

# Multicultural Advisory Committee Annual Report 2020



*Figure 1 Back left to right: Cr Ogy Simic, Corey Lovell, Alba Chliakhtine, Georgina Tsolidis, Kamal Ibrahim, James Seow, Altaf Ali Mohammed, Vasileios Tsialtas. Front left to right: Marilyn Kraner, Tina Khabbazian Zanjani, Sister Brigid Arthur, Anu Bajwa. Not pictured Mireille "Mimi" Kayeye and Bhakta Dhasa.*

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# Introduction



Figure 2 Pictured Mireille Kayeye (Deputy Chair) and Georgina Tsolidis (Chair)

The City of Port Phillip has a higher proportion of the population born overseas when compared with the Victorian average. 31.4 per cent of the population in the City of Port Phillip are born overseas, 51.8 per cent have at least one parent who was born overseas and 20.5 per cent of Port Phillip residents speak a language other than English at home.

On 12 December 2018, Council endorsed the establishment of the new Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) to assist Council with advice and feedback on all issues that affect multicultural communities, refugees or asylum seekers in the City of Port Phillip. The Terms of Reference (ToR) were adopted by Council on 5 February 2020 after consultation with the community and the incoming Committee. Thirteen Advisory Committee members were endorsed by Council on the 16 October 2019.

The Committee held its first meeting on 3 December 2019 and met face to face in both January and February 2020. From March 2020, the Committee continued to meet online

due to the COVID pandemic.

The year 2020 posed many challenges and opportunities for the newly formed committee, however the MAC was able to quickly re-group and focus on its purpose and objectives. The following report summarises the key outcomes for 2020.

## MAC Terms of Reference Objectives

The purpose of the Multicultural Advisory Committee is to assist Council to provide advice and feedback on all issues that affect multicultural communities, refugees or asylum seekers in the City of Port Phillip. MAC aims to:

- Be the peak advisory and advocacy body on issues affecting multicultural, refugee or asylum seeker communities within the Port Phillip municipality.
- Provide advice to Council on its policies, plans and services as these may impact our multicultural communities.
- Liaise with other organisations and networks that have a direct interest in multicultural communities, refugees or asylum seekers in the City of Port Phillip.
- Consider and provide advice on key Government initiatives, issues, programs and reviews.
- Consider funding and other opportunities as they arise.
- Assist Council to promote the benefits of cultural diversity, social cohesion and inclusion of all residents within City of the Port Phillip.
- Provide advice to Council with its communication, engagement and consultation with multicultural communities.
- Celebrate and raise awareness of the achievements and needs of multicultural communities.

- Facilitate and encourage opportunities for multicultural communities and community groups to work together on joint projects and initiatives.

## Attachment 2: Multicultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

# Membership

Committee members' cultural and religious backgrounds reflect the cultural and religious diversity of the City of Port Phillip including representatives from established communities, newly emerging communities, people seeking asylum, former refugees and young people.

To be eligible, committee members must work in, or be a resident of, the City of Port Phillip and need to be able to demonstrate:

- community networks and linkages within local multicultural, refugee or asylum seeker communities;
- a good knowledge and understanding of the local issues that are of relevance to our multicultural communities;
- a commitment to multiculturalism and the strengthening of a diverse community that encourages the participation and inclusion of all residents;
- an ability to represent a broad range of views that reflect the diversity of the community;
- an ability to facilitate, negotiate and influence outcomes and resolve conflict.

The MAC Chair, Georgina Tsolidis, was elected at the April 2020 meeting and the Deputy Chair, Mireille Kayeye, was elected at the May 2020 meeting.

The following community members sit on the MAC.

