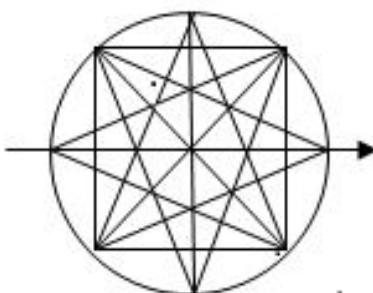


Chairs:

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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 4, 2016

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

Leonie Burnham	CCOEI
Jane Curry	Swinburne TAFE, Croydon
Jacqui D'Sylva	ECLC, CD Worker
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff Office Eastern, Koori and Multicultural Liaison
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Dianne Godfrey	DHS, MSO
Suzi Hayes	Knox City Council, Multicultural Communities Officer
Kate Jeffery	Link Health and Community, Senior Research & Planning Officer
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc.
Teena Lee	Restore, Volunteer
Digna Libera	Holmesglen TAFE, AMEP Coordinator/Campus Manager
Tina Mifsud	NEAMI National, CRSW Community Rehab Support Worker
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Saarah Ozeer	Bounce, Refugee Youth Mentoring Program, Director
Madeleine Parker	Department of Education and Training, Senior Project Officer,
Suresh Ramachandraia	ECLC, Manager CD Partnership
Mhisti Rele	Opening Doors; CCOEI
Sarah Tanner	NEAMI, Mental Health Worker
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University, AMEP Pathway Counsellor; CCOEI
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI
Zehra Yalcin	Kara House, Case Worker

Apologies

Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI
Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Gitta Clayton	AMES Australia, Volunteer Tutor Program
Marilyn Gurry	CCOEI
Belinda Haydon	Link Health and Community, Community Development Officer
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI

Sonia Vignjevic
Clive Williams
Guest
Asher Hirsch

ECLC, Director Partnerships and Community Development
Victoria Police, Community Engagement Inspector, East
RCOA Policy Officer

2. **Minutes MSC October 2016.** Moved Leonie Burnham, seconded Bwe Thay. Accepted.
3. **Business Arising.** Incorporated in the agenda.
4. **Correspondence.** Various items of information circulated electronically.
5. **Review of MSC program**

Results of the Survey Monkey MSC evaluation were presented. Some observations:

- The MSC has changed significantly in composition and membership. Many members are relatively new - almost 50% less than one year, and almost 24% between 2 and 4 years;
- In relation to participation in MSC forum steering committees, more than 90% noted that their organisation would allow participation provided that it was within the organisation's core work;
- MSC members provided input on topics they would like to see in the 2017 calendar. Results in order of preference: health, family violence, current and future service innovations, immigration issues and refugees/humanitarian entrants, racism, prejudice and discrimination; education, disability, and stories of settlement. As many of these areas are interrelated, they could be combined in meeting focus, functions, forums and events where appropriate. The most popular topic was health, followed by family violence, support services for torture and trauma victims, jobs and careers, youth and students;
- To the question what do you value most in your participation in the MSC, the areas that were highlighted in order of importance were: building partnerships that enhance services across the Eastern Region; expanding own knowledge through specialist speakers and presentations; working collaboratively to enhance services to migrants and refugees; being part of a team that provides positive outcomes for migrants and refugees in the Eastern Region, participating in steering committees to deliver innovative projects; sharing one's knowledge and expertise to assist others;
- In relation to meeting documentation, start and end time of meetings; procedures and reporting, all were very satisfied or satisfied.

The December 2016 meeting will continue the review of MSC activity, and finalise the 2017 calendar. A draft calendar will be discussed at the December meeting. Sam thanked members for their input.

6. Meeting focus – Australia’s refugee policy and the National Annual Consultation on Australia’s Refugee and Humanitarian Program 2017-2018, Refugee Council of Australia, Asher Hirsch, Policy Officer.

Asher gave an overview of the Refugee Council of Australia

- RCOA is the national umbrella body for refugees, asylum seekers and the people who work with them.
- It promotes the adoption of humane, lawful and constructive policies towards refugees, asylum seekers and humanitarian entrants to Australia, and internationally;
- Its work includes: research, policy analysis, advocacy, and community education;
- It is funded by public donations and membership fees.

