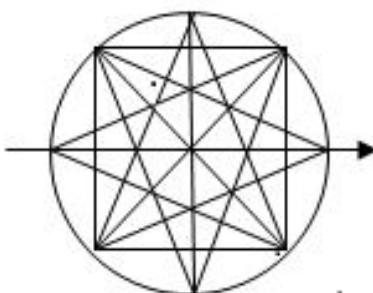


**Chairs:**

Sam Navarria: Mob: 0432 975 558

Cynthia Shaw: Mob: 0466 157 906



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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, April 6, 2018

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

Dilnaz Billimoria	Whitehorse Interfaith Network
Sally Brooks	MIC, Strategic Engagement Coordinator
Iresha Butngamwa	ECLC, Community Development Coordinator
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI
Rayce Coyte	IMVC, National Disability Coordinator Officer
Leigh Gilmore	Sheriff Office Eastern, Sheriff Officer Koori and Multicultural Liaison
Saba Irfan	Women's Friendship Group Inc
Kate Jeffery	Link Health and Community, Senior Research and Planning Officer
Rose Juan	Latrobe Community Health Services Ringwood
Helen Jurcevic	Women's Friendship Group Inc
Margeaux Loos	ATO, Community Education and Assistance
Judy McDougall	MIC
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Madeleine Parker	DET, Senior Project Officer EAL
Barbara Reeckman	Melbourne Polytechnic, AMEP
Vicki Selimi	DHS, Centrelink, Multicultural Services Officer
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
<b>James Thangman</b>	<b>Eastern Metropolitan Region RAC (guest speaker)</b>
<b>Bwe Thay</b>	<b>Eastern Metropolitan Region RAC (guest speaker)</b>
Johnny Tran	Victoria Police, Multicultural Liaison Officer
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI, President
<b>Sonia Vignjevic</b>	<b>VMC Commissioner, Chair Grampians RAC (guest speaker)</b>
Zehra Yalcin	Kara House
<b>Apologies</b>	
Gitta Clayton	Links – CHBC, Community Engagement Coordinator
Rick Comfort	DHS Centrelink MSO
Dr Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University, Senior Lecturer and Researcher
Belinda Haydon	Link Health and Community, Community Partnerships Officer
Stella Jennings	Melbourne AMEP Home Tutor Scheme, Operations Coordinator
Alex Mills	Link Health and Community, Opening Doors Coordinator
Jenny Mitchell	Whitehorse/ Manningham Libraries, CALD Branch Manager
Penny Moore	City of Maroondah, Community Development Officer
Jasmina Mulugeta	Foundation House, Eastern Region Team Coordinator
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos	Victoria Police, Eastern Region Multicultural Police Unit, MLO
Clary Verbunt	Dutch Community, CCOEI

**3. Minutes MSC February 2018**

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: Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) – Sonia Vignjevic, Chairperson Grampians Regional Advisory Council**

Sonia provided background to the VMC and RACs. Established in 1983, the VMC has provided independent advice to the Victorian Government to inform the development of legislative and policy frameworks, as well as the delivery of services to a culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse society.

The VMC is the conduit of Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and is the main link between them and the State Government. Victoria's multicultural society is one of the state's greatest assets and strengths.

Operating under the Multicultural Victoria Act 2011, the VMC consists of 12 commissioners: a Chairperson (Ms Helen Kapalos), a Deputy Chairperson, a Youth Commissioner, a representative of a community organisation and eight other members.

**VMC Key Priority Areas**

- Working in partnership with multicultural communities on issues relating to identity and belonging
- Identifying and developing employment and training opportunities for multicultural communities
- Amplifying the voices of multicultural communities in decision-making at all levels
- Proactively shaping positive and nuanced media narratives around multicultural communities
- Monitoring the settlement outcomes of new and emerging communities

**Regional Advisory Councils**

Three RACs are based in Melbourne: Eastern Metropolitan, North/West Metropolitan and Southern Metropolitan. There are also 5 country RACs. Sonia said that all the Commissioners have their passions, interests and skills. Sonia's passion is refugees and asylum seekers and is chairperson of the Grampians RAC. Sonia is also a member of the Migrant Settlement Committee. The Commissioner for the Eastern Metropolitan Region RAC is Ms Tina Hosseini.

The primary role of RACs is to inform the VMC about issues and challenges impacting multicultural communities in their region. RACs comprise local community members, service providers, business and government representatives.

**James Thangman – Eastern Metropolitan Region RAC Member**

James is a new member of the RAC and interested in bringing to the table a range of issues including:

- Citizenship rules and changes
- Job search
- Families
- Unemployment for older people in the community

**Bwe Thay – Eastern Metropolitan Region RAC Member**

Bwe mentioned a range of projects, skills and interests that he brings to the RAC. He said he is proud to be Australian and feels privileged to contribute from a grass roots perspective. He is listening to the community and gathering information for projects such as gambling issues in the community, which is a state wide issue. He also noted for attention exploitation in career pathways and employment. He said that RAC meetings are very interesting with a committed and dynamic membership base.

**Dr Helen Forbes-Mewett – Eastern Metropolitan Region RAC Member** was an apology for this meeting.

On behalf of the MSC, Sam thanked Sonia, James and Bwe and wished the VMC and RACs success.

