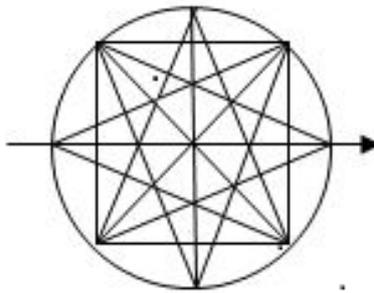


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MIGRANT SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (Eastern Region)

Standing Committee of the Communities' Council on Ethnic Issues (Eastern Region) Inc.

Reg. No. A0017562S

Minutes

Friday, June 3rd 2016

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

1. Present

Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI
Jacqui D'Sylva	ECLC, CD Worker
Suzi Hayes	Knox City Council, Multicultural Communities Officer
Kate Jeffery	Link Health and Community, Senior Research and Planning Officer
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc.
Jason Kelly	Victoria Police, Community Engagement Inspector
Zeenat Khan	DHS, MSO
Sang Lian	Chin Community Support, Volunteer
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Jane Ormonde	DSS
Gianluigi Rotondo	Monash University, PhD Candidate
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	VicPol MLO
Sarah Smethurst	ECLC, Family Violence Team Coordinator
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
Gitta Clayton	AMES Australia, Volunteer Tutor Program
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI
Glenis Crocker	CCOEI
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Dianne Godfrey	DHS, MSO
Filomena Mamouney	DHS
Madeleine Parker	Department of Education and Training, Senior Project Officer, ESL
Guests	
Robert Hughes	2016 Census of Population and Housing
Lisa Stockheim	Manager Housing and Support, CEO
Friederike Muttray	2016 Census of Population and Housing

2. Minutes May 2016. Moved Chris Cosgriff Seconded. Clary Verbunt. Accepted.

3. Business Arising. Incorporated in the agenda.

4. Correspondence. Various items of information circulated electronically.

5. MSC Calendar. Calendar is on track.

6. Meeting focus

(a) 2016 – Census of Population and Housing, Robert Hughes, Victorian Regional Management Unit CALD Strategy, ABS.

Robert spoke of the importance of engaging as many CALD communities as possible to ensure a large and consistent response from everyone on census day (9/8/16). Completing the census accurately means that much needed data can be used by a range of organisations to support projects and as a basis to apply for funding.

Robert provided copies of sample census forms. There will be help in 14 languages through the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS International) on 131450. A set of information sheets in easy English to use with people in English classes will be available. A Toolkit will also be available to assist community workers/bilingual workers with spreading the message through their community/networks.

A census letter will be mailed to around 80% of people and will have a number code which is the login number to complete the census form online. It is very important that people keep this number. Robert suggested that the CALD community be informed to take a photo of the number on their phone so that they don't lose it. Some hard copies of the Census forms will be available, usually by requesting the form via the phone number provided.

Robert noted that recruitment of Census Field Officers is taking place and he encouraged people to apply. A diverse census field worker team can be a valuable support to CALD people participating in the census.

Question: (Clary) Will there be space on the form for households that share accommodation?

Answer: Yes - there is space for 6 people on a form (Online there is space for 10 people). In addition, for shared households who require privacy more forms will be available by phoning ABS.

Robert provided his number to be contacted in relation to the Toolkit and upcoming information sessions on how to use the Toolkit: 03 9615 7436 ABS website is: <http://www.abs.gov.au/>

A number of issues were noted: how long people with prepaid limited phone access can wait on line and would such limitations inhibit access and even participation to census; illiteracy and innumeracy in English likely to be a barrier to participation and to accurate completion of the census; confidentiality risk when a third party is engaged to support completion of census.

MSC members also commented on the lack of posters and other information in community languages.

(b) Community safety and security and the Community Engagement Strategy, Jason Kelly and Elizabeth Sidiropoulos (VicPol).

