



## MINUTES

### INTERCULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 20 November 2019 at 6.30pm at Caroline Springs Library and Learning Hub

**Present:** Cr Yvonne Sebire, Councillor, City of Melton  
Essan Dileri, Team Leader Diversity and Intercultural Development, Melton City Council  
Luke Hartley, Headspace and Odyssey House Victoria  
Gurpreet (Gary) Verma, Vice President Sri Durga Temple  
Kubir Khanal, Bhutanese Community Melton Inc.  
Deepti Alurkar, Mums Dance Club - Founder and President, Connectwest No Hunger Community Leadership Program  
Sasee Devaraja, Tamil Ethnic Language School  
Vonivate Tawase Drui, Fijian Community Association Victoria Inc.  
Amy McDonald, Home of Multicultural Exchange  
Ali Nasir, Pakistani Community  
Kedar Dulal, Bhutanese Community  
Padma Phuyel, Bhutanese Community  
Stephen Godfrey, Area Manager, Holmesglen NEIS Program  
Manorath, Bhutanese Community  
Mohsin Ali Pakistani Community

**Chairperson:** Cr Yvonne Sebire, Melton City Council

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#### 1. Welcome

Chairperson began the meeting with Melton City Council Acknowledgment of Country.

#### 2. Introductions

Chairperson welcomed Committee members.

#### 3. Apologies

Cr Bob Turner, Councillor, Melton City Council  
Robyn Mitchell, Acting - Coordinator Community Capacity, Melton City Council  
Christina Prakanthan, Natyatharu School of Performing Arts/ Bharathanatya Acharya Association of Victoria  
Hamam Dewanyang, South Sudan  
Lillian Campos, Service Coordination Officer, Melton City Council  
Vishma Guatam, Nepalese Community in Melton  
Tutana Bradshaw, Home of Multicultural Exchange (HOME)  
Robert Aduer, South Sudanese  
Lynette Dawson, Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services  
David Cowan, Melton Interfaith Network  
Tigist Kebede, Ethiopian Community

#### 4. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil



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### 5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting to be presented at the Ordinary Meeting of Council in February 2020. A copy of the endorsed minutes will be sent to Committee members.

### 6. Quorum

Quorum requirements met.

### 7. Business arising from previous meeting

- Committee members to send information and flyers related to their activities to E Dileri to be forwarded onto the Committee. **Actioned.**
- E Dileri to invite a Council officer from Venues team to come and present to the Committee. **Actioned**

### 8. African Communities Working Group (ACWG)

No meeting of the ACWG was scheduled between IAC meetings held in October and November 2019.

#### **Actions**

E Dileri to share the highlights of the ACWG's meeting to be held on 26 November 2019 prior to the next Committee meeting.

### 9. Holmesglen New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS)

Stephen Godfrey, from Holmesglen NEIS Program, presented on NEIS which assists eligible job seekers to kick-start their business venture by providing access, training in small business management and business advice and five business mentor sessions, all at no cost to participants. If the participants meet eligibility criteria they will further receive 9 months of NEIS income support, 6 months of rental assistance.

Holmesglen has been actively involved in providing NEIS training and support for over 20 years and offers training in Victoria and other states. The training will cover the following subject areas:

- Business planning
- Market research
- Financial planning
- Legal and taxation requirements
- Marketing and social media
- Business protection and insurance
- Advertising and promotion
- Bookkeeping

E Dileri asked if people seeking asylum could be part of the NIES. D Alurkar asked if young mothers or people on partner sponsored visas could be part of the program. Stephen responded any person with Australian work rights could be part of NIES program.



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### Actions

E Dileri to forward a website link to Holmesglen's NIES program on to the Committee.

### 10. Headspace Presentation

Luke Hartley from Headspace presented on their services. Headspace centres act as a one-stop-shop for young people who need help with mental health, physical health (including sexual health), alcohol and other drugs or work and study support.

Melton Headspace services are designed to ensure they are relevant, accessible and highly effective. At the heart of headspace centres is ensuring young people can access expert health workers in a safe, confidential and youth-friendly environment.

Melton Headspace services are free (or low cost) and provide support for:

- Mental health. Clinical mental health professionals are available to provide support, treatment and management plans for a variety of mental health concerns.
- Physical and sexual health. Many centres have on-site GP's who provide young people with a safe, confidential and judgement-free place to seek medical advice and treatment.
- Alcohol and other drugs. From providing information to treating addiction, alcohol and drug counsellors are available to address the complexities of alcohol and drug issues.
- Work and study. Counsellors and vocational workers are available to assist with a range of life skills, such as: managing workloads, dealing with stress, preparing job applications and career planning.

G Verma commented on mental health stigma existing in some cultures. People from some cultures don't reach out for mental health assistance. They don't want to be identified as mentally ill people in their community. D Alurkar stated that privacy and confidentiality could be a factor for some people who may be hesitant to seek mental health support. L Hartley emphasised that Headspace takes confidentiality seriously and ensures a young person's privacy and confidentiality is strictly respected. G Verma asked how Headspace would go about stress vs mental health. L Hartley said Headspace doesn't get involved in diagnosis. Referrals will be made to appropriate services such as a medical doctor for diagnosis.

### Actions

E Dileri to forward a copy of the presentation on to the Committee.

### 11. Other Business

Cr Sebire thanked Committee members who attended the Mayoral Ball on 24 October 2019.

Cr Sebire opened the floor for the Committee members to share what is happening in their respective communities.

V Tawase talked about Fijian BBQ open to all community members on Saturday 23 Nov 2019 from 10am. He invited IAC members to join.

S Devaraja informed the Committee about two community events on 8 Dec which are Tamil special celebration and Christmas.

G Verma informed the Committee about the Victorian Interfaith Conference in November 2020 which will be hosted by Melton City Council, Melton Interfaith Network, Wyndham City Council and Wyndham Interfaith Network.

K Khanal introduced the new president Kedar Dulal of Bhutanese Melton Community. He also talked about weekly language school run by their community on Saturdays.



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D Alurkar talked about Diwali & Christmas event on 30th Nov 2019 at Taylors Hill Community Centre involving dinner and dance. She has reserved a table to the IAC members at the event. She encouraged Committee members to attend the event. She request that confirmation of participation be sent by 22 November.

A McDonald said HOME supports a local South Sudanese youth group with their project. She also mentioned that planning is underway for the Dream Big Festival 2020.

A Nasir informed the Committee about their community event celebrating a local hero on 24 November.

E Dileri talked about upcoming training and other community programs organised by Council. On the request from Tigist Kebede and African Think Tank E Dileri promoted the Black Mental Health event taking place on 30 November 2019 at University of Melbourne at 11am. All Committee members are invited to attend the event. He also provided the Committee with the copies of the flyer. He also talked about Sons of the West program which is a 10 week program for men.

### Actions

E Dileri to forward all flyers discussed at the meeting to Committee members.

### 12. Close of Business and future meeting dates

- To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.