

Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC)

Minutes for 1st March 2018

6pm-8pm

The Mill Hill Community Centre

Room 3, Level 2,

31- 33 Spring St, Bondi Junction 2022.

1. Welcome & Acknowledgment to Country

Cr Paula Masselos acknowledged the *Bidjigal and Gadigal* people and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Introduction and Apologies

Present

Councillors	
Cr Paula Masselos (Chair)	Councillor
Council Staff	
Rebecca Rodwell	Manager, Community Planning and Partnerships
Jo Harney	Community Development Officer – Diversity
Community Member	
Emma Zlatkis	Resident
Dr Patricia Jenkins,	Resident
Amir Salem	Australian Egyptian Forum
Margaret Teed	City East Community College
Ashley Johnston	Irish Settlement Agency

Apologies

Cr Dominic WY Kanak, Cr Elaine Keenan, Cr Will Nemesh, Cr Marjorie O’Neill, Cr John Wakefield

3. Acceptance of August meeting notes

Minutes could not be approved as there was no quorum at the previous meeting. The record of the November meeting was tabled as notes.



4. Business Arising

Updated Terms of Reference (TOR)

The draft TOR was distributed amongst the attendees. Comments and feedback was requested within 2 weeks' time. The TOR will need to be endorsed by Council.

Suggestions and feedback:

- integrate the concept of access & equity as well as key functions into the TOR;
- consider ethno-specific working groups (eg Brazilian, Irish, Jewish, Spanish);
- review frequency of meetings

Cr Masselos suggested more frequent committee/sub-committee meetings (eg every 6 weeks) and would like to increase resources for the MAC. Committee members commented on various options (eg every two months; alternating meetings) and it was decided to meet in 6-8 weeks depending on room availability.

Project idea

It was suggested that Council review & update its multicultural service directory to get a better understanding of locally available services.

Actions:

- Council staff to include feedback into the draft TOR & schedule next meeting
- Cr Masselos to meet with the Executive Team to discuss her vision for the MAC

CALD Water Safety strategy update

There are no updates on Council's community grant application to Multicultural NSW. Amir noted that the Arabic and Kurdish writing on the *Stay Safe at the Beach* water safety brochure needed to be corrected.

Action: Rebecca and Jo to amend relevant sections in the brochure.

Walk for Respect - Update

Several constraints were identified and Cr Masselos agreed with senior officers to explore options for an event in Norman Lee Place that links with Global Table on Sunday 6 May. Cr Masselos would still like to hold a Walk for Respect at a later date to highlight the proposed changes to 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act and 20D of the Racial Vilification Act. She would like to approach schools and bring people together.

MAC members suggested that a 'Global Markets' arts and crafts event could showcase skills and talents of people from different cultures. Ideas included:

- "Sit with me on the bench" style of learning and showing skills
- "Global Activities" or "Global Workshops"
- Invite local craftspeople eg Aunty Esme from La Perouse to do shelling workshops
- Crocheting, knitting, more traditional skills which are not used as much anymore



- TAFE students to do healthy eating activities for children

Some of the event outcomes would include:

- Activating the space at Norman Lee Place
- Opportunity to talk to people about Council plans to create a 'Knowledge and Innovation Hub' in the Boot Factory
- Showcase some of the talented craftspeople in Waverley

Actions:

- Amir to send Jo TAFE contact details of hospitality students.
- Everyone to send through contacts of people who have any unique making skills.

Calendar of events for 2018

Harmony Day 21 March

- Family Day care is running an early evening get together for families in Norman Lee Place on Wednesday 21 March.
- Margaret will be doing something for Harmony Day at the College
- The MAC will again be involved in planning for 2019.

Refugee Week June 17 June-23 June

Suggestions include:

- Interfaith service at the Church in the Market Place
- Hold a film festival night with Australian Refugee Film Festival or Sydney Film School

Other significant dates

- Anzac Day - The Greek Presidential Guard is attending the dawn service at Bondi RSL. Cr Masselos will forward more information about this
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 70 year celebration – 10 December
- International Women's Day- Suggestion for Council do something in 2019
- Chinese New Year 2019
- St Patricks Day 17 March

5. Expression of Interest (EOI) for the new MAC members - MAC planning for 2018

Council staff have drafted an EOI and are working with communications to promote the MAC and recruit new members via facebook, social media, community media and the Mayor's Column.

