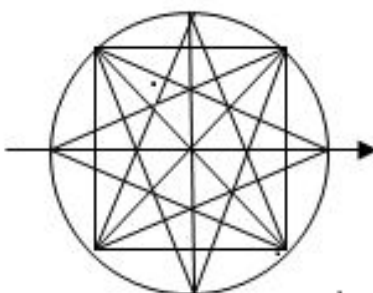


Chairs:

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, November 3, 2017****Whitehorse Community Centre, Level 1 Conference Room,
79 Mahoneys Road, Forest Hill.**1. **Welcome** – Sam welcomed MSC members and guests.2. **Present**

Gitta Clayton	Links – CHBC, Community Engagement Coordinator
Julie Conan-Davies	Swinburne University, AMEP Coordinator
Rayce Coyte	IMVC, National Disability Coordinator Officer
Jane Curry	Swinburne University, ESL Teacher
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff Office Eastern, Sheriff Officer Koori and Multicultural Liaison
Mohit Gupta	Swinburne University, Team Leader
Marilyn Gurry	CCOEI, Grants Coordinator
Linette Harriot	CMY, Sector Development and Youth Leadership Coordinator
Belinda Haydon	Link Health and Community, Community Partnerships Officer
Aline Inci	DHS, MSO
Kate Jeffery	Link Health and Community, Senior Research and Planning Officer
Stella Jennings	Melbourne AMEP Home Tutor Scheme, Operations Coordinator
Teena Lee	Enjoy Church Mulgrave, Restore Program
Margeaux Loos	ATO, Community Education and Assistance
Stephen McCarthy	Victoria Police, Community Engagement
Judy McDougall	MIC
Alex Mills	Link Health and Community, Opening Doors Coordinator
Jasmina Mulugeta	Foundation House, Eastern Region Team Coordinator
Katrina Myers	Box Hill TAFE, AMEP & SEE Program Manager
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Hedda Ngan	Red Cross, Stakeholder Engagement
Rebecca O'Donnell	ECASA, Community Engagement
Madeleine Parker	Department of Education and Training, Senior Project Officer, EAL
Bianca Peel	Swinburne Student Life, Leadership and Volunteer Officer
Gianluigi Rotondo	Monash University PHD Student
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	VicPol Eastern Region Multicultural Police Unit MLO
Carolyn Smith	MIC - Student on placement
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University
Johnny Tran	Vic Pol MLO
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI, President
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI
Emma Wilkinson	City of Boroondara, Social Inclusion Policy and Projects Officer
Zehra Yalcin	Kara House
Apologies	
Iresha Butngamwa	ECLC, Community Development Coordinator

Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI
Jen Dunian	Uniting Life Assist, Team Leader Carers Disability
Inge Fernando	CCOEI
Dr Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Dianne Godfrey	DHS, MSO
Suzi Hayes	Knox City Council, Multicultural Communities Officer
Saba Irfan	Women's Friendship Group Inc
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc
Digna Libera	Holmesglen TAFE, Chadstone & Moorabbin, Campus Manager
Barbara Reeckman	Melbourne Polytechnic, AMEP
Rosemary Sheehan	City of Whitehorse
Rebecca Wickes	Monash University, Associate Professor
Clive Williams	Victoria Police, Community Engagement Inspector East
Guest	Asher Hirsch Refugee Council of Australia, Senior Policy Officer

3. Minutes MSC November 2017

Moved Cynthia Shaw, seconded Sui Ting Tse. Accepted.

4. Business Arising

Incorporated in the agenda

5. Correspondence. Information circulated via email and at the meeting

6. Meeting focus: Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) Services consultation on Australia's refugee policies – facilitated by Asher Hirsch, Senior Policy Officer, RCOA.

Asher presented an overview of the RCOA. One major activity of the RCOA is its annual Australia wide consultation with CALD communities and with agencies providing services to refugees. The consultation presents an opportunity to canvas community views on key aspects of Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program. A report of the consultation with recommendations for the annual refugee and humanitarian intake is submitted to the Australian Government.

The annual consultations have taken place since 1984. To maximize community input, consultations are conducted face to face, through an online survey, written response, and phone interviews if these other means are not accessible or preferred. The identity of those taking part is not disclosed. The report of this annual consultation, together with recommendations, will be forwarded to the Australian Government. Reports of previous consultations, and the briefing relevant to the current consultation, including the calendar of consultations across Australian States and Territories, can be accessed at <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/our-work/annual-consultations>

Asher facilitated the following areas of inquiry: Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program, including Family Reunion; Alternative Migration Pathways; Settlement Support for All Humanitarian Entrants covering questions on issues relating to disability, health, mental health, education, employment, housing; and specific views and input on Regional and Rural Settlement; Asylum Policies; and International Refugee Needs.

The report on the current consultation will be available on the RCOA website once the consultation process is completed.