Members	Location	Cultural Background	Position
Georgina Tsolidis	Elwood	Greek	Chair
Mireille "Mimi" Kayeye	St Kilda	Burundian	Deputy Chair
Alba Chliakhtine	Port Melbourne	Brazilian	Committee member
Kamal Ibrahim	Port Melbourne	Ethiopian	Committee member
Tina Khabbazian Zanjani	St Kilda	Iranian	Committee member
Altaf Ali Mohammed	St Kilda East	Indian	Committee member
James Seow	South Melbourne	South East Asian	Committee member
Anu Bajwa	Balaclava	Indian	Committee member
Vasileios (Bill) Tsialtas	St Kilda	Greek	Committee member
Corey Lovell	Elwood	Aboriginal	Committee member

The following organisations sit on the MAC:

Members	Organisation	Cohort	Position
*Bhakta Dhasa	International Society for Krishna Consciousness ISKCON Melbourne Hare Krishna.	International students	Withdrew nomination in March 2020
Marilyn Kraner	Jewish Care	Jewish Community	Committee member

Sister Brigid Arthur	Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project	Asylum seekers	Committee member
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- *\*Bhakta Dhasa withdrew his nomination in March 2020 due to other competing commitments. Committee members decided not to recruit for a new member until the next recruiting cycle.*

## MAC Objectives and Planning



Figure 3 MAC meeting via Microsoft Teams

An induction session for the incoming Committee members was held on 19 November 2019, where members were orientated to the ToR and completed an 'Active Citizenship' workshop with the Victorian Electoral Commission.

At the inaugural Committee meeting on the 3 December 2019, the draft ToR were

reviewed by the Committee. Committee members nominated to meet monthly until June 2020 and thereafter bi-monthly.

In January, the Committee started developing an Action Plan identifying key issues for multicultural communities in the region and constructing key actions. The Action Plan was aligned to key outcomes within the Council Plan 2017-2027 and the Welcoming Cities Framework.

## Welcoming Cities

The Welcoming Cities Standard sets the National Standard for cultural diversity, inclusion policy and practice in Local Government, helping to create communities where everyone can belong. Welcoming Cities is an initiative of [Welcoming Australia](#) supported by the [Scanlon Foundation](#). There are over 250 member municipalities across the world with 51 in Australia. City of Port Phillip is not yet a member organisation, however, the Committee decided that the Standards were an appropriate starting point in recognition that a local Council's understand the complexity and diversity of their communities can play an important role creating welcoming communities, as brokers and leaders within their community.

Further orientation sessions were held about the Council Plan and Budget 2017-27 and the Welcoming Cities Standard which is a central element of the Welcoming Cities network. The Standard establishes the framework for local Councils to:

- Benchmark their cultural diversity, inclusion policies and practices across the organisation.
- Identify where and how further efforts could be directed.
- Assess progress over time.

The MAC have identified value in standards as they allow Council to benchmark current activity against six categories: Leadership; Social and Cultural Inclusion; Economic Development; Learning and Skills Development; Civic Development; Places and Spaces.

## MAC Action Plan

The Action Plan is the central focus of the MAC and is reviewed thoroughly at each meeting to ensure it is aligned to community need. The Action Plan is divided into the six categories that have been prescribed by the Welcoming Cities Standards. The action plan was reviewed in April and May 2020 due the COVID pandemic.

The following statements were made by members at the 2020 Planning Session and illustrate some of the priorities that were decided:

*“Make the “WE” in Council Plan meaningful not just a slogan”.*

*“We want to see diverse faces and narratives in Council publications”*

*“I want to see a Council workforce that reflects the diversity of our community”.*

*“Provide opportunities for new and emerging communities to become active citizens in our community”*

Key priorities of the MAC in 2020 were:

### Leadership

- Provide rich grassroots advice and feedback to Council regarding policy drafting and program assessment/evaluation.
- Advocate to Council to join the *All One Together* Anti-Racism Campaign.
- Provide input into the development of recommendations for the *Future Ready* - Port Phillip Multicultural Senior Groups Review which looked at Council’s role in ensuring groups and organisations are supported and enabled to provide activities that benefit the physical and mental health of club members and promote the social wellbeing and connectedness of groups members.
- Work toward City of Port Phillip becoming part of the Welcoming Cities Network (Assessment & Accreditation - Commitment).

