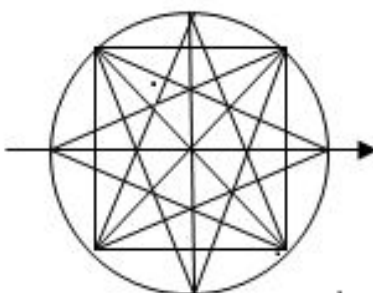


Chairs:

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, May 5, 2017

**Whitehorse Community Centre, Level 1 Conference Room,
79 Mahoneys Road, Forest Hill.**1. **Welcome** – Cynthia welcomed MSC members and guests.2. **Present**

Emma Chege	CCOEI, Treasurer
Gitta Clayton	AMES Australia, Volunteer Tutor Program Coordinator
Rayce Coyte	IMVC, National Disability Coordinator Officer
Mervat Dahdoule	MIC
Dianne Godfrey	DHS, MSO
Marg Greenhalf	Box Hill Institute, Community Liaison Officer
Suzi Hayes	Knox City Council, Multicultural Communities Officer
Saba Irfan	Women's Friendship Group
Kate Jeffery	Link Health and Community, Senior Research & Planning Officer
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc.
Cindy Kung	Louise Multicultural Community Centre, Program Coordinator
Teena Lee	Restore Program, Enjoy Church Mulgrave
Digna Libera	Holmesglen TAFE Chadstone & Moorabbin, AMEP Coordinator & Campus Manager
Alex Mills	Link Health & Community, Opening Doors, Coordinator,
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Madeleine Parker	Department of Education and Training, Senior Project Officer,
Barbara Reeckman	Melbourne Polytechnic, AMEP Counselling Service Coordinator
Kirsten Reedy	City of Manningham, Social Planning and Development Officer
Mhisti Rele	Opening Doors; CCOEI
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Lyudmila Theodore	Holmesglen TAFE, Teacher and Campus Manager
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University, AMEP Pathway Counsellor; CCOEI
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI
Nicki Vlahakis	Counsellor/Advocate ECASA
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI
Emma Wilkinson	City of Boroondara, Community Planning and Development, Social Inclusion Officer and Projects Officer

Apologies

Sandy Ashton	Eastern Health
Leonie Burnham	CCOEI
Glenis Crocker	CCOEI

Krishani Dassanayake	CCOEI
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Belinda Haydon	Link Health and Community, Community Development Officer
Margeaux (Jacqueline) Loos	ATO
Jasmina Mulugeta	Foundation House, Eastern Region Team Coordinator
Simon Sang Hre	Myanmar Community Member
Johnny Tran	VicPol, Multicultural Liaison Officer
Jacqueline Verlin	Holmesglen TAFE, AMEP Counsellor
Rebecca Wickes	Monash University, Associate Professor
Clive Williams	VicPol, Community Engagement Inspector East
Guest presenters	
Dilnaz Billimoria	Interfaith Network;
Ellen Kimball,	Diversity Officer, Whitehorse Council;
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	Multicultural Liaison Unit, MSO, Victoria Police;
Reem Sweid	Founder and President of Muslims for Progressive Values in Australia, and social policy researcher, Deakin University

3. Minutes MSC April 7, 2017.

Correction: Emma Chege was an apology.

Moved Cynthia Shaw, seconded Sam Navarra. Accepted.

4. Business Arising.

Incorporated in the agenda

5. **Correspondence.** Various items of information circulated electronically. Correspondence and information received is in the information box shared at the meeting. Members welcome to take information where there are multiple copies.

6. Meeting focus – The importance of interfaith networks in Australian Society

Speakers: Dilnaz Billimoria, Interfaith/ Multifaith Networks, Whitehorse/ Manningham/ Boroondara; Ellen Kimball, Diversity Officer, Whitehorse Council; Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Multicultural Liaison Unit, Victoria Police; Reem Sweid, Founder and President of Muslims for Progressive Values in Australia, and researcher in social cohesion (Deakin University).

Dilnaz welcomed the opportunity to speak about Interfaith, and described interfaith as being inclusive of people from all faiths and spirituality. It is more than sharing one's beliefs: it is also about sharing, dialogue and improving understanding and acceptance. Dilnaz recounted her arrival in Australia with her family. They arrived on an Indian celebration day (India Republic Day) on the 26 January a few years ago. The customs official was especially welcoming providing her 4 year old son with a cap, turning it around and saying "this is how we wear them in Australia". This warm welcome was remarkable and never forgotten by the family. Dilnaz said she had made some wonderful friends in the interfaith movement.

