



GLEN EIRA MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday 13 September 2023 Caulfield Cup room - Glen Eira Town Hall

The Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 6.05pm

Present:

<i>Councillors:</i>	Cr Li Zhang (Chair) Cr David Zyngier	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
<i>Community Representatives:</i>	Cassandra Barrett Cesar Albarran Torrens Edward Xu Elif Kurdoglu Sengoz Janeca Gross Joshua Goodman Kaia Sun Regina Atzil Renee Leighton Sylvie Berchick	Jewish Care Bentleigh Chinese Community Association Jewish Community Councils of Victoria Yachad Club Good Vibes Society
<i>Council Staff:</i>	Mark Saunders Jayde McBurnie Alex Leamy Grant Lea Robert Menzies Lana Cari	Director Community Wellbeing Acting Manager Community Development Manager Communications, Engagement and Advocacy Aboriginal Community Officer Diversity and Inclusion Officer Diversity and Inclusion Officer
<i>Apologies:</i>	Cr Tony Athanasopoulos Cr Simone Zmood Sharon Sykes Agnes Cheung Ann Manning Deepa Mani Dr Gamini Adikari Dr Priyadharshini Mendis Monica Espinosa Neil Cowen Nick Chalas Pooja Gupta Rabbi Yaakov Glasman	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member Manager Community Development Glen Eira Adult Learning Centre Sinhala Cultural and Community Services Foundation Progressive Judaism Victoria Let's Connect Club

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

2. Reminder to declare any conflicts of interest in any items on the agenda

There were no conflicts of interest declared at the meeting.

3. Summary of the minutes of the previous meeting

The Multicultural Advisory Committee (the Committee) met on Monday 17 July, however, the Committee attendance did not meet quorum. At the meeting, the summary of the Council services provided to the multicultural community was tabled and the nomination for the organisational vacancy was discussed.

The key findings from the communications survey were presented, and the Libraries, Arts and Culture department reported on the use of Council spaces by the multicultural community and upcoming Council events.

An overview of the planned Multicultural Forum was provided to the Committee for feedback. Discussion of Council signage in different languages was deferred to the next meeting. The minutes from this meeting and all recommendations to Council will be deferred to the next Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday 13 September 2023 for endorsement.

4. Items for discussion

4.1. Endorsement of previous meeting minutes

As there was not a quorum of Councillors at the previous Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 17 July 2023, the minutes from that meeting were presented for endorsement (Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee endorse the minutes from Monday 17 July 2023 (Attachment 1), to be presented to Council alongside the minutes from this meeting at the Council Meeting on 17 October 2023.

Endorsed by: Cr David Zyngier

Seconded by: Cr Li Zhang

4.2. Presentation Victoria University Consultation Anti-Racism Strategy

Dr Franka Vaughan, Project Research Assistant from Victoria University presented to the Committee on the anti-racism project Victoria University is conducting called Understanding Reporting Barriers and Support Needs of People Experiencing Racism, in collaboration with the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria and the Islamic Council of Victoria. The project is funded by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation.

The three key components of the project's methods of community engagement and data collection were socialised with the Committee including peer facilitated focus groups, a community survey and community-led forums.

Members of the Committee were encouraged to take part and promote the opportunity to others in their communities.

ACTION: Council Officers to circulate Victoria University lead researcher details to Committee members.

4.3. Presentation on the Voice to Parliament

Grant Lea, Aboriginal Community Officer, presented on the Voice to Parliament community information sessions, highlighting Council's decision to assist in facilitating a successful referendum campaign by helping to inform the community.

In the discussion following the presentation, it was noted there is a diversity of opinions in the community about the upcoming referendum, and that Council's primary role is to support the community to be informed through distribution of information provided by the Federal Government.

4.4. Communications, Engagement and Advocacy

Alex Leamy, Manager Communications, Engagement and Advocacy presented on the outcomes of the survey completed by Committee members, noting how insights will be responded to moving forward. This would include reviewing and streamlining online content and the addition of language translation capacity for Council's *Have Your Say* website. The current 'Our Priorities, Our Future' consultation opportunity was shared, and members of the Committee were encouraged to get involved and visit Council's website for more information.

4.5. Update on current activities

The Committee agreed that updates on current activities from Council would be shared by email rather than spoken to at the meeting, due to the meeting running over time.