### Social and Cultural Inclusion

- Promote cultural exchange and social connection; events and programs (e.g. arts, culture, heritage, social and sports) such as *Cultural Diversity Week* and *Refugee Week*.
- Provide input on the development of Council's Language Access Guidelines.

### Economic Development

- Provide input on Council’s Social Procurement working group as part of Council’s corporate social responsibility.
- Advocate for Council to review employment policies to detect biases in recruitment and career pathways; work toward developing a diversity recruitment policy.

### Learning & Skill Development

- Work collaboratively with Council library services to influence programming for migrants.

## Civic Participation

- Facilitate “Active Citizenship” workshops by the Victorian Electoral Commission targeting the multicultural community prior to Council elections in October 2020.

## Places and Spaces

- Enable the use of public spaces and facilities by people who represent the diversity of the community.

Attachment 3 – Multicultural Advisory Committee Action Plan 2020

## Meetings

As this was a newly formed committee, the first two meetings were utilised to orientate members to key Council documents and governance structures. The Committee was also orientated to international and Australian Local Government Frameworks that promote diversity and inclusion on a local level.

From March 2020, monthly meetings moved online due to the COVID pandemic. Initially this posed a challenge, however the Committee was quick to embrace the new platform to voice the needs and concerns of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities during the pandemic.

## Input into Council Policy

The Committee provided input into the following Council Policies/Reviews:

- Council Budget 2020/21 submission
- Draft City of Port Phillip Public Space Strategy
- Shrine to Sea Project
- Vulnerable Persons Mapping and Agency Coordination
- City of Port Phillip Customer Service Charter draft
- Future Ready: City of Port Phillip Multicultural Seniors Groups Review
- Council’s Community Engagement Policy
- Health and Wellbeing Implementation Strategy planning and Council’s Hard to Reach Strategy and Community Groups

## Education and Awareness

External speakers were invited from the following organisations to strengthen the work of the Committee:

- 19 November 2019, Asvin Phorugngam from the *Victorian Electoral Commission* conducted an Active Citizenship workshop with the Committee.
- 4 February 2020, Bel Schenk the Coordinator from *Welcoming Cities Victoria* introduced the Welcoming Cities Standards for Local Councils.
- 3 March 2020, Zuleika Arashiro the Advocacy Leader from the *Ethnic Communities’ Council of Victoria* (ECCV) addressed the Committee about the “All One Together” campaign.
- 5 August 2020, Asvin Phorugngam from the *Victorian Electoral Commission* presented how to engage and support CALD communities with voting during the Council October elections.
- 10 November 2020, Maia Tua-Davidson from *Welcoming Cities Australia* presented to the Committee about Welcoming Sports.

- 8 December 2020, Fran Horsley from the *Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning* consulted with the Committee about the Shrine to Sea Project.

## Working Groups and Sub Committees

The following MAC working groups and subcommittees were established to progress the actions highlighted in the 2020 Objectives and Plan:

- Cultural Diversity Working Group
- Refugee Week Working Group
- Council Budget 2020/21 Working Group

As part of the consultative role of the MAC, Council Officers regularly sought advice and feedback on Council activities and initiatives relating to the needs, engagement and inclusion of CALD people. Key documents on which Council Officers sought feedback included:

- Council Language Services Guidelines
- 'Let's Stay Connected' Funding Application
- COVID-19 Aged Care Industry Support Grant input

Feedback about the impact of COVID on CALD communities became a monthly stand-alone agenda item. Members were invited to provide feedback on new and emerging trends and invited to send regular community updates via email. A monthly Officer and Council update was provided.

