



**GLEN EIRA
MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

The Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 6:11 pm

Wednesday 31 May 2023

Auditorium Town Hall

Present:

<i>Councillors:</i>	Cr Simone Zmood (Chair)	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
	Cr Li Zhang	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
	Cr Tony Athanasopoulos	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member

Community

Representatives:

- Agnes Cheung
- Monica Espinosa
- Elif Kurdoglu Sengoz
- Renee Leighton
- Dr Priyadharshini Mendis
- Nick Chalas ('Lets Connect' Club)
- Edward Xu (Bentleigh Chinese Community Association)
- Janeca Gross
- Kaia Sun
- Regina Atzil
- Dr Gamini Adikari (Sinhala Cultural and Community Services Foundation)
- Joshua Goodman (Jewish Community Councils of Victoria)
- Ann Manning (Glen Eira Adult Learning Centre)
- Neil Cowen – *Proxy* (Progressive Judaism Victoria)

<i>Council Staff:</i>	Mark Saunders	Director Community Wellbeing
	Sharon Sykes	Manager Community Development
	Alex Leamy	Manager Communications, Engagement and Advocacy
	Deidre Pellizzer	Manager Libraries, Arts and Culture
	Victoria Tanner	Coordinator Diversity and Inclusion
	Kate Jackson	Coordinator Community Engagement
	Rob Menzies	Diversity and Inclusion Officer
	Lana Cari	Diversity and Inclusion Officer
	Sarah King	Communications Advisor

Apologies:	Cr David Zyngier	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
	Cassandra Barrett (Jewish Care)	
	Maureen Barten (Progressive Judaism Victoria)	
	Sylvie Berchick (Good Vibes Society)	
	Rabbi Yaakov Glasman	
	Pooja Gupta	
	Deepa Mani	
	Cesar Albarran Torres	

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 Monday 3 April. The outcomes of the 'Discovering Our Priorities' workshop were presented detailing draft priority actions for the Committee in 2023, which were supported by the Committee and recommended for Council endorsement.

The Committee discussed the response by Council to the displays of racism, intolerance, and hatred from Neo Nazis outside State Parliament. A presentation outlining Council's community engagement and community voice consultation process was provided to the Committee.

The minutes of the Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting of Monday 3 April 2023 were endorsed by Council at its meeting on 23 May 2023.

4. Items for Discussion

4.1 Updates from Previous Meeting

- Council's Communications team gave a presentation at this meeting to outline Council's approach to communications and our multicultural community, seeking the Committee's feedback about improvements.
- The multicultural events celebrated by Council for 2022-2023 were presented and included Diwali Festival of Lights in October, Carols in the Gardens and Lighting of the Menorah in December, Lunar New Year in January and National Reconciliation Week in May-June.
- Council has commenced an internal audit to identify services offered by Council that cater for the multicultural community. A summary of Council's services and community programs and activities will be provided at the next meeting.

The Committee discussed culturally appropriate service delivery, particularly those services that provide care to our community and the opportunities for cultural training to enhance the quality of culturally appropriate services.

4.2 Advisory Committee Organisational Representative Resignation

The Committee acknowledged the resignation of the Inner East Local Learning and Employment network as an organisation representative on the Multicultural Advisory Committee. It was agreed that an Expression of Interest will be advertised and promoted to multicultural organisations in Glen Eira. Nominations will be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

ACTION: An Expression of Interest will be advertised by Council to appoint an organisation to the casual vacancy on the Committee and nominations will be presented at the next meeting.

4.3 Communications, Engagement and Advocacy Presentation

Alex Leamy, Manager Communications, Engagement and Advocacy, presented an overview of the communications team, inviting feedback from the Committee about improved communication and engagement with the multicultural community.

Communications for our Multicultural Community

A presentation about the work of the communications team at Council was provided to the Committee including use of plain English, translations and using tailored approaches focusing on the community as the audience for Council's communications.

Community Engagement and Community Voice

The Committee was asked to provide feedback on how to improve Council's engagement through a survey with the following questions:

- What is the best way for us to engage with you and your community?
- How can we improve use of our online engagement platform?
- Have you used the Google Translate on Council's Have Your Say platform? Is the translation good enough? Would you prefer to call a translator?
- Is email a convenient way to receive our Community Engagement Newsletter? How can we encourage more people to sign up for our newsletter?
- How do you find out what is happening in our community?
- What topics interest you? What topics are relevant to your areas or community?
- How can we improve our connection with Glen Eira's multicultural community?

Committee members were asked to complete the survey following the meeting using the QR code provided.

ACTION: Committee members to complete the survey.

4.4 Libraries, Arts and Culture

Deidre Pellizzer, Manager Libraries, Arts and Culture, presented activities and programs run by Council's Libraries for the multicultural community. The library service features:

- Four physical branches in Caulfield, Elsternwick, Bentleigh and Carnegie
- A fifth 'digital branch'
- 55,000 members with over 1700 programs and events each year
- Materials in languages such as Chinese, Greek, Hebrew and Russian
- Cultural celebrations incorporated into the library programs
- 'LOTE4Kids' programs including over 2000 digital books in over 50 languages
- 'Languagenut', a child friendly digital resource of games, songs and books in over 20 languages
- Bilingual Storytime read by library staff and provided in the Library@Home program
- eMagazines and eNewspapers from around the world
- 'Kanopy', a free live streaming of world cinema content
- 'Mango Languages' providing conversational learning of over 70 languages

During 2024, the libraries plan to deliver Eid and Ramadan Storytime sessions and further develop of a range of multicultural celebrations and programming.

The Committee provided positive feedback about the range and diversity of programs and services. A question was asked about the use of library spaces for various multicultural communities and language backgrounds that are not currently provided.

ACTION: Library service to report back to the Committee about multicultural communities accessing library spaces for their own activities.

4.5 Multicultural Forum Progress Update and Committee Feedback

An update on the progress and development of the Multicultural Forum was presented which included a proposed date and time in September 2023 and a format including some suggested speakers. A survey seeking feedback from Committee members will be forwarded in the coming days, with a copy of the forum outline for reference.

ACTION: Committee members to respond to a survey regarding the 2023 Multicultural Forum to provide feedback about forum details including possible speakers.

5. General Business

A question was raised by a Committee member regarding the level crossing work at Glen Huntly Rd and communications with residents and traders about the works. Council is aware of the communications gap in providing information with culturally diverse groups and in different languages and has provided this feedback to the Level Crossing Removal Authority.

A question was raised about Council signage in different languages and the criteria for choosing languages. Officers will seek advice about this and report back to the Committee.

ACTION: Council officers to seek advice about Council signage in different languages and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

6. Forward Meeting Schedule

Day	Date	Location	Officer / Member
Monday	17 July 2023	Caulfield Cup Room, Town Hall	Sharon Sykes
Wednesday	13 September 2023	Caulfield Cup Room, Town Hall	Sharon Sykes
Monday	13 November 2023	Caulfield Cup Room, Town Hall	Sharon Sykes

7. **Next Meeting** Monday 17 July 2023 at 6.00pm

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

Minutes to be confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 4 July 2023.