

MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday 11 November 2025



1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was conducted by Councillor Lewis.

Present

Councillors	
Clr Steven Lewis	Councillor/Deputy Chair
Clr Keri Spooner	Councillor
Clr Ludovico Fabiano	Councillor
Clr Margaret Merten	Councillor
Community Members	
Anna F.	Community Member
Lana K.	Service Representative
Rozy D.	Community Member
Elena S.	Community Member
Raphael C.	Community Member
Florence K.	Community Member
Jingmin R.	Expert
Robert G.	Service Representative

Council officers in attendance to support the meeting, including:

- Rebecca Rodwell, Acting Executive Manager, Community Programs
- Ben Thompson, Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience

2. Apologies

Angela W., Katrina W., Emmanuel D., Clr Stephenson, Mayor Nemesh (Chair)

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. Cultural Diversity Strategy Update

Council officers provided an update on the following projects:

- **Perfect Strangers**
140 people have registered to receive Perfect Strangers event updates. Council officers shared motivations for joining and some demographic data. Feedback from the first event, held as part of the Festival of Winds, was very positive and showed there was a need to support connections between community members.
Participants are matched across difference, based on the demographic data collected at the time they registered. Elena participated and shared that she had a very good experience.
The next Perfect Strangers event is a Philosophy Soiree scheduled on Thursday 20 November to coincide with World Philosophy Day.
- **Community education workshops**
As part of the social cohesion grant received from the NSW Government, Council officers also organised a sports active inclusion workshop and an upstander anti-racism workshop in the last week of October. Attendance was lower than hoped however feedback was positive, especially from sporting club group. Florence participated in both workshops and shared that the content was valuable. There is also an opportunity for Council to build on its relationship with sports groups in the future.
Council officers will explore the opportunity to hold the active sports inclusion workshop online and host it in partnership with neighbouring councils and how to embed education as part of broader or more attractive events, including one centred on food.
- **International Friends in Bondi**
Council held annual 2h meetup during Sculpture by the Sea, which consists of a tour followed by some drinks and nibbles. The event specifically targets newly arrived migrants. Council officers shared attendance and demographic data. Feedback was also very positive. Discussion took place on how to address registration drop off. Council officers send text reminders the day before the event. There is also an opportunity to connect with boarding schools to promote this opportunity to newly arrived high school students next year.
- **Walking in two Worlds event**
Council organised a mental health event, Walking in Two Worlds, in partnership

with Randwick City Council, Headspace Bondi Junction, Souths Cares, and Kevin Heath. The event was open to First Nations high school students from the Eastern Suburbs and was very well attended.

Discussion on lower school student numbers at Remembrance Day. Ben shared that schools are busy with their curriculum priorities and Council organises specific youth events, such as the upcoming Youth Summit.

- **Update on Culture Waves**
Council is continuing to recruit volunteer community mentors for next year's program. EthicalJobs (online noticeboard) has proven to be very effective to promote this opportunity. In addition to the standard after-school Culture Waves program, Council will partnership with Liverpool City Council to organise a two-day cross-city program: the first day will be hosted in Liverpool and the second day will be hosted in Bondi Beach.
The cross-city program is also funded through the social cohesion grant received from the NSW Government. A consultant was engaged to develop and test additional content.
Council officers will report back on the two programs next year.

6. Council's broader diversity initiatives

Council outlined other and broader diversity initiatives as requested at the first MAC meeting. These include the Waverley Community Living Program which started 40 years ago, Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan, events scheduled during Mardi Gras, and inclusive volunteering programs and student placements for First Nations students.

7. Bondi Junction Vision and Strategy Presentation

Waverley Council is currently working on a Bondi Junction Vision and Strategy to transform Bondi Junction into a sustainable, liveable and vibrant urban centre in Sydney. Feedback gathered from community and stakeholder engagements has led to the development of a draft vision statement for Bondi Junction's future called Bondi Beyond and available on the Waverley Council Have Your Say website.

MAC members were encouraged to share their feedback on the Draft Vision by 23 November.

Following this, a masterplan will be developed and presented to Council for adoption by June 2026. There will be further opportunities to be involved in consultation.

8. Events coming up

Upcoming events were shared. MAC members are encouraged to subscribe to our various newsletters

9. Other business

Jingmin thanked Waverley Council for the opportunity to be an artist in residence at the Bondi Pavilion for a month. Jingmin shared local residents' reactions with the committee and offered small bookmarks, in keeping with her long-standing habit of offering calligraphy and artworks as tokens of appreciation.

Following an interest in visiting other Council areas, Council officers informed the MAC that Fairfield City Council had organised a free bus trip to Cabramatta for Bondi residents in late January. The bus trip follows a trip from Cabramatta to Bondi Beach for Cabramatta residents. Council officers are exploring the opportunity to host a water safety session on that day.

Actions:

- Officers will share the links to the consultations and upcoming events.

10. Next Meeting

2026 meeting dates to be confirmed by email.

Meeting closed at 7.07pm.