## MAC 2020 consultative work directly related to Council business

### Council Budget 2020/21 submission

The Committee held a special meeting in May to prepare a response to Council's draft Council Budget 2019/20. The Committee acknowledged that in the five-year period, City of Port Phillip has seen a record increase of new migrants to the municipality, an increase from 4,906 (in 2006-2010) to 10,500 (in 2011-2016). The largest non-English speaking countries of birth in Port Phillip is India, China and Brazil. Additionally, over 2,709 international students reside in Port Phillip. COVID-19 has disproportionately affected disadvantaged and CALD communities particularly those new and emerging communities and temporary visa holders. Key issues highlighted by the Committee for these groups include:

- Concern about the reduction of ASSIST services at South Melbourne potentially disadvantaging older multicultural seniors and residents of public housing. These two groups may not have access to hardware and may struggle with digital literacy.
- Support for ongoing Council community grant programs as part of Council's Social and Economic Recovery program, with emphasis that funded programs enhance social connection, particularly for more vulnerable and isolated community members.
- Concern around the reduction of funding towards the Libraries' Collection. This has the potential to impact on the Languages Other Than English collection, which is highly valued by our local CALD community particularly older multicultural seniors.

The MAC highlighted key issues to Council within their budget submission as follows:

- The need to emphasise **employment and retraining opportunities** for those who have



lost jobs, many of whom are migrants and international students.

- The need to prioritise support for migrant businesses, particularly given many of these provide employment opportunities for otherwise vulnerable people within our community.
- A **coherent communication strategy** needs to be developed for migrant communities. An approach that utilises multiple communication methods is beneficial as we cater for various languages, levels of literacy and preferred ways of communicating.
- The need to recognise that the **health crisis** is exacerbating several existing problems **including social isolation**. Those already vulnerable may be further disadvantaged. Older members of migrant communities may find it more difficult to maintain social contact, especially given they often lack computer/online access. International students, newly arrived migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are equally likely to become increasingly isolated.
- The need for Council to maintain a ‘watch and see’ brief on any possible threats to **social cohesion within Port Phillip**. MAC are aware of examples of racism within the area including offensive graffiti on Jewish facilities and the need for increased security at some Jewish sites. The group also raised examples of divisive discourses including reference to visible minorities.
- Welcoming the emphasis placed on **digital literacies** in the social and economic recovery plan. Many older members of CALD communities often lack computer skills and do not have access to computers and the internet in order to learn. This is also relevant to public housing tenants.

## Social and economic recovery

At the start of March, the Committee’s attention turned to providing feedback to Council about the emerging needs and issues for multicultural communities. The Committee supported the co-design of a recovery model. The Committee has become an important stakeholder in mapping vulnerable persons in the municipality and with Agency Coordination Reporting. It has provided Council with valuable information on what has been happening for our local community members and organisations, which has informed Council’s local relief and recovery efforts.

Due to the direct feedback from the Committee, Council has been able to address some emerging needs for multicultural communities directly related to the COVID pandemic and develop a recovery response. This includes:

- Translations of key COVID-19 factsheets in Russian, Polish and Hebrew.
- Linking of organisations that support international students and asylum seekers through “Share the Food” project.
- Assistance in starting a local food delivery service that particularly targets international students and individuals residing on a temporary visa (*Food for Life* – Hare Krishna Albert Park Temple).
- The submission of several funding applications that support the digital inclusion of multicultural seniors and families residing in Park Towers and Emerald Hill Court estates.
- Inclusion of two reporting tools (Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission and the Asian Australian Alliance) on Council’s website that enable residents to report discrimination and vilification.

- Identified emerging needs were incorporated into the Working for VIC position funded by the State Government which included:
  - Development of a local services directory targeting new and emerging communities and temporary visa holders.
  - The delivery of COVID-19 related community information sessions (online and in person) in a culturally appropriate manner to new and emerging communities and temporary visa holders. This will focus on employment and workers' rights.
  - The initiation of a women's circle at Park Towers housing estate. The aim of the Park Towers Women's Circle is to address the issue of social isolation for CALD women residents of Park Towers housing estate, that was identified in 2020 due to Covid lockdowns and social restrictions.

