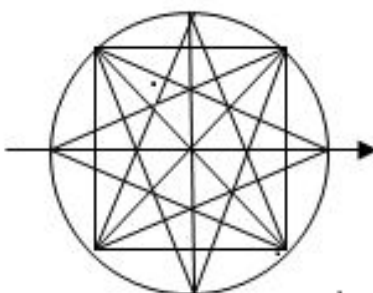


Chairs:

Sam Navarria: Mob: 0432 975 558

Cynthia Shaw: Mob: 0434 080 977



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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 3, 2017

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

Welcome: Cynthia Shaw welcomed everyone back to the MSC meeting after the festive break and wished everyone a happy new year. Sui Ting Tse, CCOEI President, provided a New Year greeting for the Chinese New Year, and background information about the celebration.

1. Present

Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Iresha Butngamwa	ECLC, Community Development Coordinator
Mervat Dahdoule	MIC
Krishiani Dassanaate	CCOEI
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff Office Eastern, Koori and Multicultural Liaison
Dianne Godfrey	DHS, MSO
Suzi Hayes	Knox City Council, Multicultural Communities Officer
Joseph Jin	Connections Uniting Care, Chinese Family Services, Coordinator Chinese Family Services
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc.
Ellen Kimball	Whitehorse Council, Community Development Officer
Digna Libera	Holmesglen TAFE, AMEP Coordinator/Campus Manager
Jo McCoy	Welcome Dinner Project Whitehorse, Coordinator
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Saarah Ozeer	Bounce, Refugee Youth Mentoring Program, Director
Madeleine Parker	Department of Education and Training, Senior Project Officer, Opening Doors; CCOEI
Mhisti Rele	CCOEI
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	VicPol, MLO
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI
Jacqueline Verlin	Holmesglen TAFE, AMEP Counsellor
Nicki Vlahakis	Counsellor/Advocate ECASA
Anna Walker	Louise Multicultural Centre, Chair of Committee
Rebecca Wickes	Monash University, Associate Professor
Megan Woolley	Box Hill TAFE student on MIC placement

Apologies

Kelly Alfris	DSS
Leonie Burnham	CCOEI, LMCC
Gitta Clayton	AMES Australia, Volunteer Tutor Program Coordinator
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI
Glenis Crocker	CCOEI
Lillian De Bortoli	Swinburne University of Technology, Research Fellow
Belinda Haydon	Link Health and Community, Community Development Officer
Kate Jeffery	Link Health and Community, Senior Research & Planning Officer
Zeenat Khan	DHS
Alex Mills	Opening Doors
Andree O'Donnell	AMES Settlement
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University, AMEP Pathway Counsellor; CCOEI
Sonia Vignjevic	ECLC, Director Partnerships and Community Development
Clive Williams	Victoria Police, Community Engagement Inspector, East
Guest	
Marion Lau	ECCV, Deputy Chair

2. **Minutes MSC December 2, 2016.** Moved Cynthia Shaw, seconded Clary Verbunt. Accepted.

3. **Business Arising.**

Cynthia circulated list of acronyms requested at the previous meeting - needs updating. Members were asked to add or change any acronyms where the names of organisations or programs had changed, and add new ones at the bottom of the document. The document will then be updated.

All other business incorporated in the agenda.

4. **Correspondence.** Various items of information circulated electronically.

Share folder made available on the table at the back of the room. Members were invited to either place their brochures and other information on the table or to circulate their documentation during the Reports section of the meeting. Upcoming Community events circulated by MSC members:

- Suzi Hayes – Knox 22nd March 2017 Multicultural Community Forum Bookings at <http://www.knox.vic.gov.au/multiculturalforum>
- Ellen Kimball – City of Whitehorse Community Welcome Dinner to mark Cultural Diversity Week will be held from 6.30 pm Saturday 25th March at Box Hill Community Arts Centre. For bookings go to <file:///C:/Users/Home/Documents/CCOEI/Forums/Health%20Forum%202017/Whitehorse%20Community%20Dinner%20Flyer%20v%201.pdf>
- Cynthia – Settlement and Multicultural eNews letter. Circulated via email

5. **Meeting focus – The Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV): Overview, achievements over the past year, and priorities in 2017. Guest speaker: Marion Lau, OAM, Deputy Chair ECCV**

Sam introduced Marion Lau, welcoming her to the MSC. Members of the MSC introduced themselves.