5. General business

Sylvie Berchick, Good Vibes Society, proposed that a collaborative multicultural event be planned for Cultural Diversity Week in March 2024. The event was proposed to showcase various cultures to celebrate the diversity of the community. It was agreed by the Committee that interested members should continue to discuss the proposal and present back at the next meeting of the Committee.

ACTION: Council officers to facilitate a meeting between relevant Council departments and interested Committee members to further discuss and develop the proposal.

6. Next meeting: Monday 13 November 2023 at 6pm.

7. Meeting closed: 7.30pm.



**GLEN EIRA MULTICULTURAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

Monday 17 July 2023 Caulfield Cup room - Glen Eira Town Hal

The Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 6.03pm

Present:

Councillors: Cr Simone Zmood (Chair) Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member

Community Representatives: Agnes Cheung
Ann Manning Glen Eira Adult Learning Centre
Cassandra Barrett Jewish Care
Deepa Mani
Dr Priyadharshini Mendis
Dr Gamini Adikari Sinhala Cultural and Community Services
Foundation
Edward Xu Bentleigh Chinese Community Association
Janeca Gross
Kaia Sun
Nick Chalas Let's Connect Club
Monica Espinosa
Pooja Gupta
Rabbi Yaakov Glasman Yachad Club
Regina Atzil Good Vibes Society
Sylvie Berchick

Council Staff: Mark Saunders Director Community Wellbeing
Sharon Sykes Manager Community Development
Deidre Pellizzer Manager Libraries, Arts and Culture
Jayde McBurnie Senior Community Planning Coordinator
Robert Menzies Diversity and Inclusion Officer
Lana Cari Diversity and Inclusion Officer

Apologies: Cr David Zyngier Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
Cr Li Zhang Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
Cr Tony Athanasopoulos Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
Joshua Goodman Jewish Community Councils of Victoria
Neil Cowen Progressive Judaism Victoria
Cesar Albarran Torrens
Elif Kurdoglu Sengoz
Renee Leighton

1. An Acknowledgment of Country was delivered by Cr Simone Zmood

2. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3. Summary of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Multicultural Advisory Committee met on Wednesday 31 May, where the resignation of an organisational member of the Committee was noted, and the option to recruit through an Expression of Interest process was outlined and supported.

A list of multicultural events celebrated by Council in the 2022-2023 year was presented. It was noted that an internal audit to identify Council services offered to the multicultural community had commenced. An overview of the proposed Multicultural Forum outline was presented and the action to forward a survey seeking further feedback from the Committee agreed.

The minutes of the Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting of 31 May were endorsed by Council at its meeting on 4 July 2023.

4. Items for Discussion

4.1. Update from the Previous Meeting

The audit undertaken to identify the Council services delivered to the multicultural community was presented to the Advisory Committee. The audit is an ongoing activity and will continue to evolve and include consultation with other Council Departments to build on the list of services across Council and the community.

The Committee provided positive feedback about the document, the range of diverse programs and services offered by Council and areas for improvement, including:

- the need to be accessible and available for multicultural artists and performers to exhibit and perform. That Council encourages and increases access for multicultural artists and performers who are invited to use the Gallery and other Council spaces.
- the Committee recognises the need to address family violence and to support families. It was clarified that Council does not provide services directly, however, Council offers a range of activities including 16 Days of Activism to raise awareness and a range of referral pathways to family violence services.
- that Council is seeking to address homelessness by advocating on more social and affordable housing being available to the community in Glen Eira, including referring individuals to accommodation services.
- targeted promotion to raise awareness of the Community Grants program with the multicultural community will be completed to increase the number of applications received. It was confirmed that non-incorporated groups can use an auspice organisation to be eligible to apply for a community grant with Council.
- exploring an opportunity for the sustainability team to present at a future meeting.

Overall, it was agreed it was a good document which details services and provides clear outcomes.

ACTION: A response on how non-incorporated groups can apply for a community grant will be provided to the Committee.
Council Officers to circulate Victoria University lead researcher details to Committee members.

ACTION: A copy of the audit document will be emailed to the Advisory Committee to provide feedback. An updated version will be presented at the next meeting.

