

## MINUTES OF MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025

- Present: Councillor, B Ward (Chairperson)  
Councillor, I Balachandran (Deputy Chairperson)  
Dr Maria Amigo, Community Member  
Sunminder Bains, Community Member  
Feilin Chan, Community Member  
Anthony Pang, Community Member  
Inga Rosenberg, Community Member
- Staff Present: Director Community, Janice Bevan  
Manager Community Development, Danny Houseas  
Community Development Officer, Leonie Endacott  
Events Co-ordinator, Mardi Pistachia
- Others Present: Mayor, Cr Christine Kay  
Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Multicultural Network Chair, Uma Menon
- Apologies: Hwa-Sur Hahn, Community Member  
Karthika Sivarajan, Community Member  
Jingni Shen, Community Member  
Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy, Christopher M Jones  
Manager Events and Visitor Experience, Melanie Morson

*The Meeting commenced at 1:06 PM*

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil

### NOTING OF MINUTES

MCAC  
01

#### **Minutes of Multicultural Advisory Committee**

File: S04141

Meeting held 6 August 2024

Minutes numbered MCAC07 to MCAC08

#### **The Committee Recommends:**

That Minutes numbered MCAC07 to MCAC08 circulated to Councillors were taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

MCAC  
02

### Multicultural Festival 2025

File: S04141

*Vide: GB.1*

#### **Leonie Endacott – Community Development Officer, Ku-ring-gai Council**

Leonie Endacott provided an overview of 2 key focus areas for the Ku-ring-gai Multicultural Festival to be held on 23rd March 2025 at the St Ives Showground

- Overview of the results of the survey conducted with members of the Multicultural Advisory Committee, and the survey conducted with Ku-ring-gai residents.
- Overview of the planning for the Multicultural Festival to be held on 23 March 2025 at the St Ives Showground.

*Suggestions from the Multicultural Advisory Committee:*

- The committee expressed general satisfaction with the progress made so far and is enthusiastic about participating in the upcoming festival.
- The creation of digital content such as Vox Pops could be considered as a means of engaging young people and serve as a record of the event.
- A statement at the event, or alternative messaging, regarding the aims and objectives underpinning the Festival should be clearly communicated at the Festival.
- Council could provide an identifying item, for example a T-shirt or badge, for members of the Multicultural Advisory Committee to wear at the festival allowing them to serve as ambassadors.

#### **Mardi Pistachia – Events Coordinator, Ku-ring-gai Council**

- Mardi Pistachia provided an overview of Council's Lunar New Year program, noting that the 12 events attracted an estimated 5,600 people combined.
- Preliminary planning for the Gai-Mariagal Festival which occurs from 26 May (National Sorry Day) to 13 July (NAIDOC Week) was shared with the members.

#### **The Committee Recommends:**

That the above points be received and noted.

MCAC  
03

### Multicultural Inclusion Plan

File: S04141

*Vide: GB.2*

#### **Danny Houseas – Manager Community Development, Ku-ring-gai Council**

- Danny Houseas provided an overview of the Council's strategic goals for fostering an inclusive Ku-ring-gai. These goals are aimed at embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion across all aspects of Council's operations, services, and community engagement. Key priorities include promoting

leadership in diversity, embedding inclusion in strategic planning, enhancing communication, building a culturally diverse workforce, celebrating cultural diversity through events, ensuring equitable access to services, and fostering civic engagement. Information was also presented on the following key areas:

- Overview of the relevant demographic statistics for the Ku-ring-gai local government area.
- Overview of the broader legislative and policy context for the Multicultural Inclusion Plan.
- Overview of the steps involved in the development of Council's draft Multicultural Inclusion Plan.
- Overview of the seven goals of the draft Multicultural Inclusion Plan.
- Overview of proposed monitoring and reporting mechanisms for the draft Multicultural Inclusion Plan.

Suggestions from the Multicultural Advisory Committee:

- Regular six-monthly updates could be included as a standing agenda item in Multicultural Advisory Committee meetings after the plan's adoption.
- Once the internal consultation has been completed, Multicultural Advisory Committee members will review the next draft of the Multicultural Inclusion Plan and provide feedback.

### **The Committee Recommends:**

That the above points be received and noted.

MCAC  
04

### **Refugee Week 2025**

File: S04141

*Vide: GB.3*

### **Uma Menon – KNC CALD Community Engagement Coordinator, Chair Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Multicultural Network**

Uma Menon provided an overview of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Multicultural Network and encouraged members to suggest potential speakers or ideas for Refugee Week activities in 2025, encouraging active participation in upcoming events. Her PowerPoint presentation covered the following key areas:

- Overview of the mission statement of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Multicultural Network.
- Overview of the history and member organisations of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Multicultural Network.
- Recognition of KNC Care's financial support of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Multicultural Network.
- Overview of the events supported by the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Multicultural Network.
- Invitation for members to suggest speakers or ideas for Refugee Week commemorations to be held at Gordon or Hornsby.

### **The Committee Recommends:**

The Multicultural Advisory Committee consider and share ideas to observe Refugee Week 2025.

## Community Membership review

File: S04141

*Vide: GB.4*

### Danny Houseas – Manager Community Development, Ku-ring-gai Council

Danny Houseas presented an overview of key details regarding the Multicultural Advisory Committee's membership review process.

- The Multicultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference state: *The term of office for committee members will be for the term of Council, plus up to six months*
- Members of the committee are appointed by Council following an Expression of Interest process.
- Expressions of Interest for the upcoming term of the Multicultural Advisory Committee will be due in April 2025, in line with the Council resolution from October 2024.
- Current members are encouraged to re-apply to serve as committee members, and will be notified when Expressions of Interest nominations are available.
- Council is considering increasing the number of members from 10 to 15 and creating a reserve list to enhance representation and streamline the process for filling vacancies. Committee members were supportive of these initiatives.
- Council acknowledges and appreciates members for their contributions to the Multicultural Advisory Committee.

#### The Committee Recommends:

That the above points be received and noted.

## 2025 Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting schedule

File: S04141

*Vide: GB.5*

The meeting schedule for 2025 is:

- Meeting one: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 1pm
- Meeting two: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 6pm
- Meeting three: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August 1pm
- Meeting four: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 6pm

#### The Committee Recommends:

That committee members to note the meeting schedule for 2025.

## OTHER BUSINESS

N/A

*The Meeting closed at 2.22PM*