Marion said she was very pleased to be invited to speak to the MSC and began by acknowledging the Traditional Owners and paid respect to their elders past and present.

Marion said that although it was not possible to cover all of the many outstanding achievements over the 40 years of ECCV's existence, she would focus on some of the main achievements in recent times namely:

- **2016 State-wide Conference.** The highly successful ***“The Next Generation of Multicultural Victoria: Intergenerational Perspectives”*** conference was held in Ballarat. The Conference:

- was opened by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, State Government of Victoria, The Hon Robin Scott, with one of the keynote speakers being Helen Kapalos, Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission.
 - had a capacity audience, and was attended by community leaders, experts, academics and young people from multicultural backgrounds.
 - dealt with a wide range of issues and challenges facing multiculturalism now and into the future.
- **Social Cohesion Policy Papers;** policy submissions to all levels of government; training workshops; public forums and community roundtables – to name a few.
 - **Employment, Entrepreneurship, Education and Training Policy Advisory Committee.** During 2015 – 2016 the committee, among its many activities, continued its policy advocacy role on changing the work culture of employers, and raised awareness about non-recognition of overseas qualifications.
 - **Aged Care Policy Advisory Committee.** Marion is the Convenor of this committee. Some of its recent key outputs have been a partnership with Housing for the Aged Action Group and the release of a consultation report on the risk of homelessness in multicultural communities. Among other key outputs the committee held a joint forum with Palliative Care Victoria to raise cultural awareness of palliative care providers.
 - **ECCV released its Ageing Portfolio Papers in 2016.** Advocating for older culturally, linguistically, and spiritually diverse people continues to be a key priority for ECCV. Topics include: Multicultural policy advocacy for seniors, Multicultural seniors associations, Digital literacy; and the Aged Care workforce.
 - **Advance care planning and assisted dying,** the ECCV Chairperson is represented on the Victoria's end-of-life and palliative care framework implementation advisory group. An ECCV Senior Policy Officer will also participate in consultations by the Ministerial Advisory Panel of the Victorian Government on voluntary assisted dying legislation.
 - **Benefits of multiculturalism:** While governments at all levels have stated the many benefits of multiculturalism, this is being questioned by certain elements within our broader community. As media reports have shown, far right groups within Australia have been vocal in protesting against immigration and questioning the values of multiculturalism. The ECCV worked collaboratively on projects such as the Scanlon Foundation's "Mapping Social Cohesion Report 2016" which identified the many economic benefits of multiculturalism, and how it is supported by all levels of government and the majority of the population. Marion said that the ECCV will continue to strongly advocate for the continued benefits of multiculturalism to government, business and the wider community. They will also continue policy advocacy on a wide range of issues for the benefit of multicultural communities throughout Victoria.

In conclusion Marion referred MSC members to the ECCV website to the recent Annual Report which details the many activities undertaken through the tireless efforts of ECCV staff and Board members. The ECCV website also contains a range of other information which could inform projects in the future.

Marion thanked the CCOEI and its Migrant Settlement Committee for its outstanding work and tireless efforts over many years.

Sam thanked Marion for her outstanding work on the ECCV and wished the ECCV continued success. Members of the MSC expressed their appreciation.

6. MSC 2017 Calendar - The calendar is flexible to respond to developing and new issues.

Sam provided a brief overview of the calendar and the MSC Review survey results. He noted that the calendar was developed in consultation with MSC members. Changes to dates and content depend on the availability of speakers and presenters. Forums and events depend on participation of members on steering committees and working groups to help drive strategic planning and implementation of these events. Proposed forums/events for 2017:

- **May 2017** - Family violence forum: theme – culturally sensitive approaches.
- **Aug 2017** - Health forum: theme – Health literacy / mental health
- **Oct 2017** - CALD employment, training and community engagement forum “My choice My life” in partnership with Swinburne University.

Expressions of interest were invited to participate on Steering Committees for the above activities. The following people have expressed interest: Mhisti Rele; Suzi Hayes; Dianne Godfrey; Helen Forbes-Mewett; Emma Wilkinson; Krishani Dassanayake; Saarah Ozeer; Bwe Thay; Mohit Gupta; Lillian De Bortoli; Leonie Burnham; Suresh Ramachandraia (ECLC); VicPol (Liz will forward the details to the correct division), Helen Jurcevic, Judy McDougall (Family Violence forum). Expressions of interest still open – contact Cynthia or Sam.

