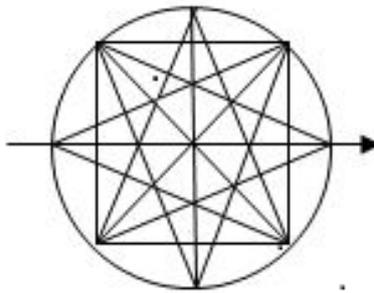


Chairs:

Sam Navarria: Mob: 0432 975 558

Cynthia Shaw: Mob: 0434 080 977



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, May 6th 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
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI
Glenis Crocker	CCOEI
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Christopher Gery	Louise Multicultural Centre, Volunteer
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff Office Ringwood, Sheriff Officer – Koori and Multicultural Liaison
Dianne Godfrey	DHS, MSO
Emma Gniel	Anchor Inc, Case Manager
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
Cindy Kung	Louise Multicultural Community Centre, Program Coordinator
Sang Lian	Chin Community Support, Volunteer
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Saarah Ozeer	Bounce, Director
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	VicPol MLO
Sarah Smethurst	ECLC, Family Violence Team Coordinator
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI
John Woodstock	Vic Pol,S/Sgt

Apologies

Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Gitta Clayton	AMES Australia, Volunteer Tutor Program
Jacqui D'Sylva	ECLC, CD Worker
Madeleine Parker	Department of Education and Training, Senior Project Officer, ESL

Guests

Helen Kapalos	Victorian Multicultural Commission, Chairperson
Dishella Fernando	DPC
Gianluigi Rotondo	Monash University, PhD Candidate

2. Minutes April 2016 Moved Chris Cosgriff, Seconded. Heather Cosgriff. Confirmed,

3. Business Arising. Incorporated in the agenda.

4. **Correspondence.** Various items of information circulated electronically.
5. **MSC Calendar:** a flexible document used as a guide to focus discussion. Updates in relation to the **NDIS/Disability** entry: speaking engagements in the east are seen as low priority with the NDIS and the NDI Agency concentrating on the areas where the roll out of the NDIS is occurring first.

Scanlon Foundation – Mapping Social Cohesion: Professor Marcus will be invited to present in September. The link to the Scanlon Foundation is <http://scanlonfoundation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-Mapping-Social-Cohesion-Report.pdf>

6. **Meeting focus presentation 1: Intercultural practices and support services relating to migrants and refugees in Australia and Italy, Gianluigi Rotondo PhD research, Monash University**

Dr. Helen Forbes-Mewett, Monash University, School of Social Science, introduced Gianluigi, one of her doctor of philosophy students, whose focus of study is organisations that support refugees in Italy and Australia. Gianluigi is in the early stages of this study and grateful for the opportunity to present at the MSC and looking to connect with members of the MSC.

The project includes interviews with volunteers/intercultural mediators and directors of Non-Governmental Organisations and Community-Based Organisations from Australia and Italy. The project will gather information about the concept of intercultural practices; how they apply these practices, how relevant they are in applying and upholding human rights and, what is more important, if they consciously frame their work around intercultural communication and how. (Source: *Monash University Project Explanatory Statement* handed out by Dr Helen Forbes-Mewett).

Gianluigi presented some aspects of the study:

Why intercultural practices? It is the most appropriate approach that focuses on interaction; mutual recognition and respect; exchange of values; adaptation; and active communication.

Humanitarian Organisations: NGOs & CBOs provide the first connection between immigrants/host society; address human rights and resettlement. NGOs apply the refugee convention, and CBOs defend human rights.

Some comparative data: Australia and Italy - land mass (Italy 302.073 sq km and Australia 7.692.024 sq km), population (Italy 60.795.622 and Australia 24.058.341), refugee granted requests (Italy 21.862 and Australia 6.501), number of people seeking asylum (Italy 63.700 and Australia 9.200) and unauthorised arrivals (Italy 153.000 and Australia 3.281).

Gianluigi spoke about Italian Intercultural Organisations in relation to what they do and how. What they do includes access to public services, language mediation, mediation between immigrants and institutions, police station agenda setting, and guidance, advice and support with regard to procedures. To deliver their functions, organisations undertake training and development in intercultural communication, and collaboration with institutions.

Gianluigi noted that several countries are building barriers, walls to control immigrant movement. However human rights organisations are working to protect human rights. Many NGOs are working with the UNHCR. Most people seeking asylum in Europe are from Africa, e.g. Libya, Tunisia and Senegal.