7. **MSC 2017 Calendar** – Calendar on track but note changes to the dates of delivery of some events.

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 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.		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 CatholicCare; 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 – Father Samir invited MSC to attend a morning event that brings together the Australian Syrian Charity.		
04 Aug	Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre – Refugee Legal David Manne, Executive Director; Kate Bones, Solicitor and Migration Agent	Refugee health and human rights forum Title: “Awareness First” theme FGM/C and Forced Marriage 11/08/2017. Convened by Cynthia Shaw & Helen Jurcevic. Hosted by: the Women’s Friendship Group (Manningham). Working Group Members: Sonia Vignjevic, Nicki Vlahakis; Dianne Godfrey; Saba Irfan; Clair Butselaar; Emma Chege; Teresia Mutisya (advice by email) and Liz Sidiropoulos. Lillian De Bortoli (Final Report).	
01 Sept	Immigrant Settlement in regional Victoria: What works in Greater Shepparton? Multicultural bus tours: Inter-ethnic contact in Shepparton. Researchers: Dr Helen Forbes-Mewett, Monash University; Associate Professor, Rebecca Wickes, Monash University.	Family violence forum: theme – <i>Gender Equity – A world without Family Violence</i> . To be held on 19 September at the Box Hill Town Hall. Convened by Judy McDougall. Working Group members: Sonia Vignjevic; Randika Wijekoon; Cynthia Shaw; Glenis Crocker; Mhisti Rele; Nicki Vlahakis; Barbara Laug and Johnny Tran (VicPol)	
06 Oct	CALD from Iran - focus on needs and services (as part of CCOEI AGM)	CALD Employment and Training Expo 26/10/2017: “My choice My life” Working group:	October 17- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty , UN calendar

	CCOEI AGM	Meeting Chaired by Bwe Thay. Members: Saarah; Rayce; Margeaux; Dianne; Randika; Suzi; Suresh; Iresha; Mohit, Kirsten; Bianca; Sarah and Cynthia.	
03 Nov	Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) annual services consultation on Australia's refugee policies. Presenter/Facilitator Asher Hirsch, Senior Policy Officer, RCOA And 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/

MSC 2018 Calendar

The input to the MSC 2018 calendar has been provided through survey and at MSC meetings. Sam invited further input before publishing the calendar with the November meeting minutes. Below is the 2018 Calendar which is very much a working document:

MSC 2018 Calendar

MSC meeting dates	Meeting focus	Forums/functions/events dates and working groups	International Multicultural events Calendar
01 Jan	No meeting		
02 Feb	Settlement services and programs - focus on Victoria & Eastern Metropolitan Region: who is settling in the Eastern Region, and where, what are their needs and aspirations? Sarah Daly, Settlement Senior Manager, AMES; Judy McDougall, Senior Project Officer, MIC.		February 1-7 United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week
02 March	Celebrating harmony and inclusiveness - CALD choir (Karen) and the Mullum Mullum Choir combine to tell stories through song and music (Chris; Gitta; Jasmina). Venue Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, Ringwood.	Harmony Day events.	March 21: Harmony Day
06 April	Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) of the VMC: how are the RACs progressing the multicultural agenda? Key developments and projects: RAC Council members Helen Forbes Mewett; Sonia Vignjevic; Bwe Thay.		April 7 – World Health Organisation World Health Day
04 May	Cultural responsiveness of LGAs in the Eastern Metropolitan Region – focus on a project: LGAs to present on their projects TBC.		May 21 - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development .
01 June	Adult education and training: progressing social and economic inclusion: AMEP, SEE, Skills First: OR The work of language schools in the education of CALD recently arrived school age migrants and refugees	CALD health - the NDIS and the NDIA. Working group to develop theme and program (Working group to include Link Health and Community, ADEC, Uniting Care Life Assist, EACH, MIC, NDIS, NDIA)	June 20 – UN World Refugee Day , June 26 – UN Day - Support of Victims of Torture
01 July	No meeting		
03 Aug	Human Rights Law Centre – focus on refugees and asylum seekers: Australia's current contribution and track record (Inc. Nauru and Manus Island: asylum seekers and refugees).	Family violence forum: working group to develop theme and program (working group possible composition to include ECLC, MIC, ECCV, Red Cross)	

07 Sept	Social cohesion in multicultural Australia – stats and stories: qualitative and quantitative research through the years (panel of speakers to be finalised – Helen, Rebecca, others? TBC)		
05 Oct	CCOEI AGM and a focus on emerging CALD groups in Eastern Metropolitan Region.	Youth services: working group to develop program and theme (working group possible composition CMY, DET Victoria, IMVC, AMEP, Foundation House, Margeaux, Madeleine)	October 17- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty , UN calendar
02 Nov	Australian Refugee and Humanitarian Program 2019 - 2020: Community views, current challenges, and future directions. Asher Hirsch, Senior Policy Officer, Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA). MSC review of 2018 and plan 2019 activity.		November 16 - International Day for Tolerance November 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women .
07 Dec	Finalize 2019 MSC Calendar.		Dec 3 rd : International Day for People with a disability http://www.idpwd.com.au/