MSC 2017 Calendar

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 Woiwod	Harmony Day events.	March 21: Harmony Day
07 April	CALD from Burma: a focus on needs and services. Current and future services and innovations. Speakers TBC; AND Celebrate Diversity at the MSC: bring a plate		April 7 – World Health Organisation World Health Day
05 May	The interfaith network: its achievements, and challenges. Speakers TBC 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 - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development .
02 June	CALD from Syria – a focus on needs and services. Current and future services and innovations. Speaker TBC		June 20 – UN World Refugee Day , June 26 – UN Day - Support of Victims of Torture
01 July	No meeting		
04 Aug	Immigrant Settlement in regional Victoria: What works in Greater Shepparton? Researchers: Helen Forbes-Mewett and Rebecca Wickes, 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 South Sudan: needs and services. Current and future services and innovations Speakers TBC. CCOEI AGM	CALD Youth Forum: employment, training and community engagement.	October 17- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 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 - International Day for Tolerance November 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women,
01 Dec	Finalize 2018 MSC Calendar.		Dec 3 rd : International Day for People with a disability http://www.idpwd.com.au/

Other areas:

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

7. Reports

A range of reports, and other information, was presented at the meeting. The following report on a significant project was provided in writing by Helen Forbes-Mewett.

Monash University Research Project (Helen Forbes-Mewett) Project Title: Immigrant Settlement in regional Victoria: What works in Greater Shepparton?

Researchers: Helen Forbes-Mewett and Rebecca Wickes, Monash University.

Monash University has provided seed funding to support the commencement of this project. The first phase will be to take part in the Multicultural Bus Tour during Cultural Diversity Week in March 2017. During this visit we will meet with members of the Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District, who are our community partners for the project. The second phase will be undertaken in July, when we will conduct in-depth interviews and focus groups with community members. The project is designed to gain a greater understanding of 'what works' in Greater Shepparton, with the aim to share the information to assist with successful settlement in regional areas more widely.

Helen said that they are very excited about this project and look forward to sharing the findings with the MSC.

Holmesglen TAFE (Digna Libera). Running a full time work-ready English program, *English Skills for the Australian Work Environment* which includes resumes, job applications, interview skills and work placements – flyer subsequently circulated via email. Contact Holmesglen for specific details.

Louise Multicultural Centre (Anna Walker) Noted activities at Louise that focus on elder abuse following work done on the issue in the EMR; also noted community development activities and the work of Louise volunteers

Interfaith Network (Dilnaz Billimoria). Noted how the work of CCOEI on the elder abuse project *A Matter of Trust* has been taken further by other organisations including ECLC.

City of Whitehorse (Ellen Kimball)

- Annual Global Fiesta - applications now open <http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Global-Fiesta.html>
- Community Welcome Dinner to mark Cultural Diversity Week will be held from 6.30 pm on Saturday 25th March at The Arbour Room, Box Hill Community Arts Centre.

<file:///C:/Users/Home/Documents/CCOEI/Forums/Health%20Forum%202017/Whitehorse%20Community%20Dinner%20Flyer%20v%201.pdf>

DHS Centrelink (Dianne Godfrey) - Assets Test changes. Visit website for information sessions

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/assets#assetstestlimits>

Chinese Family Services (Joseph Jin). Noted projects, including the *Connections - Parenting programs*

Victoria Police (Elizabeth Sidiropoulos) provided details of a positive result attributed to the power of networking where an asylum seeker from Hazara background has received a scholarship from Swinburne.

MIC (Mervat Dahdoule) Spoke about a number of MIC programs including:

- Holiday Programs
- Homework Program – 6 programs held weekly during school term
- Playgroups – 3 mixed + 2 Chinese Grandparents held weekly during school terms
- Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partner Program
- Emergency Services Expo – 16th March at Norton's Park, Croydon
- Men & Alcohol - Support Program for Men
- Family relationships program
- Women's Leadership & Financial Literacy Program (in collaboration with Women's Health East)
- Youth – Respectful relationships program – focus on 3 schools: Melba, Yarra Hills and Ringwood Secondary College
- Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) – providing language appropriate volunteer visitors to socially isolated older CALD residents on Home Care Packages or living in Government Funded Aged Care Homes.

Next MSC Meeting: Friday 7 April, 9.30 –12.00.

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

Focus: CALD from Burma: a focus on needs and services, current and future services and innovations.

This MSC meeting will also include celebrating diversity: bring a plate to share.

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