Photo of Lampedusa – “welcoming place of refugees”. <http://www.dw.com/en/refugees-protest-in-lampedusa-causing-headaches-for-locals/g-19251342> (Mare Chiuso – closed sea)

Gianluigi invited members of the MSC to participate in the project. He can be contacted at the School of Film, Media & Communication, Monash University, Clayton Campus, 0426047077. Gianluigi.rotondo@monash.edu

Meeting Focus presentation 2: Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), Helen Kapalos, Chairperson, VMC

Helen spoke to the slide presentation ***VMC Strengthening our Community: priorities, challenges and events 2016*** and took questions and comments from members of the MSC. Helen heads the Victorian Multicultural Commission and the 12 Commissioners who advocate the values of the VMC and work directly with the community. The Commissioners are the core of how VMC runs community engagement. At a recent strategic planning meeting Helen impressed on Commissioners that the work of the Commission depends on many different tiers of community engagement.

In her introductory remarks, she noted the importance of forging stronger alliances to work together, and to tap into wider streams, and said that she would encourage ideas on how best to work together in more meaningful ways. In relation to work on resettlement, she noted community and corporate involvement and sponsorships and observed that all “are involved in a selfless quest” and that such work reflects community values based on who we are, our past experiences of racism and lack of equality in social services and across communities. These observations are not always “reflected in mainstream story telling in the media or mainstream narrative” and that meeting people from other communities and cultures dispels fears and builds bridges. “What we find is that we are more similar than we are different”.

As part of the presentation two videos were shown, including one on what the public in the street thinks of multiculturalism, which was a reflection of how we think of multiculturalism in a contemporary setting.

Helen’s presentation covered the following key areas:

What underpins VMC objectives?

VMC Community Engagement

- Targeted engagement – **a place-based approach**
- **Issues driven** – VMC hosted round tables (youth, women, etc.)
- **Actively engage wider representation of community**
- Actively seek the **hard to reach** pockets of community
- **Whole of community** approach. Seek to represent a **holistic view** of community.

Engaging with the community at the grassroots level, not solely through leaders, is actively promoted. Such engagement broadens the stakeholder base and develops meaningful relationships. It is the kind of work that needs to be done in those hard to reach pockets in the community. Two examples of this engagement:

- (a) meeting/consultation with Sudanese mothers in Melbourne’s West where the cultural intelligence from a single sitting was extraordinary, and the information became valuable input into government policy discussion and planning, e.g. the need for mothers to have English classes at someone’s home whilst their children play on the premises;
- (b) Identifying emerging youth issues at a recent meeting with 18 – 25 year olds attended only by youth without community elders or government representatives, allowing them greater freedom to discuss their needs and their hopes. Meeting outcomes included ideas of how programs such as homework clubs and self-empowerment initiatives and modelling could be co-designed and implemented.

Helen referred to a recent African women only forum, the first one ever held, where women, particularly younger women, felt free to speak about issues and solutions, and felt a sense of empowerment. It takes considerable effort to do this kind of engagement which cannot be done in isolation but in partnerships with community organisations involving people from across the sector. Helen noted the need for the VMC to attend more meetings like MSC meetings, and continue to adopt a place-based approach with communities for the best outcomes. She observed that many communities are represented in Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) but not enough time is available to air issues, hence the importance of what happens between meetings such as visiting a specific community or a network or engaging in forums such as those on Family Violence.

VMC Function

- **Research, report and advise on systematic community issues** that are identified by RACs or other community consultations (Helen is on the research institute of social cohesion) <http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/about/research-institute-on-social-cohesion-riosc>
- **Advise on factors** inhibiting the development of **harmonious community relations and on barriers to the participation** of Victoria's diverse communities
- **Undertake wide-ranging consultation** to determine the needs of diverse communities
- **Develop and maintain partnerships** between community organisations in providing assistance in settlement support and service delivery.

