



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

MINUTES

The Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 6:05pm

Monday 3 April 2023

Caulfield Cup Room Town Hall

Present:

Councillors: Cr David Zyngier (Chair) Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
Cr Li Zhang Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member

Community Representatives: Cesar Albarran Torres
Agnes Cheung
Monica Espinosa
Rabbi Yaakov Glasman
Elif Kurdoglu Sengoz
Renee Leighton
Deepa Mani
Dr Priyadharshini Mendis
Pooja Gupta
Nick Chalas ('Lets Connect' Club)
Cassandra Barrett (Jewish Care)
Edward Xu (Bentleigh Chinese Community Association)

Council Staff: Mark Saunders Director Community Wellbeing
Sharon Sykes Manager Community Development
Victoria Tanner Coordinator Diversity and Inclusion
Rob Menzies Diversity and Inclusion Officer
Fiona Noble Senior Community Engagement Advisor

Apologies: Cr Tony Athanasopoulos Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
Cr Simone Zmood Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member

Janeca Gross
Kaia Sun
Regina Atzil
Dr Gamini Adikari (Sinhala Cultural and Community Services Foundation)
Sylvie Berchick (Good Vibes Society)
Joshua Goodman (Jewish Community Councils of Victoria)
Ann Manning (Glen Eira Adult Learning Centre)
Maureen Barten (Progressive Judaism Victoria)
Hap Dan (Inner East Local Learning and Employment Network)

1. An Acknowledgment of Country was delivered by Cr David Zyngier.

2. **Conflicts of Interest Declaration** Nil

3. **Summary of the minutes of the previous meeting**

A workshop session was held at the previous meeting on Monday 20 February at Duncan Mackinnon Reserve Function Room, which provided an opportunity for the Committee to contribute to the development of the draft Multicultural Advisory Committee Priority Actions. The purpose of the group and Council is to work together to achieve the priorities.

The minutes of the Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting held on 20 February were endorsed by Council at its meeting on 21 March 2023.

4. **Items for Discussion**

4.1 Priority Actions Report

The outcomes from the workshop and the key priority actions developed were presented to the Committee. It was noted that these six priorities will underpin the work that Council will focus on in the coming year to strengthen its commitment to our multicultural community and to celebrate our rich diversity. Council acknowledges its commitment to embedding accessibility and inclusion for our culturally diverse community in everything we do.

The agreed priority actions are to:

1. Create a catalogue of programs, activities and events that are provided for our diverse multicultural community by Council and community organisations.
2. Identify improvements to Council and community activities and events that enable greater access and inclusion of our diverse multicultural community.
3. Promote programs, activities and events that are provided for our diverse multicultural community.
4. Improve communications with our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community through accessible and universal language, easy English and translations.
5. Improve community engagement with our CALD community to empower all people to have their voices heard in Council's decision-making.
6. Convene a multicultural forum for local CALD and multifaith community leaders to advance Glen Eira's strong position against racism and anti-discrimination.

The Committee discussed the priority actions and the comments and feedback included:

- Reporting back to the Advisory Committee at each meeting on the progress of implementation to ensure that priority actions are managed promptly. The Committee is keen to see the 'quick wins' and celebrate these achievements.
- A report of the current languages that Council documents are translated into will be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.
- A list of significant dates and events will be presented at the next Committee meeting.
- Input from the Committee will be sought regarding the planning of the forum.

4.2 Council Condemns Racism and Prejudice

The Committee discussed the response by Council to the displays of racism, intolerance and hatred from Neo Nazis outside State Parliament, and noted that Council endorsed a strong message of condemnation, re-affirmed its commitment to rejecting racism in all its forms and called upon the State Government to strengthen its anti-discrimination laws.

A summary of Council's 2019 'Together We Stand' campaign was presented to the Committee, including an overview of Council's zero tolerance of racism and its commitment to building a tolerant and inclusive community.

The Committee supported a suggestion that the proposed multicultural forum which forms part of the Committee's priority actions will focus on the 'Together We Stand' principles and have an anti-racism and anti-discrimination focus.

Officers will report on planning for the forum at the next meeting to seek feedback and input from Committee members.

4.3 Community Engagement and Community Voice

A presentation outlining Council's community engagement process was provided to the Committee, including the process that Council follows in undertaking engagement and how it is reported to Council to inform decision-making. An outline of the Community Voice online panel was also provided and how this is currently being used to consult with our community.

Officers from Council's Community Engagement team will attend the next Committee meeting to discuss how Council can consult with our diverse multicultural community more effectively in the future.

5. Forward Meeting Schedule

Day	Date	Location	Officer / Member
Wednesday	31 May 2023	Caulfield Cup Room Town Hall	Sharon Sykes
Monday	13 September 2023	TBC	Sharon Sykes
Wednesday	13 November 2023	TBC	Sharon Sykes

6. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday 31 May 2023 at 6pm – Caulfield Cup Room Town Hall

7. **Closure of Meeting:** The meeting closed at 7.16pm