8. Reports

Forums update

- (a) **Gender equity - Family Violence Forum 19th September 2017 (Cynthia Shaw)**. The forum was very well attended and had broad participation. Cynthia thanked people who contributed to the forum, including: Dr Sue Rosenhain (Women's Health East) who was MC; Judy McDougall, who convened the Working Group and provided expert guidance and direction; Odette Rodrigues (Manager, Family Safety Victoria, Family Violence Prevention Strategies) who provided the keynote address; and Khuang Mang (MIC), Judy McDougall (MIC), Randika Wijekoon (MIC), Fadak Alfayadh (ECLC) who all provided excellent presentations;
- (b) **Health Forum 2017 - FGM/C and Forced Marriage forum. (Cynthia Shaw et al)** held on 11/08, was very well attended, and feedback was very positive. The forum report was launched on the 06/10 at the CCOEI 30th Birthday celebration and AGM by Inga Peulich, MP, Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs;
- (c) **Youth Forum "My Choice, My Life" (Cynthia Shaw et al)** Held on 26/10. The forum, hosted by Swinburne University at its Croydon Campus, was very well attended. Cynthia thanked Bwe Thay, who convened the working group, and the working group members. The working group had broad representation and included key organisations and staff: Cynthia Shaw (CCOEI); Mohit Gupta (Swinburne University); Dianne Godfrey (DHS); Rayce Coyte (IMVC); Suzi Hayes (City of Knox); Margeaux Loos (ATO); Suresh Ramachandraia (ECLC); Randika Wijekoon (MIC); Sarah Cleveland (Swinburne University); Sarah Hart; Bianca Peel (Swinburne University); Rohan Morris (Swinburne University); Johnny Tran (Victoria Police); Saarah Ozeer (Bounce); Kirsten Reedy (City of Manningham);
- (d) **CCOEI AGM and 30th birthday celebration held on 6th October 2017 at the City of Whitehorse, Willis Room Nunawading. (Cynthia Shaw et al)**. The event was very well attended and enjoyed. The focus was the Iranian Community and guest speaker Mr. Bahrn Monshat from the Australian-Iranian Community of Victoria, spoke about the settlement challenges and needs of the community, and Iranian culture. Mr. Shahriar Shams played traditional Iranian classical music. CCOEI is very grateful for their grateful support.

Organisations update

- (a) **CCOEI (Cynthia Shaw):** AGM – letter of acknowledgement from Inga Peulich, Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs, for the work of the CCOEI; letter from Professor Linda Kristjanson AO Vice Chancellor and President, Swinburne University of Technology, for CCOEI's contribution to community roundtable;
- (b) **Centrelink DHS (Dianne Godfrey – email)** Customers accessing Centrelink services by digital means e.g. through computer online or by smartphone app, will need a Mygov account in the near future. Mygov is a simple, secure way to access a range of government services online from Centrelink, Medicare and tax. Customers only need to remember one user name and one password when they have linked the service to their Mygov account. Customers will also notice a change in design of the website and their online account. www.humanservices.gov.au/
- (c) **Foundation House (Jasmina Mulugeta)** FH, Ringwood team, has been focusing on strengthening relationships with schools and agencies, and supporting people of refugee backgrounds in the East. FH are pleased to have done parents' psych ed groups and the Rainbow group at BELS Croydon. The FH Child, Adolescent and Family counsellor comes to the school regularly to also see children individually and works closely with the school Welfare coordinator.
- FH have done parents' psych ed groups at Croydon PS as well, and currently doing Rainbow group and working closely with their Welfare Coordinator.
- FH are looking forward to more work at these two schools in the future, as well as some other schools that have a large population of children and families from refugee backgrounds. FH ran Young People's groups at AMEP classes in the past at Swinburne University (Croydon) and Box Hill AMES, and are looking forward to plan more of these in 2018, with the new AMEP providers. UCan2 has also been an excellent program for young people, good feedback from participants.
- Dilnaz congratulated FH on the great event Welcoming Syrian Refugees and was proud to know someone from FH who attends this network.

9. Initiatives and innovations (for noting) – no report

10. Next MSC Meeting: Friday 2nd February, 2018, 9.30 –12.00.

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

Focus: Humanitarian Settlement Program and settlement services in Eastern Region of Melbourne

Guest presenters/speakers: Sarah Daly, AMES Australia Settlement services, Settlement Senior Manager; and Judy McDougall, settlement programs, Senior Project Officer, MIC.

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