

**MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Wednesday 9 September 2020
6pm – 8pm
Video conference



1. Welcome and Acknowledgement to Country

Acknowledgement to Country was conducted by Cr Paula Masselos

Present

Councillors	
Cr Paula Masselos (Chair)	Councillor
Councillor Wy Kanak	Councillor
Council Staff	
Rebecca Rodwell	Manager, Community Planning & Partnerships
Katherine Haratsis	Project Officer, Diversity
Community Member/organisations	
Rozy Dorias	Resident
Robert Farotto	Resident
Tito Schoel	Resident
Margaret Teed	City East Community College

Apologies

Annette Trubenbach, Emily Scott, Dr Trisha Jenkins, Amir Salem, Emma Zlatkis

2. Acceptance of previous minutes

Moved: Robert **Seconded:** Tito **Carried**

3. Council Update (COVID-19, staff arrangements)

- Rebecca reported that the Mill Hill Community Centre has been closed since March. Essential services have continued and other services have been provided remotely. Staff will continue to work from home in the immediate future.
- Joanne Harney left Council in January to take up a position in the Hills District. COVID has delayed recruitment of the Community Development Officer role.

- An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Development Officer position has been approved in the budget, and recruitment for this role and the Community Development Officer role will commence shortly. Both positions are part time (3 days/week).
- A request for quotation was circulated for the development of a Cultural Diversity Strategy and Action Plan to replace Council's former policy. Quotes have been received and an evaluation panel will meet in the coming weeks.

4. Cultural Diversity Strategy and Action Plan

Council is seeking a consultant to support the development of a Cultural Diversity Strategy and Action Plan. The request for the quotation was circulated 3 weeks ago and 3 responses were received. As part of the brief, consultants will engage with the MAC members.

It is expected that the strategy will be completed early next year. Further information will be provided at the next MAC meeting.

Paula reported that the Social Inclusion, Community Resilience and the Local Government Project will be incorporated into the strategy. Joseph La Posta, CEO of Multicultural NSW is looking forward to working with Council on the strategy.

5. Social Inclusion, Community Resilience and Local Government Project

This agenda item is incorporated into the Cultural Diversity Strategy and Action Plan.

6. Reports

- **Beach Etiquette**

Rebecca and Cr Masselos provided background and information about the Beach Etiquette initiative, which they are working on with Matt du Plessis, Lifeguard Services and Beach Safety. A range of strategies are being explored around this issue.

Action: Tito to send information about the SLASH meeting to Cr Masselos.

- **Refugee Week:** Celebrating the Year of Welcome - online.

2 online Zoom sessions were organised with social enterprise, Parliament on King. Asama, a Rohingya Burmese woman, gave a cooking demonstration, inspired by her country of origin while sharing stories about her experiences as an asylum seeker.

- **Website and Resources**

During the initial stages of COVID-19, the Community Programs team developed a central point for information related to the needs of the community. Referral services and information for CALD communities including translations can be found under the heading, **Multicultural:**

https://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/community/waverley_community_profile/community_support_during_covid-19

- **Working Parties**

SESLHD South East Sydney Local Health

As a result of COVID-19, SESLHD set up fortnightly video conference meetings in May to update and inform local Councils and services about information being produced and circulated, and to gather feedback and advice about translations and issues directly affecting local areas.

LGNSW Network

Comprising of participants from all over NSW, the network has been active in circulating info directly related to the issues surrounding CALD communities during COVID. In July, the network invited a range of speakers in the field to participate in the CALD COVID Summit.

Anti-Racism Working Group (LGNSW)

Raised as an agenda item at LGNSW, officers reported a number of racist incidents since COVID began, through which a working party was established. Issues discussed included;

- How to respond to racism
- What support is available
- Respectful language
- Research available

Elsa Dixon Traineeships

4 new trainees have started at Council through the Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program. The trainees are working in Early Education and Care, Horticulture and Business Administration.

SES Multicultural Water Safety Committee

Due to COVID-19, the information and training sessions planned for this year have been pushed back until 2021. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10 September, via Zoom.

Good News Story

On August 21, a popular lifestyle program on Channel 10 called The Living Room, visited Rabbi Dr Dovid Slavin's home at Bondi to renovate their home and highlight the contributions made by the family in the local area, including OBK and The Wig Library. For more information and to view the episode go to:

<https://crownheights.info/chabad-news/712464/australian-tv-show-the-living-room-renovates-chabad-shliachs-home/>

Training - Resilience Against Racism: project launch and panel discussion

Supported by Study Melbourne and the Scanlon Foundation

Racism: What can we do about it?

Date 17 September 2020

Time: 12.30-14.00

Register at: <http://launch.resilienceagainstracism.org.au/>

For more information: wesachau@culturalintelligence.net.au

Refugee Week

Petition: Refugee Council of Australia

Cr Masselos reported that Council supported a campaign through the Refugee Council of Australia, to advocate for refugees and asylum seekers around access to financial assistance and Medicare during COVID.

COVID Ambassadors



Cr Masselos reported that Council is advertising for COVID Ambassadors.

Action: Rebecca to circulate this information to the MAC.

7. Planning for 2020

Membership of the MAC is due for renewal. According to the Terms of Reference, members will be required to re-apply for the committee at the end of their term (2 years). Information to be circulated in the next few months. Current members of the MAC are eligible to re-apply, and applicants from emerging and established multicultural groups in the community will be sought.

Action: Rebecca to check ToR to identify number of members on MAC.

8. Other business and correspondence.

Robert recently participated in an initiative which helps newly arrived Italian migrants to integrate into Australia.

Margaret reported on the impact of COVID-19 on the Mentor Program. This included increased numbers of job seekers and reduced numbers of volunteers. Mentoring is now available via Zoom.

The college is offering a Food safety and Handling course for interested people. (12 Nov)

Action: Margaret to send information to Rebecca.

Meeting closed 7.04pm