VMC Priorities

- **Family violence** – respond and implement key findings of the Royal Commission into Domestic Violence for CALD communities – Victoria's response is significant and larger than that of the Federal Government. The VMC is working with In Touch to scale up the work being done. Senior Government representatives attend to hear what specialist services are being undertaken around Family Violence in the State and to make sure that there is the ability to resource the work using a model like In Touch or via partnerships.
- Lead **refugee settlement outcomes** with whole of community, whole of government response across sectors such as Sports, Arts, and Culture. Support a lateral response to settlement. The VMC will involve significant streams such as sport, art and culture because they can prove effective in engaging communities in their settlement. Big sporting clubs and their local communities can be crucial in the settlement experience, for instance in funding registrations, offering internships, mentorships and employment streams that might emanate from a sporting registration. Involving young people and parents in this process is central.
- **Social cohesion initiatives** – engaging and targeting our youth (Forums, Hackathons, Youth Summit)
Hackathons are an innovative way to engage youth. The VMC is keen to involve as many organisations as possible, and it has been involved in specific youth programs auspiced by some government departments.

VMC Achievements

Submissions on

- Gender and equality
- Seniors and ageing
- New 10 year Victorian Mental Health Strategy
- Education State – Early Childhood
- Access to Justice
- Family Violence
- Working with Children's Checks Review
- Residential Tenancies Act Review (x2)
- Powers of Attorney legislation
- Victorian Youth Policy

A number of these submissions can be accessed on the VMC website

Introduction of the **VMC Public Lecture Series**

Input to the new **Victorian Multicultural Policy**

Community Consultations:

- 10 Young people forums
- 3 Service provider forums
- 8 Women's forums

24 Regional Advisory Council meetings

Cultural Diversity Week including the Premier's Gala Dinner and Victoria's Multicultural Festival.

What is coming up next for the VMC?

- VMC Public lecture
- Multicultural Awards for Excellence – nominations open soon
- Regional Advisory Council Meetings – May and June
- Release of the Service Providers' Report later in 2016
- Commissioner meetings.

In concluding, Helen noted that there is always something we can learn, and each community will tell us something we have never heard before so we have to have openness on how those programs may look. "We have to push past a lot of our predisposed ideas and intentions, and the need to stop looking through a Western lens as a solution. It might be well meaning but sometimes we need to take that cultural intelligence and cultural consideration into account in a way we may not have done in the past".

Helen expressed a wish to attend some MSC meetings, and that a VMC Commissioner could attend regularly.

Helen thanked the MSC for the invitation to speak and invited MSC members to offer ideas of how best to work together and feed those ideas to the VMC.

Chris Cosgriff (CCOEI) noted that without the continued support of the VMC, CCOEI MSC meetings wouldn't happen.

On behalf of the MSC Sam thanked Helen and the MSC showed their appreciation.

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: Harmony Day
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 World Health Day
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		May 21 - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development ,

	migrants and refugees in Australia and Italy, Gianluigi Rotondo PhD, Monash University		
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	The Family Violence Network in East Melbourne – Kaz ECLC; OR Domestic Violence and its relationship to other social issues. Leonie, 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 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 (RCOA) 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

Refugee Health Forum (Cynthia Shaw)

Project Partners: Cynthia thanked: EACH Social and Community Health; Foundation House; AMES Australia HSS Consortium; Migrant Information Centre; Victorian Refugee Health Network; Eastern Health; Mind Australia and Eastern Melbourne PHN for their valuable contributions to the forum.

Cynthia also thanked members of the Steering Committee: Marilyn Spratling; Samantha Furneaux; Jasmina Mulugeta; Christine Teo; Sandy Ashton; Rebecca Dunsdon; Francisco Lopez; Glenis Crocker; Sam Navarra (Co-Chair with Cynthia Shaw).

Special Assistance: Margaret Clausen and Judy McDougall as MCs. Chris and Heather Cosgriff for their major contributions (video and photography at the forum, registration table and IT support); Jack, Mupo and baby Katherine for the interview as well as their participation in the video. Clary and Lenny Verbunt for their assistance and organisation around food preparation, and David Shaw.

Sam Navarria thanked all who worked on the Refugee Health forum and made special note of Cynthia's outstanding coordination and management work of the forum and thanked her on behalf of everyone.

Sandy Ashton – Eastern Health: Thanked those involved in the Refugee Health Forum. Eastern Health staff were really enthusiastic in their feedback about the forum. Sandy will have a meeting with those who attended from EH to see how they can take forum outcomes and move forward. Cynthia asked whether any findings from this proposed meeting can be fed into the final report and Sandy agreed.

Glenis noted the contribution by Margaret Clausen and her effort to bring together forum outcomes.

