



Multicultural Advisory Committee Annual Report

2021



*Top row left to right: Cr Tim Baxter, Georgina Tsolidis, Mireille Kayeye, Altaf Ali Mohammed, Alba Chliakhtine, Corey Lovell, Marilyn Kraner, Vasileios Tsialtas
Bottom row left to right: Sister Brigid Arthur, James Seow, H  l  ne Kammoun, Wellington Bertalha, Tina Khabbazian Zanjani, Kamal Ibrahim, Anu Bajwa
Not pictured: Leonardo Pereira, Naomi Sherborne*



Contents

Council's community vision and strategic directions.....	3
Our multicultural community	3
Multicultural Advisory Committee.....	3
Terms of Reference	3
Membership	4
Objectives	5
The Welcoming Cities Standard	6
Action plan	6
Input into Council Policies	8
Education and Awareness	8
Working Groups	9
Consultation specific to Council business.....	9
Council Plan	9
Council Budget 2021/22 submission	11
Social and economic recovery	12
Community Engagement Strategy	13
Draft Library Action Plan	13
Future South Melbourne plan	13
Accessibility Action Plan	13
MAC highlighted matters affecting CALD communities.....	14
Racism and COVID	14
Addressing the digital divide at public housing estates	15
Vaccine hesitancy in CALD communities	15
Migrant mental health	16
Activities and engagement with external groups and organisations	16
MAC forums and events.....	16
Cultural Diversity Week 2021	16
Refugee Week June 2021	16
International Women's Day	17
Smartphone Stories	17
MAC Promotion and Communication.....	18
Acknowledgement.....	18

Council's community vision and strategic directions

The work of the Multicultural Advisory Committee delivers on the Council Vision:

Proudly Port Phillip: A liveable and vibrant City that enhances the wellbeing of our community

The Committee aligns primarily with the Council Direction of Inclusive: A City that is a place for all members of our community, where people feel supported and comfortable being themselves and expressing their identities

Our multicultural community

The City of Port Phillip is home to people from over 163 different birthplaces, speaking 114 different languages. We have 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.

In 2018 Council endorsed the establishment of a Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC). Formally commencing in 2019, the MAC assists Council with advice and feedback on all issues that affect multicultural communities, refugees or asylum seekers in the City of Port Phillip.

Since then, the MAC has provided a valuable sounding board to council through community consultations, programming and events, communication and advocacy.

2021 posed ongoing challenges and opportunities because of the Covid-19 pandemic, however the MAC continued to focus on its purpose and objectives.

Multicultural Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

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. The 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 that 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 the City of 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.

The Committee meets monthly, and during 2021 all meetings took place online.

Membership

The Committee's membership aims to reflect the diversity of the City of Port Phillip, including representatives from established communities, newly emerging communities, people seeking asylum, former refugees, and older 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:



Multicultural Advisory Committee in 2020 on the cover of Diversity

- 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.

After the Committee's inaugural two-year term, in July 2021 Council re-appointed seven current members and appointed four new community members until the end of the Council term in 2024.

Council was represented by Councillor Tim Baxter.

Georgina Tsolidis was re-elected in June 2021 as Chair, and the Deputy Chair was filled by Mireille Kayeye and Hélène Kammoun.

In 2021 the following community members sat on the MAC:

Members	Cultural Background	Position
Georgina Tsolidis	Greek	Chair
Mireille "Mimi" Kayeye	Burundian	Deputy Chair (to May)
Hélène Kammoun	French	Deputy Chair (from August)
Alba Chliakhtine	Brazilian	Committee member
Kamal Ibrahim	Ethiopian	Committee member (to May)
Tina Khabbazian Zanjani	Iranian	Committee member
Altaf Ali Mohammed	Indian	Committee member
James Seow	South-East Asian	Committee member
Anu Bajwa	Indian	Committee member (to November)
Vasileios Tsialtas	Greek	Committee member
Corey Lovell	Aboriginal	Committee member (to May)
Leonardo Pereira	Brazil	Committee member (from July)
Naomi Sherborne	Jewish	Committee member (from July)
Wellington Bertalha	Brazil	Committee member (from July)

The following organisations were represented on the MAC:

Members	Organisation	Cohort	Position
Marilyn Kraner	Jewish Care	Jewish Community	Committee member (to May)
Sister Brigid Arthur	Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project	Asylum seekers	Committee member (to May)

Objectives

The MAC developed an Action Plan for 2021 which was aligned to key outcomes within the Council Plan 2017-2027 and the Welcoming Cities Standard.