## City of Port Phillip draft Customer Service Charter

Fiona Symmons, Council's Customer Experience Design Specialist presented to the Committee about the draft Customer Service Charter. During discussion with the Committee the following comments were made:

- *We are not customer but ratepayers, perhaps a different term to describe residents needs to be used?*
- *This document needs to be made alive via posters, customer services, etc.*
- *How is Council going to measure these promises? How are staff going to be held accountable?*
- *Charter needs to be in plain English and once finalised it needs to be translated into the main languages.*
- *Keep it simple! Be mindful how concepts will translate. There are too many concepts in one sentence, perhaps as a rule keep the sentences short.*

## Council's Community Engagement Policy

Carol Tu, Council's Coordinator for Strategic Engagement sought feedback about the draft Community Engagement Plan. The Committee made the following key points:

- *Ensure that Council utilises Advisory Committees in its community engagement strategy.*
- *The community needs to know what has happen with their feedback, there needs to be a feedback loop in place.*
- *Keep it simple, and translated information needs to be made available.*
- *Can you outreach to vulnerable communities rather than rely on traditional forms of engagement via surveys and online communication? Not all residents have access to the internet or data.*
- *It is important that a number of methods are utilised to communicate with residents. This messaging needs to be consistent and be delivered through Council services and other associated provided. This includes:*
  - *Work with community leaders and other 'familiar faces' to distribute messages*
  - *Use platforms already in use by local communities, such as WhatsApp groups and Facebook pages; and*
  - *Make messages available in audio or video formats, for clients who are either illiterate in their own language or engage more easily with audio content.*
  - *Delivering key messages to residents by leveraging already existing services delivery, i.e. meal delivery service, family support, home care etc.*

# Draft City of Port Phillip Public Space Strategy and Shrine to Sea

Two separate consultations occurred related to public spaces in Port Phillip. Fran Horsley from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning consulted about the Shrine to Sea Project. Alexandra Hodgson, Council's Senior Strategic Planner consulted about the Draft City of Port Phillip Public Space Strategy. During discussion with the Committee the following comments were noted:

- *Stories make new migrants feel connected to the City, these stories can be expressed through heritage, arts and culture.*
- *It is important that the migrant history of Port Phillip is acknowledged in public places, this enables a sense of belonging and connection to history. We need to also make public spaces accessible to celebrate significant cultural events for the community.*
- *Art festivals are a good way to acknowledge a sense of place for the community, bringing human connection.*
- *Station Pier is a point of arrival for hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees over recent decades and their contributions to Australian society. The significance of this pier to the migrant experience needs to be acknowledged in some way.*
- *Inclusive signage needs to be adopted in the CoPP.*

One member of the Committee participated in 'Public Life Study – Focus Walks' as part of the Shrine to Sea project. This involved four individuals from diverse backgrounds walking through the project area, while the project team mapped and recorded the information gathered.

## Supporting CALD Communities to vote during the October 2020 Council Election

Asvin Phorugnam from the Victorian Electoral Commission presented to the Committee about engaging and supporting CALD communities during elections. Because of the Committee's feedback, translated material about Council elections was promoted via the Council's social media and multicultural community members were invited to attend sessions on how to vote offered in specific community languages.

## MAC highlighted matters affecting CALD communities Racism and COVID

On 20 April 2020, the newly elected Chair wrote to Council on behalf of MAC recommending that Council join a cross-sectoral anti-racism response. The *All One Together* campaign is a Victoria-wide anti-racism coalition. On the 15 July, Council endorsed *All One Together* campaign. At the 5 May meeting, the MAC was informed of issues raised by the Multifaith Network regarding the rise of anti-Semitism in the community and in particular, recent mainstream reporting about the Ultra-Orthodox Jewish community and COVID-19.

Council asked the Committee to recommend actions that could directly tackle racism and discrimination. The Committee met on several occasions and put together some possible options. These included:

1. Work with the local Lifesaving clubs in the municipality over summer to strengthen the multicultural lifesaving program; and work with local sporting clubs to build inclusivity as per the Welcoming Sports Standards.
2. Review employment policies to detect biases in recruitment and career pathways and work towards developing a diversity-sensitive recruitment policy.
3. Establish a multicultural communication plan.
4. Advise Council to join Welcoming Cities.
5. Advise Council to develop a Multicultural Statement of Commitment.

