



**GLEN EIRA
MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

The Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 6:15pm

Wednesday 30 November 2022

Caulfield Cup Room - Glen Eira Town Hall

Present:

<i>Councillors:</i>	Cr Simone Zmood (Chair)	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
	Cr Li Zhang	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
	Cr David Zyngier	Glen Eira Councillor Community Member

*Community
Representatives:*

Cesar Albarran Torres
Regina Atzil
Agnes Cheung
Monica Espinosa
Rabbi Yaakov Glasman
Janeca Gross
Elif Kurdoglu Sengoz
Renee Leighton
Deepa Mani (on TEAMS)
Dr Priyadharshini Mendis
Kaia Sun
Dr Gamini Adikari (Sinhala Cultural and Community Services Foundation)
Maureen Barten (Progressive Judaism Victoria)
Sylvie Berchick (Good Vibes Society)
Nick Chalas ('Lets Connect' Club)
Hap Dan (Inner East Local Learning and Employment Network)
Joshua Goodman (Jewish Community Councils of Victoria)
Ann Manning (Glen Eira Adult Learning Centre)
Edward Xu (Bentleigh Chinese Community Association)

Council Staff:

Mark Saunders	Director Community Wellbeing
Sharon Sykes	Manager Community Development
Victoria Tanner	Coordinator Diversity and Inclusion
Lana Cari	Diversity and Inclusion Officer

Apologies:

Cr Tony Athanasopoulos	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
Pooja Gupta	
Cassandra Barrett (Jewish Care)	

1. A Welcome to Country was delivered by Uncle David Tournier of Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council.

2. **Conflicts of Interest Declaration:** Nil

3. **Items for Discussion:**

3.1 Community Representative for Multicultural Advisory Committee Sharon Sykes

The Committee considered an additional nomination received from the Bentleigh Chinese Community Association to fill a casual vacancy. This nomination was supported by the Committee.

Recommendation: That the Committee recommend that Council endorse Edward Xu from the Bentleigh Chinese Community Association to fill the casual vacancy on the Multicultural Advisory Committee.

**Moved: Cr Li Zhang Seconded: Cr Simone Zmood
Motion Passed Unanimously**

3.2 Purpose of the Multicultural Advisory Committee Sharon Sykes

The Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee were presented to remind members of the background and purpose of the Committee.

The Multicultural Advisory Committee provides feedback and advice to Council on activities, engagement and communications strategies with people and communities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Formed in 2022, the Multicultural Advisory Committee ensures that people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are able to provide regular feedback and advice on ways in which Council can celebrate multiculturalism and promote social cohesion strategies, engage and communicate effectively with our culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

3.3 Introduction of Committee representatives Sharon Sykes

Committee members were invited to introduce themselves by outlining what motivated them to join the Committee and one outcome they would like to see achieved in the Committee's first year.

A summary of members' motivations for joining the Committee is set out below.

- Sharing of values and understanding of multiculturalism
- Bring lived experience to the Committee
- Empowering the community to be engaged and involved in decisions
- Interest in promoting multicultural diversity of Council staff and recruitment
- Supporting people who are new to Australia to experience cultural safety
- Helping people from various cultural backgrounds in Glen Eira
- Being a conduit between multicultural communities and Council
- Contributing to a more inclusive and supported community
- Becoming part of the local community
- Contributing from personal and professional experience
- Represent diversity and gender
- Represent the voice of smaller diverse communities in Glen Eira
- Strong interest in interfaith dialogue

A summary of outcomes members would like to see the Committee achieve is set out below.

- Strengthening of shared understanding and values

- Empowered community, contributing to decisions
- Regular community interactions
- Providing a safe space for good dialogue
- Progress towards people being equal and enjoying freedom
- Increased awareness of the multicultural community we live in and the local culture
- A more inclusive and supported community
- Being active and engaged in working with the community
- Increased engagement and collaboration
- Increased awareness and understanding
- Bringing notion of multiculturalism to faith congregations
- Consideration of languages for translated communications

3.4 Key Multicultural Commitments for 2022-2023

Sharon Sykes

The Committee was presented with the endorsed Council commitments for multiculturalism as expressed through the Council Plan Action Plan 2022-2023, Community Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 and Community Wellbeing Action Plan 2022-2023. These commitments include the following:

Council Plan Action Plan 2022-2023:

- Work with multicultural community leaders to build social cohesion and respect across our diverse community through a plan of priority actions endorsed by the Committee and Council.

Community Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025:

- Initiatives that support intercultural, intergenerational and interfaith activities across the community.
- Community projects and events that celebrate inclusion and diversity.

Community Wellbeing Action Plan 2022–2023:

- Promote Cultural Diversity Week and Harmony Day to celebrate Glen Eira’s rich faith and cultural diversity through online and printed media and library promotions.
- Promote positive stories of resilience, creative expression and contributions made by different population groups to celebrate inclusiveness, diversity and respect for all people in Glen Eira.
- Deliver information campaigns to promote family violence prevention and respectful relationships in the community.
- Promote opportunities through the Glen Eira City Council Gallery exhibition programming to attract a diverse range of artists/hirers and visitors which will increase artistic and culturally diverse expression.

4. Forward Meeting Schedule

Cr Zmood (Chair)

It was agreed that the Committee meetings would be held on alternating Mondays and Wednesdays throughout 2023 to maximise opportunities for members to attend meetings.

Date	Item	Officer/Member
Monday 20 February 2023	Identify priorities for Committee for 2023	Mark Saunders
April – date to be advised		
July – date to be advised		
September – date to be advised		
November – date to be advised		

*Meeting frequency: Up to a maximum of five (5) meetings per calendar year.

Next Meeting 20 February 2023

- 5. Closure of Meeting:** The meeting closed at 7:38pm