The MAC's key objectives in 2021 were to:

- Provide feedback and advice on a range of council policies, plans and community consultations
- Oversee Cultural Diversity Week and Refugee Week celebrations
- Highlight to Council matters affecting multicultural communities due to Covid-19
- Advocate the Welcoming Cities Network to Council



The Welcoming Cities Standard

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. There are over 250 member municipalities across the world with fifty-one in Australia.

The MAC’s advocacy for inclusion acknowledges that a local council’s understanding of the complexity and diversity of their communities can play an important role in creating welcoming communities, as brokers and leaders within their community.

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 Standard allows Council to benchmark current activity against six categories: Leadership, Social and Cultural Inclusion, Economic Development, Learning and Skills Development, Civic Development, Places and Spaces.

The MAC has incorporated these categories into its Action Plan alongside the Council Plan Directions.



Action plan

The Action Plan is the central focus of the MAC and is reviewed 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. Ongoing priorities of the MAC in 2021 were:

Leadership

- Respectfully acknowledge Traditional Owners at each meeting, events and programs
- Work toward Port Phillip becoming part of Welcoming Cities
- Provide robust advice and feedback to Council regarding plans, policy drafting, program assessment and evaluation
- Pilot a First Nations walking tour for newly arrived migrants
- Oversight and implementation of Council’s participation in the All One Together Anti-Racism Campaign

Social and Cultural Inclusion

- Promote cultural exchange and social connection through events and programs such as Cultural Diversity Week and Refugee Week
- Take on an intersectionality lens to diversity and inclusion

Economic Development

- Advocate for Council to review employment policies to detect biases in recruitment and career pathways; work toward developing a diversity recruitment policy
- Facilitate community employment sessions and general information sessions for newly arrived migrants

Learning and Skills Development

- Work collaboratively with Council’s Library Services to influence programming for migrants
- Provide input into the development of a Culturally and linguistically diverse services directory targeting new migrants through the Working for Vic position

Civic Participation

- Support local community groups in cultural celebrations and sharing stories
- Endorse the Older Person’s Advisory Committee’s call for urgent action on climate change

Places and Spaces

- Enable the use of public spaces and facilities by people who represent the diversity of the community
- Provide input on Council’s Community Facilities Policy

In September 2021 the MAC held a session to review the Action Plan to date and align it to the new Council Plan. In addition to the priorities noted above, the Committee committed to:

- Facilitate community feedback using a range of methods including a forum, telephone trees, on-line focus groups, with the aim of learning what are the current community experiences and needs, particularly in relation to Covid.
- Advocate and assist with the development of a multicultural communications plan that includes languages and strategies that are suitable for specific target groups within the community.
- Running on-line sessions targeting CALD communities, including older people, regarding vaccination information. This needs to include information about possible future exclusions for the unvaccinated.



- Promote cultural exchange and social connection: events and programs (such as arts, culture, heritage, social, sports) for Cultural Diversity Week and Refugee Week.
- Input into Council’s social and economic recovery response in relation emerging needs and issues for multicultural communities.