4.2. Advisory Committee Organisational Representative Vacancy

The Expression of Interest to fill the organisational representative vacancy on the Advisory Committee was promoted on Council's website from Wednesday 5 July to Sunday 16 July, Council's social media pages, an email to the Advisory Committee and by targeting organisations who represent multicultural community.

One application was received which was discussed by the committee. The Committee agreed that the criteria had been met by this nomination and supported acceptance of Tamara de Silva, representing Caulfield South Community House.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee recommends that Council appoints Caulfield South Community House as an organisational representative to fill a casual vacancy on the Multicultural Advisory Committee, represented by Tamara de Silva.

4.3. Communications, Engagement and Advocacy

The Committee was updated about some key outcomes from the survey that was undertaken which included:

- survey response rate – 14 people responded and completed the survey which represented 70 per cent of the Advisory Committee members.
- the best way to communicate was determined to be by email.
- communication regarding events – The Glen Eira News was seen as the best way to access information about Glen Eira events, with 13 respondents noting they read Glen Eira News.
- Google Translate – 50 per cent of respondents found it to be effective.

Improvements to develop better communication with the multicultural community in Glen Eira are planned, initially including a review of Council's website.

4.4. Libraries, Arts and Culture

Diedre Pellizzer, Manager Libraries, Arts and Culture presented a report on multicultural communities accessing library spaces for their activities and completed a presentation on upcoming events.

The function rooms at the Town Hall and libraries are now available to the community, which can be booked on Council's website. Spaces at the libraries can be used but not for the exclusive use of specific groups on an ongoing basis.

A presentation on upcoming Council events was provided to the Committee. Glen Eira events aim to contribute to placemaking, inclusion and diversity, local economies, and the cultural and creative life of Glen Eira. Events are designed in line with Glen Eira City Council's Community Vision. They also consider factors including likely audience and participation, cost, ease of access and balance across Glen Eira. Council produces free or low-cost events and festivals held across the municipality and/or, held at Glen Eira

Town Hall. Members of the Committee are welcome to forward ideas on developing multicultural participation. The dates and events presented are indicative and subject to change. Those with a diverse cultural focus on the multicultural community include:

- Diwali Festival of Lights
- Carols in the Gardens
- Lighting the Menorah
- Lunar New Year
- ANZAC Day Commemoration Service
- Community Awards
- National Sorry Day
- National Reconciliation Week

ACTION: A copy of the presentation slides to be forwarded to the Committee.

4.5. Multicultural Forum

A Multicultural Forum is a priority action of the Multicultural Committee that was endorsed by Council at its meeting on 21 March 2023. A survey of the Committee was undertaken following the last meeting and the outcomes including an outline of the forum were tabled at the meeting. The Committee was provided with the opportunity to discuss the proposed forum date and topics to be presented and a summary of the Committee’s feedback is outlined below:

- A date later in 2023 will be proposed to ensure that the forum is held outside of the school holiday period.
- The purpose of the forum, which is focused on antiracism and antidiscrimination, needs to be clear and take a positive approach. When discussing topics such as what is racism through the forum, ensuring the message is balanced with positive examples, and involves raising awareness of cross-cultural understanding.
- Discussions on what the solutions are and actions that can be taken will be important, including increasing community awareness of racism and providing a register for people experiencing racism.
- How do we take the outcomes from the forum and our commitment further – we have an opportunity to look at the outcomes and next steps at the following Advisory Committee meeting. Officers will also see if there is interest in an opportunity to sign a commitment, like the Together We Stand commitment signed in 2019.
- Reduce the timeframe to two hours, 5.30pm-7.30pm, and decide if it is an invitation only or open to the community event.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee recommends Council approve a Multicultural Forum with a focus on antiracism and antidiscrimination in late 2023.

ACTION: Officers to continue planning the forum for presentation at the next Committee meeting.

4.6. Council Signage in Different Languages

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. Forward Meeting Schedule

Day	Date	Location	Officer / Member
Wednesday	13 September 2023	Caulfield Cup Room, Town Hall	Sharon Sykes
Monday	13 November 2023	Caulfield Cup Room, Town Hall	Sharon Sykes

6. Next Meeting: Wednesday 13 September 2023 at 6.00pm.

7. Close of Meeting: 7.14pm.