

## **MINUTES OF MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2023**

- Present: Councillor, Barbara Ward (Chairperson)  
Dr Maria Amigo, Community Member  
Sunminder Bains, Community Member  
Indu Balachandran, Community Member  
Feilin Chan, Community Member  
Hwa-Sur Hahn, Community Member  
Anthony Pang, Community Member  
Inga Rosenberg, Community Member  
Councillor, Greg Taylor
- Staff Present: Acting General Manager, David Marshall  
Acting Director Community, Danny Houseas  
Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy, Christopher M Jones  
Manager Visitor Experience and Events, Melanie Morson  
Community Development Officer, Leonie Endacott  
Youth Development Officer, Lily Giles
- Others Present: The Mayor, Councillor Sam Ngai
- Apologies: Councillor, Cedric Spencer (Deputy Chairperson)  
Director Community, Janice Bevan  
Jingni Shen, Community Member  
Karthika Sivarajan, Community Member

*The Meeting commenced at 10.06AM*

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interest was declared.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **NOTING OF MINUTES**

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

File: S04141

Meeting held 26 September 2023

Minutes numbered MCAC03 to MCAC04

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Minutes numbered MCAC03 to MCAC04 were taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **Lunar New Year 2024**

Presentation by Melanie Morson, Manager Visitor Experience and Events, Ku-ring-gai Council (attached) on Council's plans to celebrate Lunar New Year in Ku-ring-gai, including partner organisations and activities.

Feedback included:

1. Details regarding Multicultural NSW grants be circulated to the Committee:

*The Multicultural NSW Stronger Together Grants Program aims to support multicultural festival and events across NSW. We invest in community projects and activities that foster community harmony and celebrate cultural diversity as a precious part of our identity and way of life.*

*The Stronger Together Festival and Event grant program will support multicultural and multifaith community groups to produce Festivals and Events that celebrate and embrace our state's vibrant cultural diversity.*

### [Events & Festivals - Multicultural NSW](#)

2. The Committee supports inclusive approaches and broad engagement with community and cultural groups when planning events.
3. Lunar New Year is an East Asian festival and as such celebrations should concentrate on East Asian influences rather than incorporating other multicultural aspects into the event.
4. Lunar New Year is the preferred name for the event over Chinese New Year. Initially starting in Mainland China the festival has spread to other East Asian cultures. Incorporating various cultural elements from across east Asia broadens the communities appreciation of the different regional celebratory practices, as such referring to the festival as Lunar New Year is more inclusive of all the participating cultures.

### **The Committee Recommends:**

That point 1 to 4 above be progressed.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Mental Health needs and services for culturally and linguistically diverse communities.**

File: S04141

Presentation and facilitated discussion by Feilin Chan (attached), with input from Council's Youth Development Officer Lily Giles on Council's involvement in the provision of mental health services for young people and families in Ku-ring-gai.

Feedback included:

1. Council could consider facilitating settlement services for Multicultural residents, delivered by a Multicultural Officer, or facilitated multicultural peer support groups for young people and families, based around specific interests such as sports, arts or volunteering.
2. Consider ways to reach out to newly arrived migrants to inform them of Council's Youth Hubs, utilising multiple media and sources to reach these communities.
3. Council could provide referral services for culturally and linguistically diverse people and provide appropriate linkages to the community.

**The Committee Recommends:**

That point 1 to 3 above be progressed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Facilitated discussion regarding the contribution the Multicultural Advisory Committee could make on the trends, opportunities, and challenges towards a roadmap for a truly multicultural Ku-ring-gai.**

File: S04141

Christopher M Jones – Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy provided a presentation of various Council plans and reports outlining strategies targeting culturally and linguistically diverse communities (attached).

Indu Balachandran facilitated a discussion on positive aspects of multiculturalism, contributions that community groups could make in creating a more inclusive Ku-ring-gai, and possible roles Council could play in supporting various initiatives.

Feedback included:

1. Request for a presentation at the next meeting of elements contained in the State of Ku-ring-gai Report, Delivery and Operational Plan, Community Strategic Plan and Community Engagement Plan that relate to the Multicultural community.
2. Review congruence between the Terms of Reference of the Multicultural Advisory Committee and strategies identified in the various planning documents.

**The Committee Recommends:**

That points 1 and 2 above be progressed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Multicultural Advisory Committee membership vacancy** File: S04141  
Danny Houseas – Acting Director Community, advised the Committee of the resignation received from Young Byun

Feedback included:

1. Any nominations be consistent with the Terms of Reference and go through an Expression of Interest process.
2. Following the Council elections in September 2024 a review will be undertaken of all Council Committees.
3. New member Expressions of Interest can be conducted at that time.

**The Committee Recommends:**

That points 1 and 2 above be progressed.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Welcome to the new Chair of the Multicultural Advisory Committee, Cr Barbara Ward (Gordon Ward).

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

*The Meeting closed at 11.55am*