### MSC 2018 Calendar

The 2018 Calendar is on track, with a change to the monthly focus for May: the local government projects' focus has been replaced by a focus on the NDIS following MSC input. Sam and Cynthia will organise speakers. The MSC calendar provides a framework and is a flexible 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. (Working Group members include: Chris; Heather; Gitta; Jasmina and Cynthia). Venue Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, Ringwood.	<b>Harmony Day events.</b>	March 21: <a href="#">Harmony Day</a>
06 April	Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) of the VMC: <i>RACs progressing the Victorian multicultural agenda - key developments and projects</i> : RAC Commissioner Sonia Vignjevic presented with RAC members James Thangman and Bwe Thay. Helen Forbes-Mewett (apology).		<b>April 7 – World Health Organisation</b> <a href="#">World Health Day</a>
04 May	The NDIS and CALD communities – access and participation in the EMR, and exploring the need for a forum in the EMR. Panel of speakers: Chris Cahill and Sharna Goulding, NDIA; Megan Kearney and Eli Niall (NDIS); ADEC; Sophie Dutertre, (CEH); Olivia Killeen, (ECCV); Emily Ma, Chairperson, Chinese Parents Special Support Network (CPSSN).		<b>May 21 - <a href="#">World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development</a>,</b>
01 June	Cultural responsiveness of LGAs in the Eastern Metropolitan Region – focus on a project: LGAs to present on their projects TBC. OR Adult education and training: progressing social and economic inclusion: AMEP, SEE, Skills First: OR Language schools and CALD recently arrived school age migrants and refugees		<b>June 20 – UN <a href="#">World Refugee Day</a>, June 26 – UN <a href="#">Day - Support of Victims of Torture</a></b>
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).	<b>Family violence forum:</b> 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	<b>CALD health – CALD access and participation in the NDIS (if needed).</b>	

	through the years (panel of speakers to be finalised – Helen, Rebecca, others? TBC)	Working group may include NDIS, NDIA, CEH, ECCV, ADEC, Link Health and Community, Latrobe Community Health Service, Uniting Care Life Assist, EACH, MIC, others ?) To be reviewed following MSC May focus meeting.	
05 Oct	CCOEI AGM and a focus on emerging CALD groups in Eastern Metropolitan Region.	<b>Youth services:</b> working group to develop program and theme (working group possible composition CMY, DET Victoria, IMVC, AMEP, Foundation House, Margeaux, Madeleine)	<b>October 17- <a href="#">International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</a>, UN calendar</b>
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). <b>MSC review</b> of 2018 and plan 2019 activity.		<b>November 16 - <a href="#">International Day for Tolerance</a></b> <b>November 25 - <a href="#">International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</a>,</b>
07 Dec	Finalize 2019 MSC Calendar.		Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> : <a href="#">International Day for People with a disability</a> <a href="http://www.idpwd.com.au/">http://www.idpwd.com.au/</a>

## 7. Reports

### Forums and events update

**Together in Harmony, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 (Chris Cosgriff and Cynthia Shaw: MM and CCOEI/MS)** - Chris provided an overview of the day, and presented a slide show of the event. Feedback has been very positive. The event was very successful with community members asking for it to be held annually. Chris suggested nominating CCOEI and MM for the Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together (HART) awards, and will look at the nomination process.

Cynthia thanked everyone involved especially Chris and Heather Cosgriff. The Working Group comprised:

- Chris Cosgriff CCOEI & MMIGP (Chair)
- Heather Cosgriff CCOEI & MMIGP
- Cynthia Shaw CCOEI, MSC
- Gitta Clayton CHBC
- Jasmina Mulugeta Foundation House
- Les Chettle MMIGP.

### Organisations update

#### Melbourne Polytechnic (Barbara Reeckman)

Barbara provided information on the Volunteer Tutor Program. (Subsequently, training dates were circulated via email to members, with training taking place in different locations - Doncaster, Blackburn, Wantirna, and the CBD. The training is 15 hours). Volunteer tutors are available to clients eligible for the AMEP, including those clients in AMEP classes and the Distance Learning program.

#### Migrant Information Centre (Judy Mc Dougal)

Judy provided information on current projects and programs. One such program is working with people affected by alcohol. A bilingual casual worker has been employed to work with Hakka Chin.

#### Department of Human Services (Vicki Selimi)

Childcare changes – specific information will be circulated.

**Australian Tax Office (Margeaux Loos)**

Margeaux provided information about a new Tax. PDF document available in readiness for the end of the financial year activity. End of financial year is one of the busiest times. Tax pop ups in various locations will address need for information and guidance.

**Victoria Police (Johnny Tran)**

Reported on the upcoming Respect Your Elders forum and the Community Safety survey (City of Knox). MSOs are involved in many community consultations.

**Swinburne University (Bwe Thay)**

World Kitchen event at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, on 19th April. Registration for the event welcome.

**Multifaith network (Dilnaz Billimoria)**

Visit the diversity website for ways of encouraging diversity in councils.

**Link Health and Community (Kate Jeffrey)**

Applications are now open for Opening Doors leadership program. New round in May. Flyer circulated Link has received funding for a mobile outreach service.

**MIC (Sally Brooks)**

Walkathon Saturday 28th April 2018 – register on <http://miceastmelb.com.au/events/mic-walk-thon/>

**Women's Friendship Group (Helen Jurcevic)**

Will send information on IELTS Class Action Law Suit.

8. **Initiatives and innovations (for noting) – none noted.**

9. **Next MSC Meeting: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, 9.30 –12.00.**

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

**Focus: NDIS and CALD access to services and programs; exploring the need for a NDIS and CALD access and participation forum.**

**Guest presenters/speakers: panel of speakers from NDIS and NDIA, ADEC, CEH and ECCV, and the Chinese Parents Special Support Network (CPSSN)**

**NOTES: (1)** For past and current CCOEI and MSC documents, including meeting papers and guest presentations, visit [www.CCOEI.org.au](http://www.CCOEI.org.au) **(2)** To contact Cynthia Shaw or Sam Navarria on matters relating to the MSC please use [chair.msc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.msc@gmail.com)