



# MINUTES

## INTERCULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 12 February 2020 at 6.30pm at Caroline Springs Library and Learning Hub

**Present:** Cr Yvonne Sebire, Councillor  
 Cr Bob Turner, Councillor  
 Dayane Mardesich, Coordinator Community Capacity  
 Essan Dileri, Team Leader Diversity and Intercultural  
 Safiye Vurdu, Access and Support Officer  
 Luke Hartley, Headspace and Odyssey House Victoria  
 Vishma Guatam, Nepalese Community in Melton  
 Robert Aduer, South Sudanese Community  
 Lynette Dawson, Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services  
 David Cowan, Melton Interfaith Network  
 Gurpreet (Gary) Verma, Vice President Sri Durga Temple  
 Kubir Khanal, Bhutanese Community Melton Inc.  
 Deepti Alurkar, Mums Dance Club - Founder and President, Connectwest No  
 Hunger Community Leadership Program  
 Sasee Devaraja, Tamil Ethnic Language School  
 Vonivate Tawase Drui, Fijian Community Association Victoria Inc.  
 Amy McDonald, Home of Multicultural Exchange  
 Samendra Sharma, Bhutanese Community Melton  
 Randi Wagner, Place Engagement and Activation Officer  
 Nkechi OGBonna, IKE Family Support Foundation  
 Jo Layton, 1<sup>st</sup> Nations  
 Dave Arthur, Stepping Up Consortium

**Chairperson:** Cr Bob Turner, City of Melton

### 1. Welcome

Chairperson welcomed all attendees to the meeting and proceeded with Acknowledgment of Country. *'Melton City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations, and pays respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.'*

### 2. Apologies

Christina Prakanthan, Natyatharu School of Performing Arts/Bharathanatya Acharya Association of Victoria  
 Hammam Dewanyang, South Sudan  
 Tutana Bradshaw, Home of Multicultural Exchange (HOME)  
 Tigist Kebede, Ethiopian Community

### 3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

### 4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

#### Motion

G Verma/ D Alurkar



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That the Committee adopts the minutes of the Intercultural Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting held on 20 November 2019.

### 5. Business arising from previous meeting

Committee members to send information and flyers related to their activities to E Dileri to be forwarded onto the Committee – **actioned**.

E Dileri to invite a Council officer from the venues team to come and present to the Committee – **actioned**.

### 6. General Business

#### 6.1 African Communities Working Group (ACWG)

E Dileri presented a summary of ACWG's meeting held on 26 November 2019. Some of the key discussion points at the meeting were as follows:

- Three guest speakers presented on law, employment and settlement matters related to local communities.
- The ACWG members discussed the intergenerational differences that pose challenges for African Australian families. The members will discuss this issue further in their future meetings.

#### 6.2 Place Engagement and Activation

Randi Wagner, Place Engagement and Activation Officer presented on Council's Place Engagement and Activation initiatives. She mentioned that activating communities was about giving people the opportunity to influence the places they lived in, to increase community connections and make local places better. The current priority areas for activation are Melton South, Ravenhall, Melton Town Centre and Caroline Springs Business Precinct. She talked about Let's Amplify, a program which will help community groups to apply to use the Amphitheatre for performances, workshops, campaigns or markets. Call for submissions for events with a cultural focus is now open. There may be a contribution of \$400 towards successful entries, with 5 places presently available.

#### Action

E Dileri to forward a copy of the presentation to the Committee.

#### 6.3 Harmony Day

Cr Turner presented on Council's Harmony Day celebration happening on 14 March 2020 from 11.00am to 3.00pm at the Willows Historical Park. Committee members were encouraged to participate and inform E Dileri if their groups want to perform. He further mentioned the message of Harmony Day is *everyone belongs*. Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity which coincides with the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

#### Action

Committee members to contact E Dileri by 14 February 2020 if their group wants to perform.

#### 6.4 Expression of Interest for the new IAC term

Cr Turner informed Committee members about the Expression of Interest for the new IAC term to be released in February 2020 and encouraged existing members to re-apply if they are interested.



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### Action

E Dileri to forward the Expression of Interest document to the IAC membership.

### 6.5 Acknowledgment and letters of appreciation

Cr Turner thanked Committee members for their contributions to the IAC over the past two years and handed them letters of appreciation.

### 7. Other Business

Cr Turner talked about a community event which will happen on 15 February 2020 at Melton Town Centre, organised by Melton Filipino community group. He requested Committee members to attend and provide support to local events.

G Verma promoted two events which will be organised at Sri Durga Temple on 21 February 2020 from 5pm to midnight and 15 March 2020 at the Temple. The events are open for all community members to come along and enjoy.

R Aduer informed the Committee about the African Students Summit which will take place on 18 and 19 June 2020 at Melbourne Convention Centre. He also promoted another event focussing on Anti-Racism organised by African Think Tank on 14 March 2020.

D Alurkar talked about a cricket program for women in partnership with Cricket Victoria. As part of the program, a group of women will attend the Melbourne Cricket Ground to watch a match on 8 March 2020 as part of International Women's Day. The program also involves a Sunday Camp.

A McDonald mentioned that planning is underway for the Dream Big Festival 2020.

J Layton talked about a program in partnership with the local Dingo Sanctuary. The program is free and open to the community and will take place on 7 March 2020 from 1pm to 6pm.

D Mardesich mentioned the discussion at the last Reconciliation Advisory Committee meeting requesting that Aboriginal peoples' rich cultures also be included in the IAC, and that this conversation be brought to the IAC. Cr Turner said the IAC has always been open for all community members. Cr Turner asked that the Expression of Interest for the next term of the IAC be promoted to local Aboriginal groups and shared widely to encourage applications.

R Wagner talked about Soup Festival which will happen in May 2020 to be organised by a local community group. She will pass along an expression of interest form to be found on Survey Monkey.

R Aduer proposed an evaluation of the last two years of the IAC and asked Committee members to highlight the achievements as a result of the participation in the Committee and lessons learned.

### Actions

E Dileri to forward all flyers he receives about the above events to Committee members.

E Dileri to pass along a link to expression of interest for Soup Festival to Committee members along with a link to Survey Monkey.

E Dileri to send questions to Committee members to express their opinions on the last two years of the IAC.

E Dileri to promote the IAC Expression of Interest opportunity to Aboriginal groups.

### 8. Next Meeting

Nil, due to conclusion of membership term.



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**9. Close of Business**

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.