It was agreed that these recommendations would be incorporated into the MAC action plan. As a priority, the Committee voted to recommend the following action to Council: *Review employment policies to detect biases in recruitment and career pathways and work toward developing a diversity recruitment policy.* This was recommended as a priority because minorities, particularly newly arrived peoples, can be disproportionately affected by rising unemployment. Additionally, it was felt that diverse workplaces make ethnical diversity familiar through real-life experiences.

## Addressing the digital divide at public housing estates

The digital divide in public housing estates was raised at the first online meeting held by the Committee in March 2020, in response to support services moving towards virtual provision. Certain housing estates in Port Phillip have over 50 per cent of residents from CALD backgrounds. A Committee member who is a former resident of the one of the public housing estates had been struggling to engage young people with online activities, as residential families in particular lacked access to internet data and hardware. Often residents have a phone but no other device. The Committee member had experience with estate residents who do not know how turn a device on. Data is often purchased in small blocks, which makes it expensive. There was particular concern regarding older members of these communities being inexperienced with digital communication.

Feedback from the Committee was used by Council to submit several funding applications that support the digital inclusion of multicultural seniors and families residing in Park Towers and Emerald Hill Court estates.

- **Wi-Fi Emerald Hill Court Public Housing Estate:** Council worked in partnership with Toyota Foundation, Thomas Duryea Logicalis and South Melbourne Community Capacity Building Initiative (SMCCBI) to secure free WI-FI at Emerald Hill Court. SMCCBI is a partnership between Star Health and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The Wi-Fi solution will see several wireless access points in the community room of the Emerald Hill Court Estate. WI-FI will be broadcast into the community garden and courtyard common area of the estate. The Wi-Fi is provided by Toyota Foundation and DHHS.
- **Public Housing Social Inclusion project:** Expanding on the work undertaken on the digital asset funded by the Toyota Foundation, this project directly addresses the barriers of residents by providing equipment, lots of data and capacity building to effectively use technology. This project is funded by Victorian Government's new Community Activation and Social Isolation initiative.

## Multicultural Seniors Clubs - Future Ready: City of Port Phillip Multicultural Seniors Groups Review.

Maria Anes, Council's Multicultural Positive Ageing Officer, presented to the Committee in relation to recommendations of the *Future Ready: City of Port Phillip Multicultural Seniors Groups Review*. Council engaged MiCare (our local Migrant Resource Centre) to conduct an in-depth review of the multicultural senior's groups/clubs and develop a future directions framework based on the outcomes of the review. There are over 30 multicultural social groups/clubs operating in Port Phillip. Currently many of our local clubs have ageing members and relevant committees often lack younger members, resulting in the aging of responsible officers who are finding running these organisations onerous. The groups have now ceased to operate due to Covid restrictions and members reported that many are feeling increasingly socially isolated. Seniors are experiencing increased isolation and loneliness as a result of the increased digitalisation of society. The following comments received from multicultural seniors illustrate this issue:

- *We are feeling more sad, depressed, tired, anxious, worried, cannot sleep.*
- *We are sad that we cannot see friends, family, grandchildren and our kids.*
- *We are sad to hear that so many people our age have died in nursing homes, how could the numbers of deaths reach so many?*
- *We are forgetting about each other, people aren't calling to check on one another, we did this more before COVID19. We are missing our weekly social outlet to gather with our friends.*

Committee input during the consultation contributed to the creation of a new position: Multicultural Positive Ageing Officer. The position is funded by the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) Sector Support and Development Funding (SSD). This funding is guaranteed until June 2022. The position will support the adaption, continuation and recovery of multicultural seniors' clubs in the municipality during the COVID-19 pandemic. The position will also provide practical support and work towards implementing strategies to ensure the future sustainability of these clubs.

## **International Students and the impact of COVID**

Several committee members are former international students and one member also runs an ethnic-specific organisation that supports international students. According to the Department of Education, there are over 2700 international students in Port Phillip. Committee members were overwhelmed with the impact of Covid on international students. Initially, many international students struggled with access to food and accommodation, becoming unemployed due to the pandemic. Many students also faced extreme social isolation residing alone in Australia without family support.

