

# MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday 8 April 2025  
6pm – 7:15pm



## 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
Clr Ludovico Fabiano	Councillor
Council Officers	
Ben Thompson	Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience
Annette Trubenbach	Executive Manager, Community Programs
Madly Bodin	Community Development Officer, Diversity
Rebecca Rodwell	Manager, Community Planning & Partnerships
Community Member/Organisations	
Anna Friedman	Community Member
Raphael Crowe	Community Member
Linda Deutsch	Expert
Valentina Baú	Community Member
Margaret Teed	Sydney East Community College

## 2. Apologies

Baris Atayman, Emily Bogue, Lana Kofman, Marcia Monje de Castro, Robert Farotto, Rozy Dorizas, Emily Scott, Clr Lewis, Clr Masselos, Clr Spooner, Clr Stephenson, Clr Westwood

## 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 Strategy to Combat Antisemitism and follow-up actions**

The MAC was thanked for their contribution. The strategy was informed by the Mayoral roundtable with included 15 community and religious groups and the Mayor's Social Cohesion forum. It was endorsed by Council at the March meeting.

Waverley Council has also endorsed its submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism.

Work is underway to compile the non-Waverley specific parts of the strategy into a document that would support other councils with their work in combatting antisemitism.

Mayor Will Nemesh noted that Waverley Council was the first Council to adopt such a strategy in Australia. He noted that antisemitic attacks have largely subsided as arrests and charges have been made and commended the police for their work, which often goes unseen.

Neighbouring councils have already received the strategy. Mayor Will Nemesh will present the strategy to other councils at the Australian National Mayors forum to be held on the Gold Coast in September 2025.

- MAC members discussed the strategy and how it can be utilised and implemented.

## **6. Culture Waves (Youth Social Cohesion Project) Update**

The Culture Waves program started in February and is still being rolled out. Key stats:

- 34 applications
- 22 young people still engaged in the program
- 23 young people engaged with mentoring sessions
- 7 Friday workshops held
- 10 mentors engaged
- 33 mentoring sessions held so far.

MAC members discussed and provided feedback on the mentoring component. MAC members were pleased to hear an update about the program and its positive impact.

## **7. Cultural Diversity Strategy 2021 – 2031**

### **Global table**

This event was held earlier this year to coincide with Harmony Week. Comments reviewing the event:

- The new set up of the stage worked better.
- The audience was more engaged.
- Feedback from the food vendors was very positive.
- Extended hours were tested to make the most of daylight saving but it seems the event attracted most attendances between 11am and 4pm.

### **Social Cohesion Grant Opportunity**

Waverley Council applied for a social cohesion grant in late February. As per the grant guidelines, funding was sought to trial different activities that would focus on:

- Connecting adults across cultures locally.
- Testing a condensed version of Culture Waves for young people based in the Waverley area and an area in Western Sydney.
- Engaging with sports leaders and other community leaders on a specific program designed by Welcoming Clubs.
- Exploring ways to embed community development principles in our existing regular events

Waverley Council confirmed that Culture Waves would be offered again next year and delivered by Council staff as no external funding can be made available to support this initiative.

#### **8. Summary of achievements during the MAC term**

A summary of the main actions undertaken during the MAC term was distributed. MAC members discussed the achievements for the term and their reflections on being on the MAC.

The Mayor and Council Officers thanked MAC members for their time and their contribution made throughout the term.

Council will be recruiting new members for the next term in May/June and will share the details in due course.

MAC members are encouraged to complete the feedback survey that will be circulated after the meeting.

#### **9. Events Coming Up**

Information was shared with MAC members about upcoming events and activities.

#### **10. Other Business/Correspondence**

Margaret thanked Waverley Council for partnering again with the Sydney East Community College to organise the 3<sup>rd</sup> mock interview event, to be held in June.

**Meeting Closed 7:16pm**