Jason described his role as Community Engagement Inspector and gave an overview of the Victoria Police 2015-1017 Community Engagement Strategy. The backdrop for the strategy was community policing issues in 2013. The strategy was developed in consultation with community groups and stakeholders and its focus was to improve practice. The Community Engagement Framework used by VicPol was adopted from a model used by the CES. The context and rationale for the strategy have been summarised in a 2 page information sheet circulated at the MSC. Jason said that some areas were doing very well and others were improving.

Strategy development considered the requirement to identify the vulnerable groups the police should engage with what reference groups exist. Part of the strategy implementation itself includes the challenge to engage with many diverse groups. Victorians include many CALD groups, people with a disability and mental health issues, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex groups (LGBTI) as well as seniors and young people. In engaging with such a range of people, Jason said that VicPol are changing the way they operate to be as inclusive as possible and so ensure the Victorian community remains safe, secure and orderly.

The strategy aims to improve service planning and skills. Local inspectors will be briefed in relation to a number of key Stakeholder and Strategic Advisory Groups such as multicultural, religious and other special interest partners to identify gaps. They will document and promote engagement. They will also look at other areas where they need to improve.

Jason referred to the importance of current data in the implementation of the strategy. ABS LGA demographic data is crucial to identify who the police should be engaging with which, along with the profile drawn from the issues data, inform who the police should be focusing their engagement efforts, and prioritize their resources. Jason, in his role of Community Engagement Inspector, is rolling out the strategy in his area. Local Community Inspectors are now feeding on the ground practice in local areas, and contributing information to the strategy.

Comments:

- (a) Helen noted that in some CALD communities, the police uniform is abhorrent. She also praised the work of Debbie Day from VicPol in presenting information to the women's group on safety.
- (b) Dilnaz praised the efforts of Chris Cosgriff when he was in the role and now Jason Kelly for the great job they have done and that the police continue to do.

Jason provided a link to the document Community Engagement –Keeping all Victorians Safe
Liz said that they are now pushing top down, and upskilling members. There will be training in relation to issues such as family violence and child abuse through various organisations like the Migrant Information Centre. Issues, such as DV, have seen increased numbers in some communities. Information has been well received and further presentations will be delivered to international students and senior groups, and new arrivals. The police are being trained on how to conduct presentations.

Liz spoke of two projects with a focus on training:

- (a) **Building Resilience in the Community package.** One package is with the help of the Australian Multicultural Foundation (AMF) and its Executive Director Hass Dellal. MLOs are looking at helping young people who are at risk of being radicalised and/about to engage in criminal activity. This is time consuming but feedback has been positive. Stakeholders are keen to be part of this initiative.
- (b) **The Manningham Islamic Youth Council** – this was initiated by the police because of concerns of the impact of negative media which may result in radicalization of young people in the community and in schools. Holding round table discussions about what could happen when young people become isolated - may have serious consequences down the track. Initiatives such as leadership programs and camps are being developed/sought. A group of young people and their elders act as an advisory group to report back and feed the information to higher levels. The Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/manninghamislamicyouthcouncil/>

Comment: Helen noted that the Women's Friendship Group – Manningham is holding a Community Safety event in June. The Group have over 140 members. Presenting at this event will be VicPol, Eastern Community Legal Centre and Manningham City Council. The information about scams will be particularly interesting.

© **Anchor Family support programs and services, Lisa Stockheim.**

Anchor Inc. is an independent community based organisation serving Melbourne's Outer East. They recently had their 40th birthday. Three offices: East Ringwood, Knox and: Lilydale.

Lisa said that Anchor support some of the most vulnerable people in the community through the provision of: homeless support, foster care, kinship care, counselling, community education and family reconciliation.

Lisa stressed that they do not have houses to accommodate homeless people. They are funded to pay for 1 night - accommodation for one person. If more than one person they have to prioritise mums and young children, with mental health cases being further down the list. They also assist people to apply for Office of

Housing accommodation but cannot assist people unless they are vulnerable while on the waiting list. Once people are in Transitional Housing they are there for a very long time.