	Actions 2021/2022	Council Plan	Welcoming City Category
1	Provides advice on key Council policy and frameworks, with priority given to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity and Inclusion framework • Community facilities policy • Housing and homelessness • Employment policies • Council’s Heritage review, Living Heritage Program and Heritage Recognition • Economic development • Social procurement 	Inclusive Port Phillip, Well-Governed Port Phillip	Leadership
2	Advocate Council adopts and updates key multicultural policies including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming Cities framework (Assessment & Accreditation - Commitment) • Multicultural Statement of Commitment • “All One Together” anti-racism campaign 	Inclusive Port Phillip, Well-Governed Port Phillip	Leadership
3	Advocate a Council run Aboriginal walking tour in St Kilda targeting newly arrived migrants	Inclusive Port Phillip	Leadership
4	Facilitate community feedback using a range of methods including a forum, telephone trees, on-line focus groups, with the aim of learning what are the current community experiences and needs.	Inclusive Port Phillip, Well-Governed Port Phillip	Leadership
5	Present narratives that communicate positive migrant stories and contributions (e.g. Smartphone Stories).	Inclusive Port Phillip, Vibrant Port Phillip	Leadership
6	Advocate and assist with the development of a multicultural communications plan that includes languages and strategies that are suitable for specific target groups within the community.	Inclusive Port Phillip	Social and Cultural Inclusion
7	Facilitate a Migrant Information Day or on-line forum that provides information to new migrants.	Inclusive Port Phillip, Well-Governed Port Phillip	Social and Cultural Inclusion
8	Running on-line sessions targeting CALD communities, including older people, regarding vaccination information. This needs to include information about possible future exclusions for the unvaccinated.	Inclusive Port Phillip, Vibrant Port Phillip	Social and Cultural Inclusion
9	Promote cultural exchange and social connection: events and programs (e.g. arts, culture, heritage, social, sports) such as Cultural Diversity Week and Refugee Week	Inclusive Port Phillip, Vibrant Port Phillip	Social and Cultural Inclusion
10	Input into Council’s social and economic recovery response in relation to emerging needs (financial stress, mental health, social isolation and grief and loss) and issues for multicultural communities.	Inclusive Port Phillip, Liveable Port Phillip	Social and Cultural Inclusion
11	Work collaboratively with Council library services to influence programming for migrants.	Vibrant Port Phillip	Learning and Development
12	Advocate for the development of multilingual signage, including through sponsorship. Explore the possibility of engaging the arts community in the creation of such signage.	Vibrant Port Phillip	Places and Spaces
13	Enable the use of public spaces and facilities by people who represent the diversity of the community.	Inclusive Port Phillip, Liveable Port Phillip	Places and Spaces

MAC Action Plan alignment to Council Plan and Welcoming Cities

Input into Council Policies

The Committee provided input into the following Council plans:

- Council Plan and Budget 2021/22
- Community Engagement Strategy
- Draft Library Action Plan
- Future South Melbourne Plan
- Accessibility Action Plan

Education and Awareness

The City of Port Phillip CEO attended the May meeting to discuss creating a broader diversity and inclusion framework for Council. The meeting discussed diversity as a priority in terms of workforce planning to ensure that Council has an inclusive culture, and that the needs of staff are met. This



new diversity and inclusion framework and workforce planning work will also incorporate intersectionality. The MAC welcomed work in this space and committed to assist Council to achieve these aims.

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

- March 2021: Introduction to Intercultural Cities presented by Essan Dileri, City of Melton
- November: Far-right movements in Victoria – new challenges for local government presented by Dr Mario Peucker, Victoria University

Working Groups

The following MAC working groups progressed the 2021 Action Plan:

- Cultural Diversity Working Group
- Refugee Week Working Group
- Vaccination promotion to CALD communities
- Smartphone Stories Working Group
- Council Budget 2021/22 Working Group

Consultation specific to Council business

Council recognises the value of community committees as noted in the Council Plan:

“We will partner with our Older Persons Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, Multicultural Advisory Committee, Multi-Faith Network, LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee and establish other committees, where relevant, to ensure the diversity of our community’s experience is represented in decision-making.”

Council Plan

The MAC participated in the development of the Council Plan and the Committee’s feedback was incorporated into the final document.

Multicultural Advisory Committee

What matters?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Inclusive Port Phillip</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of housing for people who are homelessness. • Housing that supports cultural safety – particularly areas with emergency housing where people can feel quite exposed. |
| <p>Liveable Port Phillip</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing affordability for families and children, this is particularly an issue for new migrants – risk that we are losing some of our cultural capital as migrants move out to find more affordable housing |
| <p>Vibrant Port Phillip</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusivity policy – for example, businesses supporting people from migrant communities and groups. • Intercultural understanding rather than just celebration of culture – for the purpose of developing empathy and social connections, mutual support. |
| <p>Well governed Port Phillip</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a lens that looks at diversity across the organisation (Councillors and staff across the organisation) – what opportunities are we providing as an organisation? • Bring leaders from different cultures together (including first people) and enable them to develop solutions. • The diversity of our community needs to be more visible in Council through leadership. • Empowerment – communities that feel empowered are more likely to feel connected to their community. |

COUNCIL PLAN
2021-31

Above: Council Plan feedback | below: incorporated feedback

How does the plan respond?

