

MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday 11 February 25
6pm – 7:30pm



1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was conducted by Councillor Nemesh.

Present

Councillors	
Clr Will Nemesh	Mayor/Chair
Clr Dov Frazer	Councillor (online)
Clr Ludovico Fabiano	Councillor
Clr Steven Lewis	Councillor
Clr Paula Masselos	Councillor
Community Members	
Anna F.	Community Member
Lana K.	Service Representative
Emily B.	Community Member
Marcia M.	Community Member
Raphael C.	Community Member
Linda D.	Expert
Valentina B.	Community Member
Margaret T.	Service Representative

Council officers in attendance to support the meeting, including:

- Annette Trubenbach, Executive Manager, Community Programs
- Ben Thompson, Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience

2. Apologies

Rozy D., Baris A., Robert F., Emily Scott, Clr Westwood, Clr Townsend

3. Acceptance of previous minutes & business arising

The minutes were accepted via email.

No business arising.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

NIL

5. Update on Social Cohesion Mayoral Roundtable

Waverley co-hosted a roundtable last Thursday on 6 February attended by around 20 Mayors/Deputy Mayors across Sydney, including the co-hosts from Liverpool Council, Inner West Council, Randwick Council and Woollahra Council.

It was heartening to see Mayors from different backgrounds and political parties coming together to take proactive and tangible steps working together to improve social cohesion. The outcome was a joint statement which was signed by all attendees, along with some Councils who were not represented.

Feedback from the committee included support for the initiative, information on strategies and next steps and reaction from the community.

6. Update on strategy to combat antisemitism

As mentioned at the previous MAC meeting, Council has been developing a Strategy to Combat Antisemitism. The draft strategy was presented for feedback to a select group of stakeholders on 7 February. The draft strategy will be reported to Council in March for adoption.

Suggestions and discussion included engaging in dialogue with communities across Sydney including faith and civic leaders, education and young people engagement, having difficult conversations and promoting “upstanders” to be good allies, promoting connections, supporting those who are experiencing fear, recognising organisations like Jewish Care who are providing ongoing community support, building community resilience and collecting data to measure impact.

7. Culture Waves (Youth Social Cohesion Project) Update

Officers have inducted 11 community mentors over two sessions. These mentors will support young people in the program which will begin on 21 February. There will be a strong focus on cultural heritage, but also identity and sharing their authentic self. The mentors will support the young people in four key areas:

- Find your strengths
- Build your support network
- Share your story
- Create positive change every day

This initiative aims to have 15 young people complete the program.

8. Cultural Diversity Strategy 2021 – 2031

- **Dawn Reflection 2025**

Held for the 3rd time, the Dawn Reflection was a great success on a perfect morning in Bondi. Around 800 community members attended. Aunty Lola Ryan conducted a Welcome, the Wagana dancers and the Gamay dancers gave a great performance, and a smoking ceremony was included as part of the program.

- **Lunar New Year**

Lunar New Year was celebrated at the Bondi Pavilion with Lion Dancing on Saturday 8 February, and a range of activities took place at the Waverley Library.

- **Bondi Latin Fiesta**

The Bondi Latin Fiesta was held on Sunday 8 February at the Bondi Pavilion. The event included a range of performances with people from diverse backgrounds taking part in the celebrations.

9. Events Coming Up

Information will be shared with MAC members about upcoming events and activities – including Global Table 2025.

Members expressed an interest in working with other Councils to celebrate local events and festivals.

10. Other Business/Correspondence

Margaret acknowledged the support of Council for the Mentoring Program, which has resulted in several employment outcomes, and provided learning opportunities for Council Officers.

Following a debate at a Council Committee meeting, a discussion was held regarding a Councillor's proposal for Council to delete its 'X' account. The committee had a discussion around the topic but did not wish to make a formal recommendation to Council on the topic.

11. Next Meeting

Meeting dates for 2025

- 8 April 2025
- 12 August 2024
- 11 November 2025