RCOA activities in 2016

- *Education for All Campaign* petitioning the Australian Government on the right to education for people seeking asylum and refugees on temporary visas (successful access to TAFE in South Australia, New South Wales and the ACT; some universities providing scholarships);
- Research, advocacy and litigation on delays in processing citizenship applications. (The Act does not specify a timeframe for processing citizenship applications, only what is reasonable. The matter is before the courts);
- Refugee Communities Advocacy Network, a network for people from refugee backgrounds to discuss, prioritize and advocate on local, state, national and international issues of concern to them;
- Refugee Week activity, coordination and support;
- Consultations in Geneva with other NGOs on UNHCR (this year the focus has been on youth). RCOA input in Geneva has been on issues ranging from Nauru and PNG, to children in detention, and the strategic use of resettlement in the Asia Pacific Region.

In his presentation, Asher noted the growing concern about the refugee and asylum seeker situation globally and the limitations of the UNHCR budget to respond to the needs of refugees.

National annual consultation

Annually, the RCOA conducts community consultations across Australia on Australia’s refugee and humanitarian program, with over 75 consultations this year with refugee communities, service providers and others. The input informs RCOA research, reports, submissions to government and advocacy. The consultations are an opportunity for people to share their concerns and ideas about Australia’s Refugee policies. They are confidential, and personal details are not shared.

The consultations focus on the following categories:

- international refugee needs;
- Australia’s refugee and humanitarian program in terms of size, composition, and family reunion;
- settlement policy concerning Job Active specialized support for employment, the Job Seeker Classification Instrument and the Work for the Dole program; support and access to services for people with a disability and mental health; and issues of limited support for TPVs;
- Post Arrival Support in areas such as education, employment, health, disability, regional and rural settlement;
- Asylum policy, specifically the issue of people seeking asylum who arrive by boat; immigration detention, off shore processing centres (Nauru and Manus Island); conditions in detention centres; the military style operation under Operation Sovereign Borders; access to justice, work

rights and case support; visa cancellations, Border Force Act preventing disclosure of information by people working in detention centres,

Participants in the consultation contributed input to questions on Australia's response to international refugee needs; Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program; Settlement support for all humanitarian entrants; Australia's asylum policies. Responses will be collated with input from other consultations in a report to government. For reports on the annual consultations of previous years, visit the RCOA website <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/>

Participants were also invited to contribute further to the consultation online on the RCOA website. Visit <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/our-work/annual-consultations/> . The online surveys are specific to three different groups: organisations and others supporting refugee communities; people of refugee background or those seeking asylum; young people of refugee background or those seeking asylum.

On behalf of the MSC and CCOEI, Sam thanked Asher for conducting the Eastern Melbourne Refugee Service Providers Consultation and congratulated the RCOA on its considerable work with refugees and asylum seekers over the years, and wished them well for the future.

7. 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		May 21 - World Day for Cultural Diversity for

	Kapalos); and Intercultural practices and support services relating to migrants and refugees in Australia and Italy, Gianluigi Rotondo PhD, Monash University		Dialogue and Development,
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, EMR; Eastern Elder Abuse Network, Kaz Mackay, ECLC's Elder Abuse Prevention Coordinator		
02 Sept	Mapping Social Cohesion – The Scanlon Foundation (Professor Andrew Markus, Monash University)	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; CCOEI AGM 12.00.- 12.30 Alex Mills Opening Doors Program, Link Health and Community	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 2017 - 2018: Community views, current challenges, and future directions. Asher Hirsch, Policy Officer, Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA). 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, 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.idpwd.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;
- **How** are CALD with a disability faring under the NDIS? (Speaker from NDIS and the NDIS Agency)
- Amnesty International – its work locally and globally;
- How culturally responsive are LGAs in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

8. Forum Reports and events - nil

Agency and individual reports

Monash University Research (Dr Helen Forbes-Mewett)

- Research project: Multiculturalism in the Australian Cemetery (with Southern Metropolitan Trust);
- Research Institute of Social Cohesion: regional centre – a model of successful settlement (project submitted for support in 2017).

City of Knox (Suzi Hayes). Knox Council is working with Multicultural Arts Victoria on the **‘What happened at the Pier’** project, which collects stories from people who arrived in Australia by ship and disembarked at Port Melbourne (and their families/descendants). Two information sessions in November: Monday 7th November, 6:30-8:30pm (Boronia library); Thursday 10th November 10-12pm (Knox Civic Centre).

Department of Human Services - Centrelink (Dianne Godfrey) - Changes to the Asset Test to start from 1/1/2017. Information sessions being conducted.

Next MSC Meeting: Friday 2 December, 9.30 –12.00.

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

Focus: Review of MSC 2016 activity and finalizing the MSC calendar for 2017.

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