What you said mattered

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of housing for people who are homelessness. • Housing that supports cultural safety – particularly areas with emergency housing where people can feel quite exposed. | <p>We will partner with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Housing and other homelessness, health and housing agencies through the Port Phillip Zero initiative, to deliver assertive outreach and a Housing First approach to creating pathways out of homelessness, particularly for those sleeping rough. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing affordability for families and children, this is particularly an issue for new migrants – risk that we are losing some of our cultural capital as migrants move out to find more affordable housing | <p>We will facilitate and advocate for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Victorian Government to introduce mandatory ‘inclusionary zoning’ and strengthen ‘voluntary housing agreements’ to increase housing delivered through the planning system that is affordable to very low, low, and moderate income households. • The Victorian Government, community housing organisations, and the philanthropic and private development sectors to facilitate new affordable and social housing within the municipality, including the renewal of existing social housing sites to achieve the outcomes identified in our In Our Backyard Strategy. |

COUNCIL PLAN
2021-31



How does the plan respond?

What you said mattered

- Develop a lens that looks at diversity across the organisation (Councillors and staff across the organisation) – what opportunities are we providing as an organisation?
- Bring leaders from different cultures together (including first people) and enable them to develop solutions.
- The diversity of our community needs to be more visible in Council through leadership.
- Empowerment – communities that feel empowered are more likely to feel connected to their community.

What is in the plan?

- We will partner with:
- Our Older Persons Consultative Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, **Multicultural Advisory Committee**, Multi-Faith Network and establish other committees, where relevant, to ensure the diversity of our community’s experience is represented in decision-making.

How does the plan respond?

What you said mattered

- Inclusivity policy – for example, businesses supporting people from migrant communities and groups.
- Intercultural understanding rather than just celebration of culture – for the purpose of developing empathy and social connections, mutual support.

What is in the plan?

- We will deliver:
- **Services and programs** that support inclusive and accessible activities including people who identify as LGBTQ+, people with a disability, **people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds**, Indigenous backgrounds and people experiencing homelessness.
 - **Community spaces and facilities** that are designed and programmed to be welcoming and accessible for all members of our community and to encourages **social connections for all ages, cultures and backgrounds**.
- We will partner with:
- **Community Groups through grant programs** to:
 - **Strengthen local groups and networks**
 - Support programs that increase opportunities to participate in community life
 - Enable **access and inclusion of culturally diverse groups**



Council Budget 2021/22 submission

The Committee prepared a response to Council’s draft Council Budget 2020/21. The Committee welcomed the priority that is given to inclusivity within the Committee’s remit of a culturally, linguistically, religiously and ethnically diverse community.

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.

Feedback highlights include:

- In this context we would like the section titled 'Our City Our People' to expand on the statement; 'Port Phillip has a proud history of inclusion and everyone is welcome here.'
- That refugees and asylum seekers and others on various short-term visas (such as international students) have access to programs related to housing. These groups need to be considered explicitly if CoPP is to be truly inclusive.
- That any programs related to housing and homelessness are provided in culturally inclusive ways. This is a critical issue for minority communities whose members can often remain invisible in related discussions.
- That a coherent communication strategy be developed for migrant communities. This is particularly pertinent at a time when understanding messages about the current crisis can save lives.
- That programs, which assist members of minority communities with digital literacy, are retained after outside funding ceases. This is particularly important for older people and those isolated, many of whom are women.
- That emphasis is given to employment and retraining opportunities for those who have lost jobs, many of whom are migrants.
- That support is provided for migrant businesses as a priority, as many of these provide employment opportunities for vulnerable people.
- That priority is given to developing culturally and linguistically appropriate strategies that assist those already facing social isolation, exacerbated by the current health crisis.
- That Council fund positive forms of messaging about our diverse community and does so in a range of ways, for example, banners about welcoming refugees.
- That the review of ASSIST Counter Services in Port Melbourne and South Melbourne take account of the large percentages of minority residents, many of whom are older, have limited English language skills and access to technology.
- That proposed cuts to library funding do not affect the continued support of resources available in languages other than English.
- That proposed changes to the funding of child-care do not threaten the ability of migrant children from families with limited resources to participate.

