



INNER WEST COUNCIL

Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC)

Thursday 2 May 2019 Meeting

Ashfield Civic Centre, 260 Liverpool Rd, Ashfield 2131

Minutes

Meeting started at 6.15pm;

Present

- Ingrid de Meyer (IDM - Convenor), Aniela Pepe (AP-Multicultural Projects Officer), Osmond Chiu (OC – Chair), Alexandra Missiris (AM), Ernest Yung (EY), Susan Kumagaya (SK), Trina Supit (SP), Vi Pham (VP)

Apologies

- Christhani Giotis (GS), Clara Kelleher (CK), Marc Rerceretnam, Giladesi Namokoyi, Rosanna Barbero (RB), Tanja Angjelkoski.

Welcome and Introductions

- OC welcomed everyone and provided an Acknowledgement of Country
- All members introduced themselves and provided comments about their involvement, past and present, in the multicultural and social justice areas and outlined their reasons for being part of MAC.
- AM mentioned the Greek Jam which are musicians that play for free are looking for premises.

Disclosure of Interest (Any conflicts of interest need to be disclosed in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct)

- There were no disclosures or conflicts of interest.

Minutes from 7 February meeting

- The Minutes of the 7 February 2019 were adopted by consensus.



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Languages other than English in the Inner West – Community Engagement

- AP presented a summary of research and data on top languages spoken other than English in the Inner west, this also included a break down on language proficiency. The purpose of this work is to establish guidelines for Council to use when selecting community languages for translation on Council communications and materials.
- Profile ID data from the 2016 census was used.

Some key points presented included;

- 5.6% of census respondents that speak languages other than English, state they do not speak English well or at all.
- 14% of people born overseas state they speak English not well or not well at all.
- 19.4% that speak languages other than English state they speak English not well or not well at all.
- Top ten languages spoken at home (people born overseas) are; Mandarin, Italian, Greek, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Nepali, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Thai.
- Mandarin, Italian and Greek are the largest language groups. However when looking at language proficiency then this changes to Mandarin, Greek and Vietnamese as the top three, that have low language proficiency, followed by Cantonese, Italian, Portuguese and Thai.
- Although Nepali and Spanish are among the top ten largest groups – their English language proficiency is high!

Suggestions for translations based on research;

- Mandarin
- Vietnamese
- Cantonese to also be included (Cantonese don't necessarily understand Chinese simplified)
- Thai needs translations (for a smaller proportion of the population but community is growing)
- Portuguese needs translations for over 60s
- Greek needs translations for over 65s
- Italian needs translations for over 70s

The advisory committee thanked Aniela for her presentation. TS also mentioned that schools are a source of information about languages.

Recommendation 1: The Multicultural Advisory committee support and adopt the recommended languages for translation for Council as outlined above.

(Moved by OC and adopted by consensus)



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Portuguese's Precinct

Background: Council wants to honour and celebrate the long standing relationship between the Inner West community and the people of Portugal by naming a Portuguese precinct in Petersham.

The Portuguese community has a strong connection to Petersham which spans the last 40 years. This legacy includes developing businesses, creating employment and sharing culture and traditions with the broader community. Portuguese cuisine, culture and traditions have added a richness and diversity to the social fabric of our area. As a result, Petersham has become well known as a place to go for authentic Portuguese cuisine and culture.

In order to mark the Portuguese historical connection and contributions to Petersham, Council has decided to name the central Petersham precinct in honour of this heritage.

Council wants to consult Portuguese organisations and businesses, as well as general businesses in the area, and the general community on the naming and geographical location of the precinct. We also want to seek input and feedback from the Multicultural Advisory Committee about this initiative.

The Multicultural Advisory Committee acknowledged the project and support the process of engagement for this purpose. The Council survey was presented and completed by all committee members present.

Marrickville Town hall – EOI

OC had been in contact with CO.As It, in relation to the EOI for the Marrickville Town Hall. An EOI proposal was submitted for some of the space to be used as a Multicultural Hub, including a heritage space of the cultural and linguistic contribution of migration history.

The EOI represents a community led initiative with a number of ethno specific organisations coming together, including a few organisations that work across communities.

OC raised this with the committee, and asked for comments about the proposal. Some of the following comments were raised;

- What is the need? Is there any research?
- Is it for organisations that are already established – if so how will it be used?
- Auburn has a multicultural centre – this is a good model.
- It will be important to have common goals

Recommendation: *The advisory committee support the idea in principle that the Marrickville Town Hall is used as a Multicultural Hub that the community can use.*



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Multicultural Policy Implementation and updates

- **Community-led Celebration Day (Multicultural Communities) Grants 2019 – Update**

The grants opened today, and close **22 May 2019**. It was noted this is a very short timeframe for community. As per the guidelines the funding is to support community to deliver celebrations of national cultures or national days of cultural significance in local communities across the inner west.

The grants are available in 2019 for celebrations for the following communities: Chinese, Cypriot, Greek, Indian, Italian, Lebanese, Maltese, Nepalese, Portuguese and Vietnamese.

The cultural celebrations/projects will be delivered over the following 12 month period;

- 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020.

The committee noted the following points;

- Acknowledged the opportunity for communities to celebrate and noted that in cultures there are and will be different ways to express and or celebrate this.
- The photograph with the advert for the grants represented only one culture. More attention needs to be placed on choosing the photographs.
- The wording of or naming which cultures can apply this year excludes other groups from applying and therefore isn't inclusive or multicultural in nature.

There committee asked if they could receive a copy of the translations presentation.

(Actions: Aniela to forward a copy to the committee).

Iftar in the Inner West – Cultural Celebration in May 2019

Addison Road Community Centre at the Gumbumarra Hall is hosting an Iftar event in collaboration with Penny Appeal a Muslim International Aid Agency. It is a Multicultural event bringing Muslim and Non-Muslim communities together in the Inner West.

August agenda - Snapshot of the census data for Inner West LGA, and information on current multicultural initiatives.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.



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ACTIONS ARISING

Actions	Responsible	Deadline
Presentation on translations to be forwarded to advisory committee members	AP	22 May 2019
Prepare census data information on Inner West LGA.	AP & IDM	Census data by 2 August 2019
All advisory group members to forward any agenda items to by 15/7	All	15 July 2019