As of a consequence of the Committee's feedback, the emerging needs and issues were incorporated into the Working for VIC position. A key organisation that support international student were also linked to Council's Community Grants and the *Share the Food* project.

In addition, between May to August 2020, 15 local Rotary Clubs engaged MAC to provide feedback and present to local Rotary about the needs and issues of local international students within the municipality. The local Rotary Clubs had come together to investigate how they can support international students during the pandemic. Three members attended regular meetings online which saw the clubs develop a mentoring and employment program for international students.

## Asylum Seekers and COVID

Several Committee members work closely with asylum seekers, as many asylum seekers rely on casual employment, and many were the first to lose their jobs. Because of their status in Australia, they are not eligible for any government support including Job Keeper. As a result, these people do not have any form of income support and rely solely on charity. Member input in to the Media release to the plight of asylum seekers during COVID: [Mayors back calls to extend asylum seeker support needs rewording – was anything else done?](#)

## MAC activities and engagement with external groups and organisations

In 2020, MAC developed relationships via a committee presentation with the following external groups and organisations:

- [Victorian Electoral Commission](#)
- [Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria](#)
- [Welcoming Cities Australia](#)
- [Victorian Multicultural Commission Regional Advisory Councils](#)
- [Welcoming Sports Australia](#)

Committee members attended the following events:

- Victorian Local Government Multicultural Issues Network 2019 Annual Forum
- Council's International Women's Day Event 2020
- 2019 Mapping Social Cohesion Report Launch
- All One Together Campaign Launch Glen Eira Town Hall
- Active bystander training at part of Council's 16 Days of Activism 2019

## MAC Forums and Event Cultural Diversity Week 2020 (Cancelled due to COVID-19)

To acknowledge Cultural Diversity Week, the Committee requested that Council display "Refugees Welcome Here" banners outside the St Kilda Town Hall from the 16 March to 21 May 2020. The Committee wrote to the CEO about the banners and this request was assessed under Council's Port Phillip Council Flag Protocol. A key action for the committee this year is to work towards ensuring that within the municipality there is visible signage to make everyone feel welcome. This aligns with *Direction One* in the Council Plan and the Welcoming Cities Standards.

The Committee also developed short videos profiling the settlement stories of four members, incorporating what makes them feel included within the Port Phillip area. These short videos were going to be shared on Council's social media as part of Cultural Diversity Week, however due to COVID-19 the Victorian Multicultural Commission postponed Diversity Week activities and this initiative was put on hold.

# Refugee Week 2020

## Special Storytime with Mimi and Tina

As part of Refugee Week two members of the MAC ran an online story-time session in collaboration with Port Phillip library on World Refugee Day, 20 June 2020.

## Virtual Exhibition

At the start of the week, Council featured a Virtual Photo exhibition of the refugee Jewish experience in the City of Port Phillip via Council's social media. This was done in partnership with the Jewish Museum.



Figure 4: Pictured: Migrants on the Oronsay, 1939, Image: Jewish Museum of Australia Collection



Figure 5: Pictured: Mirka Mora, 1985, Image: Jewish Museum of Australia Collection



Figure 6:  
Pictured:  
Station Pier,  
Port  
Melbourne  
1950s, Image:  
Port Phillip City  
Collection

## MAC Promotion and Communication

The newly created committee was featured on the front cover of 'Diversity- City of Port Phillip' Magazine, Issue 101 December 2019 – February 2020.

The Committee's details and further information can be found of the City of Port Phillip Website: [Multicultural community - The City of Port Phillip.](#)

## Acknowledgement



Figure 4: Cover of Divercity, pictured from left to right, Kamal Ibrahim, James Seow, Tina Khabbazian Zanjani, and Anu Bajwa.

The MAC would like to acknowledge the Councillor nominated by Council to support the MAC, Cr Ogy Simic, for the on-going support throughout the year.

This report was prepared by Ewa Zysk, Diversity Officer.

It was confirmed by the MAC Committee at the 2 March 2021, MAC meeting.

Professor Georgina Tsolidis  
MAC Chair  
2021