Social and economic recovery

With feedback from the Committee, Council has been able to address some ongoing needs for multicultural communities related to the second year of the COVID pandemic.

Identified emerging needs were incorporated into the Working for Victoria position funded by the State Government. The position ceased in June and achieved the following outcomes for 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 focusing on employment and workers' rights – this was delivered to food delivery drivers

- The establishment of a Women's Circle at Park Towers housing estate to address the issue of social isolation for CALD women residents (identified in 2020 due to lockdowns and social restrictions)
- Setting up a digital lending library at Emerald Hill Library
- Putting together a Welcome to Port Phillip New Arrival directory
- Assisting our Comms team with community engagement at South Melbourne Structural Plan at Park Towers
- Submitting several funding applications to State Government
- Providing one on one support to new migrants in terms of services coordination.

Community Engagement Strategy

Further to feedback on the Community Engagement Strategy provided in 2020, the MAC provided advice to Council's strategic engagement team around the following points:

- The development of a checklist re CALD communities which considered languages spoken and the best ways for consultation based on demographic analysis.
- Develop a demographic profile of different wards in Port Phillip that provides information such as languages spoken, recency of arrival.
- Outreach to communities is a better form of engagement than surveys
- The community needs to know what has happen with their feedback, there needs to be a feedback loop in place.

Draft Library Action Plan

The MAC was consulted on the draft Library Action Plan and provided feedback which included the need for culturally appropriate community rooms, support for usage by new arrivals, greater afterhours access and activating community champions for the library.

Future South Melbourne plan

Amenity, accessibility, diversity and sustainable transport were some of the priorities provided in feedback on the Future South Melbourne Plan. First Nations history and multicultural stories could be celebrated in art in public spaces. More affordable housing, showcasing diversity and sheltered community spaces for gathering were also flagged as key areas for improvement. The challenges faced in the area included lack of social balance, managing population growth, and the encouragement of sustainable practices.

Accessibility Action Plan

The Committee provided initial feedback to the Accessibility Action Plan and will continue to be consulted as the plan develops.

MAC highlighted matters affecting CALD communities

The issues noted below were first addressed in 2020 and continued as the MAC's work in 2021.

Racism and COVID

The All One Together campaign - a Victoria-wide anti-racism coalition - was adopted by Council and rolled out within the organisation. The campaign was launched on 21 March, the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and acknowledged in Cultural Diversity Week.

Committee Chair Georgina Tsolidis attended the Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies conference and reported on the Understanding Everyday Resilience Conference and Tackling Hate workshop.

The Committee noted concerns around incidents with local communities and invited Mario Peucker from Victoria University to provide information on how the extremist far right has portrayed the incidents within extremist networks. He reported that within far-right extremists' networks most of their call for action has been focused on the anti-lockdown movement however anti-Semitic discussions have moved into the mainstream through social media.

In 2020 Council asked the Committee to recommend actions that could directly tackle racism and discrimination. These actions were then included into the Action Plan and were delivered over 2021:

- 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
- Review employment policies to detect biases in recruitment and career pathways and work towards developing a diversity-sensitive recruitment policy
- Establish a multicultural communication plan
- Advise Council to join Welcoming Cities
- Advise Council to develop a Multicultural Statement of Commitment



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. on.

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

- Wi-Fi Emerald Hill Court Public Housing Estate: This project was completed in 2021. 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.
- Public Housing Social Inclusion project: Expanding on the work undertaken on the digital asset funded by the Toyota Foundation, this project provided equipment, data and capacity building to effectively use technology.