Dilnaz introduced her co presenters:

Liz Sidiropoulos, spoke about her role in Victoria Police and how she joined the Whitehorse, Monash and Boroondara Interfaith groups to assist her to connect with the community and report back any issues and work together to assist groups. Two examples of issues tackled: Racial vilification; religious vilification. Liz said that participation in these groups helps to demonstrate that Victoria Police are interested in working with groups to achieve outcomes for everyone to ensure social cohesion in the community. Within her MLO role, Liz trains colleagues to raise awareness of the interfaith groups in LGAs.

Ellen Kimball spoke about her role with the City of Whitehorse as a Diversity Officer. Local government embrace all types of diversity. Interfaith helps to identify what connects people. The Young Women's Leadership program is an example. Ellen said that she meets many people of different faiths in her role and how it is important to educate and inform people to move beyond "tolerance". Ellen discussed the

importance of schools in nourishing better attitudes in young age. Discussions through interfaith go a long way to healing divisions and creating cohesion and positive dialogue. She noted considerable growth in the membership of interfaith groups in LGAs and pointed to the fact that 2/3 of the residents of the City of Whitehorse belong to a faith community. It is therefore important that this constituency is included to contribute to LGA planning processes.

Reem Sweid spoke about her role in Social Policy Research and how she started the organisation "[Muslims for Progressive Values in Australia](#)". Reem said that Islam is diverse and that across the world there are many interpretations of Islam. She said that in some religions there is perhaps too much focus on maintaining a culture where more *inter-culturalism* mirrors *interfaith*. She distinguished multiculturalism from inter-culturalism and how the latter aligns well with developments in interfaith/Multifaith. Reem also commented on aspects of Australian culture where people from a multicultural background feel pressured to Anglicize their names in order to get a job. She said that personal relationships will make a difference in breaking down some of these barriers.

(Emma Wilkinson (Boroondara) drew attention to a YouTube video called DNA Journey which was shown by Helen Kapalos of the VMC at the Boroondara Community, Culture and Wellbeing event. Access this worthwhile and relevant resource on [this link](#))

- MSC 2017 Calendar** – Calendar delivered as planned. Names have been added to the steering committees and working groups of forums.

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 Woivod	Harmony Day events.	March 21: Harmony Day
07 April	CALD from Myanmar: a focus on needs and services. Current and future services and innovations. Speaker Simon Sang Hre; AND Celebrate Diversity at the MSC: bring a plate		April 7 – World Health Organisation World Health Day
05 May	The interfaith network: purpose, achievements, and challenges. Dilnaz Billimoria and speakers from various agencies.	Family violence forum: theme – culturally sensitive approaches. Working group: Sandy; Saarah O; Sarah S, Mhisti; Judy M, Suresh; Leigh; Iresha; Nicki Vlahakis, Leonie, Emma, Jasmina, Helen J.	May 21 - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development .
02 June	CALD from Syria – settlement needs and services. Speakers: Lowilla Okello, Senior Settlement Support Worker, Refugee and Settlement Services Catholic Care; Fr. Samir Haddad, President of Australian Syrian Charity, Parish Priest of St. Joseph Melkite Catholic Church		June 20 – UN World Refugee Day , June 26 – UN Day - Support of Victims of Torture
01 July	Usually no meeting - additional meeting TBC		

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 – health literacy mental health Working group: Dianne; Kate; Jacky, Helen, Lilian, Saba, Sandy, rep from Australian Healing Centre for Women's Rights, Liz (Liz follow up on AFP), Women's Health East, Lowilla.	
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 employment, training and community engagement forum "My choice My life" Working group: Bwe; Saarah; Suzie; Suresh; Leigh; Iresha, Krishiani, Mohit, Saba, Dianne.	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. The Australian Multicultural Foundation (AMF) in 2018: priorities, challenges and key events (AMF Executive Director, Dr Hass Dellal AO)		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.

