



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

MINUTES

The Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 6:03pm

Monday 17 July 2023

Caulfield Cup Room, Town Hall

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 ('Lets Connect' Club)
Monica Espinosa
Pooja Gupta
Rabbi Yaakov Glasman
Regina Atzil
Sylvie Berchick (Good Vibes Society)

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
Rob 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.

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 and 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 The meeting closed at 7:14pm

Minutes to be confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 5 September 2023.