Vaccine hesitancy in CALD communities

The Vaccination Working Group discussed the vaccination rollout among hard-to-reach groups in Port Phillip and some vaccine hesitancy in multicultural communities.

Council has received some funding from the Department of Health aiming to reach groups that may be hesitant is accessing vaccination. Below is a summary of discussions:

Misinformation – Anxiety and confusion in Jewish and Islamic communities about what vaccines are made of. Some are assuming that ingredients, which Jewish and Islamic religious groups are prohibited from using, may be being utilized to produce vaccines against COVID-19.

Outreach – need to engage closely with multicultural communities to receive feedback from the community, talk about vaccines and explore their concerns. The aim is to find out more about myths and misinformation and provide the reasons to get vaccinated.

Capacity – distribution of vaccination material such as posters, flyers, factsheets, graphics and material relating to COVID-19 vaccines.

Actions were developed for Council to address these issues which resulted in online and phone-tree sessions directed to specific language communities, and mobile vaccination clinics to assist cultural and religious groups in locations.

A visual campaign was also co-designed by members of Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee with the assistance of a multicultural health writer, videographer, and graphic designer. The videos and posters featured local community members from culturally diverse backgrounds and the posters were displayed where there are language cohorts, covering over thirty-six sites within the boundary of Port Phillip. A smaller poster was distributed to ethno-specific cafes and shops. Council also ran a social media campaign simultaneously with the street poster campaign targeting these cohorts.

Migrant mental health

The Committee tabled concerns about the mental health of migrants who were far from families and their birth countries who continued to face high Covid-19 case numbers and deaths.

Members of the Committee attended the ECCV Mental Health Forum and will progress this topic further.

Activities and engagement with external groups and organisations

In 2021, MAC continued relationships with the following external groups and organisations:

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

MAC forums and events

Cultural Diversity Week 2021

The All One Together campaign was featured in the Cultural Diversity Week program. The Port Phillip CEO noted that our rich cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and why our City is proud to be an All One Together Campaign Ambassador.

A social media campaign was developed which featured short films of MAC members talking about their experiences.

An Aboriginal walking tour of the City of Port Phillip was arranged for new arrivals.

Two members participated in story-time sessions at the St Kilda Library which also hosted two dance workshops.



Refugee Week June 2021

Refugee week featured Kamal Ibrahim, a committee member, talking about his experience of moving to Port Phillip as a refugee. Kamal shared his connection to Port Melbourne and the work he has done to set up One Ball Inc, a community program designed for children and young adults which provides opportunities to all people, especially those from CALD backgrounds, across Melbourne to play soccer in a social setting. The video was featured on CoPP social media during the week.

International Women’s Day

Committee members Anu Bajwa and Alba Chliakhtine participated in Council’s International Women’s Day posters project, which depicted twelve women who had made, or now make, a significant contribution to the City. The posters were launched at Council’s International Women’s Day event at St Kilda Town Hall, and then pasted up around the City for the duration Women’s History Month in March.



Smartphone Stories

The City of Port Phillip was awarded a VicHealth Art of Good Health Everyday Partnership Grant as lead LGA to deliver twenty-four Smartphone Stories workshops, run by Cinespace, across Victoria from 2021-22.

Smartphone Stories is a fun, interactive project led by expert facilitators that teaches participants how to make films using a smartphone.

The Committee advocated for multicultural voices to be part of this project. Aligning with the action plan, this was seen as an opportunity for the Committee to be involved in presenting narratives that communicate positive migrant stories and contributions. A working group was formed to progress this project.



This project has been assisted by VicHealth - Everyday Community Partnership grant and the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body

MAC Promotion and Communication

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

Acknowledgement

The Multicultural Advisory Committee would like to acknowledge Cr Tim Baxter, the Council nominee to the MAC, his ongoing support and commitment throughout the year.

We thank the outgoing members from 2021:

- Sister Brigid Arthur
- Anu Bajwa
- Kamal Ibrahim
- Mireille Kayeye
- Marilyn Kraner
- Corey Lovell

This annual report was endorsed by the Multicultural Advisory Committee.



Please consider
the environment
before printing.