Discussion regarding a possible future health forum on FGM. Helen informed members that she has contact with a speaker on this subject. Sandy will try to obtain some data on FGM in terms of numbers observed through contact of patients with Eastern Health. Kelly stated there are some useful links on FGM and will email Cynthia. More discussion is required to explore seminar/forum/information session (Helen, Sam, Glenis, Cynthia and Sandy).

Refugee Celebration (Sam Navarria) Sam informed members that the event will celebrate community unity in diversity through art; stories; photos; craft; video and entertainment. The members of the steering committee will meet after the MSC meeting. See entry under CCOEI report below.

Agency and individual reports

Women's Friendship Group (Helen Jurcevic)

Helen informed members that 23rd to 30th April was World Immunisation week. Helen has been lobbying to get free immunization for all children regardless of their visa status. Although free immunization has now been brought in for children 10 years and under, families on temporary visas with children over 10 years still do not receive free immunization. Helen said this is an important issue as it is a health issue for everyone in the community. This is especially so for girls in their teens needing Rubella immunization. The cost for immunization for them is \$300.00. Helen has contacted the State Government and several letters written. Sam clarified that this issue does not affect permanent residents of Australia, this is for Temporary Visa holders. Helen said that when she was on the Jon Faine program Anna Burke called in to say that these temporary migrants have health insurance. Helen answered this by saying that although they have health insurance there is a cap on the insurance which leaves people substantially out of pocket. Here is the eligibility criteria link for free immunization <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/immunisation-schedule-vaccine-eligibility-criteria/vaccines-eligibility-criteria-for-free-vaccines> provided to Helen by DHS Victoria State Government (on Friday, 12 February 2016).

VicPol (Jason Kelly and Liz Sidiropoulos)

- Elder abuse. AGW Oakley Clayton – reporting code of practice. Working through Family Violence Units. (LS)
- Cross cultural training for Div 1 and Div 2 police – purpose is to improve police response in the Burmese community. MIC will be running these sessions. (LS)
- Drink driving and road rules working with the MIC – drink driving is starting to become an issue. They are working with Highway Patrol and connecting with the community through churches. The project is called: "Looking after our mates" and involves training community leaders. (LS)
- The Community Engagement strategy – to be presented at the next MSC meeting. (JK)
- Media reporting of youth violent crime after Moomba event. Media reporting is incorrect. Media Release would have clarified some issues where media gave the wrong impression where specific cultural backgrounds were targeted. (JK)

- Home invasions and carjacking. Looking at how our environment is changing in cross area crime.-challenging when crime is beyond boundaries. Working hard to find solutions. Not all doom and gloom. (JK)

CCOEI (Chris Cosgriff) Refugee welcome art exhibition. Have approached Indigenous artists who have pledged their support. Three of them have an exhibition in a few weeks, ***Sistas in Art and Culture*** from 28th May – 11th June 2016 at 69 Gallery, 69 Smith Street Fitzroy. Chris also noted the 2016 Indigenous Guernsey event See <http://www.melbournefc.com.au/news/2016-05-04/melbourne-reveals-indigenous-guernsey>

Refugee Exhibition Working Group meeting to commence after the MSC meeting. Chris invited interested members to take part. The idea is to have a range of art, e.g. paintings, weaving, craft and stories.

DOJ and Regulation (Leigh Gilmore) Matter of Trust Forum ECLC to Greek community – Darebin area – specialize in financial abuse of the elderly in CALD community. Similar format to the previous project, i.e. creating a story about a family and scenarios ending with older people losing their home.

ECLC (Sarah Smethurst) Sarah has just started with ECLC as the Family Violence Team Coordinator. Her program will be targeting vulnerable people such as CALD communities. Looking forward to discuss how the service can work with other services.

DSS Settlement and Multicultural Affairs (Kelly Alfris)

Referred to budget announcement relating to Social Cohesion. Two major programs announced: 1) Increasing Community Hubs and Career Pathways Pilot

<https://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/corporate-publications/budget-and-additional-estimates-statements/budget-2016/social-cohesion>

Next MSC Meeting- Friday 3rd June, 9.30– 12.00

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

Focus: (a) Community safety and security, and the Community Engagement Strategy - Victoria Police (John Woodstock and Elizabeth Sidiropoulos)

(b) Family support programs and services, Anchor (Lisa Stockheim).

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