Action: Jo and Rebecca to distribute finalised EOI to community networks and media.

6. Community Strategic Plan CALD input

Rebecca provided an update on recent consultations to develop Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

- 40 service providers attended the community breakfast
- 200 people attended the community summit

MAC members can comment on the next stage of the strategic plan in May 2018.

Action: Try to schedule a meeting during public exhibition of the CSP to encourage feedback from MAC into the plan.



7. Reconciliation Action Plan update

Discussion ensued about whether we should table Indigenous items on the agenda of the MAC. As there is currently no Indigenous Advisory Committee this is the only committee to raise items around Cultural Diversity.

Questions as to how Council engages and consults on matters with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were raised and will be considered as part of the Reconciliation Action Plan process.

Rebecca reported on the successful engagement of five Indigenous young people into traineeship roles in Council from the Elsa Dixon traineeship program. They will be placed in different locations across Council, Mill Hill, Customer Service, Childcare centre, Parks and Recreation as they are completing a certificates in different areas i:e Business, Childcare etc. They will be orientated over the coming weeks.

Project idea

Research into who is doing workplace traineeships for refugees and whether it is plausible for Council to take on some trainees from a refugee background.

8. Social Inclusion, Community Resilience and Local Government Project

Through her work, Cr Masselos has been updating relevant policies and believes that State and Federal Governments are withdrawing their engagement in areas of racism, discrimination and social inclusion.

Topics for further discussion include the continual changes to our community in Waverley including the development of Bondi Junction, increase in high rise apartments and offices, tourism, lack of community consultation and the fragmented groups in the area.

Suggestions included a round table discussion on building a socially inclusive society and exploring Council's role in facilitating this; possibility of a partnership with the UTS Centre for Local Government, or funding from the Scanlon Foundation or Multicultural NSW.

9. Local Council Access and Equity

Council's Cultural Diversity Policy is due to be updated and will be a standing agenda item.

Action: Council staff to develop objectives and timeframe for review.

10. Community Outreach Fora

Cr Masselos would like to invite community leaders to discuss with the MAC key issues affecting local CALD groups that they are currently addressing. Possible areas of interest are backpackers/migrant workers, people on 457 visas and whether they are aware of their fair rights at work.



Project idea

To investigate further who is addressing issues of exploitation of backpackers, migrant workers or workers on 457 visas and explore if this is an issue in Bondi Junction.

11. Other business/correspondence

- Inner and Eastern Sydney Migrant Interagency (IESMI) - Update

Jo reported on the first IESMI meeting of the year which was held at Randwick TAFE and included around 20 service providers and government agencies working with CALD clients. Information share and yearly planning were the main topics at this meeting.

- Local Government Multicultural Workers Network (LGMWN) - Update

Jo reported back on this meeting which was a planning meeting for the network. The LGMWN is co facilitated by Bankstown and Randwick Council. Issues discussed at the meeting included future directions for the network, conference planning, partnership opportunities and network communications.

12. Information share & event ideas

- Trish attended the Vietnamese New Year in Fairfield and it attracted around 10,000 people. She suggested an Eastern Sydney meets Western Sydney project could be a great initiative.
- Amir suggested an exhibition in the library about Alexandria in the 19th century being the first cosmopolitan city with people speaking many languages in comparison to today's cosmopolitan Sydney. He also reiterated his idea of the Egyptian cultural festival being held at the Bondi Pavilion
- Ashley explained the Irish Support Agency (ISA) (formerly known as the Irish Welfare Bureau) has re-branded and is focussing on reaching out to the young Irish in Sydney as well as their existing clients and seniors.
- Margaret City East Community College (CECC) runs the mentor program matching skilled migrants and refugees with experienced workers who can mentor them in Australian workplace networks. Margaret is always looking for volunteers to contribute to this program.

13. Meetings

Next meeting Date TBA

Original dates for meetings are the 3rd Thursday of every 3rd month from February:

17 May, 16 August, 15 November

Meeting closed 8pm