Lisa spoke about the invisibility of some people who are homeless and in unknown places in the hills area. This area is generally more expensive and so homelessness is low on the radar. The previous census figures were grossly under represented with homelessness data showing only about 1/3 of the numbers actually out there.

Three areas for urgent injection of funding were highlighted:

1. Youth – those who couch surf and don't identify themselves as homeless;
2. Women – Domestic Violence cases – do not identify themselves as homeless;
3. Indigenous – the idea of cultural home and family is different.

Nelson Road Youth Accommodation: Three houses - up to 9 people can be housed. They are co-located with a Centrelink worker once a fortnight. These young people need to be engaged in education otherwise they will be very vulnerable in the future. Great outcomes are being achieved.

Comment: Jason mentioned that some people at a sports ground complained about a homeless person sleeping rough. Lisa said there is a lot of stigma and discrimination toward people who are homeless.

Lisa provided Anchor contact details in a pamphlet: Head Office (Ringwood East): 9801 1999 Housing Support Services: Lilydale 9760 6400.

On behalf of the MSC Sam thanked the guest speakers for their contribution.

6. MSC 2016 Calendar - The calendar is flexible to respond to developing issues and situations.

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	Youth programs: (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 – replaced by a focus on IELTS presented by the provider IDP.	Refugee health forum (EACH; Refugee Health Nurse Program; Eastern Health; Cynthia, Glenis, Sam, MIC, Victorian Refugee Health Network; Francisco, others; Willis Room, Whitehorse. 22 April)	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 Chairperson: Helen Kapalos); and Intercultural practices and support services relating to migrants and refugees in Australia and Italy, Gianluigi Rotondo PhD, Monash University		May 21 - <u>World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development</u> ,

03 June	Focus on community safety and security (VicPol), and family support programs (Anchor).		June 20 – UN World Refugee Day , June 26 – UN Day - Support of Victims of Torture
01 July	No meeting		
05 Aug	Family violence prevention: EMR Regional Family Violence Partnership, Jelena Djurdjevic Family Violence Regional Integration Coordinator, Eastern Metropolitan Region; Eastern Elder Abuse Network, Kaz Mackay, ECLC's Elder Abuse Prevention Coordinator		
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 OR Disability and CALD: how are CALD with a disability faring under the NDIS? (Tahseen and Miriam, speaker from NDIS and the NDIS Agency)	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	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 (ROCA) TBC Review of the Migrant Settlement Committee 2016 program and develop 2017 calendar of speakers, forums and events) – Sam and Cynthia.	Exhibitions: Celebrating CALD communities - stories, photos, art and craft, video, entertainment, etc. Guest speakers: CALD, indigenous artists, leaders. Exhibition located in different venues at different times. Working party: Chris, Heather, Saarah, Dianne, Suzi, Glenis, Sam, Cynthia, and reps from Whitehorse Knox, Maroondah Manningham.	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/

Other areas:

- Homelessness and its impact on CALD - 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.

7. Forum Reports and events

CALD Exhibition (Sam Navarria/Chris Cosgriff) - Waiting result of grant submission.

Refugee Health Forum (Cynthia Shaw) - Report being prepared.

Agency and individual reports

ECLC (Jacqui D'Sylva). Legal information provided to groups in the City of Whitehorse.

Whitehorse Interfaith Network (Dilnaz Billimoria). Dilnaz spent 5 weeks overseas working as a volunteer with different communities: Spirit of Hope run by a friend in India; and a South American Support Group.

Knox City Council (Suzie Hayes). Preparing for Refugee Week.

Link Health and Community (Kate Jeffery). Pamphlets promoting the organisations distributed.

Next MSC Meeting: Friday 2nd September, 9.30 – 12.00.

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

Focus: Mapping Social Cohesion research – The Scanlon Foundation (Professor Andrew Markus TBC)

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 Navarra on matters relating to the MSC please use chair.msc@gmail.com