



MINUTES

CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 16 August 2017 at 7.00pm in Melton Library and Learning Hub

Present: Cr Bob Turner, Councillor, Council
Cr Melissa De Santis, Councillor, Council
Jessica Trijsburg, Coordinator Community Capacity, Council
Essan Dileri, Intercultural Development Officer, Council
Lillian Campos, Access and Support Outreach Officer, Council
Vonivate Tawase, Fijian Community Association Victoria
Mengesha Alene, representing Semine Gondar Welkait Tsegede Edr
Geeta Muralider, Australian Multicultural Association
Maffie Villorba, Australian Philippines Association
Abraham Jongroor, VICSEG New Futures
Gary Verma, Indian Community VP Sri Durga Temple
Kubir Khanal, Bhutanese Community Melton
Gabriela Haddad, Active Arts Project, Council
Matt Mudie, Victoria Police
Georgie Steel, Victoria Police

Chairperson: Cr Bob Turner, Councillor, Council

1. Welcome

Chairperson began the meeting with Melton City Council Acknowledgment of Country. Chairperson welcomed Committee members and non-CALDAC attendees and requested everyone to briefly introduce themselves.

2. Apologies

John Kon, South Sudanese Community (Absent)
Dave Kwame Arthur, Stepping Up Consortium
Iyas Harb, Melton Muslim Community
Shaji Pope, Utsav Malayalee Samaj

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Motion

A Jongroor/ J Trijsburg

That the Committee adopts the minutes of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Advisory Committee meeting held on 17 May 2017.



MINUTES

5. Business Arising

The following matters are business arising from the previous minutes of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Advisory Committee meeting held on 17 May 2017.

Item 5.1 - M Kappel to send information about the next community forum to E Dileri to pass on to Committee members. Actioned.

Item 5.2 - E Dileri to send a list of relevant languages spoken in the City of Melton to Amy Jaballah. Actioned.

Item 5.3 - E Dileri to send a copy of Amy's presentation and her contact details to committee members. Actioned.

Item 5.4 - E Dileri to act on recommendations and prepare accessible formats of the Plan. E Dileri gave an update.

Item 5.5 - E Dileri to send the Plan to Committee members. Actioned.

Item 5.6 - Discussion regarding CALDAC member engagement to be held over to the next meeting. Actioned.

Item 5.7 - E Dileri to include CALD Community Leaders' Forum as an item of the agenda at a future meeting. Actioned.

6. African Communities Working Group (ACWG)

J Trijsburg presented on ACWG's first meeting which took place on 17 July 2017. It was an introductory meeting. Members of the ACWG got an opportunity to get to know each other and meet Cr Sophie Ramsey, Mayor City of Melton and other Councillors. The members indicated a preference that the meetings focus on tangible projects and actions targeting the African communities in the municipality.

7. CALD Community Leaders' Forum

E Dileri facilitated a discussion on a CALD Community Leaders' Forum. He provided background information about the proposed forum as a result of consultation with the community which became one of the actions of the Intercultural Plan. Leaders who were consulted expressed the need for a forum where leaders from diverse background can discuss their issues, get to know each other and come up with some initiatives.

K Khanal said it was a good idea to hold a forum where leaders from diverse backgrounds can come together.

J Trijsburg asked how we could get the leaders to attend the forum.

G Verma mentioned that one way to engage with the leaders is by articulating the benefits of the forum backed up by data from Council and other sources.

Cr Turner expressed his concern regarding how we could identify the right people for the forum.

A Jongroor suggested that we contact leaders based on our connections in the community.

V Tawasi proposed that CALDAC members form a sub-committee to plan the forum.

Cr Turner, Cr De Santis, G Verma, V Tawasi, K Khanal, M Villarba and G Muralider volunteered to be part of the sub-committee.

Action

E Dileri to set up a meeting for the sub-committee on a Wednesday in early September 2017 to plan CALD Leaders' Forum.



MINUTES

8. Discussion on engaging with the CALDAC members

E Dileri facilitated a discussion on how to engage with CALDAC members and how Committee members could play a proactive role in Council and community related initiatives.

J Trijsburg noted the sub-committee planning the CALD Leaders' Forum was a good start towards participating in Council related initiatives.

G Verma suggested that Committee members attend community related events where they can meet people from other communities, share and learn about each other's culture and way of life.

V Tawasi and G Verma proposed that CALDAC have a Facebook Group where Committee members could promote events organised by their respective communities. CALDAC members to encourage their community members to join the Group and receive updates on community matters and events. The Group could also function as a forum to share and learn about different communities living in the municipality.

G Verma, V Tawasi, G Muralider and M Villarba volunteered to act as administrators to manage the Facebook Group account.

Action

E Dileri to open a Facebook Group account and include G Verma, V Tawasi, G Muralider and M Villarba as administrators for the Group.

9. Other Business

9.1 G Steel from Victoria Police presented on available support within the police force to work with the youth offenders and their families. She requested Committee members contact Melton or Caroline Springs police station if they identify young people and their families requiring assistance and support. She also informed the Committee about the new way of requesting police presentation at community events which will require at least six weeks advance notice. She mentioned recently Victoria Police has been under great pressure to attend community events and meetings due to limited human resources.

Action

G Steel to email E Dileri the new procedure to request presentation at community events from Victoria Police.

9.2 G Haddad presented on Active Arts Project funded by VicHealth. The overall aim of the project is to increase social connection and physical activity through participatory arts-based programs. There are components of the project that are relevant to the Indian community. The women-only dance program which will be facilitated by an Indian dance teacher that could be in a traditional Punjabi Bhangra. The program would eventually be open to women of other backgrounds. Childcare can be provided during the program if necessary.

Action

E Dileri to send G Haddad's email regarding the Active Arts Project on to the Committee members.

9.3 J Trijsburg presented on Council's recent funding applications. She talked about the 'I Belong' Project – for the Community Resilience Grants funded by Department of Social Services, which aim to build strong, resilient and cohesive communities to help make Australia more secure and harmonious as a whole. Melton City Council's project responds to the identified need for targeted campaigns to increase awareness and



MINUTES

understanding of cultural diversity in our municipality's rapid growth environment. This will be done through a series of community campaigns to target prominent pressure points in the community, and enable impacted community members and groups to contribute to community education through targeted work with media, schools, sports clubs and community service organisations. She requested CALDAC to provide a letter of support for the project.

She also briefly presented on Melton Interfaith Leaders Project submitted for a Community Harmony Grant through Victorian Multicultural Commission. The project is a multi-year capacity development program undertaken in partnership with Melton Interfaith Network. This project develops skills and connections in interfaith leadership, and will enable the City of Melton to adopt, showcase and share best practice models from around the world.

Motion

A Jongroor/ E Dileri

The Committee agreed to provide a letter in support of the 'I Belong' Project.

10 Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 22 November 2017 commencing at 6.30pm at Caroline Springs Library.

11 Close of Business

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.