

MINUTES OF MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2023

- Present: The Mayor, Councillor J Pettett (Chairperson) (Comenarra Ward)
Councillor, C Spencer (Deputy Chairperson) (Wahroonga Ward)
Councillor, G Taylor (Comenarra Ward)
Dr Maria Amigo, Community Member
Indu Balachandran, Community Member
Young Byun, Community Member
Feilin Chan, Community Member
Anthony Pang, Community Member
Inga Rosenberg, Community Member
Jingni Shen, Community Member
- Staff Present: Director Community, Janice Bevan
Manager Community Development, Danny Houseas
Manager Visitor Experience and Events, Melanie Morson
Community & Business Engagement Coordinator, Will Adames
Community Development Officer, Leonie Endacott
Team Leader Urban Design, Bill Royal
Administration Officer Community, Wendy Hou
- Others Present: Deputy Mayor, Councillor B Ward (Gordon Ward)
- Apologies: Hwa-Sur Hahn, Community Member
Karthika Sivarajan, Community Member

The Meeting commenced at 10.05AM

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interest was declared.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MCAC03 **Minutes of Multicultural Advisory Committee**
Meeting held 20 February 2023
Minutes numbered MCAC1 to MCAC2
The Committee Recommends:

The Minutes of the Multicultural Advisory Committee Meeting of 20 February 2023, number MCAC1 – MCAC2 circulated to the Committee members were taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ku-ring-gai Council Community Engagement Strategy

File: S04141

Facilitated discussion by Will Adames – how to best engage with our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities – see attached.

Feedback included:

1. *Education* – Many migrants do not understand the Australian system of government or appreciate the role that Council plays in the wider system. Council could provide some education to the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community regarding the functions, reach and limitations of local government.
2. *Cultural representation within local governance* – people respond when they see themselves represented in government and when their voices are heard. Education could be provided to the CALD community and recent arrivals from overseas on the functions of Council, community engagement opportunities, standing for local government, opportunities for employment at Council etc., thereby providing the motivation to become more involved in the local community.
3. *Heritage making* - Public recognition and promotion of the positive impact our CALD communities are having on the cultural heritage of Ku-ring-gai, and recognition of the strengths of our diverse community and the changing nature of our cultural discourse will motivate our CALD communities to engage more readily with Council.
4. *Language* – More representation and promotion of our main language groups outside of English. CALD communities are more likely to engage with Council if their language and culture is represented and publicly recognised by local government.
5. *Education regarding Australia's First Nations history and culture.*

Danny Houseas shared that preliminary discussions have been held between Council and CASS regarding a pilot project focussing on providing education to the Chinese speaking community on the role and responsibilities of Council. This is a codesign process with input from participants based on understanding of local needs.

The Committee Recommends:

That point 1 to 5 above be progressed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MCAC05

Arts and Cultural Spaces on the Upper North Shore

File: S04141

Presentation on the provision and planning for Arts and Cultural Spaces in Ku-ring-gai, Bill Royal. (PowerPoint presentation attached)

Council's Community Facilities Strategy is available at - [Community Facilities Strategy Ku-ring-gai \(nsw.gov.au\)](#).

The Committee Recommends:

1. Council could consider partnerships with some of our private venues to make up for some of the current shortfall in venue space.
2. The North Shore should be able to host exhibitions and performances, we have a large population with strong interest in the arts who all need to travel outside of the area due to lack of venues. The Multicultural Advisory Committee see this as a lost opportunity for our local government area to become a cultural destination.
3. Multicultural Film Festival – strong interest in hosting multicultural film festivals in Ku-ring-gai

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MCAC06

Ku-ring-gai Council Cultural Events Program

File: S04141

Overview of Ku-ring-gai Council's Cultural Events program, Melanie Morson (PowerPoint presentation attached)

Information on Council's Cultural Events program is available below:

[Events and festivals Ku-ring-gai \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
[Gai-mariagal Festival \(gai-mariagal-festival.com.au\)](#)
[What's on Ku-ring-gai \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

The Committee Recommends:

1. Consider increasing advertising of cultural events – street banners and bus stop advertising may be more accessible for CALD communities, many CALD groups do not know how to reach out to Council's website and therefore are not aware of events taking place.
2. Place stronger emphasis on food as a key component of cultural events as people enjoy eating and this may encourage people to attend who perhaps would not have attended based on the event alone.
3. Provision of at least two cultural events each year:

March: Persian Nowruz, Feb: Lunar New year

Oct-Nov: Indian Diwali, Nov: Latin American Day of the Dead

A Korean Heritage Day (to be determined)

MCAC07

Ku-ring-gai Council Website - Multicultural Services File: S04141

Following feedback from the previous meeting a list of key multicultural and settlement related services have been included on the **Ku-ring-gai Council Website**. The list -Multicultural and Services will be regularly reviewed and updated by Council Officers.

The Committee is requested to provide feedback on Council's new Multicultural Services tab:

<https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Community/Multicultural-services>

and suggestions for any additions/improvements to Leonie Endacott / Danny Houseas.

The Committee Recommends:

That Committee Members provide feedback on the Multicultural Services tab on Council's website.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MCAC08

English Language Tuition for Migrants

File: S04141

Discussion regarding sufficiency of English language tuition in the Ku-ring-gai area.

The Committee Recommends:

1. There is adequate government funding and provision of English language tuition for the majority of migrants living in Ku-ring-gai.
2. Gaps in service provision can be found for people on family reunion visa's, where parents (grandparents) may visit for 6 to 12 months and become isolated as they are not eligible for language tuition. There is an opportunity for Council to support functional / conversational English lessons for this group.
3. Promoting and supporting community based conversational English classes and social support groups in the local area.
4. Consider initiating local programs that address knowledge gaps and understanding of Australian culture and political systems, not adequately covered in current language tuition.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mental health supports for migrants

Feilin Chan raised the concern that migrants may not have access to adequate mental health support services.

Decision to discuss this matter in greater detail at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Meeting closed at 12:00pm