8. Reports

Forums update:

- (a) **Family Violence Forum 2017.** Convened by Judy McDougall. First meeting held, awaiting update at the next MSC meeting in June.
- (b) **Health Forum 2017.** Discussion focused on making the forum specific to health issues of FGM/C and Forced Marriage, and may include a component on safety and the law (Liz S to further explore with AFP involvement), which would extend the forum beyond health. The steering/working group is developing the forum, with Helen Jurcevic taking a leading role with contribution and input from Eastern Health's Sandy Ashton. Updates will be provided at the next MSC. The opportunity for another refugee health forum remains.
- (c) **Employment Training and Community Engagement Forum 2017 "My Choice, My Life"** to be held in October 2017. First meeting expected after July 2017.

Organisations:

(a) **MIC (Mervat Dahdoule)** New initiatives at the Migrant Information Centre include:

- A mothers and babies group, in partnership with Foundation House and the Maternal and Child Health nurse, will be held at Croydon Primary School. This is a therapeutic group with targeted information (specifically for women with babies) about nutrition, women's health, safety in the home, play and development;
- Music therapy group for children aged 3 to 5 years old and their parents. EACH is the partner agency;
- Two parent engagement projects - Mooroolbark Early Education Childhood Centre, and Ringwood Uniting Church Preschool;
- Youth Cultural Harmony Program at Melba College;
- Young Men's Group;
- Young Women's Group;
- Consultation with the Iranian community to establish a group who will help organise activities for others in the community.

The MIC has vacancies for eligible older persons to receive a volunteer visitor through the MIC's Community Visitors Scheme (CVS). This is a free program for older CALD people on Home Care packages designed to alleviate or decrease the risk of isolation. Through this program, culturally and linguistically appropriate volunteer visitors provide companionship and friendship by regularly visiting an eligible older person. For further information, contact the MIC on 9285 4888 or email mdahdoule@miceastmelb.com.au

(b) NDCO Program (Rayce Coyte)

The National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) Program supports people with disability (ages 15-64) to access and participate in tertiary education and subsequent employment. This is a national network of regionally based NDCOs funded by the Australian Government. The NDCO Eastern Melbourne Region location: C/O Inner Melbourne VET Cluster (IMVC) Level 1, 71 Palmerston Crescent, South Melbourne, Victoria 3000.

Goals of the NDCO

- Improve links between schools, universities, vocational education and training organisations, job services and organisations that support people with disability;
- Improve transitions for people with disability between school/community and tertiary education and finding a job;
- Improve participation for people with disability in tertiary education and employment.

The NDCO can:

- Provide information about the range of post-school education, training, and employment options and how to access them;
- Inform people about rights and responsibilities in tertiary education and employment; refer and link individuals and organisations to local support services and help them to access ongoing assistance where necessary;
- Establish or support local networks and partnerships;
- Deliver professional development and training to education providers and employers to help them better support students' transition planning and participation in tertiary education and employment.

(c) **Link Health and Community (Kate Jeffery)** Spoke about the Opening Doors program. Fact sheet circulated.

(d) **Louise Multicultural Community Centre (Neven Demyan)** Invitation to the Elder Abuse Forum circulated. Guest speakers include Marion Lau OAM ECCV; Kaz Mackay ECLC and Fiona Calkin

VicPol. Thursday 22 June 2017 @ 3:00 pm RSVP 92854850 by 16 June 2017 to be held at their address in Box Hill. Neven said that she hoped many MSC members would attend.

- (e) **NDIA - information was provided by Emma Wilkinson and Rayce Coyte.** Emma drew attention to a range of information sessions being conducted. Rayce post meeting sent these contact details:
- **Providers:** Olivia Liileen okilleen@eccv.org.au ph 03 93549556 and
 - **Carers:** Vanessa Thomas – vanessa.thomas@carersvictoria.org.au 92489631 M. 0400540726
- (f) **Melbourne Polytechnic (Barbara Reeckman)** Melbourne Polytechnic will be providing the AMEP program and now working with AMES in transition process.

9. Initiatives and innovations (for noting) - Nil

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

Venue: Conference Room, Level 1, Community Resource Centre, 79 Mahoney's Road, Forest Hill
Focus: CALD from Syria – a focus on settlement needs and services. Speaker Lowilla Okello, Senior Support Settlement Worker, CatholicCare Eltham; Fr. Samir Haddad, President of Australian Syrian Charity, Parish Priest of St. Joseph Melkite Catholic Church

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