained: what is a Welcome Ceremony, who can officiate, what is the difference between a Welcome Ceremony and an Acknowledgement of Country, what is the correct wording to use when making a speech etc. (The MSC meeting focus will lead into the Mullum Mullum CCOEI Harmony Day celebration planned for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March).

**Venue:** Conference Room, Level 1, Whitehorse Community Resource Centre, 79 Mahoney's Rd, 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)